

November 3, 2006

DESERT



BULLS



REMEMBERING THE FAMILY
HOW SOLDIERS STAY CONNECTED TO HOME

remembering the family

Staying focused

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

“Keep your head in the battle.”
“Everyone will participate in the reunion training.”
“Complacency kills.”
“Stay connected with your family.”
“We are not done with this yet – so stay focused upon where you are.”
“Just a few more months and we will be through.”

Do you hear it? The messages bombarded us – the messages are in conflict with one another. While we remain away from home, we still have messages that pull us back to the time past to produce a hope for the time to come. But to get to the time to come, we have to first finish the present time. Apocalyptic thinking is remembering the past from the perspective of the present, while projecting a time into the future when past joys will be re-established and be even better than they were. This sort of thinking has been going on a lot longer than our year plus away from home. The book of Daniel and Revelations are filled with this sort of thinking.

This is the time of the year when the secular world is at the beginning of celebrating a variety of holiday events. When we are away from family and friends the wounds of being geographically separated can be all the more painful. All of us have missed birthdays this past year, some will have missed two of them by the time our 18-plus months are over. And now we will miss the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years seasons as well. Reality does not allow the denial of the truth. And yet the truth is that for us to ever return to the places we left behind we need to remain aware of where we are. Be vigilant! Be watchful! Be alert!

These are the same themes of Advent. A season I practice every year. Advent is a time of hope and renewal. While the rest of the world is caught up in a commercial season of “cheer” this year, we will remain in a world that is very different. Being away from home can be difficult this time of the year. For those few of us who know of the Advent hope, I commend you to grasp on it and be fortified by what you know is still ahead. For those who do not know of Advent, talk to one of the Chaplains about what the Advent season provides for living in hope of what is to come instead of resting in the despair of what is being missed.

The Army is certainly not asking you to live on hope. In fact “hope” in the Army vocabulary is not considered a method. As a Chaplain, I would say that without “hope” as part of our being, especially this season, we will not have the reason to enjoy the season. I would commend you to have both the military bearing and vigilance to survive along with the Advent hope that combined has enabled many people throughout the years to overcome separation, persecution, danger and otherwise hopeless times.

Keeping in touch

Mark W. Whittington
Army National Guard Honor Guard Coordinator
Family Programs
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Communication is one thing we, as modern Americans, don't do as well as we should. We get caught up in sending e-mails or making phone calls and forget about the value of the written word in the form of a letter or cards that arrive in the mail. The holiday season is just about upon us! Isn't it great to receive cards and letters from friends and loved ones during this time? Think about how great it makes you feel to get a letter or card with photos or other little remembrances. This year begin a family tradition and make a concerted effort to send a card or letter with recent snapshots or other “stuff” that makes the recipient remember just how much you love and miss them. Remember, the road is not very crowded along the “extra mile”.

Staff Sgt. Jeffery
Anderson, Task Force
BEARCAT, and his son
Quinn at the 1/34 BCT
Deployment
Picnic, Camp
Shelby, Miss.,
March 2006.





Day in Red Bull history

20 NOV - 25 DEC 1944

In the rear in Italy near
Montecatini Terme

20 November to 25 December
We relieved Cannon Company,
361st Infantry Regiment, 91st
Infantry Division at Casoni. SSG
Ronald O. Davis was commissioned
as a 2LT and assigned to Cannon
Company.

While traveling on Highway 65
(Purple Heart Lane) PVT Ches-
ter R. Bucher's jeep was hit by
Jerry artillery; no one was in-
jured. On 23 December we had our
first snow. Jerry had a few of
his remaining planes out on sev-
eral nights, but they caused only
minor damage.

On the day after Christmas,
Jerry threw in a few shells which
landed in the Battalion kitchen
area. Two men from one of the
line companies were killed. A dud
landed right in the doorway of
our kitchen. During this period
over 2000 rounds were fired.

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



1LT Sidney Goldstein 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th
Infantry Division (right) presented with the Dis-
tinguished Cross by General of the Army George C.
Marshall, for extraordinary heroism in action near
Santa Margherita, Italy, Sept. 21, 1944.

