

DESERT



BULLS



SHOOT OR  
DON'T SHOOT?

June 16, 2006

# To shoot or not to shoot



**Story by**  
**Lt. Col Paul Zimmerman**  
1/34 BCT Deputy Commander

The decision of whether to engage a target with hostile force - a life or death decision -- is the hardest decision this mission demands that you make each and every day on a Combat Logistics Patrol, at an Entry Control Point, standing in a tower or on a combat patrol. You are in a dangerous position, you're in a war zone, and we recognize that.

You are members of the finest Army the world has ever seen. You have the best training and the best equipment. Given continued training, thorough Pre-Combat Checks/Pre-Combat Inspections, and the right tools, the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team leadership is confident in your ability to close with and destroy the enemy when it is called for. But this war will not be won by eliminating the insurgents alone. As long as the insurgents have a willing population base to operate in, this war will continue.

The success of our mission is riding on you. Never forget that. Your tactical decisions have strategic implications. The vast majority of vehicles you encounter on the road are simply innocent Iraqis going about their daily lives, attending to their families and making a living. Using deadly force on one of them is an issue you will not only have to live with for the rest of your life, but it also has a high probability of creating even more insurgents for the future. The use of disproportionate force - even warning shots and forcing others off the

road -- can have severe consequences on Coalition Operations by creating a negative impression of Coalition Forces, turning good, law abiding, peaceful and neutral Iraqis against the coalition, and aiding the insurgency's claim that Coalition Forces target innocent Iraqis.

Remember these things when faced with a decision to use Escalation of Force procedures.

■ **Positive ID:** Do I have a hostile threat? This is more than a vehicle approaching within a certain distance of your position.

There is no "security bubble" around a convoy that permits the use of deadly force simply because someone got too close. Iraqis frequently disregard traffic laws and are inattentive drivers. That may be a first sign of something amiss, but is not a hard and fast rule that can be used to justify the use of deadly force, including warning shots. Use EOF procedures to develop the situation based on what you know of recent intelligence and enemy tactics, techniques and procedures. Seeing shots fired is also NOT positive identification of a threat. Remember, there are other U.S. military and Iraqi Security Forces across the battlefield.

They are out there everyday trying to keep our Main Supply Routes clear. Don't shoot the guys that are out there trying to help us!! Identify who is shooting and what they are shooting at before you engage.

■ **Warning shots** are only authorized when deadly force would be authorized. Deadly force, including warning shots, may not be used to clear traffic! Ask yourself before you shoot, "What is



the hostile intent or danger to me"?

■ If shots are fired, you must ascertain if there is property damage or injury. As a U.S. Soldier you are duty and honor bound to render aid to wounded, both friendly and hostile.

■ Report the incident immediately. A Commander's Inquiry is mandated within a few days of each EOF incident. Expect to talk to an investigating officer. This does not mean anyone did anything wrong. Their purpose is to gather the facts and learn how we can better prepare ourselves to handle these situations. By knowing what is working and what is not, we can better equip ourselves mentally and materially to continually get better at this.

We are engaged in a war that will shape the future of the Middle East, and ultimately America. I know that in our everyday duties we are not always thinking of the strategic implications of our actions. But I can assure you, our actions have impacts far beyond what we can see. Our country has sent us here to win a war. We can only win that war by gaining the support of the Iraqi people. For all the insurgents that you come upon, I hope your aim is sure and deadly. For the overwhelming numbers of average Iraqis you meet, I hope your judgment is sound and accurate.

*"Few generations of this world have been called upon to defend freedom at its moment of peril, and now is one of those times. I do not shrink from that responsibility, I welcome it."*

**John F. Kennedy**

# Day in Red Bull history

Monday, June 5, 1944

Near Rome, Italy

Most of the morning the men were busy with their personal equipment; they are turning in a lot of the excess things they have, having a show-down inspection to see how we can cut down on some of the equipment, making more room in the trucks for hauling things in. Lt Norman J Hooghkirk left on recon at 1430 hours. Capt Karlson left the Company area to recon roads going to Rome, as we are to follow behind our troops who are meeting only scattered resistance. Our Company moved out at 1600 hours, leaving the kitchen behind until

we get into our next position. When the Company moved into the city of Rome itself it was dark, but one of the most impressive scenes any of the men had seen came when going by one of the large white buildings built by Mussolini. On the steps leading to the street a German soldier lay, possibly shot while trying to come out of the building, and then rolling halfway down to the street. The Company moved into an area on the edge of Rome where there was a very large, but occupied, house. We did not set up the guns. The kitchen was brought forward after the guns arrived in the area. A few planes came over

but no bombs were dropped near here.

