

SEPTEMBER 22, 2006

DESERT



BULLS



RED BULLS GEAR UP

1/34 BCT SOLDIERS RECEIVING
THE NEWEST EQUIPMENT

Hanson remembered as a light-hearted professional

By 1st Lt. Nicolas Rice, Task Force BEARCAT, PA Staff

CAMP AL TAQADDUM, Iraq –

Staff Sgt. Joshua Robert Hanson of Dent, Minn. was remembered on Sept. 4, 2006 at the Camp Al Taqaddum Mainside Chapel as an excellent leader and friend who lightened the mood in just about every situation.

Hanson, an Infantry Fire Team Leader for Able Company, 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion, died on Aug. 30, 2006 when his Humvee hit a roadside bomb while supporting 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment conducting Counterinsurgency Operations near Khalidiyah, Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Riewer, Able Company squad leader, enlisted and completed basic training with Hanson in the summer prior to their senior year of high school.

Riewer spoke of his first high-school football game of the season, after returning from basic training.

“During the opening kickoff I was returning the kick, when ... boom, I was tackled. As I looked up, I realized that it was Hanson that tackled me. All he said was ‘Hey Riewer.’”

“I remember not even being mad, only glad to see my friend Josh again,” said Riewer.

Riewer also spoke of the many times in the past eight years when Hanson would remind him that it was his team that went on to win that game and to claim the Minnesota State High School Football Championship in 1997.

Staff Sgt. Douglas Newman, Hanson’s battle buddy during this deployment, spoke of the dedication and loyalty between Soldiers in a combat zone.

“A battle buddy is someone who is always loyal to you,” said Newman.

“He’s someone who will always have your back, in every situation. He always watches out for his buddies. He makes you laugh when you need to laugh, or tells you when you’re being a jerk. A battle buddy can tell you the truth about anything without hurting your feelings or making you feel like you’re being attacked. This is a different kind of friendship some people never get to know. I am fortunate to say and know Josh was my battle buddy”, said Newman

Cpt. Adam Gilbertson, Able company commander, recalled Hanson was well respected by Soldiers and leaders as a professional, but also as someone who could help to lighten the mood in the company.

“Whether it was some witty comment or off the wall one-liner, Hanson could always make us laugh... or at the very least make us roll our eyes. He helped us remember that just because we are at war, that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t have a little fun along the way,” said Gilbertson.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Hanson preparing for a mission at camp Al Taqaddum.

During the memorial a song was played featuring the words, “You will not be forgotten and you will not be alone.”

Hanson was born Aug. 22, 1979 in Fergus Falls, Minn., and enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard Dec. 16, 1996. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga., graduating Aug. 27, 1998. Joshua was assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 136th Mechanized Infantry in Detroit Lakes, Minn. as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Crewman. Hanson mobilized with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Battalion and deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of Stabilization Force 14 until April 10, 2004. He volunteered to mobilize again with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 136th CAB on October 1, 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following his tour to Iraq, Hanson planned to become a sheriff’s deputy in Otter Tail County in Minnesota.

Hanson’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Commendation Medal, Overseas Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal (OLC), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal.

He is survived by his parents Robert and Kathleen Hanson and his younger brother Jake, all of Dent, Minn. He is also survived by his friends and fellow “Bearcats”.



Day in Red Bull history

24 SEP - 2 OCT 1944

On the move in Italy near Montepiano

The 133rd Infantry Regiment was placed in Division reserve and we moved near Montepiano. The Jerries landed a few shells in our area.

The Company moved again, above Madonna dei Fornelli. While going into position we were shelled by the Jerries. One of our trucks got a direct hit; the truck and all of the men's equipment were lost. A shell also landed near the OP truck, destroying some of the equipment there. During this period we were also shelled by one of our own self-propelled weapons.



Soldiers of Company M, 133rd Infantry Regiment fire into Cassino, Italy, from the north edge of town. Feb. 24, 1944.

