

January 31, 2007

DESERT



BULLS



TASK FORCE SABER ON THE JOB

**1-167 CAVALRY SQUADRON KEEPS THE PEACE AT
CAMP ANACONDA**

Honoring

Our Fallen Soldiers

Staff Sgt. James Wosika Jr.

Task Force BEARCAT

Story by
Spc. Brian D. Jesness
1/34 BCT PAO

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A memorial service for Staff Sgt. James Wosika Jr. was held Jan. 15 at the Chapel of Hope, where several hundred Soldiers gathered to pay their last respects.

Wosika, was killed by a car bomb while conducting a vehicle search during a foot patrol south of Camp Fallujah, Iraq January 9, 2007. In the incident, Wosika volunteered to approach the vehicle and requested his comrades remain behind him until he signaled the vehicle was cleared.

Chaplain (Capt.) Steven Timm spoke of Wosika's character as a leader during the memorial.

"When you hear about the leader that he was and the character he brought to his squad and his platoon, you know a little more about the empty place he leaves behind, and the burden of moving on without him," said Timm.

Wosika enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard on Nov. 11, 2000. He attended Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training as an Infantryman at Fort Benning, Ga. After completing his training he reported to Company A, 2nd battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion in St. Paul, Minn. Wosika deployed with his company to Kosovo in 2004. In Oct. 2005 Wosika transferred to



Company B, 2-136th CAB for deployment to Iraq. Wosika trained along with his fellow soldiers during a six month train-up at Camp Shelby, Miss., prior to deploying overseas on March 28th 2006 in support of operation Iraqi Freedom. Staff Sergeant Wosika served with 1st Platoon, Company B, 2-136th at Camp Fallujah as part of the Force Protection Company.

Wosika's awards include: the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, the National Defense Service Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the NATO Non-Article Five Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

He is survived by his parents James and Kathleen Wosika of St. Paul.



Day in Red Bull history

23 - 26 APR 1945

On the move in Italy
between Modena and
Fontanellato

In the morning the Company prepared to move, and at 1345 hours moved to a position north of Modena; the Partisans were still cleaning up the town.

Two days later the 2nd Platoon moved into a new position on Route 9 [the Via Emilia] between Parma and Reggio nell'Emilia. The 1st Platoon stayed behind to cover a road block that could not be reached from the new position.

On 26 APR at 1100 hours our Company loaded one rifle company of the 1st Battalion into our trucks and we started chasing the "Jerries". The leading elements were four tanks and one platoon of Infantry, followed by our Company and the balance of the rifle company. Enemy resistance



A 34th Infantry Division vehicle fires on a fascist stronghold near Modena, Italy, Apr. 23 1945.

was encountered north of Fontanellato; we unloaded the infantrymen and went into position. We pulled out and reloaded the Infantry, but had to go back into the same positions again. At 2400 hours again we pulled out, reloaded the Infantry and rode all night long, bypassing a bunch of "Jerries".

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

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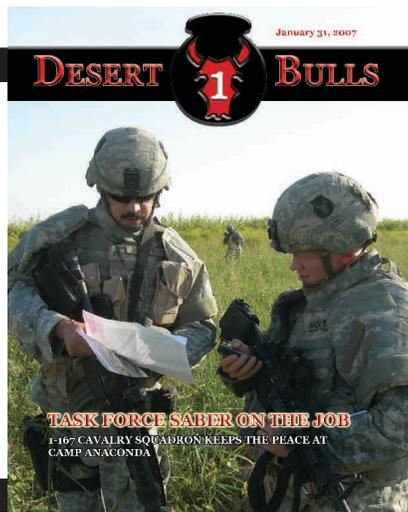
This newsletter is in compliance with the provisions of AR 360-1. Any photo or story submissions should be forwarded to Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood at clinton.wood@us.army.mil

Issue #34

On the cover:

Sgts. Charles Hiatt (left), and Matthew Molton of Task Force SABER serve on the crater analysis team, studying impact sights from enemy mortar rounds.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Schultz, Task Force SABER UPAR.