**Editor's**

**note:** This diary entry is from The Unit Journal of Cannon Company, 133rd Infantry April 1944 until May 1945. For the complete diary, log onto [www.34infdiv.org/history/133cannon/4404.html](http://www.34infdiv.org/history/133cannon/4404.html)



## Heads up

### From the editor: A look at issues, trends and things to watch

When I first arrived in theater, I put my wedding ring away in a secure location. The reason was for safety. I know fellow Soldiers who had their fingers ripped off while wearing rings while performing their jobs. In one case the Soldier jumped off an earthmover/scrapper and his high school ring caught a piece of sheet metal as he leaped from the vehicle. He lost half of his finger.

After talking to Lt. Col Larry Herke, executive officer of the 1/34 BCT, I learned that wearing a ring on any finger is a safety concern. He went so far as to say watch bands also are dangerous to wear (unless they are Velcro).

I also have not been able to publish two photographs because of Soldiers wearing their wedding rings.

In a more serious matter, Sgt. 1st Class Elma Joyce Clark, the sexual assault response coordinator, would like Soldiers to know that this command does not tolerate sexual assault.

In the event of a sexual assault, Soldiers should contact her at 318 833-1303.

-- **Sgt 1st Class Clinton Wood**

#### **This week's Iraqi language lesson:**

**Maa as-salama** is good-bye (pronounced ma el salama).

**Zayn** is good (pronounced zane).

**Minu** is who (pronounced man who).

**Afwan** is your welcome (af won).

**Sofra da man** is thank for your hospitality pronounced sofra die men).

**Chai mum taz** is excellent tea (pronounced chay mum taz).

DESERT  BULLS Issue #20

The 1/34 Brigade Combat Team is commanded by Col. David Elicerio. Command Sgt. Major Doug Julin is the 1/34 BCT command sergeant major. The Desert Bulls staff is Capt. Mark Lappegaard, public affairs officer; Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, editor; Sgt. Kent Westberg, broadcast journalist and Spc. Brian Jesness, print journalist. 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](mailto:clinton.wood@us.army.mil).

About the cover: **A Non tactical vehicle is seen through a rifle scope.** Photo illustration by **Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA**



# Iraq 101

## Babylon ancient city in Mesopotamia

Story by

**Capt. Bill Hamann**

1/34 BCT Comptroller

What is Babylon?

1. A state in southern Mesopotamia; 2. The name of an ancient Garden; 3. A Fair Young Maiden of years past; 4. A dictionary software in more than 50 languages; 5. The land between the rivers; 6. The Greek variant of Akkadian Babilu; 7. A biblical reference for a tower.

All answers are related to the topic, which I will explore in the following paragraphs, but the definition of Babylon from Wikipedia is:

Babylon is the Greek variant of Akkadian Babilu (bʾb-ilû, meaning "Gateway of the god", translating Sumerian Kadingirra), an ancient city in Mesopotamia (modern Al Hillah, Iraq). It was the "holy city" of Babylonia and the seat of the Neo-Babylonian empire. In the Old Testament, the name appears as ??? (Babel), interpreted by Genesis 11:9 to mean "confusion", from the verb balal, "to confuse". Therefore, answer 6 is correct.

Answer one is incorrect, since Babylon was a city, Babylonia is the state in southern Mesopotamia. Answer two relates to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon-one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Answer three is obtuse-the fair young maiden refers to Baby Loni Anderson, who must have descended from Babylonians based on her name.

Answer four is a translation assistance software available on the internet. Answer five is a translation of the Mesopotamia, which is where Babylon was located. Answer seven refers to the Tower of Babel, referred to in the Bible, popular with artists and as a gaming software platform.