The 1/34 Brigade Combat Team
Col. David Elicerio

Command Sgt. Major Doug Julin

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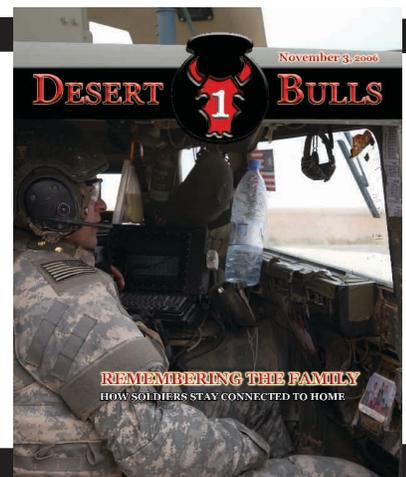
Spc. Brian D. Jesness, production editor

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 #29

On the cover:

Sgt. Dennis Joedy, Task
Force IRON, in his truck
commander seat with
photos of his family at-
tached to the dashboard
of his humvee. Photo by
Sgt. Gary A. Witte, 210th
MPAD.



Brewer brothers stay connected in Iraq

By Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Schultz
1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry

LSA ANACONDA, Balad, Iraq – The Brewer brothers, Steven, Robert and Timothy, who grew up in Pine Ridge, S.D., were reunited for the first time in more than two years last month at Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

It wouldn't have happened if the 172nd Stryker Brigade hadn't been extended to assist the 4th Infantry Division in securing Baghdad. Timothy is an Active Army sergeant in the brigade, which was stationed at Mosul, Iraq, but moved closer to Baghdad when it was extended.

The brigade's new area of operation allowed Timothy to travel on a helicopter to Anaconda where Steven, a sergeant, and Robert, a private first class, are stationed, a short distance from Baghdad.

Steven and Robert are both members of Task Force Saber. Steven, 24, is oldest; Timothy is 22 and Robert is 21.

Their time together was short but Timothy thanked his chain of command for the brief reunion.

"I talked with my chain of command and sergeant major and they were all helpful," said Timothy. "My chain of command is pretty cool by allowing us to get some time together and work some different shifts."

Robert said, "It is a pretty big deal being the youngest and being together."

The three to four days the brothers were together gave them a chance to share stories of their "crazy" childhood.

Timothy also shared stories and pictures with other members of the task force about combat in the Mosul and Baghdad area.

Combat and military service are no strangers to the Brewer family. This is Steven's second tour in Iraq. He deployed with the 101st Airborne during Operation Iraqi



Sgt. Timothy Brewer, 172nd Stryker brigade (left), Pfc. Robert Brewer and Sgt. Steven Brewer of Task Force SABER reunited for a short time at LSA Anaconda.

Freedom I. At the same time, the brothers' sister, Jackie, served in the Marines as an electrician servicing and maintaining generators.

For this OIF rotation, Steven is a sniper, Robert is a Humvee gunner and Timothy is a designated marksman.

The brothers also called home and passed the phone around to let their parents know they were together and doing well.

As the brothers shared stories from the past, Steven said he "wants to start a family tradition by trying to get the other two brothers to Army Ranger School."

Tradition also is no stranger to the family as is service to the country. Steven mentioned that many in the family serve America. Their father was a police officer for more than 25 years and their mother was a paramedic and EMT. Now she is an EMT instructor. They also had two uncles, Tom and Mike, who served in the military and their grandfather served in the Korean War with the 82nd Airborne Division.

"Our family has been in every war this country has fought; it's tradition," said Steven.

The brothers will be able to tell their families about this OIF tradition when they attend a family reunion in Gordon, Neb., next fall. It has been many years since the whole family has been together.