Platoon's mission changes for the better



Spc. Cade Gornick of Mountain Iron, Minn., (right), provides security as a motorist is questioned during a vehicle search mission near Camp Anaconda.

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

CAMP ANACONDA, Iraq -- In the first three months after being deployed, Staff Sgt. Brad Lahti and his platoon from Company C, manned an entry control point 24 hours a day, which meant the same routines day after day.

This wasn't the case for the last five months. Now, the platoon's mission can be anything from providing security for a civil military operations mission to patrolling for insurgents.

"There's no routine. The time frames are all different," said Lahti of Robbinsdale, Minn. "And it gets us out seeing things."

This combat reconnaissance patrol definitely "sees things." They patrol the perimeter of the base searching for suspicious individuals and items at all hours of the day.

On a terrain denial patrol, the objective is for these Soldiers to stop indirect fire from being fired at the base. Lahti said his patrol tries to focus on areas where attacks are likely to occur.

"We want to catch them in the act," he said. "(The unit that owns the land or the landowners) like to have us out in that area."

Being in an area also can mean searching several vehicles. On a recent search, the squad discovered motorists with identification cards dating back to Saddam Hussein's rule. It had a distinct emblem of that era. Photo identification

Staff Sgt. Bradley Lahti of Robbinsdale, Minn., searches a small irrigation canal for suspicious items Dec. 13 near Camp Anaconda.

is rare in Iraq and many civilians rely on old ID cards.

A squad will spend part of a day on a combat reconnaissance patrol, come back to the base for a while and then head out for another tour.

He said the most challenging part of this new mission is ensuring good relations with the landowners. It is important for his patrol to follow the use agreements with the landowners.

Lahti's company commander, Capt. Eduardo Suarez of Golden Valley, Minn., said this new mission has given his Soldiers new purpose and a sense that they are really making a difference and contributing more to the fight.

"As a tank company with qualified tankers, the ability to shoot, move and communicate came naturally," he said.

And with no routines.



A First Sergeant's Perspective

By 1SG Ken Schmitz

Co. D, 2/136 CAB

OIF Dec. 2004 - Dec. 2005

Coming home from Iraq, we landed in Minneapolis on Dec. 6, 2006. It was cold as hell. The next four days were spent in reintegration briefings at Camp Ripley.

I don't remember much of this time. I was not the only one in a surreal daze. I think most of us were.

Luckily for me, my wife took a lot of notes. Plus, the briefings came with handouts, so you can deal with the information later, when you come down. You'll realize this when it happens.

The thing I do remember the most is when someone said, "within ninety days, you'll want to be back there in Iraq." I thought that was a crock.

It took me about two weeks to realize this was true. My wife was at work, my daughter in school. I opened the door of our well stocked fridge and said, "there is nothing here to eat, why don't I just go back to Iraq?"

The reality was, there were too many choices, and I would have to decide what to eat, and make it.

At that moment, life seemed so much easier in Iraq.

Over a year ago, I was a platoon sergeant in Iraq. Three months after coming home I was promoted to first sergeant. The responsibilities only increased as time went on.

Every one of us was affected in some way to some degree. It took a watchful eye to stay on top of potentially negative situations. I must rely on all of my Soldiers looking out for each other. I've been blessed in the fact that my guys will contact me if they feel any of their comrades are

WarriorTransition

By Capt. Cora Courage

Task Force WOLVERINE

Behavioral Science Officer

It is critical to maintain our focus as we enter the last months of our mission. It is also time to prepare for transition back to being citizen Soldiers. Warrior Transition (WT) will help us complete that mission. It was developed by the efforts of the behavioral health services and unit ministry teams within the Marine Corps several years ago to help Sailors and Marines positively transition from deployment to home. The Navy and the Marines found this to be highly effective as Marines left the volatile areas of Iraq and returned to their duties stateside. Your command has prepared to help facilitate an effective transition back home as well.