The Sumerians, who pre-dated the Babylonians, survived the Ice Age and prospered from 10,000 B.C. to 5,000 B.C. in roughly the same geographic area. Babylonian History is typically broken down into five periods: Old Akkadian - 2,500 - 1,950 B.C.; Old



**A 16th Century depiction of the Hanging Gardens of Babylonia.**

Babylonian/Old Assyrian - 1,950 - 1,530 B.C.; Middle Babylonian/Middle Assyrian - 1,530 - 1,000 B.C.; Neo-Babylonian/Neo-Assyrian - 1,000 - 600 B.C.; Late Babylonian - 600 B.C. - 100 A.D.

The first period (Old Akkadian) followed the period of Sumerian rule. The Akkadians (pre-Babylonians) had four dynasties-the Ur, Lagash, Uruk, and Akkad. Of note is the cuneiform writing they created and the Epic of Gilgamesh. The Epic is a heroic poem originally written on 12 clay tablets describing the trials and tribulations of the King of Uruk, Gilgamesh. It describes him as a great conquerer and builder of Babylon.

The second period produced Hammurabi. His code was quite strict and contained 300 laws. Hammurabi contributed to creating one of Babylon's Golden eras and his code was used by many cultures later. The 'innocent until

proven guilty' basis for our legal system purportedly derives from it.

The third period was largely ruled by the Kassites. During the fourth period, the Assyrians sacked Babylon and rebuilt it. Ashurbanipal ruled and built a library. Much of Babylonian history we know today is due to his efforts to collect and copy information and to bring it to one location and safeguard it.

The fifth and final period brought about the second Golden Era. Nabopolassar reclaimed Babylon from the Assyrians and planted the seed for his son, Nebuchadnezer. Nebuchadnezer was a builder, creating city walls with eight spectacular mural gates. Temples and museums were rebuilt. The Hanging Gardens and the Tower of Babel were constructed. He ruled for 43 years and is the most famous Babylonian.

Cyrus the Great captured the jewel Nebuchadnezer had made Babylon and incorporated it into his Persian Empire.

# Task Force Iron settling in at Al Asad

Story by  
**1st Lt. Darin McDermott**  
and **Sgt. Michael Langr**  
Task Force Iron

The Soldiers of Task Force Iron have finally arrived and settled in to their final destination at Al Asad Air Base in western Iraq. Task Force Iron assumed its mission recently after relieving the 118th from their duty in Iraq. Over the past few weeks the Soldiers have started to learn what the base has to offer. Moving into living quarters was the first priority. The living areas range from 10 to 50 man tents while staff sergeant and above reside in two to six-man c o n n e x r o o m s . There are multiple different living sites scattered around the base.

Al Asad offers about the same amenities as did Camp Buehring in Kuwait for the Soldiers to enjoy and use. The central location includes a Post Exchange with an adjacent food court. Included in the foot court is a Pizza Hut, Burger King, a beauty and barber shop, and two gift shops. There is also a building that has a Subway and a Green Beans Coffee stand along with an eating area.

Across the way is the Morale Welfare and Recreation building. This

large recreation center offers pool, ping pong and gaming tables. Available also are board games, a video game room and movie viewing room. There is a room with about two dozen computers and a dozen phones for the Soldiers to communicate back home. This room does stay full and there are times of long waiting periods. Soldiers sign up for the computers or phones in half-hour increments. The phones use a special connection that allows for a reduced rate to call home.

An popular area is the Rockhouse Gym.

A former stadium with a track and soccer field is in the middle of the base. Many of the little things from home aren't available. News and entertainment are normally behind the times. The food service and laundry service is excellent here.

The temperature is starting to get hot; the average temperature is around 90 degrees for May. With summer approaching it will only get hotter. Another weather phenomenon that still amazes everyone are the dust storms. The tents clear and cameras come out

each time each one approaches. Most storms also bring rain and individuals return inside to check for leaks.

One recent surprise for the Soldiers was the arrival of care packages from "Iowa Bravest." The packages included letters of supports, miscellaneous items and plenty of snacks. It was greatly appreciated and lifted the spirits of all. Please make sure and send your thanks to those involved.

Task Force Iron has found its home for a while and has successfully

transitioned into its mission capable roles. The missions have started and life is beginning to become a normal routine. With the start of the mission there comes an end to look forward to and all are looking forward to the return home.



Photo by Sgt. Michael Langr, Task Force Thunder

**A dust storm approaches Al Asad Air Base. These storms are common at the base.**

The cardio room has treadmills, elliptical machines, stairclimbers, and stationary bikes. Another room is equipped with mats and has a punching bag. They also offer abdominal classes and martial arts training on certain days of the week. The central location of the gym is the weight room. There are a variety of machines, benches and free weights.

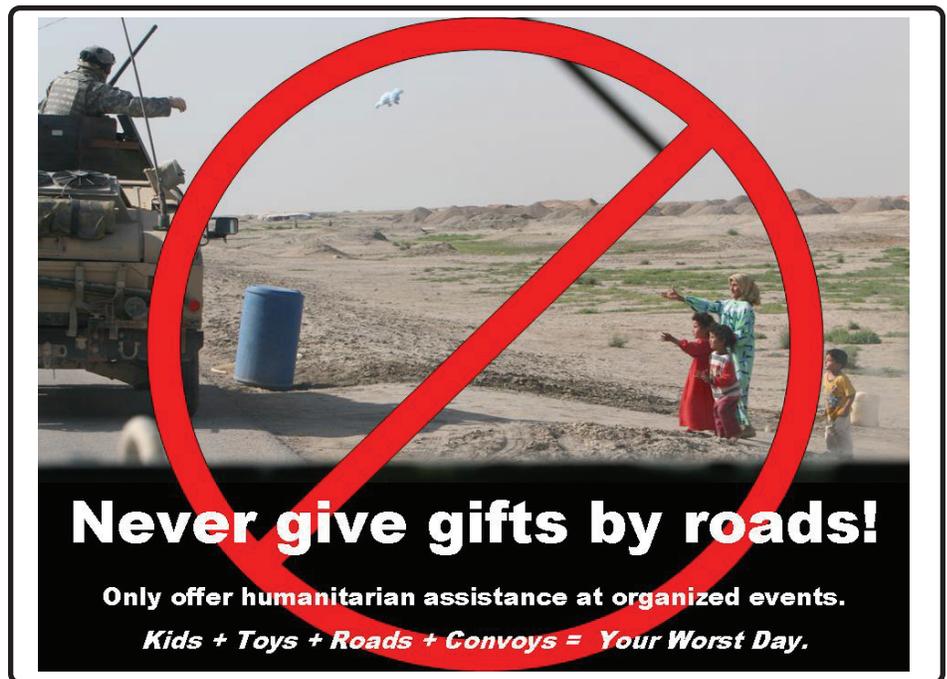
# Tips on leave

By Sgt. Jessie Rae Johnson

1/34 BCT UMT Team

Leave; the word alone can transform the worst of moods, and send thoughts of joy racing through the minds of Soldiers across this country. Whether you are going back home, touring Europe or Australia there are things to remember. For those who are planning to reunite with their families; have a list of expectations that you share with each person. Sharing this list prior to your arrival will help everyone start on the same page and know what others are expecting of them. Also, make sure you understand that you are going to be a guest while you're home. The daily routines that you remember have changed in order to make things easier for your loved ones. You should try and fit into those routines instead of changing them back to how you remember.

For the single Soldiers returning home; your family and friends may not know exactly what you have been doing. They may think you have been in a lot of danger and want to hear all the stories. You may feel overwhelmed by this; just know that if you don't want to talk about your experiences that's OK. It is going to be hard for them to understand your daily routine. Pick a story about something funny that has happened here and use that story when people ask about your experiences. That way the other person gets to hear a good story and you don't have to talk about things you may need to deal with on your own. Lastly for Soldiers who are traveling to other countries. Always tell someone your destination and expected return time. If you are traveling by yourself write down where you are going, when you will return, and what you are wearing. Leave the note in your hotel room where someone would be able to find it in case there is an emergency and you need to be contacted immediately. No matter where you are going on leave, remember that your leave is a time for YOU. Use the time wisely to regroup and relax.



## Staying healthy in this heat takes several precautions

By Chief Warrant Officer

Peter Panos

1/34 BCT Safety Officer

It's Hot as heck and I can't take it anymore!

