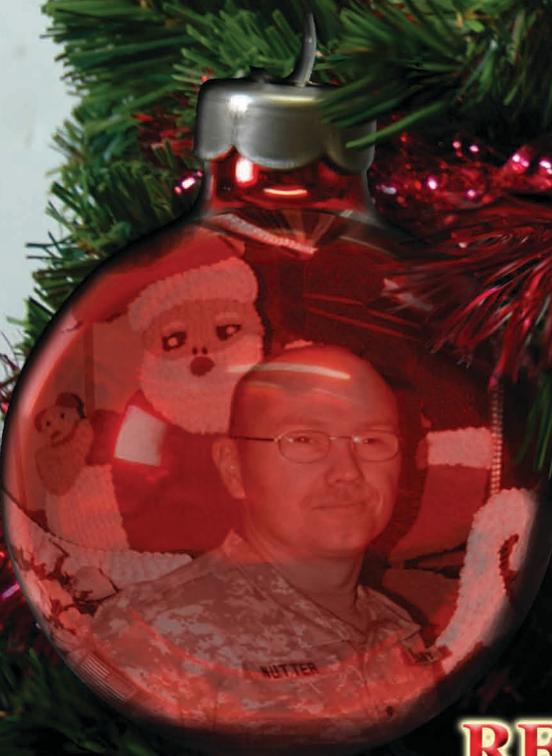


January 15, 2007

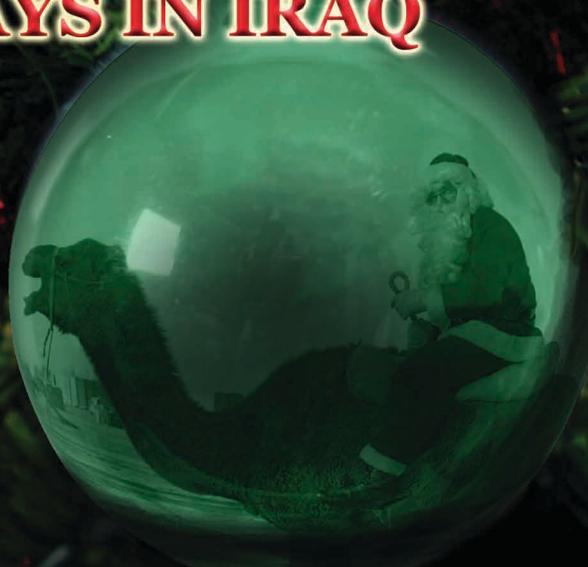
DESERT



BULLS



**RED BULLS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS IN IRAQ**



# Honoring

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## Our Fallen Soldiers

# Staff Sgt. Thomas Clemmons

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## Task Force WILD

Story by Spc. Dustin Perry  
1/34 BCT PAO

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – A memorial ceremony for Staff Sgt. Thomas W. Clemmons was held Dec. 16 at the Camp Adder Post Chapel, where friends and fellow Soldiers were able to pay their final respects.

Clemmons, a native of Grayson County, Ky., died five days earlier from natural causes before going on patrol in Iraq. He was 37. He was assigned to the 1st Brigade Troops Battalion, 34th Infantry Division, where he conducted radio relay point operations and route security in support of coalition forces.

Following a slide show featuring photos of Clemmons, the national anthem was performed, and the invocation was given by Chap. (Maj.) Jerome Fehn. Two of Clemmons' close friends, Spcs. Michael Mudd and Joshua White, honored their fallen comrade with words of remembrance.

"He didn't have to come here; he volunteered," said Mudd. "There was no way he was going to let his Kentucky boys come to Iraq without him. He thought a lot about us, and we thought a lot about him. He may be gone – but never forgotten."

White met Clemmons in 2000 after graduating from basic training and immediately bonded with him due to their mutual love of Kentucky Wildcats basketball and Pittsburgh Steelers football. He spoke highly of Clemmons, calling him "a good Soldier and a great friend."

"When we found out we were going on this deployment, I will never forget what he told me when I asked him why he volunteered," said White. "He looked me in the eye and he said, with all sincerity, 'The reason I am is because I cannot sit back on my couch and watch one of my Soldiers' names come across that screen and live with myself.' I will always remember him, and he will live in my heart for the rest of my days."

Capt. Ronald Ballard, Clemmons' company commander, praised his Soldier for his professionalism and his integrity.

"Thomas was the type of leader who delivered a one-two punch," said Ballard. "First, he gave his guidance and standards, and then he led by example."



"Looking back on my time with Sgt. Clemmons, I've come to realize that he understood he would not always be here to lead his Soldiers – that he had to get them ready to fill his boots," added Ballard. "I believe he understood that every day was a gift, and he made the most of each day."

After Fehn's remarks, the last roll call was given by 1st Sgt. Brian Shelton, followed by a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps. Soldiers were then allowed to walk to the stage and pay their respects by saluting a memorial consisting of a rifle topped with a Kevlar helmet and his dog tags hanging from the pistol grip.

Clemmons was born in Leitchfield, Ky., and enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard in August 2000.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device.

He worked as a welder and volunteered as a youth basketball and baseball coach in his community. He is survived by his wife Shelia and his two sons, Ryan and Anthony.



# Day in Red Bull history

21 - 22 APR 1945  
On the move in Italy  
near Bologna

At 0715 hours CPT Karlson and LT Silverstein went on reconnaissance and we prepared to move. At 1200 hours we started the move to the outskirts of Bologna. The entire 133rd Infantry Regiment was now in Bologna.

On 22 April at 1330 hours the Company moved to an assembly area on the west side of Bologna. There was a terrific air raid this night with beaucoup ack-ack fire, but no planes were shot down. Jerry must have used his entire Italian air force.



S/SGT Mike Kometz (left), and PFC Alex Lambrosos of Company M, 133rd Infantry Regiment near Bologna Italy. April 1945.

For the complete diary, log onto [www.34infdiv.org/history/133cannon/4404.html](http://www.34infdiv.org/history/133cannon/4404.html)

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

Desert Bulls Staff:

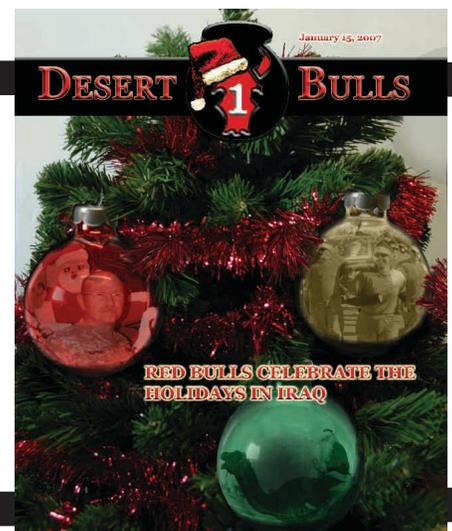
Capt. Mark Lappegaard, public affairs officer  
Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, managing editor  
Sgt. Kent Westberg, broadcast journalist  
Spc. Dustin Perry, assistant editor  
Spc. Brian D. Jesness, production editor

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](mailto:clinton.wood@us.army.mil)

## Issue #33

On the cover:

Red bulb: Spc. Clair Nutter of TF SABER in the chow hall at Camp Anaconda, gold bulb: Cpl. Elizabeth Kuk and the S6 of Team PANTHER, green bulb: Team Panther's Master Sgt. Warren Ostendorf as Santa rides a camel before the Christmas parade at Camp Adder. Photo Illustration by Spc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PAO.



# One and only Red Bull mortar team

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

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Within minutes, Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion, can make the enemy have a bad day.

That is the time it takes four Soldiers working as a team to set the fuse on the round, set the deflection and elevation on the gun, hang the round and fire it.

“We get called pretty regularly. Mostly to provide illumination at night for the combat outposts here and we also provide the counter battery fire at the insurgents,” said platoon sergeant, 1st Sgt. Richard Ellwood of Duluth, Minn.

He said his platoon’s mission is to provide indirect fire for both Soldiers and Marines around the Anbar Province.

“We support them with high explosive and illumination rounds 24/7,” he said.

His platoon of about 30 Soldiers selected from five Minnesota Army National Guard units across the state fires a wide range of mortars.

This platoon also dug all the fighting positions for its mortars. They fortified their bunkers with reinforced concrete, wood timbers and layers of sandbags.

“If you’re in that bunker and a round impacts, you’re going to be safe,” said Ellwood, who has been involved with mortars for the last 15 years.

The reason that the platoon built their own bunkers was that the Marines that the platoon replaced did not have the same mortar systems. The platoon’s mortars were brought from Minnesota and it trained on them since the mobilization began.

“We’re pretty fortunate that this is what we trained for and we’re doing it here,” Ellwood said.



Spcs. Jared Smith (left) and Lee Knutson man a mortar tube during a drill in December at Camp Fallujah.

“Basically we’re firing back at the enemy that’s all you could want as a mortar team in Iraq,” said Spc. Jared Smith of Duluth, Minn.

Firing back at the enemy has been a memorable experience for Spc. Bryan Bjerklie of Goodrich, Minn.

He said when the round goes off, “it takes your breath away.”

The concussion of the round knocks things off the walls in the fire direction center located a few meters from the fighting position, said Bjerklie.

The platoon also has supported mounted patrols.

In either mission, this platoon’s mission is vital to saving lives of Soldiers and Marines, said Ellwood.

“When Soldiers are on patrols or combat outposts and need accurate indirect fire support, the mortar platoon provides that, because when the Soldiers are in contact with the enemy they need fire support right now and they need those rounds to be impacting

safely onto the enemy’s location,” he said.

And all in a two-minute warning.



Spc. Chris Colliflower, (left) observes as Spc. Anthony Sanborn checks the fuse setting of a mortar. Spc. Steven Luitjens tells him which setting to use during a drill in December at Camp Fallujah.

## A Commander's Perspective

By Col. Kevin Gerdes  
Commander of  
1-151 Field Artillery Battalion  
OIF Nov. 2004 - Oct 2005

# Reintegration



Col. Kevin Gerdes as garrison commander at the Iraq National Depot at Camp Taji, Iraq.

**W**hen Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Morris told me they were preparing a reintegration plan for my battalion, I told them that I didn't need their help. My staff and I had successfully completed our mobilization training and combat missions prior to and during our deployment. I felt confident we could put together a better customized plan than the rear detachment guys who didn't understand the uniqueness of my units. Their plan was not perfect, but it served my Soldiers well and has been improved for the return of the 1/34 BCT.

My attitude as a Commander in Iraq is probably reflective of what you're hearing. I was resistant to plans being made for my Soldiers by some joint force headquarters staffers who I didn't know or trust. I remember telling someone "I'm used to following operation orders and FRAGOs written by an Operations Staff, not a Chaplain!"

My Soldiers were convinced that they did not need to attend this reintegration stuff, because their priority was to spend time with their family.

They felt they had sacrificed enough weekends in Iraq and deserved some time off.

They're also the same Soldiers who began experiencing issues with alcohol and drug abuse, marital problems, lingering medical issues and ongoing struggles to find meaning in their old jobs. Minnesota's reintegration program has helped them – and has saved marriages, jobs, and – in some cases – lives.

I became convinced that the program might help just one of my Soldiers. I supported the program by telling my Soldiers, "Even if we waste the time of 90 percent of our Soldiers who don't need the reintegration training, it will be worth our time if

we help are able to help the other 10 percent".

The biggest mistake I made was I thought I was exempt from reintegration issues. I read a lot of the articles and sat through all of the briefings – always from the perspective of how this applies to my Soldiers. I had a supportive wife of 24 years and two well-adjusted teen-age boys, so I didn't expect any issues there. I was returning to an organization that had employed me for more than 24 years and didn't expect any issues there. I have supportive friends and am active in my community, no issues there. What I discovered was that this didn't matter.

Reintegrating into my job was my biggest challenge. It took weeks – maybe months – before I felt the same "spark" that used to ignite the fire in my belly about work. It didn't seem to interest me the way my duties in a combat zone had me for 12 months.

**"The biggest mistake I made was I thought I was exempt from reintegration issues."**

The scary part of my reintegration was my difficulty at home. I personally felt that my reintegration into my family was going great. I was so thankful to be home with them and seemed to value them more than I ever did before. But one night, five

months after my return home, I was on a walk with my wife. She finally built up enough nerve to tell me things weren't going well. She had been walking on egg shells with me since my return – unsure of what would set me off next. She claimed I was "black and white" and couldn't operate in the "gray". These were big changes from the husband of 24 years she had sent to Iraq. She didn't know who to share her concerns with and told me we needed external help. We attended a marriage seminar weekend and identified some areas to help us improve our communications.

We continue to work through the issues and have felt our marriage grow stronger because of it.

I am convinced from my own experience and the experiences of other returning Vets I've talked to – that 100 percent of us will have "transition and reintegration issues". It's inevitable. The Soldier has changed and so has the family, workplace and community he is returning to.

Minnesota's Reintegration Program has grown and continues to improve to better serve our returning Vets and their families. It will not be perfect, but it needs the support of your leaders to serve your warriors and their families. It's our moral responsibility.

Stay safe and I look forward to working with you and your leaders during this critical reintegration of the 1/34 BCT.



# IRON convoy team runs the gamut

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

CAMP AL ASAD, Iraq -- Staff Sgt. Michael Warmenhoven and his squad from Company B, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry have run the gamut of convoy escort security missions for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

The squad spent its first four months at Camp Adder with Task Force WILD and later with Task Force WOLVERINE. There they rode in Humvee gun trucks escorting semi trucks and trailers driven by civilian contractors to points north, including LSA Anaconda.

In September, the squad returned home to Al Asad. Here, his company escorts convoys to Jordan and back. The 300 mile, one-way trip take almost two days to complete.

This eastern port of entry allows the fastest route in the region. It takes less than a week to move these commodities compared to a minimum of 45 days from Kuwait and Turkey.

Warmenhoven of Marion, Iowa, said the only thing similar about convoy escort missions in eastern and western Iraq is the long days of driving. Differences include the nationality of the drivers, their attitudes and experience, and the amount of traffic on the road.

On the Adder runs, if something broke down, the drivers would have it fixed or have a solution by the time you made it to the problem truck," he said. "Out here, the drivers tend to add to the problem and it takes a lot of shouting to get them motivated to do anything."

This "motivation" can start before sunrise. The Soldiers inspect the trucks and trailers in a civilian contractor yard. These



inspections include, looking for contraband, illegal passports, and unauthorized passengers.

Once the inspections are complete and the drivers receive a safety brief, the convoy of empty trucks or “dead-heads” rolls out the gate.

For the first few hours, this convoy will travel along a narrow road carved up on each side by roadside bomb blast holes. As Warmenhoven’s vehicle turned onto this road, his driver Spc. Jonathan Bengston of Iowa Falls, Iowa, wished his fellow Soldiers to “have fun.”

Several hours later, his convoy arrives at Camp Korean Village (CKV) where the Soldiers will prepare for their next trip to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Trebil, Jordan. The trucks are parked in a large staging yard filled with hundreds of vehicles. The Soldiers will have any maintenance concerns fixed by a dedicated staff of mechanics.

The Soldiers will do another safety check before departing this tiny Marine Corps outpost en route to FOB Trebil. Once the convoy reaches the FOB, the empty trucks are dropped off. The Soldiers will then escort trucks full of commodities like fuel and food to CKV where they will stay overnight.

The next morning the convoy leaves for Al Asad.

Warmenhoven said some of these runs home have taken as long as 14 hours because of roadside bombs or trucks breaking down.

Which means the Soldiers can arrive at Al Asad at night, Warmenhoven’s former favorite time to be on the road.

Warmenhoven said he liked the night convoys for two reasons, the cooler temperatures and the Soldier’s night



**Top left: Staff Sgt. Michael Warmenhoven powers up his Blue Force Tracker in his Armored Security Vehicle at Camp Korean Village.**

**Left: Spc. Jake Vevera assumes his duties as a gunner on an Armored Security Vehicle during a convoy escort mission from Camp Al Asad to Jordan and back.**

**Right: Semi trucks and trailers escorted by Task Force IRON Soldiers stretch for several miles during a security halt on Nov. 27 on this road in western Iraq.**

**Top right: Military escort vehicles and several semi trucks await a convoy at Camp Korean Village to Forward Operating Base Trebil and Camp Al Asad.**

For more photos from this set, check out [redbullweb.com](http://redbullweb.com), Photos, Page 32, “Co. B 1/133 Inf. convoy to Jordan and back.”

vision capabilities. He said the cooler temperatures allowed him to push the convoys to higher speeds.

He said in comparing the average speeds, the day convoys are much slower than the night convoys. He said the drivers also struggled with the extreme heat during the summer day trips.

Warmenhoven also really liked the night missions because of all the convoys on the road at the same time. The reason he said was he knew he would be assisted quickly in case of emergencies. “Anyone who has served as convoy commander and has been hit, would probably back me when I say that there is nothing better than hearing people jump all over each other on the radio, saying that they are on the way to your position.”

It is a good bet Warmenhoven’s company would “jump all over him” in case of an emergency. He served with this company for eight years before transferring to a Michigan Guard unit.

In fact, he returned to Task Force Iron for this deployment.

“More or likely I was going to get deployed with a Michigan unit,” he said. “I knew all these guys and trusted these guys.”



# 1/34 BCT Combat Awards

## October 1 - December 31, 2006



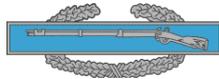
### Bronze Star Medal

Nisley	Scott	SSG
Schmitz	Lucas	SPC
Sourivong	Kampha	SPC



### Purple Heart

Anderson	Scott	SPC
Bagwell	Randall	SGT
Bakkila	James	SFC
Blaha	Danny	SPC
Blaisdell	Christian	SPC
Clark	Kristopher	SPC
Crim	Melanie	PFC
Crosnon	Benjamin	PFC
Curlin	Jason	SPC
Deadrick	Drew	SGT
Dundee	John	SPC
Dunphy	Peter	SPC
Grew	Daniel	SPC
Jenkins	Michael	SPC
Jones	Nathan	SPC
Kingsley	Daniel	1LT
Knoblach	Timothy	SFC
Knopf	Justin	SSG
Kohan	Amanda	SPC
Lia	Craig	MSG
Lindsey	Eric	SPC
Lyon	Steven	SPC
Macke	Matthew	SPC
Major	Stephen	SPC
Moua	Luc	SPC
Ness	Brian	SGT
Niskanen	Christopher	SSG
Nisley	Scott	SSG
Noyes	Ryley	SPC
Pappa	Brett	SPC
Paton	Michael	SPC
Paulson	Rory	SPC
Percival	Gary	PFC
Pudas	Craig	SPC
Rohret	Sean	SGT
Ronning	Dane	SSG
Ross	Ryan	SPC
Schlenvogt	Timothy	SGT
Schmidt	Robert	SPC
Sellner	Anthony	SPC
Shaw	Ryan	SGT
Shelton	Michael	PFC
Skalin	Kohl	SSG
Sloan	Matthew	SPC
Sourivong	Kampha	SPC
Stiner	Fredric	SGT
Storjohann	Justin	SGT
Utterback	Bradley	SGT
Van Dyke	Paul	SPC
Zirkelbach	Raymond	SPC



### Combat Infantryman Badge

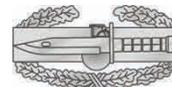
Andersen	Corey	SPC
Anderson	Colin	SPC
Anderson	Scott	SPC
Anderson	Stephen	SPC
Arnold	Joel	CSM
Asleson	Jeffery	SPC
Bellamy	Ronald	SPC
Bengtson	Jonathan	SPC
Bruggman	Miles	SPC
Cain	Robby	CPT
Chaplin	Dusten	SGT
Clasen	Scott	SGT
Commins	Andreas	CPT
Corell	Benjamin	LTC
Denney	Jarrid	SPC
Derrane	Joseph	SPC
Diedrich	Benjamin	SPC
Donelson	Ross	SPC
Eades	Travis	SGT
Engen	Chad	SSG
Gingrich	Garrett	1LT
Goerd	Andrew	SPC
Goodman	Andrew	SPC
Gorsh	Adam	SPC
Goss	James	1SG
Grimm	Alexander	SPC
Gust	Gabriel	SPC
Hammond	Christopher	SGT
Hassebrock	Nicholas	SPC
Heads	William	SPC
Jensen	Kyle	SFC
Kelm	Matthew	SPC
Kevan	Timothy	MAJ
Kinyon	Brenden	SPC
Kleinschmidt	Michael	SPC
Lemke	Christopher	SSG
Liska	Joseph	SGT
Macke	Matthew	SPC
Mains	Jayson	SGT
Mcconniff	Jesse	SPC
Mcnamar	Kristopher	SPC
Micka	Jeremiah	SGT
Miller	Matthew	SFC
Millerwest	Christopher	SPC
Moberly	Price	SSG
Munsell	William	SGT
Newman	Douglas	SSG
Niederhauser	Christopher	SGT
Niichel	Justin	SSG
Nisley	Scott	SSG
Novacek	Bradley	SSG
Nunes	Tillou	SGT
Obert	Kyle	SPC
Percy	Gabriel	SPC
Pham	Phu	SGT
Recker	Donald	SSG
Restemayer	Christopher	SGT
Reynolds	Anthony	SPC
Rhodes	Dustin	SPC
Rieger	James	SPC
Roepke	Matthew	SPC
Ryan	Daniel	SSG
Rystad	Cory	SPC
Schmitz	Lucas	SPC
Soucy	Brian	SSG
Sourivong	Kampha	SPC
Swanson	Keith	SPC
Tatro	Patrick	2LT
Travis	Bradley	SGT
Triggs	Curtis	SPC

Walton	Christopher	SPC
Walz	Jonathan	SPC
Warmenhoven	Michael	SSG
Warrington	Robert	SFC
Weingartz	Jeffery	SPC
Welsh	Eric	SPC
Williams	Robin	SPC
Wray	Erik	SPC
Yang	Eng Pa	SGT



### Combat Medic Badge

Berry	Christopher	SPC
Brandes	Christopher	SPC
Calderon	Billy	SGT
George	Jessie	SPC
Mayne	Anthony	SGT
Morse	Daniel	SPC
Ness	Brian	SGT
Rosenow	Brandon	SPC



### Combat Action Badge

Adams	Zed	PFC
Akers	James	SPC
Baloun	Bradley	SFC
Barta	Justin	SPC
Beatty	Joseph	1LT
Bednarek	Daniel	1SG
Bergstrom	Andrew	SPC
Blaisdell	Christian	SPC
Bluntach	Brian	SPC
Bodge	Ryan	1LT
Brown	Christopher	SGT
Burkhard	Christopher	SSG
Bushey	Douglas	SSG
Calderon	Billy	SGT
Campbell	Michael	SGT
Capecchi	William	SGT
Corrad	Mitchell	SGT
Cutler	Meiling	SPC
Cymek	Marcin	SPC
Davis	Christopher	SGT
Dawes	Jesse	PFC
Deadrick	Drew	SGT
Decrans	Peter	1LT
Deleon	Jose	SGT
Demarre	Bryan	SGT
Diaz	Carlos	SPC
Dinsmore	Joseph	SPC
Estrada	Luis	PFC
Farnkopf	Daniel	SPC
Feeney	James	SSG
Fields	Terry	SGT
Filips	Andrew	SPC
Fischer	Timothy	SPC
Flores	Carlos	SSG
Foote	Eric	SPC
Fox	Jared	SGT
Fry	David	SPC
Garland	Nathan	SPC
Geneureux	Nicholas	SPC
Graham	Benjamin	2LT
Guigni	Angela	PFC
Hall	Lawrence	CSM
Harthun	Abraham	SPC
Henning	Chris	SPC

Hofstetter	Brandon	SPC
Hogan	Christopher	SPC
Horton	Eric	SGT
Hottovy	William	SPC
Houk	Russell	SSG
Huang	Christel	SPC
Hughes	Michael	SSG
Hull	Bryan	SPC
Irrthum	Joseph	SPC
Jackson	Toby	SGT
Jamison	Bradley	1LT
Johnson	Jason	SPC
Johnson	Wade	SPC
Jones	Aubry	SPC
Kaliokoski	Karl	SGT
Kaufman	Travis	SGT
Kerr	Ashley	SGT
Keutzer	Joshua	SGT
Kinley	Buddy	SGT
Kling	Daniel	SSG
Klinski	Nathan	SGT
Knoblach	Timothy	SFC
Kohan	Amanda	SPC
Krause	Douglas	SFC
Layton	Edward	SGT
Lee	Jacob	SPC
Loeffelholz	Jason	SGT
Macavoy	Jason	SPC
Madden	Shawn	SGT
Martin	Brian	SPC
Mascorro	Rogelio	SGT
Maukstad	Steven	SFC
Mawby	Colleen	SGT
Mcdonough	Bryan	SPC
Medrano	Victor	SPC
Meyer	Brett	SPC
Moody	Blake	PFC
Moody	Brian	SGT
Morris	Ryan	SGT
Moskop	Peter	SPC
Nelson	Todd	SPC
Nicholas	Sean	SPC
Nitchals	Joshua	SPC
Norton	James	SGT
Pappa	Brett	SPC
Patterson	Arthur	SSG
Poppen	Michael	SFC
Purkat	Nicholas	SGT
Ramos	Danilo	SFC
Rhymer	Anthony	SPC
Rodriguez	David	SPC
Rodriguez	Sonia	SPC
Roman	Juan	SPC
Sanders	Kirk	SPC
Schmidt	Kyle	PFC
Schorno	Joseph	SPC
Schwanke	Thomas	PFC
Shelton	Michael	PFC
Smith	Eric	SPC
Smith	Richard	SGT
Stiner	Fredric	SGT
Storjohann	Justin	SGT
Stribling	James	1LT
Sykes	Theodore	SPC
Thompson	Wesley	SGT
Tilus	Jacob	SPC
Velasquez	Alfred	SPC
Wander	Adam	SPC
Warren	Josiah	SGT
Wendorff	Jeremy	SPC
Wilcox	Daniel	SGT
Williams	Charles	CPT
Yang	Fue	PV2
Yates	Andrew	SGT
Youngerman	Abraham	SPC



**Images of progress from Nasariyah TV.**

## **Red Bull CMO efforts inspire confidence in Iraqi neighbors**

By Major Dale B. Lund  
1/34 BCT Information Operations Officer

“We feel that you have sacrificed for the people of Iraq and history will record that.”

This statement was the beginning of an e-mail I received from Hazim Candle Kadhim, station manager of Nasariyah Television.

Since the beginning of this deployment, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division has strived to develop this kind of rapport with our Iraqi neighbors through our Civil Military Operations (CMO) missions.

Kadhim’s e-mail continued to elaborate on the hope for progress in Nasariyah:

“Fortunately, most people of Iraq look to you as friends. They know American people continue to help the Iraqi people and they thank you for all your help. We hope this new year will bring an end to Iraqi suffering and beginning of new life with democracy and prosperity to all our country in spite of the challenges, en-shaa-allah, (‘God willing’ in Arabic). We thank you very much for your help and your kindness. Please let your families know about our friendship and how we appreciate you.”

Our CMO efforts have included projects such as: water purification plants, medical treatment, improving roads and distribution of humanitarian aid supplies.

Through these efforts we have seen many changes in how the Iraqis interact with us.

Six months ago I had difficulties meeting with Kadhim, as he was receiving death threats for “cooperating” with Coalition Forces. He now meets with us on a weekly basis.

Many circumstances have helped to bring about such a change.

On Sept. 21, 2006, Dhi Qar province became the second province to transition to provincial Iraqi control. This means the government officials, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army in Dhi Qar are now responsible for the province.

Our relations with government officials, tribal leaders and local media have indicated that public confidence in the Iraqi police and army has increased dramatically in cooperation in partnership with our Soldiers.

Another contributing factor to the people’s satisfaction level is the restoration of basic services from our own CMO missions and through projects undertaken by the Iraqi government.

The Red Bull CMO teams have done extensive work managing projects to restore basic services to the people in Dhi Qar. The province benefited from large scale CMO projects to restore water purification plants, reconstruction of roads that were unusable, restoration of electricity to local schools and a project that restored functionality to the irrigation canals in rural farm areas of Dhi Qar.

The local Iraqi government is responsible for more than 700 construction projects in Dhi Qar last year.

These locally owned and run projects have included: the building of hospitals and clinics, the construction of new schools, construction of a new cultural arts center and new housing construction. This level of construction has not been undertaken in Dhi Qar within the last 30 years.

The combination of freedom from Saddam Hussein, Iraqis leading Iraqis, and the restoration of basic services has lead many residents of Dhi Qar to feel grateful to Coalition Forces and hopeful about the future because they have seen a change – in the form of progress.

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

# **IMPACT<sub>ING</sub> IRAQ**



## The Military Justice System

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

The military justice system is an aspect of deployments that is different for part-time Soldiers compared to their lives as civilians. The military justice system is the Army's version of criminal court. The system is the same in many respects as the civilian system, but is also substantially different. Even in the Army, you maintain your rights to due process of law, the right against self-incrimination, and the right to representation by counsel.

Military justice takes many forms, with the most common in Iraq being the Article 15. In that process, commanders – not lawyers – make a decision to charge a Soldier with a crime. As judge advocates, we advise the command on whether or not the situation warrants punishment under military law, but commanders may or may not take that advice. Once a charge sheet is prepared, it is then read to the accused Soldier. That Soldier then has 48 hours to consult with a defense attorney and decide whether to proceed with the Article 15, or demand greater consideration of the charge by a summary, special, or general court-martial. A Soldier has an absolute right to demand trial by court-martial.

If a Soldier believes the charges are valid and that the command can prove the charges against them, then they may decide to proceed with an Article 15 because the maximum punishments are lower, and the process is quicker. If the accused, in consultation with their attorney, does not believe the command can prove the charges or that the conduct charged is not illegal, then the Soldier may demand a court-martial so the case receives greater scrutiny and review by a military judge who is in fact a legal expert.

Like in civilian courts, a Soldier charged with a crime is entitled to an attorney. The military equivalent of a public defender is the Trial Defense Service. Trial Defense Service (TDS) officers are part of a completely separate command and rating system than the commanders seeking to impose punishment. The separation between TDS and the command allows the TDS attorneys to act in the Soldier's best interest without worry about repercussions from an offended commander. If a Soldier is accused of a crime, they should immediately make an effort to discuss the case with a TDS attorney. The attorney can explain the process, the Soldier's rights and assist in making the best decision about whether to proceed with an Article 15 hearing or proceed to a court-martial.

## Military Justice Log

- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a company grade Article 15 for failure to report to his appointed place of duty and failure to obey orders. He received a reduction to private first class, which was suspended.
- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a field grade Article 15 for larceny and forgery. She received a reduction to private; forfeiture of \$636 per month for two months, one month of which was suspended; and extra duty for 45 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a field grade Article 15 for communicating a threat and not obeying orders. He received a reduction to private; forfeiture of \$636 per month for two months, one month of which was suspended; and extra duty and restriction for 45 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a company grade Article 15 for failing to report to his appointed place of duty. He received a reduction to private first class; forfeiture of \$394, which was suspended; and extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force IRON received a company grade Article 15 for failing to report to his appointed place of duty. He received a reduction to private first class; forfeiture of \$470, which was suspended; and extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force IRON received a company grade Article 15 for failing to report to his appointed place of duty. He received a reduction to private first class; forfeiture of \$407, which was suspended; and 14 days extra duty.
- A Soldier from Task Force IRON received a company grade Article 15 for huffing compressed air. He received a reduction to private first class; and extra duty for 14 days.

**DUTY RESPECT SELFLESS HONOR INTEGRITY PERSONAL  
SERVICE COURAGE**

# LOYALTY



## ARMY VALUES

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

**T**he Army has a well defined role in our nation's past, present, and future. This role has profound responsibilities – responsibilities to the Constitution, the Army itself, your unit, other Soldiers and yourself. These responsibilities would be impossible to perform without a dedicated group of individuals who are willing to stand and fight for their nation's values. That willingness to fight or even die is a profound expression of loyalty. The Army would fail if not for the loyalty of its Soldiers.

The United States of America is our home. It is where we will soon be returning to work and raise our children, teaching them the values we hold in our hearts. Our nation has protected our families while we have been away, and as Soldiers we continue to be part of that equation. Our nation guards your personal freedom as a citizen and the rights of others around you. It has earned your loyalty, and you belong among its citizens.

We loyally support and defend our Constitution because it has loyally supported and defended us many times over. Early in our history the founders of our nation worked long and hard on documents designed preserve your freedoms. Many of its founders displayed their loyalty as they fought and died for the first document proclaiming your freedom. That is the Declaration of Independence.

Before you were even born, our nation's founders prepared the Constitution of the United States of America that would safeguard your liberties. This document proclaims to the world what we as a people hold collective values and ideals. It has been challenged many times since it was written, and many thousands of your fellow loyal Americans bled and died to preserve these ideals for you. Their loyalty provided the shield that protected our liberties and the sword that destroyed those who unwisely tried to take them away from us.

Although the Army is made up of individuals, it is a team. Like any team, in order to win it must have individuals working toward a common goal. Loyalty to the team's purpose, to the team's leadership, and to other team members is what makes an individual willing to endure hardship and sacrifice.

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Right: Spc. Jacob Lee (right), and Pfc. Robert Brewer of Task Force SABER waiting for their Christmas meal at Camp Anaconda. Photo by Spc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PAO

Below: Capt. Christy Erwin (left), Pfc. Angela Guigni, Sgt. Tamara Bonner and Staff Sgt. Renita Cannon of Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS at the CAMP Adder Christmas music program. Photo courtesy of Pfc. Angela Guigni.



# IN OUR SIGHTS



Middle top: A snowman built by Sgt. William Wohlers sits on a humvee after a recent snowfall at Camp Korean Village in western Iraq. Photo courtesy of Task Force IRON.



Middle bottom: Brothers Sgt. Aadne Stokka (left) and Staff Sgt. Anthony Stokka of Task Force IRON in the FSC office at Camp Al Asad. Photo courtesy of Task Force IRON.



Right: Spc. Trisha Baker and Master Sgt. John Schwartz of Team PANTHER dress up for the the Christmas parade at Camp Adder. Photo by Spc. Dustin Perry, 1/34 BCT PAO.

