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May 5, 2009

Red Bulls continue to arrive in Basra



Photo by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery

Soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division arrive at COB Basra from Kuwait. The 34th ID will assume command of MND-S from the 10th Mountain Division in a transfer of authority ceremony scheduled for later this month.

SPC. DARRYL L. MONTGOMERY
MND-S



COB BASRA – Soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division continue to arrive here from Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 34th ID will replace the 10th Mountain Division and assume command of Multi-National Division – South after a

transfer of authority ceremony later this month.

Staff Sgt. Rebecca Griebel, 34th Infantry Division, Medical Operations battle captain, said it was good to finally see Basra for herself and put some of the rumors to rest. The Madelia, Minn. native arrived in Basra April 30 and said so far she likes the environment.

“We have a nice office, a cool place to sleep and we get

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ARRIVE

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three meals a day,” she said. “What more could you ask for?”

Minneapolis, Minn., native Lt. Col. Fred Karasov said, “I am really impressed with the work space. It’s a re-

ally good environment and we have access to everyone around us.”

In addition to enjoying the office space, he said he is really looking forward to taking over the mission from the 10th Mtn. Div.

“I am proud to be a part of this and to be able to do something for Iraq,”

said Karasov. “I think it is an important task that needs to be done.”

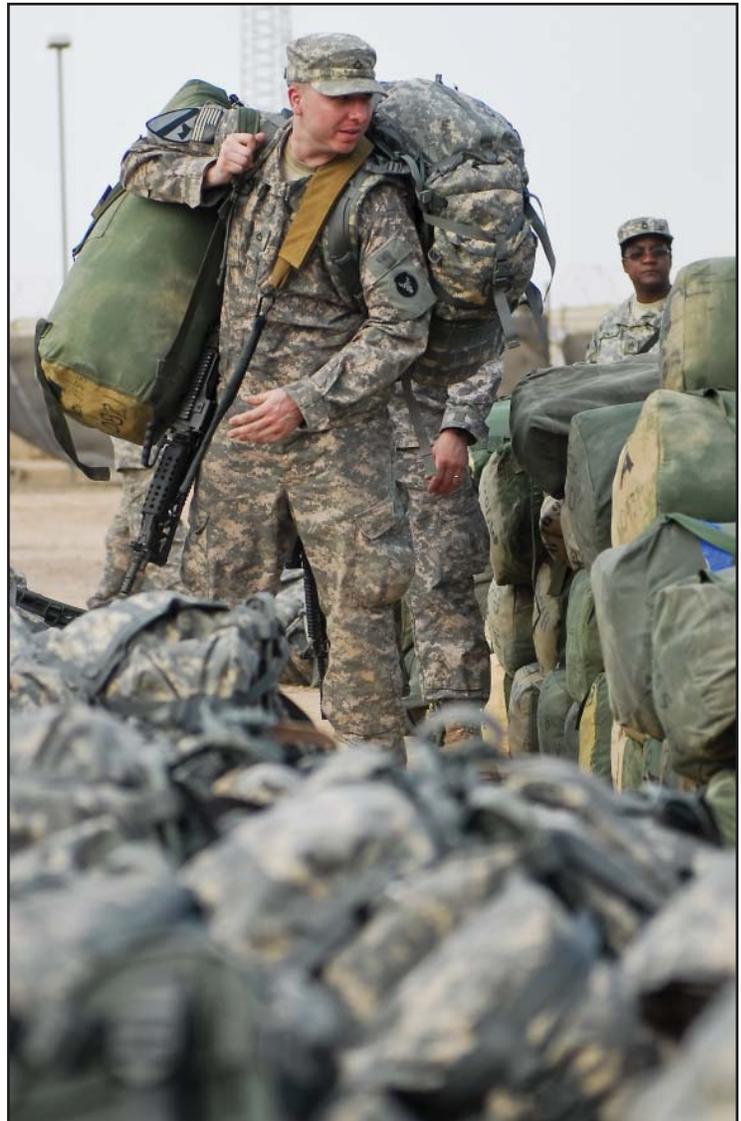
“Hopefully we can leave this place better than the 10th Mountain left it,” he continued.

“If every division can leave it a better place, then they have accomplished their mission.”



Photos by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery

(Above) A 34th Infantry Division Soldier receives a key to his new “home away from home” within hours of arriving in Iraq. An advanced party from the 34th ID was on the ground in Iraq well ahead of the main body to ensure Soldiers arriving from Minnesota would not have to endure the inconvenience of transient housing. (Right) The Red Bulls gathered their gear and were quickly processed before being escorted to their new accommodations. The newly-constructed Red Bull LSA allowed Soldiers with a Red Bull on their sleeve to forgo the typical transient housing period most Service members endure when arriving in country. Red Bull staff had their new arrivals in their new homes within hours of landing. The 34th ID will replace the 10th Mountain Division and assume command of Multi-National Division – South after a transfer of authority ceremony later this month.



THE Mountain View

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 41st Fires Brigade
 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
 793rd Military Police Battalion
 Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
 Task Force 449



54th Eng Bn receives DA award

WARRANT OFFICER TAUREAN WASHINGTON
54TH ENG. BN.

FOB STRIKER – The Forward Support Company, 54th Engineer Battalion of United States Army Europe carved a new permanence into the battalion's

history, honor and culture while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom recently.

The company won the Department of the Army Maintenance Excellence Award in the Small Modified Table of Organization and Equipment category making it the first unit awarded while conducting combat or contingency operations in Army history.

"This is a proud day for the company and the battalion," said Lt. Col. Christopher Lestochi, 54th Engineer Battalion commander. "Not only is this an exceptional achievement by the Soldiers of FSC, this shows how we can sustain readiness in combat through their extraordinary maintenance efforts."

The newly formed FSC brought the concept of maintenance, as it exists today, to the battalion's mission, including two-level maintenance, communications and electronic equipment maintenance, allied trades, distribution and security capabilities. Additional lo-

gistical and security expertise allowed the battalion to integrate external units more skillfully. The Task Force is currently comprised of Air Force, Navy Seabees, and Active, Reserve and National Guard Army Engineers.

When the company arrived in Iraq, its leadership identified weaknesses and took steps to transform those shortcomings into strengths. The unit leadership has also identified several MTOE omissions and is in the process of adding capabilities of materials handling and small arms sustainment maintenance.

An in-depth inspection and review was preformed for a variety of sections including maintenance, supply, arms room and operational platoons. The inspections covered their standard operating procedures, serviceability of equipment, entirety of records, regulatory compliance, security measures and safety. The inspection was so thorough Sgt. John Carter, the Standard Army Maintenance System - 1 Enhanced

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Courtesy photos
(Top left) Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth E. Foster, RC Ordnance Warrant Officer Proponent Manager inspects the M-4 of Sgt. Robert Tulensru of, Forward Support Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, automated logistical specialist, from Kosrae, Federal States of Micronesia.
(Bottom left) Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth E. Foster, RC Ordnance Warrant Officer Proponent Manager and 1st Sgt. Leon J. Chovan, 416th Engineer commander evaluate tool room procedures of Cpl. Jason Hill, Forward Support Company, 54th Engineer Battalion light-wheeled vehicle mechanic from San Antonio, Texas.

AWARD

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noncommissioned officer-in-charge said, "I thought I was going through a promotion board."

The company began the competition process alongside its sister company, Headquarters Support Company in October 2008. This is the first time USAREUR selected two companies in the same battalion as semi-finalists. From there, they advanced to the Department of the Army. The sister companies became the first in history to be evaluated at the DA level for the competition in a combat zone.

At the DA level Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth E. Foster, RC Ordnance Warrant Officer Proponent Manager and 1st Sgt. Leon J. Chovan, 416th Engineer commander were selected by the United States Army Ordnance Center and School to evaluate the companies. The two companies were well matched against one another, but FSC's comprehensive maintenance, drivers training programs, unit pride and discipline were underlying reasons for its success.

