

December 31, 2006

DESERT



BULLS



RED BULLS MAINTAIN

**1/34 BCT UPHOLDS HIGH STANDARDS
ON TACTICAL VEHICLES**

Honoring

Our Fallen Soldiers

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood
1/34 BCT PAO

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – “We lost two good men on Saturday and if the testimony of their friends and their leaders does not convince you of that I don’t know what will,” said Task Force Bearcat’s Chaplain (1st Lt.) Steven Timm during a Dec. 7 memorial ceremony for two Bravo Company Soldiers at the Chapel of Hope.

Sgts. Bryon McDonough of Maplewood, Minn., 22, and Corey Rystad of Red Lake Falls, Minn., 20, died when a roadside bomb rocked their Humvee on a patrol Dec. 2 near Fallujah. Both were promoted posthumously.

“These men and their brothers fight back for their country ... for their unit ... but most of all, for each other,” said Col. George Bristol, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force’s Headquarters Group.

Capt. Chip Rankin, company commander, told the more than 300 Soldiers, Marines and Sailors in attendance that he had called each Soldier’s families and they both asked the unit to continue doing their mission to honor their sons.

Their platoon leader, 1st Lt. Wade Blomgren, said he knew both Soldiers well.

“The duty they chose – as did all of us – was a dangerous one that required personal sacrifice and a great deal of character, which neither one of these guys lacked,” said Blomgren.

McDonough was a strong, smart, positive role model who was “looked up to by every man in his platoon – including myself,” said Blomgren.

“The one thing I will never forget about him is his heart,” he said.

He said McDonough also asked him several times to find a spot for him on the deployment.

“I learned quickly that he had some maturity that went well beyond his years,” said Blomgren.



Sgt. Bryon McDonough with Iraqi children near Fallujah.

McDonough’s roommate, Spc. Jacob Brown, said McDonough was one of the most squared-away Soldiers he had ever known.

“If you had a task for him to complete, he would never argue or complain ... unlike myself,” said Brown. “And once the task was complete, it was always above and beyond what was required.”

Rystad was a quiet professional who never complained about routine things like preparing gear for upcoming missions, his squad leader said. A few days prior to his fateful last mission, Rystad said there was no place he would rather be than with his squad in Iraq serving his country.

Sgt. Corey Rystad Sgt. Bryan McDonough

Task Force BEARCAT



Sgt. Corey Rystad at Camp Fallujah.

Sgt. Adam Gallant said Rystad “did what he needed to do to ensure the job that we do was done right.”

Gallant ended his eulogy by saying, “There are three things that nobody can ever take away from Corey Rystad: One, when it was Corey’s time to go he did not sit on his hands, he answered that call; two, to borrow a line from a movie, Corey went out with his boots on; and three, Corey Rystad and Bryan McDonough are heroes. They are real heroes. They define the very essence of that word.”

Rystad’s friend, Spc. Nicholas Maurstad, said Rystad was “down to earth and real.”

“How he was always laughing and smiling even though it was completely unreasonable to be happy sometimes, that is what I will always remember about Corey,” said Maurstad.

Several Soldiers, Marines and Sailors had a special way of remembering their fallen comrades in addition to the traditional saluting of their memorial boot stands. Some knelt down and kissed the dog tags hanging from their rifles, and several placed their hands on the helmets placed on top of their rifles.

McDonough joined the Minnesota Guard Sept. 16, 2003. After completing basic training and advanced individual training, he was assigned to Troop G, 113th Cavalry in St. Paul, Minn. He transferred to B Company for his deployment to Iraq.

His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart, both awarded posthumously, the Combat Action Badge and the Good Conduct Medal.

McDonough is survived by his parents, Thomas and Renee; his sisters, Shannon and Katie; and his brother, Kevin.

Rystad joined the Minnesota Guard March 30, 2004. After completing his basic training and advanced individual training, he was assigned to C Company, 2nd Bn., 136th Infantry, based in Thief River Falls, Minn. He transferred to B Company in October 2005 for his deployment to Iraq.

His individual decorations include the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart, both awarded posthumously, the Combat Action Badge and the Good Conduct Medal.

Rystad is survived by his parents, James and Donna; his brothers, David and Brian; and his sister, Sarah.

**For photos of this memorial, see redbullweb.com,
Photos, Page 30**

Honoring

Our Fallen Soldiers

Sgt. Nicholas Turcotte

Task Force WILD

Story by Spc. Dustin Perry
1/34 BCT PAO

LSA ADDER, Iraq – A memorial service for Sgt. Nicholas D. Turcotte was held Dec. 9 at the Post Chapel, where several hundred Soldiers gathered to pay their last respects.

Turcotte, a native of Maple Grove, Minn., died five days earlier near Nasiriyah due to injuries suffered in a vehicle accident. He was 23. He had been assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Battalion, where he conducted radio relay point and convoy escort team operations for the unit.

The service began with a video slide show, featuring photos of Turcotte during both stateside training prior to his unit's deployment and his Iraq-based missions. Following the presentation, the invocation was given by Chap. (Maj.) Jerome Fehn, and Sgt. Aeren Nauman read aloud the Infantryman's Creed.

Spc. Tyler Pinska, Turcotte's roommate, was the first of three Soldiers who delivered tributes to their fallen comrade. Pinska spoke in high praise of his friend's dedication to his job and his many achievements since arriving here.

"Sgt. Turcotte was one of the most knowledgeable Soldiers I have ever met," said Pinska. "When it came mission time, nothing could stop him.

"He was amazing in everything he did," continued Pinska. "He tried so hard to be the best of the best. To tell you the truth, he was the best – the best friend, the best roommate, the best Soldier I have ever known. I'll miss you, Nick."

Spc. Christopher Giesking, who was Turcotte's bunk mate while their unit was training at Camp Shelby, Miss., said it was a great honor to speak at the memorial. He called Turcotte "a great Soldier" and said he "took pride in being an infantry Soldier, always wanting to go further with his military career."

"Turcotte had the biggest heart, and maybe that's what separated him from most – his heart to try, no matter what the goal was," said Giesking.

Concluding the tributes from friends was Sgt. Christopher Siebenaler, who remembered Turcotte as a constant professional and noted his ability to brighten anyone's day by making them smile or laugh.

"Turcotte was a man filled with potential," said Siebenaler. "He was the guy you knew you could count on. He rose to any task. When he got pushed, he soared."



Sgt. Nicholas Turcotte posing for a photo near Task Force WILD headquarters.

Capt. Anton J. Dittrich, Turcotte's company commander, also spoke during the service, saying Turcotte was "a wonderful man, a dedicated Soldier and a loyal friend."

"During the course of our [unit's] time together, Sgt. Turcotte never faltered in his desire to improve himself, his team and his squad," said Dittrich. "He pushed himself beyond expectations in both mind and body. His presence made an indelible mark upon our company. We certainly mourn his loss but will celebrate his contributions and spirit far longer."

Following their speeches and closing remarks from Fehn, each of the Soldiers saluted a memorial to Turcotte, consisting of a rifle strung with his identification tags and topped with a Kevlar helmet. Below the rifle sat a pair of boots and an empty ammunition box where keepsakes could be placed.

A Company's 1st Sgt. Jason R. Schweitzer conducted the last roll call, which was followed by a 21-shot volley and the playing of taps. This ended the formal portion of the service. Afterward, attendees were able to go on stage and pay their final respects.

Turcotte enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard in June 2004 as an infantryman. Upon completion of advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to Co. A, 2-135th Inf. Bn.

He is survived by his wife Jennifer Ann, his mother Deborah K. Moore and his father Mark Peterson.

For photos of this memorial, see redbullweb.com, Photos, Page 30



Day in Red Bull history

3 - 19 APR 1945

**On the move in Italy between
Fornacetta and Monte Belmonte**

The Company moved back to our old positions at Fornacetta, where the lines stopped moving last November. In this position we were preparing for the final offensive against the Germans. Observation was very good during this period and fire missions were going on both day and night. Every night barrages were thrown at the Jerries at different intervals until the push began. So when the push finally did come off, the Germans were caught off guard. On 17 April we fired over 2,500 rounds in support of that push. Over the whole period we fired over 8,000 rounds. On 19 April we moved near Monte Belmonte, near K Company who were in reserve.



T/4 John J. Perillo of Bronx, New York, a radio operator with the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized), poses for a photo in April, 1944 near Naples, Italy.

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

Desert Bulls Staff:

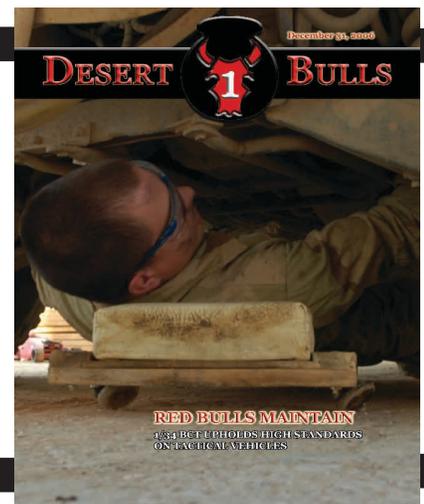
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Sgt. Kent Westberg, broadcast journalist
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Spc. Brian D. Jesness, production editor

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 #32

On the cover:

Spc. Shawn Broesder
lubes the joints of a
humvee in the Task Force
IRON motor pool at Camp
Korean Village. Photo
by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton
Wood, 1/34 BCT PAO.



Out with the Romans, in with the Romanians

By Spc. Dustin Perry
1/34 BCT PAO

LSA ADDER, Iraq – Caretaking responsibilities for the “Little Italy” complex were transferred from Italian to U.S. military forces during a Nov. 28 ceremony there.

The Italian Army had been using the complex as both their headquarters and living area since their arrival in 2003. They officially departed three days after the signing of the transferal contracts.

“We are at the end of our commitment here in Iraq after three years,” said Brig. Gen. Carmine de Pascale, brigade commander of the Italian Joint Task Force, during the ceremony. “It has been an honor to work with you, to work together for the same purpose.”

De Pascale signed the official documents along with Col. David Elicerio, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division. Currently, Romanian military forces occupy and use the complex, but Elicerio said Little Italy technically “belongs” to the U.S.

“The Italian government gifted the compound to the U.S. Army,” said Elicerio. “It currently houses a Romanian contingent of soldiers. It remains U.S. Army property; we just allow coalition soldiers to live in it.”



The command of the 1/34 BCT salutes the lowering of the US flag during the transfer of authority of a camp on LSA Adder to the Romanian forces of the 811th Infantry Battalion, the “Transylvanian Dragons.” Photo by Capt. Mark Lappegaard, 1/34 BCT PAO.



Brig. Gen. Carmine De Pascale signs over the Italian camp “Little Italy” to Col. David Elicerio. Photo by Spc. Dustin Perry, 1/34 BCT PAO.

Following the signing, Elicerio awarded a number of Italian soldiers with the U.S. Iraqi Campaign Medal; De Pascale then returned the gesture by giving several U.S. Soldiers the Italian Expeditionary Service Ribbon. De Pascale spoke positively of the relationship his country’s forces had garnered with the U.S. throughout the past few years.

“Our friendship has become a reality,” said De Pascale. “Anytime my soldiers talk about [U.S. Soldiers], it is in an enthusiastic way. We are proud to have worked in this coalition.”

Elicerio then addressed the group, emphasizing how proud he was of the work the Italian forces had accomplished during their tenure.

“For many of the U.S. Soldiers here, this is their first deployment,” said Elicerio. “I think it’s been a good experience to work with the Italians. We’ll try to continue your good example as we move forward. Thank you for the gift of Little Italy.”

Two weeks later, Romanian military forces began occupying the complex and renamed it Camp Dracula in honor of Vlad Dracula, a Romanian folk hero. The Romanian Minister of Defense presided over a ceremony where 1/34 BCT lowered the U.S. flag and the Romanians raised their national flag.

Romanian Army Officer Rank



COLONEL



LT. COLONEL



MAJOR



CAPTAIN



1ST LIEUTENANT



2ND LIEUTENANT

A Spouse's Perspective

Oct. 31, 2005, was a day I had been looking forward to since my husband had deployed to Iraq with the 1-128 Infantry of Wisconsin. This day marked the end of our separation and the beginning of our lives back together, which we had been dreaming about for the past 18 months. I wish I could say my husband returned home and we lived happily ever after, but this is far from reality.

Our reintegration story began the second I went to pick my husband up from Fort McCoy. For two months, I had been planning a surprise romantic journey home. Since then, I've learned that surprising your Soldier is one thing you don't do.

I arrived at Fort McCoy only to find out two of his Soldiers needed a ride to Menomonie, not very romantic if you ask me, but I couldn't say no. We finally dropped off his Soldiers, and I took him to our destination – a gazebo overlooking a beautiful lake. He looks at me, not wanting to hurt my feelings, and pleadingly asks if we can just go home. As I try to maintain a positive attitude for my husband's sake, internally my heart sinks as I realize, in more than one way, this journey home was not how I imagined it.

For the next six months I would hear my husband say over and over again, "I just want to go back. I just want to go back." Every time I heard those words I wanted to scream, "I am here! I am not in Iraq! You're supposed to want to be with me!"

I knew he had unrealistic expectations of what home was going to be. For him, facing decisions like what to buy me for our anniversary, where to finish school and where to do an internship were more terrifying for him than the decision process he had adapted to in Iraq.

It has been a year now since my husband has returned home. My husband and I are finally emerging from the battle. We have begun to realize what we have experienced is a normal process of reintegration for the citizen Soldier and the family, and this has given us a new found hope for our future.

Minnesota Family Reintegration Academies

The Minnesota National Guard has developed a first-in-the-nation program to educate military families for the process of their Soldiers' return to their lives as civilians. Family Reintegration Academies will be held across the state in January and February to aid the families of 1/34 BCT Soldiers returning from Iraq.

Each academy will provide the same set of workshops. The academies are taking place around the state to provide as much opportunity as possible for families to attend. Every family (parent, spouse, significant other, sibling) of a deployed Red Bull Soldier is invited and encouraged to attend one of these academies. The meetings will provide the opportunity to meet experts that will answer your questions and give you tools and insight to ease the difficulties of reintegration for you and your Soldier.

Contact nichole.e.yerbich@mn.ngb.army.mil or 651-268-8207 to RSVP a date for one of the academies.

Childcare will be provided for children up to age 16. Please include numbers and ages of children attending the event.

Each event will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the following dates:



Saturday Jan. 6	Moorhead
Saturday Jan. 13	Brainerd
Saturday Jan. 20	Bemidji
Saturday Jan. 27	Duluth
Saturday Feb. 3	Alexandria
Saturday Feb. 10	New Ulm
Saturday Feb. 17	Worthington
Sunday Feb. 18	Twin Cities
Saturday Feb. 24	Rochester
Sunday Feb. 25	Twin Cities

Eight different workshops are available including:

- Tricare,
- MN Dept of Veterans Affairs,
- Returning to work,
- Making marriage work,
- Parenting a single Soldier,
- Reconnecting Soldiers with their children,
- Veterans Administration to include benefits, Vet Centers and the medical center
- Emotional effects of combat
- State Family Programs
- MN Dept of Revenue
- Private counseling also available

MAINTENANCE: 1/34 BCT maintains high standards

By Chief Warrant Officer
Douglas Alexander
1/34 BCT Brigade
Maintenance Technician

When this Brigade first arrived in Iraq, we had a problem. The fleet of vehicles we had been issued to accomplish our mission was old, worn out, hit too many times, and had high mileage. We knew we would need a fleet of dependable vehicles and our command worked hard to replace these worn-out trucks.

Those replacements now have been on the road for more than six months accumulating 17 million-plus miles, which means the trucks aren't "new" anymore. Yet we rarely miss a mission due to maintenance, and we consistently maintain our equipment in a "mission capable" status with an organizational readiness rate of more than 97 percent.

How do we do it? The key to our maintenance success is the efforts of our operator crews and our mechanics. Together they maintain our fleet at the highest rate possible. We have crews that know how to properly PMCS their equipment, we perform scheduled services, and we have mechanics are the best I've seen.

The cornerstone of our maintenance program is at the crew level. Our crews have been properly trained, they know their equipment, and they care. They expect their equipment to be in tip-top condition and they put in long hours to ensure it stays that way.

“We consistently maintain our equipment in a mission capable status with an Organizational Readiness rate of more than 97 percent.”

The services portion of this program is just as important, but is generally the first to be dropped when the mission load gets too demanding. This trend, although common in other units, doesn't seem to be happening here. The crews and the maintenance personnel understand the importance of proper lubrication, fixing the small things before they become major problems, and finding the "hidden" faults that will surface at the most inopportune time.

The last portion to cover, but just as important, is the support provided by the maintenance sections. These soldiers are dedicated, brought a wealth of knowledge with them, work long hard hours, and make the impossible seem routine. It is because of their efforts that our fleet still feels new.

The outstanding combined effort of the crew and mechanics has made this brigade one of the best in theater, and I, for one, want to say thank you and congratulations at being the best I've seen at what you do.



Spc. Cody Messner, Task Force THUNDER, attaches a new remote-operated motorized spotlight to a humvee in the motor pool at CSC Scania. Photo by Spc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PAO.



OPERATION:

*Comfort
and Joy*

Recent CMO Achievements

■ To date, Red Bull CMO efforts have resulted in the distribution of winter clothes, shoes and blankets to more than 3,000 people in Dhi Qar province. These supplies were provided through donations from the people of Minnesota and throughout the United States.

■ The Red Bull CMO teams have cooperated with operationiraqichildren.org to distribute school-supply gift packages to more than 19,000 Iraqi children.

■ A joint project with the city officials of Al Batha and the Red Bull CMO team has begun to pave more than 20 kilometers of streets within the city limits to improve transportation and commerce in the city of 20,000 people.

■ The agricultural irrigation project is nearing the completion of dredging canals in Dhi Qar province and forming plans to begin another similar project in the province.



An Iraqi girl with her school packet provided through operationiraqichildren.org by 1/34 BCT CMO Soldiers near Al Batha Nov. 20. Photo by Capt. Colin Fleming, 1/34 BCT CMO.



OiC

OPERATION IRAQI CHILDREN

HELPING SOLDIERS HELP CHILDREN

www.operationiraqichildren.org

A video of the OIC project in action can be viewed at www.redbullweb.com, Units, 1/125, Videos, Helping Iraqi Children.

**SPOTLIGHTING
THE 1/34 BCT'S
CIVIL MILITARY OPERATIONS
EFFORTS IN IRAQ**

IMPACTING IRAQ



Military Justice Log

- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a field grade Article 15 for violating a lawful order. She received reduction to private first class; forfeiture of \$846 per month for two months, suspended; restriction and extra duty for 45 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a field grade Article 15 for not obeying orders and being disrespectful to his chain of command. He received forfeiture of \$636 per month for two months, suspended; extra duty and restriction for 45 days; and an oral reprimand.
- Two Soldiers for Task Force WOLVERINE received a field grade Article 15 for dereliction of duty by not ensuring weapons were clear before entering Base Camp Adder. They both received reduction to specialist, suspended; and an oral reprimand.
- A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a company grade Article 15 for fighting with an NCO, not obeying orders, and being disrespectful. He received reduction to private first class, suspended; and extra duty for seven days.
- A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a field grade Article 15 for fighting with a lower enlisted Soldier. He received reduction to specialist; and forfeiture of \$1,009 per month for two months, suspended.
- A Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received a company grade Article 15 for communicating a threat. He received reduction to private (E1); forfeiture of \$299, suspended; and extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received a field grade Article 15 for testing positive for drugs. He was reduced to private first class; reduction to private (E2), suspended; forfeiture of \$713 per month for two months, one month suspended; and extra duty for 30 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received a field grade Article 15 for adultery. He was reduced to private (E2); forfeiture of \$717.00 per month for two months, suspended; extra duty for 30 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a company grade Article 15 for dereliction of duty by not wearing his kevlar while in a moving tactical vehicle. He received forfeiture of \$250; forfeiture of \$280, suspended; seven days extra duty.
- A Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received a company grade Article 15 for dereliction of duty by failing to back up a vehicle properly. He received forfeiture of \$200; forfeiture of \$300, suspended; and seven days extra duty.
- A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a field grade Article 15 for failing to follow computer policies. He received reduction to sergeant; and forfeiture of \$1,232 per month for two months, suspended.
- A Soldier for Task Force BEARCAT received a field grade Article 15 for violation of GO #1 (alcohol). He was reduced to private first class.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a field grade Article 15 for violation of GO #1 (alcohol). He received reduction to private (E2); forfeiture of \$700 per month for two months; extra duty and restriction for 45 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a field grade Article 15 for violation of GO #1 violation (alcohol). He received reduction to specialist; forfeiture of \$967 per month for two months; extra duty and restriction for 45 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a field grade Article 15 for violation of GO #1 (alcohol). He received reduction to private (E2); forfeiture of \$636 per month for two months; extra duty and restriction for 45 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a field grade Article 15 for damaging government property and not obeying orders. He was reduced to specialist; forfeiture of \$967 per month for two months, one month suspended; extra duty for 45 days; and written reprimand.
- A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a field grade Article 15 for dereliction of duty and being disrespectful. He received reduction to sergeant, suspended; and forfeiture of \$1,336 per month for two months, suspended.

The soul's desertion

By Chaplain (Capt.) Todd Luken
Task Force SABER Chaplain

“My beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone.” Solomon’s Song 5:6

When you consider the difficulty of leaving your families behind as long as we do, the separation can at times be suffocating. It is easy to be consumed with the little details of a ‘new’ daily life routine and not sufficiently dwell upon the relationships that sustain our regular lives, but then there are times when we are alone and the pressures of the day is not nearly enough to distract you from distressing thoughts of loss and separation.

It is in those times when we can identify with the woman in Song of Solomon 5. The panic, surprise and sorrow at our separation can be overwhelming. It is in those times we recognize how important our families are to us. We long for the long winter to be over and impatiently await the thaw of spring to bring back our hope of reunion. Recognize that our happiest condition lies in the restoration of our families’ presence in our lives. Take the time to foster your relationships to keep, even if just for a little while, the sanity that belongs in body and soul, to another life altogether.

The happiest condition of a Christian out of heaven is to live in the conscious enjoyment of the presence of the Lord Jesus. When the love of Christ is in the heart by the Holy Spirit, the believer is the most fortunate of all creation. It does not matter what sorrow you endure; the Holy Spirit is able to make the heart live above all surrounding circumstances, so that we can have summer in the midst of winter, and enjoy our sweetest moments with family and friends when they are far away and you are in a strange land.

But the Christian is unhappy whenever he loses the sense of the presence of the Lord. Then the pillars of his house are made to tremble; his fresh springs are dried up; the sun is hid from his eyes; and the sky is so dark overhead that he walks, rather wanders about, and nothing can bring him comfort. If he was of the world he could live in the world contented to live without his presence, but having been taught by grace to look for something better, the loss of that presence is especially difficult.

I question whether most Christians do not sometimes lose the enjoyment of the Lord’s company. I question yet further, whether there are not very many who live contentedly under that loss; nor can I account for this, except on the supposition that they can have known but little of that presence their best. Otherwise, they must be in a most sickly and slumbering condition of soul, gradually becoming worse and worse; or else they never could bear to have things as they are.

It seems to me that a real believer in a sound state of spiritual health no sooner loses the presence of his Lord than he begins to cry for him. Where has Christ gone? Why have I lost sight of him? The sounds of his footsteps still linger in the ear. The believer awakens and starts, and asks himself, “How is this? Where has my Beloved gone? What is it that has chased him from me? I cannot live if he leave me; therefore, let me speedily seek him, and never rest until once more I am restored to full communion with him.” Let me, then, talk a little with such believers as have lost for awhile the comfortable presence of their Lord.

Though you are far from the ones you love, though you are long absent from your comfortable surroundings, you are never far from the comfort of the Lord’s presence. It does not matter how long you have been away; you are not too far gone to return to his presence. Keep your heart stayed upon him and attuned to his presence and you will never be far from neither love nor comfort.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Capt. John Washburn, Task Force BEARCAT, Military Transition Team listens as an Iraqi Army captain briefs his soldiers before a joint patrol at Camp Kassem near Rawah. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood 1/34 BCT PAO.

IN OUR SIGHTS



Below: Spc. Darrin Borgstrom (left), Spc. Eric Mahn, Sgt. Warren Johnson and Sgt. Simon Cameron of Team PANTHER pose for a photo outside the 1/34 BCT Sherriff's office at Camp Liberty. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PAO.



Above: Spc. Tim Hughes, Task Force Wolverine, watches Route Michigan in his tower near a Victory Complex entry control point. Hughes is assisted in the tower by a Ugandan Soldier. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PAO.