Inspectors General: how they help

By Maj. Luke Charpentier
1/34 BCT Inspector General

Inspectors general help enhance individual Soldier and unit readiness by executing four primary IG functions: teaching and training Soldiers and command teams, conducting inspections, executing investigations, and providing individual assistance. IGs are an excellent resource in providing individual assistance to Soldiers, family members, and civilians assigned to the command by serving as fair, impartial, and objective fact finders and problem solvers. IGs work with the commands, staffs and outside agencies to ensure all issues and complaints are thoroughly addressed in accordance with all applicable regulations or policies.

Although all Soldiers and civilians have the right to present complaints, grievances, or requests for assistance to the inspector general at any time, the IG always encourages the Soldier or civilian to first discuss any issue with the noncommissioned officer support channel, commander, chain of command, and/or supervisor as outlined in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy. The first step for a Soldier in resolving a complaint or issue is to use the NCO support channel. AR 600-20, paragraph 2-18, describes one of the roles of the NCO support channel as “assisting the chain of command in caring for individual Soldiers and their families both on and off duty.” Using the commander’s open door policy is another option that allows members of a command to present facts, concerns, and problems of a personal nature or other issues that a Soldier is unable to resolve. In accordance with AR 600-20, paragraph 2-1, “Proper use of the chain of command is vital to the overall effectiveness of the Army. Effective communication between senior and subordinate Soldiers within the chain of command is crucial to the proper functioning of all units. Therefore, Soldiers will use the chain of command when communicating issues and problems to their leaders and commanders.” Accordingly, paragraph 2-2 states, “Soldiers are responsible to ensure that the commander is made aware of problems that affect discipline, morale, and mission effectiveness.”

By encouraging Soldiers to first use their NCO support channel and the chain of command, the IG is reinforcing and bolstering the chain of command without undermining it. Also, although IGs can be a valuable resource in helping to resolve issues and complaints, IGs do not establish command policy and have no directive authority outside IG channels beyond that normally associated with their grade. Therefore, where command action is appropriate, issues presented to IGs are referred to the chain of command for proper resolution, and monitored by the IG for appropriate action. If an issue is still unresolved after giving the support channel and chain of command the opportunity to address it, then the IG can provide additional expertise and guidance to help resolve the issue.

FOOD POISONING: IS IT IN YOUR FUTURE?

Chief Warrant Officer Peter Panos
1/34 BCT Safety Officer

A couple of months ago, there was a notice put out about refrigerating takeout food from the dining facility. While it was a good idea, I received several e-mails about an error in the information, but I did not write or distribute the information. I did, however, research it and consulted a couple of experts.

Medical Training bulletin 340 states all potentially hazardous foods should spend no more than four hours within a temperature range of 40 to 140 degrees during preparation and serving. Depending on the food item, this could possibly happen prior to getting scooped into a carry-out container. Foods such as chopped fruits, dairy products and foods with eggs, such as mayonnaise and salad dressings, are especially vulnerable to rapid bacteria growth – and we all know what happens when those bacteria hit your system. Yuk!

Capt. Jerome Gunn, a registered dietitian, and 1st Lt. Nicole Siegler, preventative medicine officer recommend refrigerating your food items immediately. Also, stay away from the items above if you know the food will not be eaten immediately. Eat or refrigerate your takeout food within 30 minutes. That gives you plenty of time to get back to the office or your room and stick it in the fridge or in your mouth.

Is that extra gear worth a rollover?

Stick to the load plan.





1st Lt. Paul M. Ives checks in an Iraqi soldier returning from leave at Al Quim, Iraq.



Spc. Cameron Hanson saws through an iron support beam to be welded into framework for armored vehicles.



Task Force BEARCAT

Photos by Capt. Mark Lappegaard, 1/34 BCT PA.



Spcs. Scott Schenck, left, and Lucas Lundgren hoist a transmission into a wrecker vehicle.

IRAQ 101: The Gulf War

by Maj. Steve Jacobs
1/34 BCT Chemical officer

The Gulf War was a conflict between Iraq and a coalition force led by the United States and mandated by the United Nations in order to liberate Kuwait. The war began with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990, following Iraqi contentions that Kuwait was illegally slant-drilling petroleum across Iraq's border. The invasion was met with immediate economic sanctions by the United Nations against Iraq.



