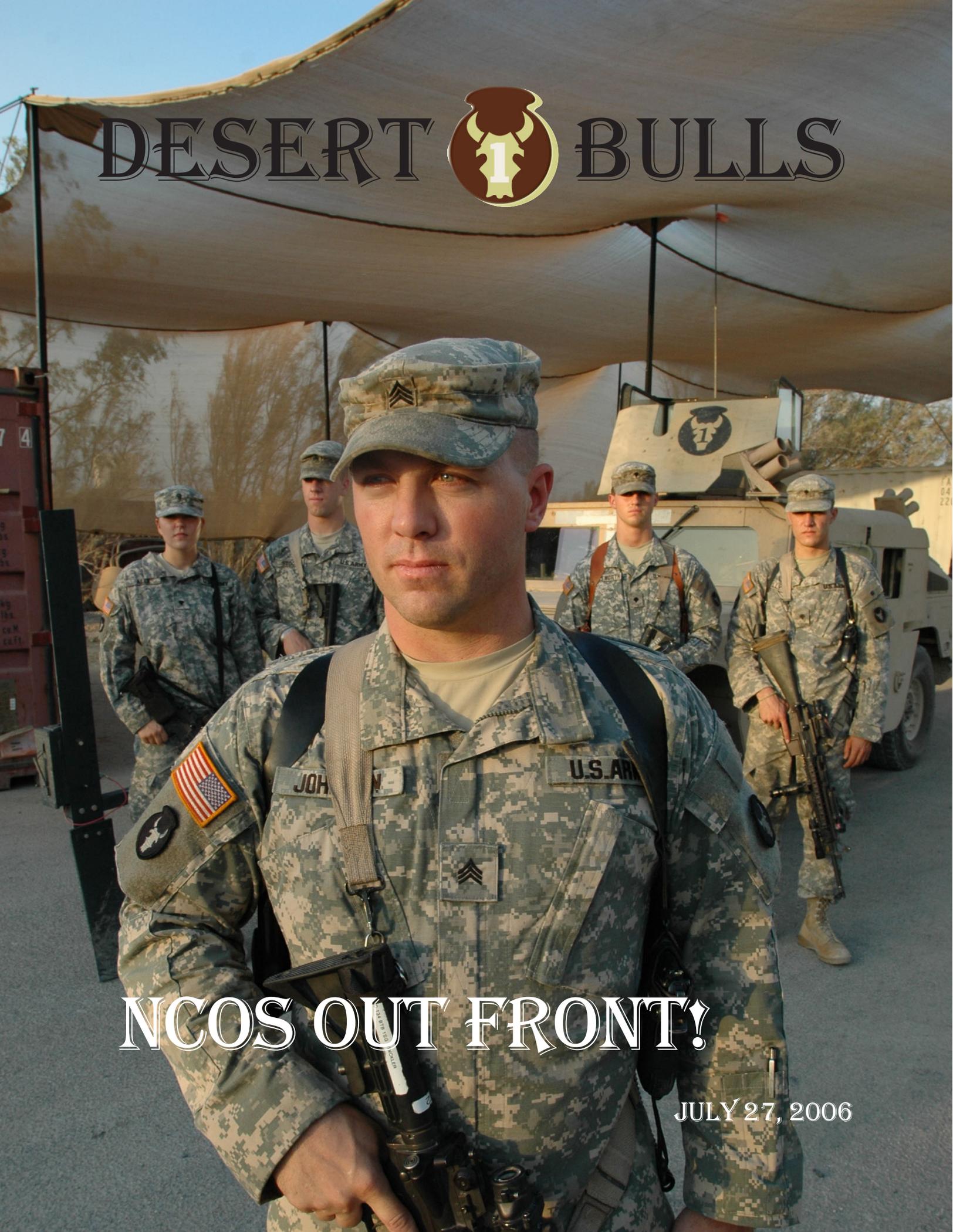


# DESERT BULLS



NCOS OUT FRONT!