For the complete diary, log onto www.34infdiv.org/history/133cannon/4404.html

The 1/34 Brigade Combat Team
Col. David Elicerio
Command Sgt. Major Doug Julin

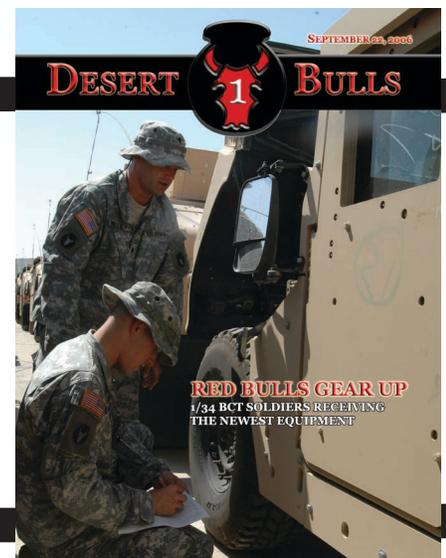
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This newsletter is in compliance with the provisions of AR 360-1. Any photo or story submissions should be forwarded to Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood at clinton.wood@us.army.mil

Issue #26

On the cover:
Spcs. Elias Peltier and Kevin Jacobs, Task Force WILD, at the motor pool receiving the delivery of more than 75 of the newest uparmored M1151 Humvees to the 1/34 BCT. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood 1/34 BCT PA.



“COOL” BULLS

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class
Douglas Schultz,
Task Force SABER PA

SABER Soldier tests new personal AC vest

Beating the heat is probably one of the most challenging things to do while fighting the Global War on Terror. Soldiers routinely drink six to nine bottles of water a day. Soldiers are seeking shade, managing work/rest plans, exercising, eating well, and pushing the occasional Gatorade. Sometimes you need more assistance.

The Army has begun to field some new equipment to cool Soldiers. The latest technological tool in the tool box is the Body Ventilation System. The BVS has reached some Soldiers in Task Force SABER. The system is very simple, yet effective. It is portable, lightweight and easy to don. The BVS weighs about five pounds. It has two main components; the vest and a ventilation unit, or blower. There have been about 500 units sent into theater, with several hundred more scheduled to be shipped within the next several months. Sgt. Jason Klawitter, Charlie Troop 5-117 Cavalry, of Collingswood, N.J., is one of the Soldiers testing the BVS vest.

The vest is worn around the torso underneath the ACU jacket. It usually takes a buddy to help put the vest on. Once on, it is virtually part of the body and does not interfere with a Soldier's duties.

“I don't even know the difference,” said Klawitter, emphasizing that it is not a hindrance when worn. He said this was the third day he has worn the vest. He wears it when he starts his shift and takes it off after the sun goes down. He also stated that the blower unit can be moved around and positioned in different areas and wears the vest so the blower is on the opposite side of his M9 pistol.

The BVS moves air around the body and increases the rate of evaporation and is ideal for use in hot and dry climates.

The system uses rechargeable batteries to run the blower motor. A five hour charge will allow Soldiers to use the vest for up to eight hours. Klawitter mentioned that as the air is moved around his body, he feels like he

is anywhere from 15 to 20 degrees cooler.

Klawitter said he will continue to wear the vest, “I definitely recommend them.” He also stated that, “It [the BVS] is quiet and does not take away from listening to what is going on.” The quietness of the motor is an asset. Working on the entry control point Soldiers have to be aware of their surroundings. Not only do they have to have eyes on the environment, hearing is also important.

This portable, lightweight system will be a great tool to reduce heat related injuries. Additionally, it will improve performance and keep Soldiers more alert and safer when conducting missions. The Army will be assessing the vest over the next year to see how it performs. The BVS will be used by many different Soldiers doing different jobs in order to fully test its capabilities and limitations. So far it has passed the test with Klawitter.



Spc. Michael Barreca assists Sgt. Jason Klawitter in securing his Body Ventilation System.

Eye in the sky

SABER tower guards defend LSA Anaconda

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Schultz,
Task Force SABER PA

One simple yet important mission for base defense at Logistical Support Area Anaconda is tower guard duty. Tower guards are nested with a bird's eye view of the surrounding area to provide for overwatch in key areas around the base. The towers are placed within the entry control points to assist with security and survey the terrain to keep a good watch for several hundred meters.

Tower guards report any activity of importance to the command post and are asked by leaders to report on the current situation. This paints a picture to commanders of what the battle field looks like. The shifts can be long at times and somewhat boring. However, this duty requires Soldiers to stand at all times and maintain situational awareness.

This particular tower at the north entry control point is occupied by two of the best -- Spcs. William Champ of

Clayton, N.J. and Aysu Cesmebasi of Lyndhurst, N.J. These Soldiers spend their time keeping watch and even get to know each other pretty well.

Champ said, "Spending so much time in a tower, you get to know people real well, more of a family, not a unit."

He also mentioned that after you get used to what is normal, it is easy to observe things out of the ordinary. Machine gun fire, F-16's screaming over head and the sounds of vehicles leaving and entering the base are normal occurrences. He said it is easy to pick up on the sound of small arms fire from the distance and report that to his leadership. He also mentioned that the test fire pit shocked him at first, but now it is just a "normal everyday thing."

Champ said the worst thing that has happened so far was the day when local nationals were brought to the entry control point for medical assistance. He said being a firefighter back home; he wanted to leave the tower to help because he wanted to help people. But he knew not to leave his post.

"The medics and Soldiers assist-

ing those in need are good and they (the local nationals) were in good hands," he said.

Cesmebasi, originally with the forward support company said that she really enjoys working with the Cavalry. She said she is actually proud to serve in the Cavalry because generally combat units do not have females.

Cesmebasi, who spent a year at Penn State studying Biology, will continue her education when she returns home. She said the overall experience has been great. She stated that the best experience she had so far was, "Getting to know people you are working with."

"Tower duty is important to get a good view and the communication is important between the command post and towers," she said.

Cesmebasi also can communicate in other ways. She speaks Turkish fluently and considers of Turkish descent.

There have been times where Soldiers have had to communicate with Turkish convoy drivers. Not having a Turkish interpreter, she was able to assist greatly.

Both Soldiers also have been on duty when mortar shells landed close to the ECP. They were also present when an Improvised Explosive Device exploded several hundred meters from their position.

Cesmebasi said, "The explosion was so bright it seemed like it was right in front of me, but I still knew it was way out there."

The tower guards are key in the defense of the LSA Anaconda. Guards are able to quickly spot any unusual activity. Because these Soldiers maintain vigilant watch, the base is much more safe and secure.



Spc. William Champ scans his sector



Spc. Aysu Cesmebasi with her M240B Machine gun in a guard tower.

HYDRATION IN THE COMBAT ZONE

By Cpt. Jerry Gunn
1/34 BCT S4 – Logistical Planner
(Registered and Licensed Clinical Dietitian)

In today's modern battlefield it is common to see Soldiers drinking a variety of different fluids to keep themselves hydrated and ready for battle. Bottled water should be the Soldier's primary drink to prepare for duty, but many Soldiers are using energy drinks and sports drinks such as Gatorade to prepare themselves for the mission.

Today we are going to examine these options and determine the best way to keep a Soldier hydrated and fit for duty.

Can energy drinks contribute to dehydration while on missions when our Soldiers are cooped up in a hot Humvee for hours?

An eight-ounce energy drink provided in our dining facilities contains 130 calories. Of those calories, 88 percent are coming from simple sugars and 12 percent from protein. The drink also contains a significant amount of caffeine added as a stimulant.

While it is true caffeine as a drug is a diuretic and does contribute to dehydration, the truth of the matter is caffeinated beverages have a net effect of hydration. The amount of water in caffeinated beverages offsets the diuretic effect of the caffeine. More importantly with energy drinks is the lack of water and a high



concentration of sugar in the beverage.

Sugar concentrations higher than eight percent have been shown to slow the rate of fluid absorption. High concentrations of sugar have been shown to contribute to diarrhea and cause gastric discomfort.

Most energy drinks have high concentrations of sugar and come in small servings. Factor in the heat on our convoys and our Soldiers drinking only energy drinks, and you have a recipe for dehydration.

Taste is extremely important when consuming beverages. Soldiers will consume more fluids if they taste good. Sports drinks such as Gatorade or Powerade have a much lower sugar content than energy drinks and offer good taste.

Many single serving, low sugar, soft-drink packets such as Crystal Light and Kool-Aid. Added to a bottle of water they make for good hydration.

Bottom line is our Soldiers need to consume fluids, preferably low-sugar beverages. However, nothing is better for hydration than just water.

BOXCAR CLINIC

By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood

1/34 BCT PA

CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER SCANIA, Iraq –

What once was a metal shipping container about the size of a box car has moved thousands of Iraqi villagers to better health.

The air conditioned container became the Smith Gate Medical Clinic located a few feet outside the perimeter of CSC Scania. An open air shelter with two benches serves as the waiting room. The clinic, surrounded by barbed wire, is open three days a week.

Dr. Faris M. Egal, the Iraqi doctor who works full time at the clinic, said the clinic that treats local nationals has been open for more than a year.

Egal said about half of these patients suffered burn wounds.

A 15-month old Iraqi girl named Miriam was among the patients. She suffered hot water burns on both of her arms and this was her final visit. As she sat on her mother's lap with one arm covered with a bandage and the other arm covered with a sterile non-stick bandage, she was approached by one of the clinic's medics. Sgt. Ryan Marti, Task Force THUNDER, who held a roll of gauze in his hand. You could tell this wasn't Miriam's first visit. She began to cry, turned away and caught her breath twice as tears rolled down from her big brown eyes.

As Marti, who recently graduated from a paramedic school in Minnesota, gently began wrapping Miriam's arm with the gauze, her cries subsided.

"She will be free to do whatever little kids do," said Marti as he finished wrapping the bandage.

Egal said he also treats Iraqis for colds, headaches

and skin diseases.

Egal assists in diagnosing the illnesses, preparing treatment and writing prescriptions. Before the clinic opened, families had to rely on home treatments.

Now, little girls like Miriam leave the clinic healed and with a Mickey Mouse band-aid on her index finger and a small stuffed animal in her pocket.

Soldiers like Marti are given the best on the job training thousands of miles away from home.

All in an area the size of a boxcar.



Sgt. Ryan Marti, Task Force THUNDER, treats a young Iraqi girl at the Smith Gate Medical Clinic at CSC Scania. Photo by Sgt. Kent Westberg, 1/34 BCT PA.

IRAQ 101

The Mongol influence on medieval Iraq

By Cpt. Kevin R. Schooler,
Electronic Warfare Officer,
1/34 BCT

Do you ever get the sense that Iraq is in a part of the world that is constantly at war. Within just the past forty years there have been a pair of coups, two or three Kurdish revolts in the 1970s, the Iran-Iraq War, The Gulf War, another Kurdish revolt, a Shi'ite uprising, Operations Northern and Southern Watch and now Operation Iraq Freedom. It should come as no surprise then to find that many of today's problems originate way back in the days of the Mongol Empire.

In the early thirteenth century, Baghdad was the capital of an Islamic state in what is now Iraq and parts of Iran. The Islamic state was ruled by an Abbasid Caliph. The Caliphate had been in place for nearly 500 years. Although the Caliphs' power had declined over the years leaving the position as being mainly symbolic, Baghdad remained a rich and cultured city. This all came to an end in 1258 when the Mongol invasion set off a series of events that continues to have repercussions today.

Hulagu Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan. Hulagu Khan was a Christian and held a hatred of Muslims that was uncharacteristic of Mongols.



A painting of Hulagu Khan's raid of Baghdad in 1258.

In 1258, he seized Baghdad and killed the last Abbasid Caliph. While in Baghdad, Hulagu made a pyramid of the skulls of Baghdad's scholars, religious leaders, and poets. He deliberately destroyed what remained of Iraq's canal headworks. The material and artistic production of centuries was swept away.

Iraq's agriculture withered and died after Khan destroyed the irrigation necessary to sustain it. Centuries of culture, arts and science were wiped away as successive sieges led to the destruction of mosques, palaces, libraries and hospitals. Iraq became a neglected frontier province ruled from the Mongol capital of Tabriz, Iran. It would be several centuries before Baghdad would recover anything even remotely resembling its former glory.



A painting of Hulagu Khan.



1/34 BCT CMO Soldiers provided Iraqi Police with humanitarian items at a camp for citizens displaced by militia violence.

Upcoming CMO Projects

1/34 BCT has received approved funding for a 2.5 million dollar water project for the city of Al Batha. It is estimated that the project will provide clean drinking water for 15 - 20,000 people in Dhi Qar Province.

Task Force WOLVERINE is scheduled to begin a 1.2 million dollar agricultural program to improve and create irrigation canals and restore irrigation pump systems in Dhi Qar province. The intent of the project is to provide food, reduce unemployment, and encourage commerce through local markets. The project is estimated to return approximately 400 square kilometers of land to useful production for farming. This effort will be the largest of its kind in Dhi Qar province undertaken by Coalition Forces.



Spc. Nathan Wiley and Staff Sgt. Joe Douty perform first aid for an Iraqi boy's bare feet after being cut up by debris in his village.

**SPOTLIGHTING THE 1ST
OF THE 34TH BCT'S CIVIL
MILITARY OPERATIONS
EFFORTS IN IRAQ**

IMPACT_{ING} IRAQ



Military Justice Log

- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a field grade article 15 for having an inappropriate relationship with a noncommissioned officer. She was reduced to Private.
- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a field grade article 15 for having an inappropriate relationship with an enlisted servicemember. He was reduced to sergeant; forfeiture of \$1,263, suspended.
- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a field grade article 15 for disobeying a lawful order from a non-commissioned officer. He was reduced to private, suspended; forfeiture of \$712, and extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received a company grade article 15 for being disrespectful in language to his squad leader. He was reduced to private first class and forfeiture of \$429, all suspended.
- A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a company grade article 15 for having a negligent discharge. He was reduced to private first class and forfeiture of \$394, all suspended.
- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a company grade article 15 for failure to maintain communication with tactical operation center while on mission. He received forfeiture of \$626 and extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a field grade article 15 for recklessly operating ATV, one servicemember was injured. He received reduction to specialist, forfeiture of \$967 for two months, one month suspended.
- A Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received a company grade article 15 for loss of military property. He was reduced to private first class, extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a field grade article 15 for violation of General Order #1 (alcohol). She was reduced to private first class, reduction to private, suspended; forfeiture of \$797 for two months; 45 days extra duty, 30 days restriction.
- A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a field grade article 15 for violation of General Order #1 (alcohol). He was reduced to specialist, forfeiture of \$967 for two months, extra duty for 45 days, 30 days restriction.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a field grade article 15 for violation of General Order #1 (alcohol and drugs). He was reduced to private, forfeiture of \$636 for two months, 45 days extra duty, and 45 days restriction.
- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a company grade article 15 for having pornographic material in living quarters. He was given extra duty for seven days and forfeiture of \$250.
- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a field grade article 15 for disobeying a lawful order from a NCO. He was reduced to private first class, suspended; forfeiture of \$636, extra duty for 45 days.

- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a field grade article 15 for failing to maintain accountability of her personal weapon at all times. She was reduced to private, suspended; forfeiture of \$636 for two months, one month suspended.

Farewell to the 16th CSG

By Maj John Engels, 1/34 BCT Command Judge Advocate

At Camp Adder we operate a consolidated legal office, which means that the lawyers and paralegals from all of the Army units on post work together in one office. At the CJA office, we have taken the Army of One concept discussed in the previous issue to heart, and we all benefit from the interaction and shared experience. Together we can most efficiently and effectively provide legal services to 1/34 BCT Soldiers and all Soldiers at Camp Adder.

The one constant in the Army is change. Our friends from the 16th Corps Support Group, who worked with us in the legal office since the 1/34 BCT arrived in Iraq, will be leaving soon. Most are returning to their normal duty location in Germany. They will be missed.

For example, Spc. Sharon Williams became our citizenship expert, and worked diligently to help 1/34 BCT soldiers obtain American citizenship. Sgt. James Keeling brought years of active duty experience as a paralegal to assist all of the office paralegals. Cpt. Todd Lindquist is an integral and respected member of the legal staff. The rest of the 16th CSG soldiers are equally hard working, quick with a smile, and worked together with us to accomplish our mission.

In turn, 1/34 BCT lawyers and paralegals assisted the 16th CSG with administrative law and legal assistance. The shared responsibilities among the legal staff made it possible for the 16th CSG to accomplish their mission, and to insure that their Soldiers', indeed all of our Soldiers', legal needs are addressed.

The 82nd Sustainment Brigade, who are replacing the 16th CSG, has recently joined us from Fort Bragg, and we are happy to welcome them to the consolidated legal office. The new lawyers and paralegals will again enhance our ability to provide consistent, and effective legal services to our Soldiers and the

command. We look forward to working with them here at the Camp Adder consolidated legal office.

Spc. Sharon Williams worked alongside 1/34 BCT Soldiers in the Camp Adder legal offices.



LOYALTY

RESPECT

**SELFLESS
SERVICE**

HONOR

INTEGRITY

**PERSONAL
COURAGE**

DUTY

ARMY VALUES

By Staff Sgt. Tom Murray
Chaplain's Assistant,
1/34 BCT UMT



Fulfill your obligations. What does that phrase mean to you? Do you actively take ownership of your actions? What do you see as being within your scope of duty? I would like to take a detour around the Army application of DUTY; stretch your comfort zone and hopefully, dispose you toward a broader understanding of our role in Iraq. The obligation of living in harmony with our rational nature is the parent of all particular duties. These are generally divided into three groups: duties to God, duties towards ourselves, and duties to others.

To God, our Creator, we owe honor, service, obedience, and love. These duties are recognized under the general term religion. Since He is Truth itself, we owe it to Him to believe whatever He has revealed to us. Lying is an offense against His Divine nature, which is Truth itself.

We are bound to strive for the development of our intellect. We have a duty to develop temporal goods as far as these are necessary to the fulfillment of the moral law. As duty is a debt to someone other than ourselves, we should not use the term literally when describing duties toward ourselves.

All our duties towards others are implicitly contained in Matthew 22:36-40: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself". God wills the welfare of all men. The application of this principle gives birth to duties towards the minds and wills of others (prohibition of scandal and lying); to the lives of others (prohibition of murder, etc.); to their good reputation (prohibition of insult and defamation of character).

I took some creative license to make my point, but the bottom line is this. As citizen soldiers we have many irons in the fire. It can be difficult to know where our priorities lie. For most of us they are self-evident. Time with family and friends is precious. We strive to do the best job we can in fulfilling duty to God and duty to our nation. The more we fulfill our duty to God, the more empowered, and blessed we are to fulfill our duties to each other.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



(above) Staff Sgt. Jeremy Allee, Task Force WILD, monitors the radios during a convoy escort mission to Baghdad International Airport. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA.

(left) Spc. James Krejce and Spc. Robert Duklet, both of Task Force WILD, pause during maintenance in an Armored Security Vehicle. Photo by Sgt. Abbie Enerson, Task Force WILD.

IN OUR SIGHTS



(right) Capt. Heidi Gauderman returns the Company B, 134th BSB guidon to Lt. Col. Brian Olson to be given to the new company commander 1st Lt. Mark Martin as part of the company Change of Command Ceremony Sept. 2 at the Ziggurat of Ur. Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Daniel McGowan, TF Wolverine.

(below) Capt. Michael Murray, Task Force SABER, improves relations with an Iraqi in a village near LSA Anaconda. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Schultz, TF SABER UPAR.