The war commenced in January 1991, resulting in a decisive victory for the coalition forces that drove the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait with minimal coalition deaths. As a note, approximately 24 percent of the U.S. servicemembers killed were due to friendly fire. The main battles were aerial and ground combat within Iraq, Kuwait and bordering areas of Saudi Arabia, although Iraq did fire missiles on Israeli cities.

The conflict is known by numerous alternative names that reflect the historical, political and journalistic views of different groups and regions. The Gulf War and Persian Gulf War were the most common terms of the conflict. Most of us were old enough to watch the footage through the use of reporters and networks such as CNN.

Operation Desert Shield was the U.S. operational name for the U.S. buildup of forces and the defense of Saudi Arabia from Aug. 2, 1990 through Jan. 16, 1991. There were a total of 500,000 to 550,000 U.S. service members deployed to the Gulf Region. Operation Desert Storm was the U.S. name of the air-land conflict from Jan. 17, 1991 through April 11, 1991.

Operation Desert Sabre was the U.S. name for the air-land offensive against the Iraqi Army in the Kuwaiti theater of operations (the "100-Hour War") from February 24 through 28, 1991.

Even though the war itself lasted just a short time, there is plenty of history on the events that led up to the actual war and events after the war that are worth reading about and learning what took place on the desert floor. For example, did you know the Battle of Medina Ridge was a decisive tank battle fought Feb 27, 1991, between the U.S. 1st Armor Division and the 2nd Brigade of the Iraqi Republican Guard? The battle, which was waged over approximately two hours, was the largest tank battle of the war and the largest tank battle in U.S. history. During the campaign, U.S. Forces did make it as far north as Tallil Air Base. The base is now known as Logistical Support Area Adder, the headquarters of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division in Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Yurczyk of Task Force WOLVERINE hands out school supplies to children at a school near Al Batha. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA.



Sheik Hassan Ali of the Al Guizzi tribe, (left) host the 1/34 BCT CMO team Oct. 28 at his house. Photo by Spc. Dustin Perry, 1/34 BCT PA

**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 BEARCAT received a company grade Article 15 for being disrespectful to a commissioned officer. He was given reduction to private first class; received a forfeiture of \$333; and was given extra duty for 14 days, all of which were suspended.

■ A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a field grade Article 15 for violation of General Order #1 (use of illegal drugs). He was reduced to private first class; reduced to private (E-2), which was suspended; received a forfeiture of \$713 per month for two months; and was given extra duty and restriction for 30 days.

■ A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a company grade Article 15 for losing accountability of his assigned weapon. He was given extra duty for seven days and restriction for 14 days.

■ A Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received a company grade Article 15 for having a negligent discharge. He was reduced to private first class, received a forfeiture of \$394, both were suspended; was given extra duty for 14 days; and received an oral reprimand.

■ A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a field grade Article 15 for violation of General Order #1 violation (alcohol). He was reduced to private (E-2); was reduced to private (E-1), which was suspended; received a forfeiture of \$636 per month for two months; and was given extra duty and restriction for 45 days.

■ A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a company grade Article 15 for being disrespectful to a noncommissioned officer. He was reduced to private first class, which was suspended; and was given extra duty for 14 days.

■ A Soldier from Task Force BEARCAT received a company grade Article 15 for not keeping accountability of his assigned weapon. He was reduced to private first class; received a forfeiture of \$394; and was given extra duty and restriction for 14 days, all of which were suspended.

■ A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a company grade Article 15 for assaulting an NCO. He was reduced to private first class; received a forfeiture of \$394; and was given extra duty and restriction for 14 days.

■ A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a company grade Article 15 for being disrespectful to an NCO. He was reduced to private; received a forfeiture of \$250, which was suspended; and was given extra duty and restriction for 14 days.

■ A Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received a field grade Article 15 for being disrespectful to his section sergeant. He was reduced to specialist, which was suspended; received a forfeiture of \$500; and given extra duty for 45 days.

■ A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a company grade Article 15 for making false official statements. He was reduced to private first class; and received a forfeiture of \$394, which was suspended.