Well this is proving true for an increasing number of us. The 1/34 Brigade Combat Team is seeing a dramatic increase in heat casualties. I know we have all heard this stuff a million times and can recite it from memory, Hydrate, take rest breaks, eat, use sun block. Ok, that's all fine, except I have brought up heat issues to some troops who were trying to win the Darwin award and I am pretty sure all they heard was bla, bla,bla. This is not good. It is hot, more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit everyday. If we do not actually think about hydrating (1.5 qt an hour), eating properly (try the veggies once a day, they really won't make you gag), using sun screen (at least spf 45 for you Norwegians) and watching the amount of pop and Gatorade we consume (a couple of these a day should be plenty, especially for those under 25, you're hyper enough) , we have a high probability of being the next person feeling nauseous, vomiting and having severe headaches.

Staying healthy in this heat is relatively easy, just remember these few things:

- " Thirst does not equal hydration
- " If you are outside working (all the motor pool buildings are considered outside) take frequent breaks.
- " Use sunscreen, it is free at the outpatient clinic
- " Watch your buddy, if they look over heated, they are. Get them to sit down and take in some fluids.
- " Supervisors keep track of the heat categories and adjust the work load accordingly. Make sure your buddy system is functioning and ask "what if.." questions of your troops.

That's it for this week, next week I will discuss why road surfing on a Humvee is a bad idea.



# Notes from the Command Judge Advocate

**Paralegal spotlight:** This month meet Pfc. Larry Blackstad. Blackstad is our 27D paralegal specialist in Task Force Thunder. He is from New Ulm, Minn. where he graduated from high school in 2005. He plans to attend college after this deployment. He joined the Army in 2004. As a paralegal specialist, Blackstad helps the Command Judge Advocate's office provide legal services to the commanders and Soldiers of TF



**Pfc. Larry Blackstad**

Thunder. 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 Legal Assistance

The Legal Assistance Team is here to provide Soldiers with timely and appropriate assistance in order to minimize distractions so Soldiers can remain focused on the mission. We support all branches of the Armed Forces with legal support, guidance, and assistance including, but not limited to; Special and General Powers of Attorneys and notary services. Attorney consultations are available regarding: wills; probate matters; domestic/family concerns; divorce; custody; child support; court orders; temporary modification of a court order; subpoenas; review of legal documents; rental property issues; financial issues/ Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act; helping Soldiers gain U.S. citizenship; Noncommissioned Officers Evaluation Reports, Officer Evaluation Reports, and financial liability in property loss rebuttals and appeals; and how to retain a civilian attorney. Additionally, we encourage Soldiers to utilize all resources or avenues that are available. Such as, Army

One Source, chaplains, Combat Stress Control, their chain of command and the Inspector General. Since we have a lot of new Soldiers in country, we would like to stress credit/debt awareness. It is essential that a very keen eye is kept on your credit while deployed. A free credit report can be obtained by going to [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). You could either access your credit report online or have it mailed to you here. Once reviewed, disputes can be made to the credit bureau – either Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion. As a Soldier deployed to a combat zone, you can put an "Active Duty Alert" on your credit for one year. This will require that you be contacted if anyone tries to open new accounts in your name. Power of attorneys and notary services are available 0900 – 1700 daily. In order to alleviate wait times, appointments are highly recommended for all other matters.

## Military Justice Log

 A Soldier from Task Force Thunder received a field grade article 15 for violation of a lawful general order. The Soldier violated General Order 1 by wrongfully consuming alcohol. The Soldier was reduced from specialist to private, received a forfeiture of \$713 for two months, 30 days of extra duty and 30 days restriction.

 A Soldier from Task Force Thunder received a field grade article 15 for violation of a lawful general order. The Soldier violated General Order 1 by wrongfully consuming alcohol. The Soldier was reduced from specialist to private, received a forfeiture of \$713 for two months, 30 days of extra duty and 30 days restriction.

 A Soldier from Task Force Thunder received a field grade article 15 for violation of a lawful general order. The Soldier violated General Order 1 by wrongfully consuming alcohol. The Soldier also discharged his weapon inside his living quarters. The Soldier was reduced from private first class to private, received a forfeiture of \$636 for two months, 30 days of extra duty and 30 days restriction.

 A Soldier from Task Force Wolverines received a company grade article 15 for losing his weapon while on a mission. The weapon was later recovered. The Soldier was reduced from specialist to private first class, received a forfeiture of \$394 for one month, seven days of extra duty and seven days restriction.

 A Soldier from Task Force Thunder received a field grade article 15 for violation of a lawful general order. The Soldier violated General Order 1 by wrongfully consuming alcohol. The soldier was reduced from private first class to private, received a forfeiture of \$713 for two months, 30 days of extra duty and 30 days restriction. Currently the Soldier is appealing punishment.

 A Soldier from Task Force Wild received a field grade article 15 for Cruelty and Maltreatment by sexually harassing a subordinate. The Soldier was reduced from staff sergeant to sergeant (suspended for 180 days), received a forfeiture of \$1,474 for two months (suspended for 180 days), and extra duty for 30 days

 A Soldier from Task Force Thunder received a field grade article 15 for violation of a lawful general order. The Soldier violated General Order 1 by wrongfully consuming alcohol. The Soldier was reduced from specialist to private, received a forfeiture of \$713 for two months, 30 days of extra duty and 30 days restriction. Currently the Soldier is appealing punishment.



**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 recommended.

**0900-1700**  
**and by**  
**appointment**

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

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

Appointments  
SPC Sharon Williams  
833-1469  
Sharon.williams@iraq.centcom.mil



# Mom on a mission

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

CAMP STRYKER, Iraq - This female Soldier from the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team probably had one of the more unique Mothers Day greetings.

As Sgt. Veronica Schilling stood in a Humvee turret somewhere in Iraq, her truck commander, 1st Lt. Paul Harper yelled up to her, "Hey Schilling, Happy Mother's Day," as the clock struck 12:15 a.m.

For the next several hours, Schilling either stood up in the turret or sat down on its parapet, assuming her duties as one of four Humvee gunners. This convoy escort team escorted more than 15 semi trucks hauling a variety of goods from a small base in southern Iraq to Baghdad International Airport (the

convoy didn't arrive at BIAP until sunrise).

"I would like my family to know that I do all of this for them," said Schilling, the married mother of a daughter who turned 2 on May 24. "I am here for those I love most back home."

She also said that when her daughter, Brooke, is older she will explain to her that she deployed to Iraq to protect her. "Sure will be a mothers day you can't forget," Schilling said.

What she did this particular night wasn't different from any others. She was the "eyes" for her team armed with a machine gun mounted on the swiveling turret. This included using a large spotlight and donning night vision goggles. "I shine anything that looks suspicious,

she said.

Schilling's spotlight duties included illuminating potholes for her driver, Spc. Brandon Gerold and illuminating overpasses as her Humvee entered and exited them (ducking down in the Humvee for safety as it went under them).

Schilling, who has been in the Guard since 1997, also would tell Harper, the convoy's interval status and other traffic concerns.

When the convoy stopped because of

"I didn't feel that I had enough training on the crew served weapon," she said. "But with some additional training I feel very confident and proud to be a female gunner."

Schilling also trained with other Soldiers that she replaced. Her first convoy was to BIAP.

"It was a good time," she said. "The guys made it fun, they knew when to joke and not to joke around...but it still was scary at times."

This training also gave her the opportunity to test fire a 50-caliber machine gun, the weapon of choice for most gunners. I have learned since that first convoy to be very alert and always be ready to fight," she said. "My ability to react fast is dependent on my team's safety."

Back in Minnesota, Schilling left a full-time position at Camp Ripley where she reacted to unit's supply issues.

When she returns, she will be the supply non-commissioned officer for

Company B, 134th Brigade Support Battalion at the camp.

She also will work in supply at Camp Adder once a replacement company takes over the convoy escort missions. She said her deployment goal is to build on her skills as a noncommissioned officer and return to Minnesota with this knowledge and experience as back up. But for now, she said she will remember this Mothers Day as a day that she wasn't with her family but thought of them constantly.

She also knows that Brooke is in "good hands." Schilling's mother quit her job so she could watch Brooke during the day.



**Sgt. Veronica Schilling, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/34 BCT, smiles as she talks to fellow Soldiers while they wait for their convoy security mission to leave from Cedar II.**

the discovery of an Improvised Explosive Device several miles up the highway, Schilling donned her night vision goggles. She said she was constantly scanning the area around the Humvee. Just always being alert and looking around," Schilling said this pretty much summed up her duties.

She said she isn't the only one on the roads looking around. "It feels pretty good when people do a doubletake when they see that it is a female up there (in the turret)," she said. "It's a good feeling."

She said this reaction also gives her a lot of confidence.

Something she admitted she didn't have when she first learned that she was going to be a gunner.

# Tips on how to take better photographs

Remember the "RedBulls"

04JUL06 Photo Album contest

By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood  
1/34 BCT PA

On July 4, I know everybody with their "Happy Snaps" or compact digital cameras will be shooting in full force for the "Red Bulls" 04JUL06 Photo Album.

As a many-time award winner in the Minnesota Associated Press Photographers Association and Minnesota News Photographers Association, I can offer you some tips on how to take photographs that are not snapshots.

First, remember the rule of thirds. In other words, your subject should never be centered in the viewfinder. In the newspaper business, we make sure the subject has room to run or look out of the page. Also the horizon should never fill half the frame. It should either fill a third of the frame or two thirds

of the frame.

Another piece of advice is to shoot at a low angle or high angle. If you are going to photograph children, get down to their level.

Another good technique is ensuring your photo has more than one subject matter even it is their environment. A good example would be a photograph of a firefighter giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a small child he is holding as he runs from a burning building. The photo guidelines for the contest are as follows: a. All photos must be in JPEG format, ideally in color but black and white will be accepted; b. The larger the size of the photo the better. Please do not compress the photos; c. While "cut lines" are not required, they are encouraged as it will make the photo album more interesting. At a minimum, the name, rank, and unit of the photographer must be provided. This information can be included on the "notes" portion of the photo if you have photoshop or attached in a word document that references the photo number

(example: "photo 10001 was taken by PFC Snuffy, HHC, 2-136 CAB, at 1300 during a convoy"); d. No photos of ECPs, restricted vehicles, or other OPSEC violations; e. Soldiers must be in the proper uniform; f. While "group photos" and "grips and grins" are acceptable, action shots (not posed) are preferred; g. Photos that include collation partners, local Iraqis, and historic landmarks are encouraged.

## If you enter contest

- Photos must be taken from 0001 to 2359 on July 4 and be about 1/34 BCT Soldiers or their families
- Send CD of photos to PAO-Photo Album, HHC 1/34 BCT, APO AE 09331-000
- Complete rules and tips on [www.redbullweb.com](http://www.redbullweb.com)
- Photo tips and rules on [www.redbullweb.com](http://www.redbullweb.com)



Al Asad Mosque at sunset

The sun sets near the Al Asad Air Base Mosque earlier this month.

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

# Cold water on a hot day

## 1/34 BCT CMO team assists village in completing reverse osmosis water plant

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

On a dusty afternoon at a meeting near the Euphrates river May 31, citizens and officials of Al Batha, Iraq met to celebrate the opening of a new water purification plant.

The Al Fawaz reverse osmosis water purification plant was completed under the direction of Jabbar Hassan, a local contractor and the work of about 40 Iraqi citizens. The project was funded through efforts of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team, Civil Military Operations office.

"The plant can provide water for up to 5,000 people and produces 10 cubic meters of water an hour for the village of Al Fawaz and the city of Al Batha," said Deputy Civil Military Operations Officer, Capt. Colin Fleming.

Fleming added that the CMO office has plans to support the refurbishment of three other similar water plants in disrepair in the region.

Before completion of this water plant, approximately 1,500 local citizens in the area surrounding Al Batha had no access to clean drinking water. Citizens that did have access to clean water had to rely on a trucking service that delivered water to rural areas traveling on dirt roads, which are difficult to navigate when dry in summer and become more difficult when muddy during the rainy seasons in the winter of Iraq. The CMO office is developing plans to provide funding for personnel for security and engineering positions at the plant to be staffed by local workers from Al Batha, said Fleming.

Common health conditions suffered by citizens without clean drinking water can range from dysentery and diarrhea to intestinal issues due to waste products in the river and chemical and biological runoff from

sources north of Al Batha on the Euphrates river. The World Health Organization reported it is ensuring adequate, safe drinking water and access to sanitation. Almost half of Iraq's total population of 24.5 million people are children. United Nations agencies estimate that one-quarter do not have access to safe water. In 2000, about 3.5 million people did not have access to safe drinking water and more than 4.8 million people did not have access to any type of sanitation facility. The city of Al Batha is located in Dhi Qar, a governate or province in southern Iraq.



An Iraqi boy takes a drink of water after a grand opening ceremony for a Reverse Osmosis Water Plant May 31 near Al Batha, Iraq.



An Nasiriyah residents enjoy clean water at Opening of Al Fawaazi Reverse Osmosis Water Plant An Nasiriyah, Iraq.

# 250th Company Soldiers have braved constant attacks in convoy security missions

Story and photo by  
Spc. Spencer Case  
207th MPAD

CAMP ADDER, An Nasiriyah, Iraq—Minutes before their next escort mission, the Soldiers of Second Platoon, 250th Transportation Company huddled together under the desert sun to pray.

"Heavenly father, we got some intel that there might be some (Improvised Explosive Devices) on the road," said Cpl. Francisco Campos, a truck commander, as the others

bowed their heads in reference. "We know that if we get hit we're just going to keep rolling."

Scenes like this are common for troops of the 250th. The Reserve unit from South El Monte, Calif., has braved constant attacks to provide security escorts for unarmed contractors who are vital for delivering food, water and fuel to installations throughout Iraq. Less than two months into their tour of Iraq, 24 troops in a unit of about 160 have put packets for combat action badges for incidents that occurred in route to Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Baghdad International Airport and elsewhere.

Spc. Alfred H. Velasquez of

Merced, Calif., said he has already lost count of the number of missions he's been on with the 250th, but decided the total must be between 10 and 15.

"The first few times I was a little bit worried because I didn't know



**Spc. Leonardo Hernandez and Spc. Octavio Espinoza a gunner and a driver for the 250th Transportation Company, discuss the proper way to turn a 50-Caliber rifle on a Humvee prior to leaving Camp Adder on an escort mission, May 16.**

what to expect," said Spc. Alfred H. Velasquez, who alternates being a driver and a gunner on missions. "...but after getting used to it and seeing that there are a lot of patrols...there are (Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams) out there doing their job, I don't worry so much."

Velasquez said that so far, his exposure to combat has been confined to being stopped as EOD to destroy an IED in place, and having insurgents take a few potshots at his combat logistics patrol.

"Other than that we've been pretty lucky," Velasquez said before

correcting himself. "Pretty blessed, I should say."

Staff Sgt. Ernest Paredes, a squad leader for the 250th, also considers himself to be lucky. He has been close enough to feel the concussions of several explosions while on the road. On May 7, an IED detonated near his team's vehicle, causing major damage to a truck belonging to contracting company Kellogg Brown and Root.

"Everybody did their job

without hesitation," Paredes said "...Their reaction was quick and efficient."

Troops have learned that long hours of monotony can lead to more subtle dangers like boredom and anxiety. When they are on the road the troops keep up small talk about things like music, things they want to do when they get home and

movies they've seen. For those who are on base, listening to music, spending time at the gym, and calling loved ones are preferred means of killing stress.

Capt. William "Dan" Bowman, the company commander, said he has been impressed by his troops' resilience to the long hours.

"They've kept their heads up and gone through it and were ready to go out on the next mission when they get back," Bowman said. "...They've taken it pretty well so far in the two months that we've been in theater."

# IN OUR SIGHTS



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Schultz, TF Saber

**Sgt. Joe Dunlap, Task Force Sabre, provides security on the roof top at the Governor's Center in Ramadi**



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

**Staff Sgt. James Feeney, Task Force Wolverines, nears the finish line of the Harley Davidson 10K Memorial Day Run..**



Photo by Capt. Paul Rickert, Task Force Thunder

**Staff Sgt. Robert Hillesheim, Task Force Thunder, talks to his fellow non-commissioned officers in charge about night base security operations at Scania.**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Lease, TF Wild

**Spc Jonathan Schwartz, Task Force Wild, prepares for a convoy security mission from Camp Adder.**