We created the program for the 1/34 BCT through collaboration with a variety of resources including psychological, medical and spiritual aspects of Soldier readiness.

The UMT and selected members of each battalion have recently participated in extensive training to help their Soldiers in this process. These trainers will help their troops to prepare for the transition. Members of a core team from Camp Adder will travel to your camp to help provide the program to each battalion prior to your departure.

The whole process will take about 90 minutes and will focus on a wide range of topics to help us through this transition.

Our brigade is composed of servicemembers providing valuable

contributions to mission goals on numerous levels in a variety of domains. From the infantry to administration, from the mechanic to the medic: no one is less or more significant in the role we play in the brigade's ability to accomplish the mission.

While not everyone experienced exposure to traumatic events during deployment, everyone has experienced the stresses of loss and separation from everything we hold dear.

During Warrior Transition, we will make every effort to maintain squad integrity. Our goal is to give every Soldier the chance to talk about the deployment, at the squad level, acknowledging the losses, celebrating the successes, and identifying the changes in our lives.

Reintegration



1st Sgt. Ken Schmitz before a convoy mission north of Baghdad.

suffering from any form of post traumatic stress disorder symptoms, no matter how large or small they seem.

My advice to first sergeants coming home is to be vigilant, talk to your men continually. Use your chain of command and your NCOs. At all times keep your door open to anyone who just needs to "talk". I also make occasional phone calls to my men from time to time just to check in.

Lastly, but not least, are the brave "soldiers" at home. The wives, mothers, fiancés, sons, daughters, family and close friends who were all affected.

Any one could have symptoms of some sort of post traumatic stress disorder. Make your men aware of these potential people at risk.

There are resources out there to help, pay attention during the reintegration briefings and use them. That's why they were created.



Water trials fail to sink SABER Soldiers

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

A soaking wet uniform, a rifle and 650,000 gallons of water is not the usual environment Soldiers of Task force SABER are used to.

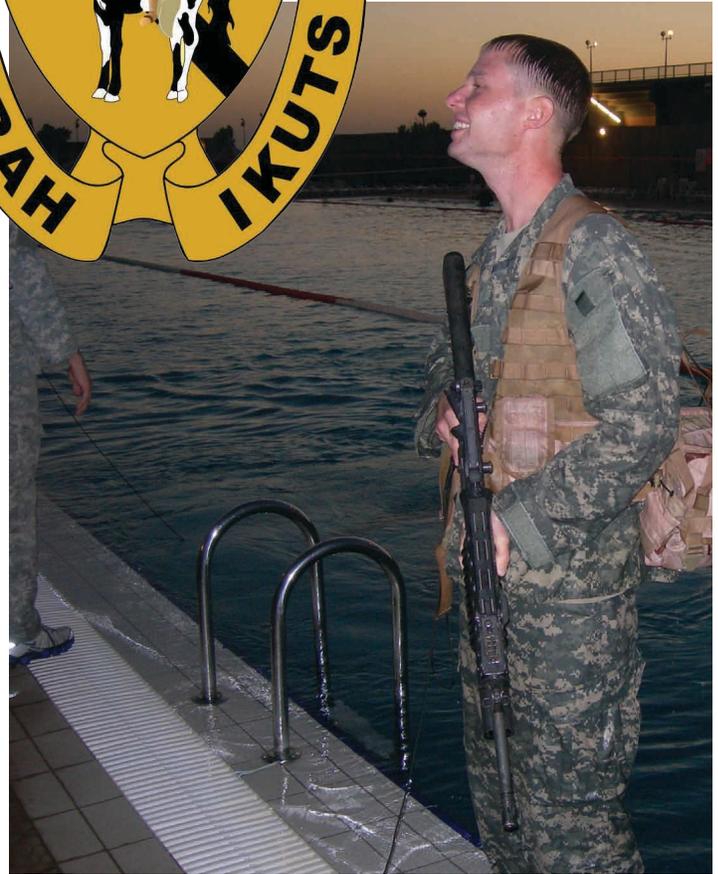
These were the conditions at the Combat Water Survival Testing event at the outdoor pool at Camp Anaconda.

Soldiers from Delta Company, 134th Long Range Surveillance Detachment (LRSD) gathered at the pool to test their survival skills in an aquatic environment. The event began with a safety briefing describing the training and the precautions conducted by Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Winn.

“The goal is to have a good strong comfortable feeling of how to swim. It is important to remain calm,” said Winn.

The testing consisted of three events: the 15 meter swim, three-meter dive and the ditch and dunk.

During the 15 meter swim, the Soldiers side stroked for 15 meters with an M16 in their full army combat uniform. The rules were simple, get from point A to B without touching the walls or sinking. There was a lifeguard who swam down the lane near each Soldier in case they needed assistance.



Spc. Joseph Beckman emerges from the water with his weapon at the ready after the 15 meter swim.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Ames (left), pushes a Soldier into the pool to initiate the ditch and dunk event.

After completion of the 15-meter swim, the Soldiers moved on to the three-meter dive.

The three-meter dive involved a plunge from the high diving board into the water with a weapon and headgear.

The event required the Soldiers to walk the plank, jump into the water and swim back to the side with their hat and their weapon to pass this test.

The final event was the ditch and dunk. The Soldiers had to jump into the water and drop their weapon and load bearing equipment while fully submerged, before resurfacing.

The testing was conducted to help the Soldiers identify their shortcomings and demonstrate that they could do this type of swimming in an emergency situation.

1st Lt. Kyle Hildebrand, commander of the 134th Infantry, LRSD mentioned that, “This will give the Soldiers confidence to react to water in the event of a rollover.”

He also mentioned that this is not an exercise in teaching Soldiers how to swim, but to just get them used to the water in such a situation.

CE SABER: 1-167 Cavalry Squadron

SABER Soldiers reach out to Ajeelia

Story and photo by
Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown
210th MPAD

CAMP ANACONDA, Iraq –Not far from Anaconda, along a labyrinth of narrow, jutting, dirt roads, mud houses, and flowing irrigation troughs, stands Ajeelia, a village which has long felt the presence of U.S. troops.

The town has been on the receiving end of humanitarian aid since the occupation of Anaconda by U.S. forces in 2003.

Members of C Troop, 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry Regiment, a Woodstown, N. J. National Guard unit, visited the village Oct. 16 as they often do, bringing donations of school supplies, clothing, and other much-needed supplies.

The unit makes visits to the local villages they are responsible for outside Anaconda, in attempts to form a trusting relationship with them, said 1st Lt. Michael G. Tarricone, force protection officer for the troop.

The unit's primary mission on Anaconda is to operate one of the entry control points, but they also have combat logistical patrols and combat reconnaissance patrols, Tarricone said. These are patrols that go outside the wire daily to ensure a military presence in the surrounding area, as well as gather any helpful information they can, he said.

The U.S. Army has a budget for supporting humanitarian aid in forms of education, healthcare, water treatment, and long-term employment for Iraqis, which it uses to make Iraq a better place for its citizens and tear down the walls of terrorism while doing it.

"We are hoping to decrease the attacks on LSA Anaconda by presenting the softer side of the Army," Tarricone, of Manahawkin, N.J. said. "Indirectly, we are hoping on getting them to trust us enough to tell us where our enemies are."

This is a long-term project that is not only bringing aid to Iraqis now, but helping them to set up a more stable country for the future.

"Long-term, I'd like to see the towns become more self-sufficient," Tarricone said.

On this particular trip to the village, C Troop brought boxes of donations from both an organization called Operation Iraqi Children and one of the unit member's churches from New Jersey.

"We've gotten a lot of support from New Jersey," said Pfc. Theresa M. Marchese, a native of Berlin, N.J., and a truck driver with D Company, Forward Support Company (of Vineland, N.J.), 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition.

Marchese, one of the few female Soldiers who goes out on C Troop's civil military operations, said she was asked to come to assist with the female villagers.

Previously, she said the women in the villages wouldn't speak



Pfc. Theresa M. Marchese (left), and Spc. Joseph Schorno hand out school supplies to children on a civil military operation in Ajeelia, Iraq.

to male U.S. Soldiers, so there was no way to find out what supplies the women needed.

She said she now brings them women's clothing, hygiene products, and baby supplies.

"This is my fourth time going out, and I try to bring them things they need so when we need information from them, they will help us out," Marchese said.

The supplies from Operation Iraqi Children were taken to the Al-Rafaiya school, which houses about 500 children.

The sheik of Ajeelia, met with Tarricone to hand the supplies over to the school, and to discuss future plans for the school's needs.

A possible expansion of the crowded school was discussed, as was the donation of playground equipment from the States.

"We want to thank the American forces for helping us," the sheik said through a translator. "A bigger school would be better and safer for the kids."

He also mentioned that since the U.S.'s arrival in Iraq, the change has been positive in his village. Tarricone said that all projects and donations go through the sheik first, ensuring that the local government system stays intact.

"We bring donations and goodwill feelings from the American public to the Iraqi populace," Tarricone said.

Although this trip was just one of many, it is another step towards an independent Iraq.

1/34 BCT Combat Awards

January 1 - 15, 2007



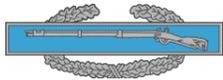
Bronze Star Medal with Valor

Walton Christopher CPL



Purple Heart

Carlson Christopher SPC
Cassavant Corey SFC
Cross Justin SPC
Drechsel Adam SPC
Fields Terry SGT
Fish Randy SGT
Flibotte Jaime SGT
Hassel Chad SGT
Hatton Benjamin SPC
Hernandez Robert SGT
Jenniges Douglas SSG
Imholte Michael SPC
Mager Chad SPC
Nelson Timothy SSG
Oneill Shane SGT
Pearson Anthony SPC
Schorno Joseph SPC
Shafer Lance SPC
Srisourath Jeff SPC



Combat Infantryman Badge

Alsbury Kelly SPC
Anderson Jonathan PFC
Annin Jeremiah SPC
Bentley Bryce SPC
Boge Dennis SSG
Boge Jerome SSG
Bolsinger Clay SPC
Brenton Matthew SPC
Brewer Robert PFC
Brown Steven SPC
Calease Grant SGT
Capecchi William SGT
Chhoeng Saing SGT

Cooper Cory SPC
Corell Tyler SGT
Daringer Neal SPC
Deal Sean SPC
Doran Benjamin SPC
Doughty Christopher SPC
Dudgeon Ross SPC
Ennor Martin SPC
Feeney James SSG
Fels John SGT
Fiser Mark SPC
Fish Randy SGT
Francis Kerick SPC
Freiburger William SSG
Gilbertson Adam CPT
Goodknight Jonathan SGT
Gray Brandon CPT
Hampe David SSG
Hansen Seth SPC
Hassel Chad SGT
Helms Roger SPC
Hickle Brian SSG
Hilligoss Jason SPC
Holden Jeffrey SFC
Hove Heath SSG
Hyde Dustin SPC
Ibarra Gamaliel SPC
James Shane SPC
Jeanes Joshua SPC
Jones Blake SPC
Jones James SSG
Kelly Joshua SPC
Klimek Jasen SPC
Kriesel John SGT
Lamansky Thomas SPC
Leach Michael SGT
Lee Jacob SPC
Leonard Richard PV2
Lindsey Eric SPC
Luther Caleb SSG
Maukstad Steven SFC
Mccloud Timothy SGT
McCully Jeromy SPC
Meineke James SFC
Meyers Joshua SPC
Montgomery Leon SPC
Nelson Jason SSG
Nieman Nathan SGT
Ogle Andrew SPC
Oshea Kyle SPC
Parker Brent SGT
Parmater Benjamin SPC
Peterson James SGT

Pins Leo SPC
Rogers Thomas SGT
Rosenfeld Hayden SPC
Samuelson Tanner SPC
Sexton Michael SPC
Stattelman Jeremy SGT
Stene Andrew SPC
Stinar Joshua SPC
Stricker Michael SGT
Upton Marcus SPC
Vevera Jacob SPC
Vogel Quent SPC
Weipert Robert SPC
Weishahn Clinton SSG
Wilson Nicholas SPC
Winn Kenneth SSG
Wosika James SGT
Yang Fue PV2
Zuck Joshua SPC



Combat Medic Badge

Alderton Craig SGT
Baumtrog Anne SSG
Boesen Jason SGT
Carlson Christopher SGT
Connor Jeffery SPC
Englund Daniel SGT
Hampton Daniel SGT
Logan Christopher SGT
Paton Michael SPC



Combat Action Badge

Almeida Alex PFC
Anderson Jeremiah SGT
Barber Matthew SSG
Baumgartner Michael SPC
Beaulieu Bobbie SPC
Beaver Jason SPC
Borkenhagen Nolan SPC
Brethorst Michael CPT
Bronson Derek SGT
Butwinick Jay SPC
Cassidy Gerald SGT

Castilloacevedo Abel SPC
Dilks Trent SPC
Eklund Joseph PFC
Esparra Carlos MAJ
Evans Anthony SSG
Frank Duane SFC
Hanebuth Brandon SPC
Hansen Espen PFC
Hansen Joshua SPC
Haugom David MAJ
Hernandez Hernan SPC
Herrada Christopher SPC
Hjelmstad Joseph SFC
Hodgson Craig SPC
Howard Joshua SGT
Isabella Frederico SGT
Jacobsen Travis SPC
Johnson Aaron SGT
Keesee Timothy SGT
Kriens Anthony SPC
Lemke Kurt SGT
Lukavsky David SPC
Lykens David SFC
Meier Ryan SGT
Merryman Andrew SGT
Meyer Daniel SPC
Muellner Jennifer SPC
Padgett Charles SGT
Parris Kevin SGT
Pesta Travis SPC
Pfannenstein Anthony SPC
Pharel Roger PFC
Phommaravongsa Sisomphon SPC
Porch Walter SPC
Purdon Jeffrey SPC
Quigley Joseph SGT
Radig Joseph SPC
Radunz Gregory SFC
Roben Richard SGT
Rojas Guadalupe SGT
Rudenick Stephen SGT
Ruder Mark SPC
Schipper Nicholas SPC
Schmiesing Tony SPC
Schumacher Thomas SGT
Thiry Anthony SPC
Tix William SSG
Vaske Cory SGT
Villamar Daniel PFC
Voecks Corey SPC
Wallace Erik SPC
Westling Shawn SPC
Williams Deon SPC

WOLVERINE Soldiers bring aid to Al Batha clinic

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Bill Snellman
Task Force WOLVERINE UPAR

On November 3, 2006 Task Force WOLVERINE delivered medical supplies to the Al Batha clinic in Southern Iraq.

The medical supplies for the Al Batha clinic included orthopedic braces, crutches, an electrocardiogram (EKG) machine, and additional supplies.

The supplies, valued at over \$30,000, were donated by organizations from Little Falls, Minn., including Little Falls Family Medical Center, Little Falls Orthopedics, and St. Gabriel's Hospital to help increase the capabilities of the clinic, which serves a city of more than 100,000 Iraqis. The mission into Al Batha was the culmination of months of planning and coordination between Soldiers in Iraq, the WOLVERINE rear detachment and the Little Falls Medical Group.

After the ceremony, Sheik Dr. Dakhil presented Task Force WOLVERINE Lt. Col. Brian Olson with a document stating "The Al-Batha health center presents with much thanks to US Army Forces to help us bring assistance to our center. With best wishes, Dr. Dakhil M. Al-Ghuzzi."



A make shift wheel chair was part of the clinic's limited equipment before the visit by Task Force WOLVERINE.



Lt. Col. Brian Olson and Sheik Dr. Dakhil shake hands after the clinic received crutches, an electrocardiogram machine and other medical supplies.



A resident of Al Batha is assisted by WOLVERINE Soldiers while moving the donated supplies into the clinic.

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

IMPACT ING IRAQ



EXTENSION FAQs

As we know all too well, we will now be spending additional time here in Iraq. What follows are a few of the common legal issues you should consider as part of our continuing service in Iraq.

Power of Attorney

1. Do I need to update my power of attorney?

Many soldiers prepared powers of attorney naming someone as attorney in fact to assist them while deployed. Most of those powers of attorney expire on a specific date you selected. If that date is prior to August of 2007, you may need to sign a new power of attorney to cover the additional time we will be in Iraq.

Interest Rates

2. Do I still get the benefit of a six percent interest rate on debts acquired prior to activation?

Yes, but your creditors most likely expected your return from active duty based on the expiration date of your mobilization orders. If your orders are extended as part of the extension, you should send a new copy of your orders with a letter telling your creditors that you remain on active duty. If you do not follow up with your creditors, they will most likely assume you returned as scheduled, and raise your interest rate to the contract interest rate effective the date your orders expired.

Student Loans

3. I deferred my student loans when I left, do I need to take any additional action?

If you deferred student loan payments, you will need to update the deferral period based upon your extended orders.

Employment

4. My civilian employer expected me to return in the spring of 2007, what about my job?

Due to the very long time since 1/34 BCT Soldiers left their jobs for active duty, it is more likely than not the exact position you left will be filled. You are entitled, however, to a job with your old employer equivalent in pay, responsibility, chance of advancement and seniority as if you had not left. Your re-employment rights apply for up to 60 months of cumulative active duty service while working for a particular employer.

Taxes

5. My spouse wants to file our taxes to get a tax refund, can she do so with me in Iraq?

You are entitled to an extension of time to file your taxes because of your service in Iraq. The revenue service states they will accept a tax filing from your spouse with an attached statement that you are serving in a qualified combat zone. To give someone the authority to file your taxes for you, they will need an IRS form 2848, tax power of attorney. The form is available at www.irs.gov, and can be easily completed by your tax preparer or legal assistance attorney. The legal office does not offer tax filing services.

Staying focused

By Brigade Chaplain (Maj.) Randy Wendt and
Chaplain (Capt.) Chuck Williams
Task Force Express

Lent will soon be upon us as the season of Epiphany ends, yet it feels like Christmas was just yesterday! Have you felt like some days tick by so fast, and then others just drag on? How quickly the time passes depends on your attitude toward your job, tasks and schedule.

Hopes, dreams, and future plans are vital ingredients in shaping your attitude when dealing with the passing of time and the ability to cope with the present. Think back to that unforgettable R&R brief when it was explained that expectations are unavoidable, yet good. But remember they can be a distraction as well. Staying focused on what we do here, at times can be challenging when there are so many more things we could think of doing—instead of this.

Have you ever considered how God keeps watch upon all creation and all that is still to take place? God does well at this task of eternity management. And what a task it must be to stay focused for eternity! Each of us has the ability, some have more and some have...well less, to stay on task. We have already experienced so much since we left our jobs and families to serve in this extended hobby of soldiering. It is important to keep before us that our time here will end, just not exactly when we would have thought.

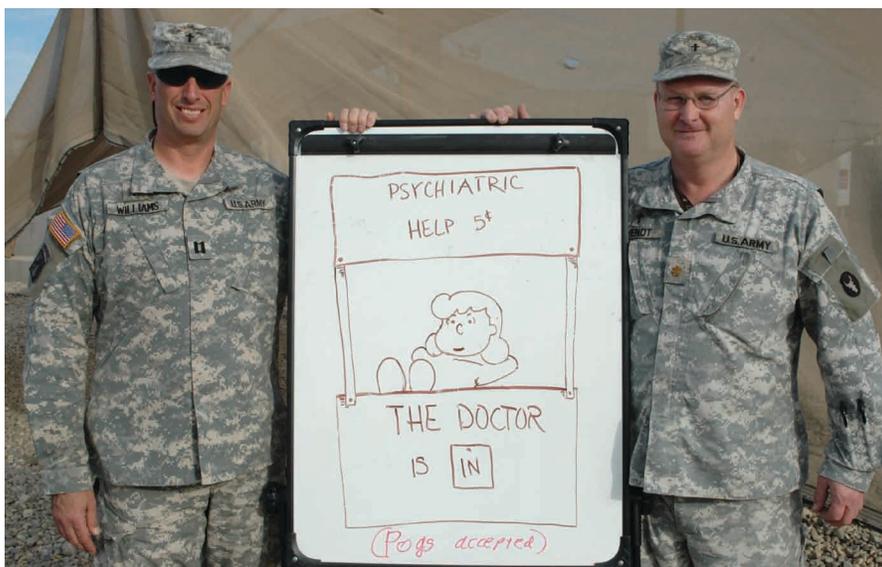
Alright, so you are not God. (That's a good realization that some still need to reach!) Sometimes a matter of months might seem to go by like an "eternity" depending on your attitude. In our society we are trained to live for today and have the instant gratification of life lived on the edge. For most in our society, the time we have invested to fight the Global War on Terrorism is too great a price to pay. Most of society cannot perform the tasks and give what we give. But we are not typical of most of society. We have traveled the main routes of this deployment many times and will continue to fight. We thought we were fast approaching the last checkpoint before our end of tour, but now a new turn is revealed.

Think of it this way; you are on the road, you have nearly completed your mission and can see the check point lights in the distance. You are just about there thinking that the greatest

danger is behind you. Do you let your guard down? Not at all! There are still quite a few miles on the road before you reach the checkpoint. You might breathe a brief sigh of relief when you think that the worst is past, but you continue to stay alert until you are safely past the checkpoint. Why? because it's not over yet. How many of our convoys have been hit on the road, even just outside the check point. How many casualties have we taken in what we would be considered, a "safer" area?

However, we now have a new dimension to this experience. The number of times we have to go through this scenario is about to increase. Where we've played out this situation a hundred times so far, we are now being asked to do it more times than we expected. We are being called to go the extra mile.

Because our experience and the success in doing our jobs a 'hundred times' affords us the acclaim, "proven", we've now been called to demonstrate another quality of soldiering, "professionalism". Being a professional is more about attitude than anything else. And for attitude to be genuine it must be tested by trial and hardships, which are almost always unforeseen. Remember, our attitude, even in the midst of the unexpected and the frustrating, will have an enormous impact on our ability to stay focused. Staying focused will not only assure the success of our missions and our capability to save lives, in the end, it will also render to each of us the reputation of a "proven professional".



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Right: Staff Sgt. Melissa Meger of Task Force WOLVERINE hands out personal hygiene items to Iraqi girls at a female first aid class. Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Snellman, Task Force WOLVERINE UPAR.

Left: Sgt. 1st Class Douglas poses with some Iraqi children during a CMO mission near Camp Annaconda. Photo courtesy of Task Force SABER



IN OUR SIGHTS



Right: 1st Lt. Gordon Giswold of Task Force BEARCAT works with an Iraqi soldier to check the oil on a Humvee at Ramadi. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PAO.

Below: Staff Sgt. Justin Niichel (right), with his Soldiers of Task Force IRON review their mission before a convoy. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PAO.