■ A Soldier from Task Force BEARCAT received a company grade Article 15 for falling asleep on tower duty. He was reduced to private first class, which was suspended; received a forfeiture of \$100; and was given extra duty and restriction for 10 days.

■ A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a company grade Article 15 for falling asleep on tower duty. He was reduced to private first class; and received a forfeiture of \$333, which was suspended.

Military Family Issues

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

In the legal profession, we frequently address legal problems caused by marital and family discord. There is no doubt that long deployments put stress on family relationships, marriages and other personal relationships. It is always unfortunate to see a Soldier facing these difficulties in Iraq.

Prior to being mobilized, part of my job was family practice cases, including divorce and child custody. Almost universally, dissolution clients are unhappy people, and few of them seemed significantly happier following completion of their cases. With that background, I would like to make a few observations that may resonate with our Soldiers and their families.

Deployments are stressful times. The work we do here is hard and dangerous, the hours are often long, the tasks we are given are frustrating, and our personal freedoms are significantly restricted in military life. All of these factors contribute to increased stress on deployed Soldiers. We also have limited avenues to express that frustration.

Similarly, families back home face uncertainty about our safety. Two-parent households suddenly become single-parent households. In addition, the families left at home are tasked with the extra burden of doing the many routine things Soldiers do while they are not there. All of these issues can create stress for families of deployed Soldiers.

Remembering the difficulties faced by the other person in your relationship is important in order to appreciate the other person's situation and avoid conflict. Conflict results from allowing the stressors of daily life – which neither the Soldier nor the family have any control to spill into a relationship. That conflict can lead to resentment, which can poison an otherwise healthy relationship.

LOYALTY

DUTY

RESPECT

**SELFLESS
SERVICE**

INTEGRITY

**PERSONAL
COURAGE**

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

HONOR

Honor is an American value with a long tradition in our history. On July 4, 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies of Great Britain in North America signed a document they called the Declaration of Independence. After declaring their independence from Great Britain, they knew they now faced a great battle to make it come true. They wrote in the last line of this historic document, just above their signatures, “We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.” The country’s beginning was thus stamped with the pledge of honor by our founding fathers.

Honor is a way of life. Honor is living your values. Honor is having a high sense of personal moral standards and conduct. A person has honor if he or she holds to the right conduct even though it is hard, costly, or even dangerous. Your moral values are where your sense of honor comes from. Values you learned from family and in school are the values that instill honor. Also, values you gain from practice of a faith in God are, for many, the foundation for living in honorable manners.

The first step in being honorable is realizing it is up to you to be honorable. Honor is taking responsibility for your own life. Honor is taking responsibility for all your choices and actions and the results of those actions. You get to choose who you will be. You have to live with the results. The high road is honor.

One of the things that makes honor so amazing is that it doesn’t take academic genius or great physical conditioning to achieve it. It’s not influenced by genes, race, sex, size, or brainpower. Anyone can be honorable if they choose, but you have to make that choice. It’s up to you; it’s your responsibility.

Mark Twain put it this way: “On the whole, it is better to deserve honors and not have them, than to have them and not deserve them.” That is the way it is in the Army. Most of the time, when your actions are honorable, you will be overlooked for your efforts. But honor is more than just receiving the recognition. It comes from knowing you have done what is right and honorable, even when others are not doing the honorable actions. Honor is what you will take away long after the coins, certificates and medals are stored away.

ARMY VALUES



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Soldiers of Task Force Iron pose for photo with Chuck Norris and Marshall Teague at a USO event Nov. 1 at Camp Al Asad.

IN OUR SIGHTS



Above: Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Boone, (left), and Maj. Gen. Larry Shellito, senior leaders of the Minnesota Army National Guard, are briefed in a guard tower at LSA Anaconda by 1st Lt. David Stougard, Task Force SABER.

Left: Sgt. Maj. Curtis Jasper, Task Force Wild, releases his pitch during a softball game last month for the 1-34 Brigade Troops Battalion's "Fun Day". Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA.