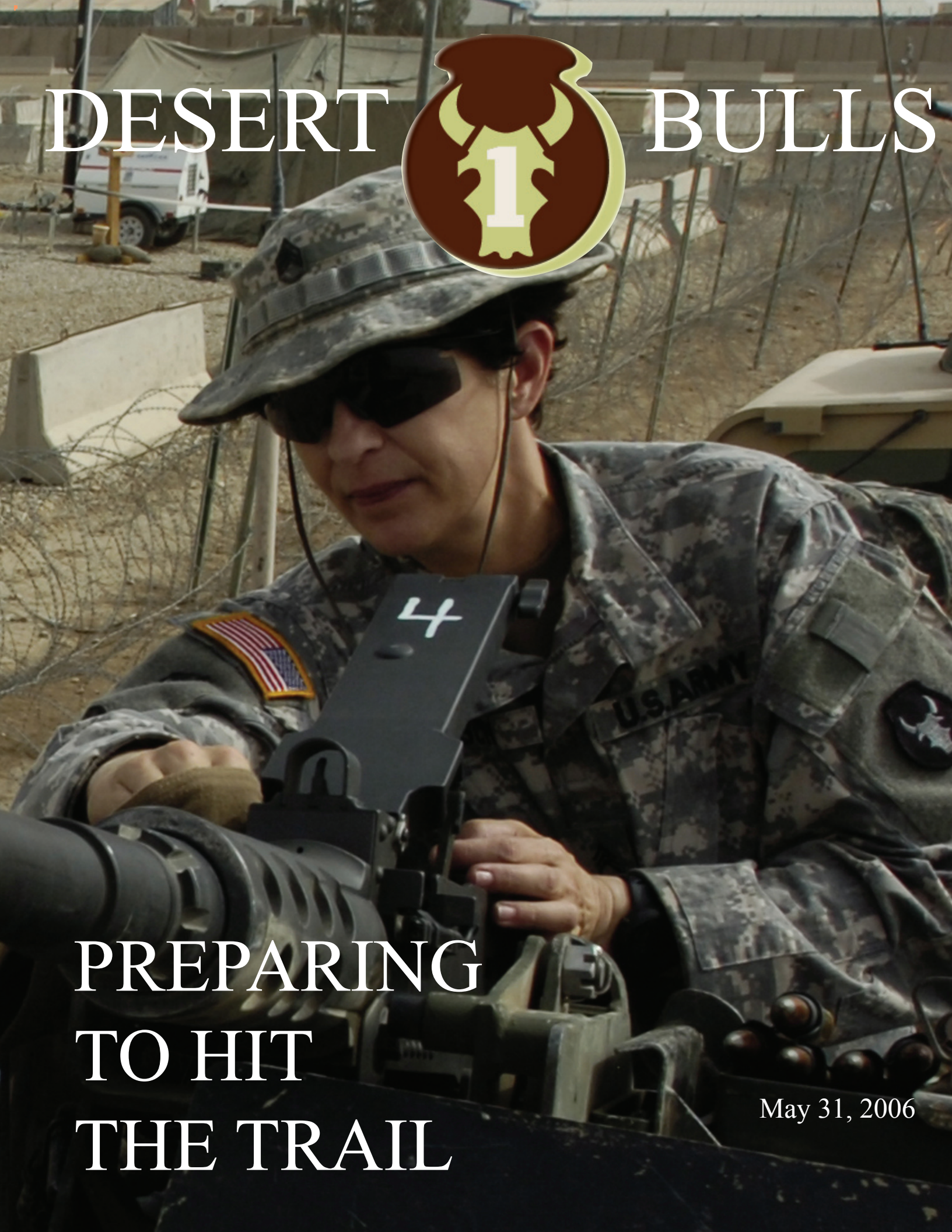
DESERT BULLS



PREPARING TO HIT THE TRAIL

May 31, 2006

Commander's Focus

Red Bulls

It has been quite a trip since we last assembled on the parade ground at Camp Shelby.

We have trained hard for six months and now find ourselves fully in charge of the mission. We have received another battalion to the team and will soon fill it out with a fourth company. As you go about completing your missions on a daily basis, I want you to concentrate on three things:

Maintenance – This is more than just a word now. You see every day the reality of a poor maintenance plan poorly executed. You are now in charge of maintenance. You need to care for your entire battle system – your weapon, your vehicle, your mission equipment and yourself. Any one goes down and the system goes down. Regular meals, exercise, and rest is what your body needs. Your weapon and mission equipment need some love too. And our great mechanics in the motor pools are working overtime to make sure your vehicle is ready to go. Take care to maintain the entire battle system.