JULY 27, 2006

# Miller remembered as great friend, Soldier

By Capt. Paul Rickert  
TF Thunder UPAR

CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER, SCANIA, Iraq - Sgt. Kyle R. Miller of Willmar, Minn., was remembered Wednesday, July 5, 2006, at the CSC Scania courtyard as a great friend and Soldier who would always get the job done, no matter the task.

Miller, a Signal Support System Specialist for the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery (Strike), 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, died when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle June 29 south of Balad, Iraq.

Capt. Richard Rupp of Blaine, Minn., commander of the battalion's Headquarters Battery, said that Miller possessed great expertise with computers and radio equipment.

"His section members considered him a 'wiz' with computers and automations equipment, said Rupp. "He learned things about automation that were beyond his (Military Occupational Specialty) but Kyle was more than just a communications specialist.

"Kyle had the ability to raise the morale of those around him with his sense of humor and wit," he said. "His easy going attitude and positive disposition were his tools for morale."

His fellow squad member, Staff Sgt. Jamison Burgess of Mankato, Minn. told the more than 300 Soldiers at the memorial, "When he walked

into the shop his smile would brighten the room.

"If you ever needed a laugh you just had to ask him what he was thinking about", he said, "and you could be assured it was something unique."



Sgt. Kyle Miller in training earlier this year at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Burgess elaborated on Miller's character and his effect on people.

"He hated to see others upset," said Burgess. "If there was something wrong, he was right there trying to cheer you up or he'd put his hand on your shoulder so you'd know he was there for you... Kyle was a great Soldier, a great man and an even better friend."

The friends he left behind paid tribute to Miller in a special ceremony.

In the center of the stage was a Memorial Boot Stand. On the left were the American and Minnesota flags with the unit colors in the middle and the company guidons on the right. On the top step was an M-16 rifle with a bayonet attached placed into the step barrel first with a Kevlar helmet sitting on top of the rifle's stock. Miller's dog tags hung from the rifle.

Desert boots with the heels to-

gether at a 45 degree angle were resting on a step below his rifle. An 8.5 by 11 inch official Army portrait of him rested on an easel next to the memorial stand.

Soldiers marched to the stand two at a time, turned, faced it and saluted it. Once they dropped their salute, they turned away from the stand and left the stage, sometimes wiping tears from their eyes.

Several other battalion commanders and command sergeant majors of the 1/34 BCT also left their coins and several Soldiers ripped off their unit patch on their left shoulder and placed it on the stand.

Miller was born Oct. 15, 1986, in Warren, Minn. He graduated from Willmar High School in 2004 with in-

tentions of attending the University of North Dakota to earn a degree in electrical engineering.

Miller enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard Nov. 19, 2003, as a signal support system specialist. He reported for Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga., on Jan. 25, 2005. He graduated from his Advanced Individualized Training at Fort Gordon, Ga., Aug. 11, 2005. Upon completion of his training, he was attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion based in Willmar.

Miller was transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery based in New Ulm on Dec. 1, 2005, to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# Soldiers on the road are our number one priority

By Col. David J. Elicerio

## Commander's Intent

I intend to accomplish our on-going theater security mission through an aggressive regimen of rehearsals, maintenance, fleet management and best practices. This is to ensure our Soldiers are highly trained, well rested, and remain current on operational procedures. We will maximize risk mitigation through effective scheduling, route management, and synchronization through our higher headquarters to ensure that our Soldiers have maximum time to prepare for missions with minimal changes. Our senior leadership will focus their efforts regarding maintenance, enhancements, synchronization, and training with the understanding that Soldiers on the road are the number one priority.

Success in theater security is achieving a sustained operational posture that allows risk mitigation to reduce overall risks to our Soldiers on the road, while allowing NO cancelled coverage due to maintenance, communications, or Counter Remote Control Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare. Soldiers have a predictable schedule that allows time for mission accomplishment, maintenance; both equipment and personal, a training schedule to stay current on best practices,

and a defined mission posture with solid, definable risk mitigation.

I intend to emphasize entry control point security procedures to ensure that only authorized traffic enters our camps and that these practices are trained, rehearsed, and discussed at all levels. By understanding and seeing the base defense from the enemy's perspective, our leaders and Soldiers will be able to better plan our responses. Success here is achieved when camp and fixed site perimeter security prevents all penetrations, allows only authorized vehicle traffic on post, and has developed and implemented random Anti-Terrorist Measures at the ECP's as well as in the perimeter patrols.

Through all of these tasks our Soldiers must have a clear, concise understanding of what it is we want them to do when a situation presents itself. Leaders at all levels must continue training rehearsals and vignettes. Our Soldiers are our responsibility and we will ensure they are fully prepared to handle **anything, anytime, anywhere!**



## Monthly barbecue celebrating Soldiers' birthdays starts Aug. 25

A monthly barbecue to celebrate Soldiers' birthdays assigned to the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team starts Aug 25 at LSA Adder. The last barbecue will be February 25.

The first barbecue will honor Soldiers whose birthdays fell of fall between April 1 and Aug. 31. The

barbecues that start at 11:30 a.m. will be held inside the Bullpen's non-secure area near trailers B1 and C1.

The proposed meal includes hamburgers, polish sausages, potato salad and birthday cake. The recognition of birthdays will include a reading of the names of Soldiers with birth-

days in that month. A birthday card will be prepared for each Soldier and signed by the 1/34 BCT commander and command sergeant major and by the Soldier's battalion commander and command sergeant major. The card will be presented to the Soldier at the event.

## Iraq 101: Military leader credited in forming Akkadian Empire

By Chaplain (Maj.) Randy Wendt  
1/34 BCT



The battles among the people of this land are noted in history and we are now included as part of this land's history. The Akkadian Empire came into existence around the year 2350 B.C. by means of the military leader, Sargon. The Akkadian empire existed for its 142 years of glory, in the same area where we live and drive through

providing convoy support. Sargon, the Empire's first ruler eventually conquered lands from the Mesopotamian area to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. His military achievements were among the earliest recorded accomplishments of such a large degree. As a result, roads were built which led to the spread of information. His kingdom enabled trade and a time of prosperity for the region. Yet today, if it were not for history, and a movie, the Akkadian is all but forgotten. Main Supply Route Tampa was not built by Sargon, his roads are long gone. His

early library to catalog astrological observations-- gone. Where are the clay stamps of his postal system? Gone. When you visit the Ziggurat, you no longer see his daughter, Enheduanna, the former priestess of the temple performing sacrifices to the moon god. If you look at Genesis 10:10, where is this kingdom today? We work to make this land a better place, may our work be within God's will and have a lasting impact beyond our lives here in this dusty land. "The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." I John 2:17



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 34TH DIVISION  
ALI AIR BASE, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ADDER  
ARMY POST OFFICE AE 09331

04 July 2006

1/34 BCT-CO

MEMORANDUM FOR RED BULL SOLDIERS

SUBJECT: Core Warrior Values

1. One month ago an effort commenced across Multi-National Corps-Iraq to reinforce the core warrior values of discipline, good judgment, and high moral standards. These values are the hallmarks of the military profession.
2. Independence Day is an appropriate time to take a moment to reflect on these values and my continued high expectations for the members of this BCT. You are Soldiers in an organization with an honorable history of service to our Nation. The First Brigade Combat Team, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division can trace its lineage to the First Minnesota Volunteers. One Hundred and Forty-Three years ago this week, the 262 members of the First Minnesota Volunteers were at the center of the Union line at Gettysburg. It was here that the First Minnesota made its famous suicide charge, attacking onrushing Confederates who outnumbered the Minnesotans fifteen to one in a desperate effort to gain time to reinforce the Union line. The regiment suffered a casualty rate exceeding 80 percent, but they purchased with their lives the critical minutes needed to reinforce the Union line and stop the Confederate advance in its tracks.
3. Today we find ourselves in another struggle to preserve and advance democracy and freedom. As military personnel, we are personal representatives of the United States. We must ensure that our conduct is consistent with the values and traditions of our country and heritage. I fully understand the stresses and pressures inherent in combat operations. Our enemy intentionally violates all norms of human decency. Yet we cannot tolerate behavior that is legally, morally, or ethically questionable. Core values do not get left at home. Each of us needs them here in this environment more than ever.
4. Soldiers keep your ethical standards high. Continue to show good judgment, honesty, and integrity. Do the right thing even when no one is watching. Target only combatants and limit unnecessary destruction and suffering. Treat others as you wish to be treated.
5. Leaders stay vigilant in the little things. Train your soldiers to do what is right. Maintain your composure and lead by example. Your soldiers will retain their moral bearings despite the temptations and frustrations of battle.
6. I am incredibly proud of this Brigade Combat Team. You perform your duty with honor and courage every day under difficult circumstances. *Attack!*



DAVID J. ELICERIO  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding



# Day in Red Bull history

Monday, July 17, 1944  
Near Ermo, Italy

We're in the same area. Enemy planes were over last night dropping flares but did not strafe or drop any bombs.

There were many targets for us this morning at all points on our sector's front. Our men are attacking and many small groups of the enemy are counter-attack-

ing. Before noon we had already expended 786 rounds. In the afternoon we fired another sixteen missions, expending another 432 rounds, for a total of 1218 rounds [estimated nine tons]. This was our heaviest day of firing for some time. The firing this night was mostly against identified concentrations. Pfc. Steve P Brinza left today to participate in the Fifth Army swimming meet.

**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

**By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood**

As you may have noticed the 21st issue of the Desert Bulls had a "facelift." There were several reasons for this. The main one was that the original newsletter template and previous newsletters was on my laptop that crashed after I left Camp Adder on assignment for several weeks. Coupled with that, I turned over the newsletter and design tasks to newly promoted Spc. Brian Jesness, my print journalist. I will still be editing each newsletter though.

So for this issue, you will see the return of In Our sights, my Heads up column and Day in History.

Another heads up is that Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1/34 BCT will be named Panthers from now on.

In an upcoming issue, I intend to reserve at least one page, maybe two with news from the other battalions. To do this, I will scan each battalion's

newsletters and choose the best stories.

#### Air Force rank

Spending several hours with Air Force personnel at a Kuwait base last month while escorting a Fox Sports Net North crew, I learned about the Air Force rank structure. This is something every Camp Adder Soldier should know too. That way we can show respect to these Airmen.

So here is the Air Force's junior enlisted rank structure (see rank chart at right): One stripe is an airman (equal to our private second class), two stripes is an airman first class (equal to our private first class) and three stripes is a senior airman (equal to our specialist),

The noncommissioned officer rank structure for both services will be in the next Desert Bulls.

The officer's rank is the same as the Army except a major's oak leaf cluster is brown instead of gold. Offic-

ers also are the only Airmen that wear their ranks on their hats.



#### Iraqi language lesson:

**Kayfu halukum** is how are you? (pronounced kye fah hah luckum)

**Haar** is hot (pronounced har)

DESERT  BULLS Issue #22

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: Sgt. Grant Johnson, Task Force Wild, is one of the NCOs in the 1/34 BCT that leads from the front. Photo illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA



# NCOs reminded to lead from the front

By Command Sgt. Maj.  
Douglas Julin  
1/34 BCT

Soldiering isn't an amateur sport; it's the world's most complex and demanding profession.

Each Soldier must be tactically and technically proficient. Discipline, professionalism, pride, and proficiency are an outstanding unit's qualities. Noncommissioned officers are never too timid, tired, or lazy to enforce these standards. It is every Soldier's responsibility to uphold the standards but NCOs enforce these standards. NCOs' set the standard by being the solution and not the problem.

Some of the specific areas I ask NCOs to focus on:

**Weapons-** if continual weapons maintenance isn't emphasized and sustained our weapons will become dirty, rusty, and possibly improperly assembled. We can't afford to lose one of our fellow Soldiers because the lack of the discipline to enforce the standard. The NCO sets the standard in ensuring that all weapons and ammunition are clean, serviceable, and always properly assembled.

**Uniforms-** Soldiers have a tendency to modify their uniform, ignoring the Army Regulation 670-1. The NCO ensures that the Soldiers are always in the correct uniform and present themselves professionally. The NCO must be aware of any Soldiers that are not adhering to the proper uniform posture. The NCO sets the standard by enforcing the

proper uniform standard always.

**Vehicles-** NCOs' must supervise and oversee the maintenance of their vehicles and equipment.

Standards maintained while riding in a vehicle include the wearing of seatbelt, helmet, Interceptor Body



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

**Sgt. Daniel Halan, Task Force Bearcats, assumes one of his sergeant of the guard duties by briefing tower guards at LSA Anaconda during a shift change. A SOG is one of the countless responsibilities of a NCO.**

Armor with throat protector and groin protector, eye protection, hearing protection, and gloves. The NCO ensures that the Soldier understands this is a requirement but also that it enhances the Soldier's survival under fire. Of special note: All vehicle commanders must ensure their doors are combat locked prior to leaving the wire.

**Team Building-** I also expect the Red Bulls to take extreme pride in their equipment, their individual performance and in their squads and platoons. With pride comes team work, with team work comes esprit de corps, and with esprit de corps comes pride.

**Risk Management-** Our efforts to support the brigade objectives are futile if a Soldier suffers a serious injury by accident. Leaders always identify the potential safety risks, develop control measures to combat them, and prevent risk to our Soldiers. NCOs' set the standard by identifying any potential or known safety issues and concerns and making on the spot corrections.

**Living the Army Values-** NCOs lead by example and are role models for their Soldiers.

**Loyalty -** Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers.

**Duty -** Fulfill your obligations.

**Respect -** Treat people as they would be treated.

**Selfless**

**Service-** Put the welfare of the Nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.

**Honor -** Live up to the Army Values.

**Integrity -** Do what's right, legally, and morally.

**Personal Courage -** Face fear, danger or adversity (physical or moral).

Professionalism is the backbone of the NCO corps. As professionals we will expect nothing less from our Soldiers. We will continue to set the standard and ensure that discipline is continually enforced. We will not fail. We lead from the front. We teach, mentor, and coach Soldiers at all levels. Soldiering is the best profession in the world. I am proud of all the Soldiers within the 1/34 BCT, but I especially thank my fellow NCOs for holding the standards. We are the final check.

# Notes from the Command Judge Advocate

**Paralegal Spotlight.** This month's Desert Bulls theme is "NCOs Lead from the front" Master Sgt. Linnea Velsvaag is the senior paralegal noncommissioned officer in the 1/34 BCT and noncommissioned officer in charge of the Camp Adder Consolidated Legal Office ("The Alamo"). Velsvaag is originally from International Falls, Minn. She joined the Army in 1988 and has served both on Active Duty and in the Guard in the medical, aviation, and judge advocate general fields. Prior to deploying she was a high school guidance counselor at Johnson Senior High School in St. Paul, Minn. She has 11-year old twin daughters. Velsvaag is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Consolidated Legal Office and supervision of the enlisted paralegals in the 1/34 BCT.



## Spotlight on Voting

One of our most important responsibilities as citizens in a democracy is to vote. General elections are less than four months away and primary elections have already begun in several states. Registration and absentee ballot requirements, and primary election dates, vary by state. See the federal voting assistance website at [www.fvap.org](http://www.fvap.org) for information on your home state's requirements.

Also, each battalion has several Voting Assistance Officers to help you register to vote and to vote by absentee ballot. Those VAOs are:

**TF Iron.** Capt. Joel Jacobson and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tony Christoph, headquarters and headquarters company; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kent Greiner, Company B; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Christopher Donlin, Weapons Company; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jared Gevock, Company C.

**TF Wolverine.** Capt. Andrew Peterson and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Paul Peterson, headquarters and headquarters company; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ronald Sevak, Company A; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Matthew Brauer, Company B; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Pergande, Company C; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stephen Peccorelli, Company D; Staff Sgt. Darrell Vetter, Company E; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jason Bachtel, Company F.

**TF Thunder.** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Mastbergen, headquarters and headquarters battery; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Avila, Company A; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Garrett, Company B; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James Lehman, Company C; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Mark Anderson and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James Miller, Company G.

**TF Bearcats.** Capt. Chip Rankin, headquarters and headquarters company; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stewart Whitson, Company A; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bradley Wallace, Company B; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Peter Rampaart, Company C; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joseph Beatty, Company D; and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Casey Vulcan, Company E.

**TF Saber.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James Bartels and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Shane Varejcka, headquarters and headquarters troop; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bradley Wangler, Ross Zarzecki, William Rice, and Michael Tarricone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas Traylor, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony Wertz, and Keith Davis.

**TF Express.** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Clay Whitman, headquarters

and headquarters detachment; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cory Cannon, 308<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Goforth, 250<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company; Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Penley, 1451<sup>st</sup> Transportation Company.

**TF Wild.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Dustin D. Snare, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Douglas A. Borgenson, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Dwaine J. Babcock; Spc. Lawrence Gard, Company A; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Stephen Babcock, Company B; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joshua Fjelstad, Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

**Panthers.** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stephen Sander

## Military Justice Log

A Soldier from Task Force Saber received a Field Grade Article 15 for striking another NCO. Sentence: Reduction from sergeant to specialist, forfeiture of \$967 for two months (suspended), Extra Duty for 30 days.

A Soldier from Task Force Saber received a Company Grade Article 15 for insubordination to an NCO and threatened to kill him. Sentence: Reduction from private first class to private second class, forfeiture of \$333, Extra Duty for seven days, restriction for 14 Days.

A Soldier from Task Force Express received a Field Grade Article 15 for a Negligent Discharge. Sentence: Reduction from specialist to private first class (suspended), forfeiture of \$200 for two months.

A Soldier from Task Force Bearcats received a Field Grade Article 15 failure to report. Sentence: Reduction from specialist to private first class, forfeiture of \$845 for two months (suspended), Extra Duty for 45 days

(suspended).  
A Soldier from Task Force Wolverine received a Field Grade Article 15 for being Absent without leave.

Sentence: Reduction from private second class to private, forfeiture of \$300, restriction to company area for 45 days.



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

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

Appointments  
SPC Sharon Williams  
833-1470  
SharonWilliams@raq.centcom.mil

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**



# IN OUR SIGHTS



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA  
**Spc. Brandon Zimmerschied, Task Force Wild, walks between a row of new 1151 Humvees at Camp Adder.**



Photo by Sgt. Kent Westberg, 1/34 BCT PA  
**Spc. Christopher Berry, TF Thunder, drives a Humvee en route to Scania earlier this month.**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dean Marquardt, TF Bearcat UPAR

**Lt. Col Gregg Parks (left), commander of Task Force Bearcats, and his command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj Terry Koenig, read the oath of enlistment to several Bearcats reenlisting at Al Taqqadum.**



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

**Spc. Anthony Breaux of Task Force Saber, shouts instructions at LSA Anaconda's North Entry Control Point as a convoy of Humvee gun trucks roll through.**