Accident Prevention – We are seeing a spike in accidents that surprises me. Some of it comes from excitement, some of it comes from not knowing what right looks like, but some of it is just plain foolishness. Maintain your distance in convoys – 100 meter intervals will help with road accidents. Some of the Combat Escort Teams are not getting the rest they need at Remain Overnight sites. Leaders need to be on this one at every level. Safety is everyone's responsibility. If you are tired, speak out. If you are unsure, then ask. All the accidents reported to date could have been prevented if someone had just stopped and thought a bit more before they acted.

Holding the Standard – Nothing gives me greater pride than to walk down a sidewalk and see a Soldier coming at me upholding the standard. I know that Soldier is one of mine, the best in the Army. The uniform is worn right, weapon carried at the ready, pride in their stride and moving with a purpose. Nothing disappoints me more than when I see one of my

Col. David Elicerio, 1/34 BCT commander

Soldiers not wearing the uniform right, trying to get by with a lower standard just because everyone else does. We are better than that – we are Red Bull Soldiers of the First Brigade. Don't let their lower standard become yours.

If you concentrate on these three areas for the short term we will be better situated to accomplish the mission. You are performing a dangerous job in the most dangerous place. Don't add to the hazards of combat by neglecting these three areas. I serve with pride because I am allowed to lead you – the Army's best.

ATTACK!

Thanks MINNESOTANS' MILITARY APPRECIATION FUND

Appreciation fund now paying grants to Soldiers

The Minnesotans Military Appreciation Fund is now paying grants to all Minnesota service members that have served in a DoD Combat Zone since Sept. 11, 2001, to include Bosnia, Kosovo and Croatia.

This grant (appreciation bonus) is awarded to all Minnesota service members, Guard/Reserve/Active regardless of rank or financial situation. Those living outside Minnesota but are members of a Minnesota Guard/Reserve unit that deployed are also eligible.

Current grant amounts are $250 per service member (expected to go to $500 depending on donations received), $2,500-up for those wounded in action, and $5,000 to the families of those killed in action.

On March 29, Marine Kyle Anderson accepted a $10,000 donation from the Minnesotan's Military Appreciation Fund, its largest grant awarded to date. The fund established in August by a 67-year old Edina investment broker, aims to support war veterans and the families of military personnel killed in combat.

The fund has given out 2,000 grants to date, including 50 to wounded Soldiers and 18 to families of deceased Soldiers. Another 500 grants are expected to be awarded in the near future.

For Soldiers about to be deployed to a qualifying area, they may apply after one month of service in a combat zone when they provide a copy of their Leave and Earnings Statement showing Combat Pay.

Please direct all questions regarding eligibility to the Appreciation Fund at the website: http://thankmntroops.org. Click on Troop and Family Resources.

Day in Red Bull history

Friday, May 26, 1944
Near Anzio, Italy

Lt Silverstein came into the CP with further orders at 0800 hours. At 1100 hours six Germans walked into the Company area to surrender; they had been left behind and passed up by the doughboys. *T/4 Donald W Miller* was the first to see them and was very flustered as he had no weapon, but the Germans had all the fighting they wanted for a while. *S/Sgt Lawrence D Emon* and *Lt Ray R Murdock* took the prisoners back to Regiment and turned them over. Regiment phoned at 1100 hours saying that we are to again go into the attack. *Lt O'Brien*, *Lt Cox*, and *Lt Norman Raner* went on reconnaissance at 1500 hours and returned to the Company at 1700 hours. At 1910 hours the Company moved out and were in the new positions at 2115 hours.

DESERT BULLS
JUNE 2, 2006
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1/34 Brigade Combat Team
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Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin

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Broadcast journalist: Sgt. Kent Westberg
Print journalist: Spc. Brian D. Jesness

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

On the cover: Staff Sgt. Colleen Pasch, HHC, 1/34 BCT, wipes off her 50-caliber machine gun before a convoy escort mission last month from Camp Adder. 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

Before I get to my Iraqi language lesson for this issue, I have two items to inform you of. First, in stories and information under the photographs, the units that the Soldiers belong to will be written as their Task Forces instead of their battalions. Second I have a finance tip.

The reason that the units will be known as their Task Forces is to make it easier to read and to decrease story lengths (more room for bigger photographs). The 1-34 Brigade Troops Battalion will be Task Force Wild, the 134th Brigade Support Battalion is Task Force Wolverines, the 7th Transportation Battalion is The Orient Express, 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion is Task Force Bearcats, 1st Squadron, 167th RSTA is Task Force Saber, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry is Task Force Iron and 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery is Task Force Thunder.

The finance tip is for Soldiers who are enrolled in the savings deposit program. They are now able to check their balance through the MyPay website, mypay.dfas.mil. From the main menu, click on Savings Deposit Program (SDP) Statement. Allow 10 weeks from the date of your deposit for it to show up on MyPay, said Spc. Toby Stevens, finance clerk for the 1/34 BCT.

Now for my Iraqi language lesson:

Sabah Al Khair (pronounced Saba al care) is good morning.
Masa Al Khair (pronounced Masa al care) is good evening.
Minu (pronounced minnow) is who.
Sh-wa-kit (pronounced Shoe watt kit) is when
Shinu (pronounced shnew) is what
Wayn (pronounced wayne) is where.
Nam am (pronounced na um) is yes.
le (pronounced leh) is no.

Desert Bulls survey

1. What do you like about the Desert Bulls newsletter?
2. What don't you like?
3. What types of stories would you like to see? Longer, shorter? More photos? Less?

Please e-mail your comments to paoredbull@yahoo.com or mail to PAO, HHC 1/34 BCT, APO AE 09331-0000 or tell a PAO / UPAR Soldier.
Thanks!!

History lesson

Nebuchadnezzar most famous ruler of Ancient Babylon

Story by
Lt. Col. Larry J. Herke
1/34 BCT XO

By what name is a Champagne bottle that is equal in size to 20 normal bottles? What do you call the legend card in the Magic Gathering card game? What did Saddam Hussein named one of his Republican Guard Divisions? Who was the most famous ruler of Ancient Babylon?

The answer to all of these questions would be - Nebuchadnezzar.

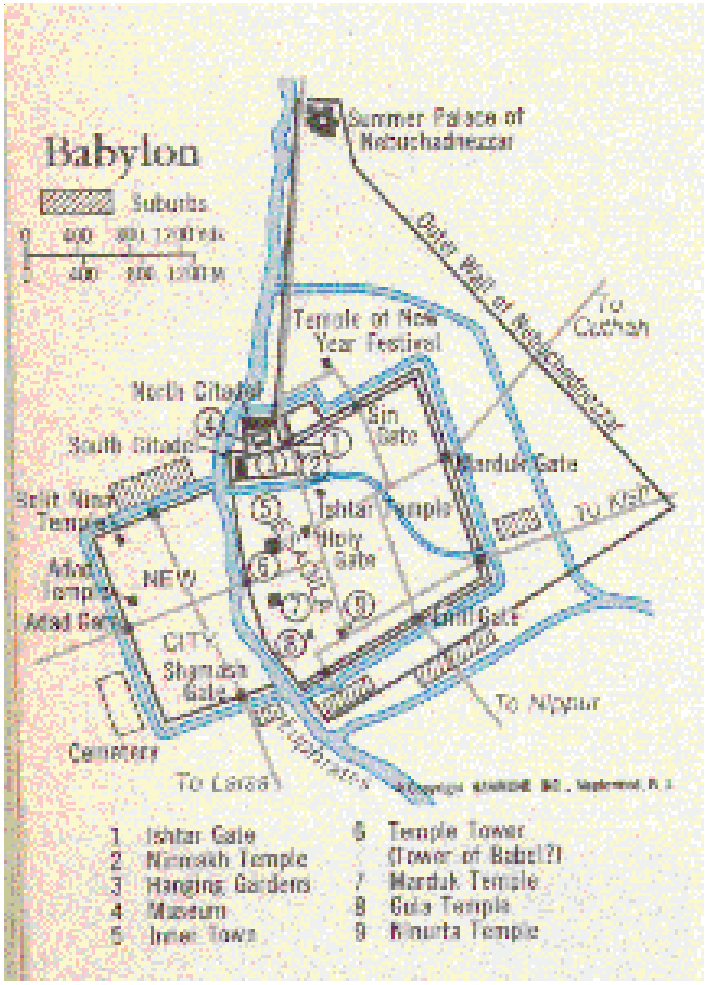
When I was young I learned of Nebuchadnezzar the Great through Bible studies and listening to sermons in church. Although his name being neat to pronounce, I thought the stories described in the book of Daniel in the Bible were far fetched and not based on reality. Now that we are stationed in Iraq, just miles away from Ancient Babylon, the stories of the blazing furnace, the tall tree and of wandering in the wilderness seem more real and believable (See the Book of Daniel 1:4).

The Warrior: Nebuchadnezzar is known as one of the most vicious rulers of all time. He was a vigorous and brilliant commander who was physically and mentally strong. He reigned over the greatest city states on the face of the earth, Babylon, for an extraordinary period of 43 years. At the height of his power he controlled lands from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. During the period 605-562 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar was to invade neighboring Jewish Holy land on no less than three crusades. On the most violent of these crusades the Babylonians destroyed the First Temple of Solomon and slaughtered more than 100,000 Jews. The Jewish calendar still commemorates the Tenth of Tevet (January 4) when Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem.

The Statesman: Through what ever means were available Nebuchadnezzar was able to persuade his enemies to submit to his will. He married the daughter of one of his greatest enemies to ensure peace of her father's city state while using the threat of his military to quell others. Nebuchadnezzar knew the value of extracting knowledge from other cultures he conquered. Many times he would take the intellects from other city states and incorporate them into his court in positions of authority. His understanding of cultural diversity was far more advanced than any of his peers.

The Builder: Over time Nebuchadnezzar became an experienced architect who was able to rebuild structures that had been abandoned generations earlier. He was responsible for the great hanging gardens which incorporated terraced building with hydroponics. Nebuchadnezzar was also responsible for the great walls that protected his people while securing access to water and fertile soil between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. He was an avid architect and had extraordinary urban planning prowess. His ability to balance the needs for security with the desire for commerce was astounding.

Saddam Hussein's Fantasy: Saddam Hussein wanted to emulate Nebuchadnezzar as the next great leader of Iraq. Saddam had his likeness placed in prominent locations along side that of Nebuchadnezzar's. He mandated that every brick in his palaces must contain his name as Nebuchadnezzar had done during his reign. Saddam spent millions of dollars rebuilding portions of Babylon so that he could lay claim to some of the same greatness that was Nebuchadnezzar's. He went so far as to recreate Nebuchadnezzar's chariot and took pictures of him driving it so he could be seen as a powerful warrior figure. And of course, he named one of his best trained Republican Guard Division's after the former ruler. Ironically both Saddam and Nebuchadnezzar found themselves in the same situation at the conclusion of their time in power. Nebuchadnezzar was driven away from society and was forced to walk on his hand and knees and eat grass for seven years near the end of his reign. Saddam was forced to move from place to place and live underground like a rat to escape capture by coalition forces when his government fell. Could it be that Hussein wanted to be too much like Nebuchadnezzar after all?



Nebuchadnezzar was responsible for the great walls that protected his people while securing access to water and fertile soil between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

ECPs provide variety of tasks

Story by
Sgt. 1st Class Doug Schultz
Task Force Saber UPAR

When Task Force Saber Soldiers are tasked with one of the several entry control points at LSA Anaconda, they know they will do a variety of tasks.

The reason for this cross training is to allow Soldiers to go on leave knowing full well that their replacement or fellow Soldier knows his or her task.

"We make sure everybody knows everybody's job so when they go on leave we know how to do the job," said Spc.Joshua Kulzer of Bloomington, Minn. "The cross training happens all the time. Tomorrow I might be inside a guard tower."

Manning guard towers is among several tasks at these ECPs, whose basic function is controlling the flow of traffic in or out of a secured area.

Spc. Joel Polzin of Hebron, Wis., is a tower guard. He knows what his right and left limits are and what to watch for. He said his main focus in the tower is to scan the front and sides. He also searches for any approaching vehicles that could be possibly Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices and any smoke which might be a mortar attack against the base.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Schultz, Task Force Saber

Spc. Bryan Hull of Hoyt Lakes, Minn., Task Force Saber, pauses as he guards a gate at a ECP at Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

"Basically anything suspicious or out of the ordinary is what I observe," he said.

Polzin also is able to observe the Iraqi farmers.

"It is amazing to see these people farm by hand," he said.

Other ECP duties include operating radios, guarding the gates, roving patrols and making identification badges for workers.

Kulzer is a radio operator. He said he manages the flow of radio traffic to and from the command post. The operator also keeps the commander of the shift and shift sergeant informed.

When people arrive at or leave the base, the gate guard reports to the command post or the sergeant of the guard.

Spc. Cade Gornick of Tower, Minn., said, "Keeping control of who comes off and on the base is my biggest responsibility."

He said the gate guard also searches the locals who are leaving Anaconda for anything that should be removed.

About 300 local Iraqi workers pass through daily a ECP operated by Task Force Bearcat Soldiers attached to Task Force Saber.

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Gerard of Cloquet, Minn., said these workers do several jobs on the base, including painting, cutting grass and working in the lumber yard.

He said these workers also are searched for weapons, drugs and explosives.

All in a day's work at a 24/7 ECP.

Dentist still serves at 70 years old

Story and photos by
Spc. Spencer Case
207th MPAD

CAMP ADDER, Iraq—It's never too late to serve your country.

When Col. Richard Asami retired from the Army in 1999 after more than 40 years of service, he thought his military career was finally at a close. Then a few months ago, 70-year-old Asami came across an advertisement asking retirees to voluntarily deploy. He decided to don the uniform one last time.

"I think it was my duty, instead of staying home and waving a flag, to come and help the troops," said Asami, who lives in Fresno, Calif., with his wife, Elaine.

At first, Asami's family—his wife, three children, and one grandchild—had a divided reaction to his decision to return to the Army, he said. However, when Asami passed his physical exam, they fell in solidly behind him.

Asami, not wanting to "see the same places" he'd served all his life, requested to deploy outside of the continental United States. When he found he could spend 90 days at Camp Adder, Iraq, as a dentist under the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, the same division two of his uncles had served under in World War II, Asami knew it was the opportunity he was looking for.

Though Asami had been mobilized twice before—first to a hospital in Tacoma, Wash., as a medical corps officer during the Berlin crises, and again to Germany as a dentist in support of a Stabilization Force mission in Bosnia three decades later—this would be his first deployment to a designated combat zone.

Asami arrived in Iraq March 17. He now treats Servicemembers at a dental clinic run by the 502nd Dental Co., of Fort Hood, Texas. His responsibilities include mostly teeth cleaning, but occasionally something more substantial like a tooth extraction.

The 70-year-old veteran quickly built a reputation for his genial smile and ability to put nervous patients at ease with his disarming sense of humor.

"I like the way he works," said Sgt. Thomas Barragan of the 485th Quartermaster Company, who was Asami's patient. "He's very comfortable, very pleased in his work. He's a very polite man… he knows how to make a Soldier feel at ease and good."

Col. Richard Asami, 70, a staff dentist for the 1/34 BCT shows a characteristic smile May 9 at Camp Adder.

Spc. Leticia Riley, Asami's assistant who prepares instruments and takes x-rays of Asami's patients, has also noticed his charm.

"I love being his assistant, it's so much fun and it doesn't make me feel stressed out," Riley said. "He's just a lot of fun to work with."

Asami said he hopes his example will inspire more retirees to step in and help the troops.

Col. Richard Asami cleans the teeth of Sgt. 1st Class Denise White-Phillips, the S-3 NCOIC for the 408th Personnel Service Battalion, May 9 at Camp Adder.

Spc. Ryan J. Murphy, 308th Transportation Company, Omaha, Neb., does a precombat check on his upgraded 50-caliber recently at Camp Adder, Iraq.

Specialist gunner in Iraq, criminal justice student in states

Story and photo by
Spc. Brian D. Jesness
1/34 BCT PA

CAMP ADDER, An Nasiriyah, Iraq -- Pivoting, shifting and bearing down on its target, the upgraded 50-caliber machine gun operated by Spc. Ryan J. Murphy, of St. Louis, Mo., moves with precision and accuracy as his Humvee convoy conducts security missions throughout Iraq.

Back home, the 20-year-old specialist with a fiancé and daughter has his sights on the criminal justice system. He is studying criminal justice at Southern Illinois University, in Edwardsville, Ill. Murphy, who has been with his fiancé for four years, proposed to her four days before being notified of this deployment.

Murphy's home away from St Louis is second squad, third platoon, 308th Transportation Company, Omaha, Neb., attached to the 7th Transportation battalion. Being a member of this squad is a fact Murphy said should not be overlooked.

"We have really tight platoon integrity," Murphy said. "We're really a pretty close bunch."

Murphy's performance as a gunner for his squad recently caught the attention of his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Allen Kiefer, and the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team commander, Col. David Elicerio. His knowledge and presentation of his weapons system warranted him receiving a coin of recognition from Kiefer.

Murphy was approached by Elicerio and Kiefer during some downtime on a recent convoy mission.

"I basically had to give a presentation on this whole system by surprise, said Murphy. "They said they were impressed with what I knew about it and how I handled it."

After witnessing Murphy's impromptu demonstration of the upgraded weapon system Kiefer presented him with his commander's coin for Murphy's presentation and mastery of his equipment.

"I didn't see a big deal about it," Murphy said. "It's the system I run, I should know it."

Overall, Murphy says he enjoys his time as a gunner with his squad on security missions. When asked if he had anything to add, he replied, "Third platoon, second squad, that's what leads the way."

Acclimatization can take weeks

By Col. Basil Leblanc
1/34 BCT Surgeon

Living and performing missions in austere conditions, including desert environments, requires a period of acclimatization. The time of adjustment can vary on the environment and conditions but typically, in this environment, it takes about one to two weeks.

There are several physiological adaptations that occur during the period of acclimatization which include: improved sweating, better fluid balance, improved cardiovascular stability and lowered metabolic rate. As sweating is the most important method of shedding body heat the intent is to have an earlier onset and a higher rate of sweating, i.e. it is good to sweat. As the body continues to adapt there is also a reduced rate of electrolyte loss and an increase in total body water. All of these adaptations lead to a higher level of resistance to the effects of heat.

Spc. Nathan Wiley, HHC 1/34 BCT, takes a drink of water after a civil military operations convoy last week.

The process of acclimatization can be hastened and assisted by physical exercise, good hydration/nutrition, work/rest cycles and proper clothing and equipment. Coming to this environment in good physical shape is helpful but still requires a period of adjustment. Outdoor exercise should start slowly with activities like volleyball or softball. Slow outdoor runs should begin in the first few days and increase in length and frequency over a seven-10 day time frame. Remember, exercise performed in an air conditioned gym is good for you but will not contribute much to your adjusting to heat. Good hydration during this period of time, and after, is crucial. There is nothing magic about Gatorade or other sports drinks, the majority of fluid replacement should be water. Your fluid requirements do not go down over time as acclimatization increases water loss as the body sweats more effectively. Wearing the uniform appropriately, sleeves down but loosened, will prevent heat absorption and allow for improved airflow. Employ work/rest cycles and take breaks in the shade when possible.

Physical fitness compliments Soldiers' readiness and leadership

By Capt. Rick Jensen
1/34 BCT Asst. planner

The United States military places great emphasis on the role of physical fitness and exercise training in combat readiness. Service members train to be physically and mentally capable Soldiers to ensure their success on the battlefield. Physical fitness is an individual responsibility for all Soldiers to compliment their readiness as Soldiers and as leaders.

The benefits of exercise are unlimited. Exercise and physical activity are powerful tools for preventing and treating symptoms of stress. Regular exercise helps one to feel in control which is a key defense against stress. Exercise promotes well-being and relaxation. Regular exercisers also demonstrate higher levels of self esteem and confidence and maintain a sense of self discipline.

Just getting started? Here are a few recommendations for all Soldiers to follow when starting an exercise program; (1) Train with a buddy. Have a friend or co-worker with you to keep your workout on track or provide you with encouragement to keep going. (2) Cross-train. Develop a training cycle designed to deal with changes in types of exercise, intensity, and duration. Cross-training keeps training interesting by adding variety, decreasing injury incidence by promoting recovery, and providing an invigorating workout while resting the muscles and joints normally stressed. (3) Make time to recover. Recovery is providing the time for the body to adapt to the demands that have been placed upon it. The number one mistake is doing too much, too fast and not allowing your body conduct maintenance on itself.

To combat depression, stay involved with the activities that you enjoy. The Morale Welfare and Recreation staff has a variety of activities for Soldiers to get involved in, including sports tournaments and leagues, weightlifting competitions, aerobic classes, fun runs, and more. Log on to your camp web site for upcoming activities. Get involved, stay fit, and have fun!

Living Area Survival

By Chief Warrant Officer
Peter Panos
1/34 BCT Safety Officer

Now that most Red Bulls are moving or have moved into permanent housing (Cans) it is a good time to remind Soldiers and leaders about Living Area safety. The following is a short list that will help ensure that Red Bull Soldiers don't get hurt for avoidable reasons:

Fire safety:

- Smoke in designated area (i.e. the toilets, showers and your can aren't designated areas). The Huka pipe smokers are always in a designated spot.
- When inside your can, leave the key in the lock to ensure a quick exit in case of fire or an emergency bathroom run.
- Check your fire extinguisher for serviceability. If it is low or flat empty let your first sergeant know.
- Read the instructions on how to use your fire extinguisher. (Your roommate and trailer mates will rather be disappointed in you if a little fire destroyed all their stuff because you didn't know how to work the extinguisher.)
- Use a transformer if you have 110 volt (American) electrical shavers, Xbox, radio, TV etc. (Just ask Master Sgt. Brian Shelton, he became a power expert after he fried my radio.)
- Use a surge protector and plug it either into a wall outlet or a transformer only. Plugging a surge protector into another surge protector (Daisy Chaining) is a good way to overload a circuit, causing all your friends to lose power or a fire.
- Candles, incense or anything that burns with a flame, get rid of it. Be careful with coffee pots and always en sure that your smoke detector works. If your Can stinks, get some air fresheners. They are available at the PX; well on second thought have them sent from home you will get them quicker.
- If you are allowed to grill, grill away from the cans.

General safety:

- Do lock your doors. There are a lot of workers around the LSA's at all hours.
- Do keep you cans clean so the insects and other critters have no place to set up house.
- Do use the buddy system when moving around outside at night.
- Do avoid the local wild life including dogs and bugs.
- Do bury your Internet and TV antennae lines so your neighbor doesn't trip over them at night or a vehicle runs them over, catches the cable on the vehicle and rips your computer or TV off its stand. Yes, this actually happened
- Keep area outside your can clean and organized. Nothing extends further out than your steps.

May's Safety Darwin Award Story:

One fateful afternoon, 55-year-old Marko retreated to his semi-detached workshop to make himself a tool for chimney cleaning. The chimney was too high for a simple broom to work, but if he could attach a brush to a chain and then weigh it down with something, that would do the trick. But what could he use as a weight? He happened to have the perfect object. It was heavy, yet compact. And best of all, it was made of metal, so he could weld it to the chain. He must have somehow overlooked the fact that it was also a hand grenade and was filled with explosive material. Marko turned on his welding apparatus and began to create an arc between the chain and the grenade. As the metal heated up, the grenade exploded. The force of the explosion killed poor Marko instantly, blasting shrapnel through the walls of the shed and shattering the windshield of a Mercedes parked outside. Marko's chimney was untouched, however." Just do the right thing, even when no one is around and you won't be the subject of next month's award story!

The living areas like these that the 1/34 BCT Soldiers reside in create several safety concerns, including keeping them clean so insects and other critters don't move in and using surge protectors to prevent the loss of power or fires.

Command Judge Advocate notes

Paralegal Spotlight. This month meet Sgt. Tom Sauvageau. Sauvageau is our 27D paralegal specialist in Task Force Bearcat. Sauvageau is from Fargo, N.D., and currently lives and works in Moorhead, Minn., as a full-time paralegal/ administrative noncommissioned officer with the Minnesota Army National Guard. He joined the Army in May of 2001 and his brother Shane is in Company B, Task Force Wolverines.

As a paralegal specialist, Sauvageau helps our 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Command Judge Advocate's office provide legal services to the commanders and Task Force Bearcat Soldiers. 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." Office hours are Monday through Saturday 0830 to 1700 and Sunday 0900-1700 (a legal assistant is on duty).

Spotlight on Escalation of Force

Shine. Shout, Shove. Show. Shoot.

The five S's. They are a simple tool to help us put Escalation of Force procedures into action effectively and properly. They help ensure that our actions are consistent with the Rules of Engagement and the Law of War while at the same time always giving us the right to defend ourselves from hostile threats and acts.

Upon recognition of a hostile threat or act and positive identification of a legitimate military target, EOF is a series of sequential actions which begin with non-lethal measures and graduate to lethal measures to include warning, disabling, or deadly shots, in order to defeat a threat and protect the force.

EOF is not the same as ROE. ROE define who and when a target should be engaged. EOF define how that target should be engaged. ROE have not changed from our training at Camp Shelby. Expect EOF to change frequently based on the current threat environment. Both ROE and EOF procedures are critical to mission success.

The 1/34 BCT **Commander's intent is as follows:**

Proper EOF procedures are a set of tools that help soldiers and leaders make sound decisions in a tactical environment. The decision of a Soldier at an entry control point or as a gunner in a combat logistics patrol to engage a perceived threat is one of the hardest tasks that we require of our Soldiers. Leaders at all levels must emphasize the use of proper EOF procedures to respond to threats. All leaders and Soldiers must clearly understand the severe consequences and resulting negative perceptions of Coalition Forces that are created by every EOF incident. Each and every EOF incident creates potential enemies and future insurgents if we utilize excessive force in the conduct of operations. It is my intent that leaders at all levels continually train on and emphasize all EOF procedures, specifically non-lethal methods. Doing this will help our Soldiers determine when to shoot, and when not to shoot.

Bottom line — proper use of force demonstrates to the Iraqis and the world that we are professional Soldiers who use force only when absolutely necessary.

Military Justice Log

A noncommissioned officer in charge from C troop, 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry received a field grade article 15 for being absent without leave. Reduction to specialist; forfeiture of one half of one month's pay for two months; 30 days extra duty; 30 days restriction. The same Soldier failed to report for duty while in theater and was given a field grade Article 15. Reduction to private first class; forfeiture of one half month's pay for two months; 45 days extra duty. The forfeiture and extra duty were both suspended for 90 days.

A Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Task Force Saber received a company grade article 15 for violation of General Order No. 1 (pornography). Reduction to Pfc; forfeiture of seven days pay; 14 days restriction. All suspended.

A NCO from B Troop, Task Force Saber was given a company grade article 15 for disobeying a direct order and failure to report for duty. Seven days restriction; Seven days extra duty; forfeiture of Seven days pay.

A NCO from Headquarters Troop, Task Force Saber was given a company grade article 15 for failing to report for duty. 14 days restriction; 14 days extra duty; forfeiture of seven days pay. All of the punishments were suspended.

A Soldier from 1257 Transportation Company received a field grade article 15 for being absent without leave. Reduction to private (E2); forfeiture of one half month's pay for two months, suspended for 90 days.

A NCO from Company A, Task Force Wild received a field grade article 15 for disobeying a direct order (violation of battalion visitation policy and fraternization). Reduction to the grade of specialist; forfeiture of half months pay for two months, suspended for 90 days.

A Soldier from Headquarters Troop, Task Force Saber received a summarized article 15 for being late for work on three separate occasions. The Soldier was given nine days extra duty and nine days restriction.

No Bull: Frequently asked questions

By Capt. Kevin Schooler
1/34 BCT OPSEC Officer

Q: Are the cell phones sold here safe to talk on?
A: No. The cell phone you have at home isn't either. Cell phone signals are fairly easy to intercept. Just think of all the times you have been on your phone at home and have been able to hear another conversation. Besides that, we don't know what allegiances are held by the three cell phone providers here in Iraq.

Q: Why does the Family Support Group know more about what is going on over here than we do?

A: In reality, it might seem like they do, but they really don't. Remember, the Family Readiness Groups are comprised of the families of every member a given company. What you are hearing are the collective stories of everybody in the company who has talked to their family. Some of what they hear is true and some of it is the same rumors we hear here.

Q: Is it okay to talk about something that has already been reported in the news?

A: Not always. There are a few things to take into consideration here. 1) The news media's main goal is to make money through selling papers and advertising (the cost of which is driven by circulation for print and ratings for electronic media), not protect our interests. Remember during the invasion of Iraq when Geraldo Rivera drew that map of a movement plan in the desert sand? Remember how the military kicked him out of the country for doing that? He's still very unpopular with many members of the military for that little stunt. Just because it appears in the media doesn't mean that it was approved for release. There are different levels of release authority. A commander has approved the majority of what you see in the media for dissemination. The Brigade Combat Team Commander approves everything released by our Public Affairs Officer before it is released. Back home the state PAO clears everything through the Adjutant General. Release of that information does not authorize you to confirm or expand upon it. 3) By simple virtue of you wearing the uniform, you will be considered by many civilians to be a subject matter expert on all things military. You shouldn't confirm or deny what appears in the media because to do so gives people an indication to the story's veracity. When asked about a media item, simply say that you don't know whether it is true or not; in most cases you probably won't really know anyway.

Brigade Anti-Stress Room more than oasis of peace

By Staff Sgt. Thomas Murray
1/34 BCT UMT NCOIC

Have you ever noticed that the Post Exchange is always out of the item you went there to purchase? Who were you kidding, yesterday, when the sliver of soap you were using turned to mush and dissolved into the washcloth. Did you bring extra bars of soap, or liquid body-wash? And you know, those bristles on your toothbrush are worn and curling. Have no fear, my friends; ask and you shall receive. Before you let loose with a colorful metaphor, or three, check this out.

The Brigade Anti-Stress Room is more than an oasis of peace. When you find yourself in a pinch and in need of validation, seek and you shall find. Your Unit Ministry Teams-throughout the theater- have been blessed with a wealth of items sent from churches, schools and employers. What's more, your co-workers may get a package from home with more stuff than they could possibly use. Friend, bring your extra supplies to us and we will gladly pass them along.

Speaking of supplies, our supporters at home appreciate your input. Let them know your basic needs, not the big-ticket items. Personal-sized hand sanitizer, foot powder, lip balm, sunscreen and Q-tips are easier to send than a personal DVD player, satellite dish or a set of golf clubs. Use the KISS (Keep It Simple, Soldier) method. Stick with health and comfort consumables; wet-wipes, shampoo, deodorant, razors and shaving cream. Please check the expiration dates on over the counter medications like aspirin, eye drops and cold (huh?!?) remedies.

So, belly-on-up to your local BAR and find what you're missing. Our friendly staff is waiting to serve you. We have the best prices in town.

Sundry items like these are available in the 1/34 BCT Anti-Stress room located in the Bullpen.

IN OUR SIGHTS

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

1st Lt. Paul Harper, HHC, 1/34 BCT, reads an intelligence report last month before a convoy escort mission.

Photo by Spc. Patrick Thomason

Spc. Paul Word, Task Force Wild, greets an Iraqi man during a cordon of a recovery site for a Ministry of Oil vehicle.

Photo by Spc. Peter Richert, Task Force Thunder

Spc. Justin Kent, Task Force Thunder, poses with two Iraqi children during a patrol last month near Scania.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Snellman, Task Force Wolverines

Chief Warrant Officer Herbert Rhoden, Task Force Wolverines, removes his stencil after painting the 1/34 BCT "Red Bull" on a Humvee's gun turret.

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

Sgt. Ashley Kerr, HHC, 1/34 BCT, wipes off the windshield of her Humvee before a convoy escort mission.