"In addition to focusing on what we do every day, this has brought us all together as a team to achieve a common goal," said Capt. Penny Bloedel, FSC commander.

The Forward Support Company, 54th Engineer Battalion continues on, competing for the Secretary of Defense Phoenix Maintenance Award representing one of only two Army units in the small category from all Army proponents.

Red Bull promoted to Lt. Col.



Photo by Pfc. Tyler Maulding

Recently promoted Lt. Col. Stefanie Horvath, assistant chief of staff, G-6, 34th Infantry Division, is congratulated by Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, Commanding General, 34th Inf. Div.

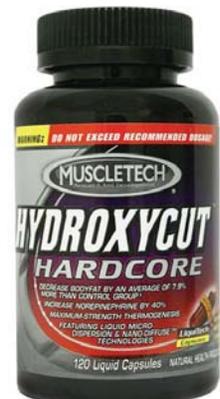
FDA: stop using Hydroxycut

U.S. government health officials warned dieters and body builders Friday to immediately stop using the Canadian-made supplement Hydroxycut which has been linked to cases of serious liver damage and at least one death.

The Food and Drug Administration said the maker of the dietary supplement has agreed to recall 14 Hydroxycut products. Available in grocery stores, pharmacies and Post Exchanges, Hydroxycut is advertised as made from natural ingredients.

The FDA's food and nutrition division has received 23 reports of liver problems, including the death of a 19-year-old boy.

Other patients experienced symptoms ranging from jaundice, or yellowing of the skin, to liver failure. One received a transplant and another was placed on a list to await a new liver.



Headline Round-up

World News:

Like a patient suffering from a particularly tenacious case of, well, the flu, the H1N1 virus seemed to gain ground and lose it over the weekend, leaving health officials still cautious, but hopeful that the disease might be on the wane. The number of confirmed infections continues to rise, with the World Health Organization reporting 898 infections in 18 countries as of Sunday, and the Centers for Disease Control tallying 226 confirmed cases in 30 states. But there have still been no deaths and few serious cases reported outside Mexico - and even there, in the epicenter of the H1N1 outbreak, officials reported that the spread has slowed, indicating that the initial outbreak that so alarmed world health officials might not have been as serious as first feared.

U.S. News:

PORTLAND, Oregon - First-quarter earnings so far from across the market are coming in better than expected — largely as a result of a very low bar. The results have some people now uttering economic buzzwords like “deceleration,” “signs of recovery,” “the bottom” and the very precise “less bad”. More than half the companies in the S&P 500 have reported their first-quarter results. Of those, 65 percent beat analyst expectations. But overall, results were still down roughly 30 percent from a year ago. “It’s bad — but it’s not as bad as we thought,” said Bob Doll, global chief investment officer for equities at investment manager BlackRock.

Sports News:

IRVING, Texas - A Dallas Cowboys scouting assistant was permanently paralyzed from the waist down after his spine was severed during the collapse of the team’s tent-like practice structure in a severe storm. The team announced Rich Behm was in stable condition at Parkland Hospital on Sunday after surgery to stabilize a fracture to the thoracic spine. The 33-year-old Behm was among a dozen people hurt in the accident Saturday, and was one of three Cowboys staffers who remained hospitalized. Joe DeCamillis, 43, the team’s special teams coach, sustained a fracture of one of his cervical vertebrae without paralysis. He was in stable condition and scheduled for surgery Monday. Assistant athletic trainer Greg Gaither, 35, had surgery Saturday night to repair a fracture to the tibia and fibula in his right leg. He is expected to be released from the hospital later this week.

Quote of the Day

“I do not fear computers. I fear the lack of them.” – Isaac Asimov

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			1	4				8
u		9				3	2	

For the answer to today’s puzzle, go to:



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Finance

Monday - Saturday
Open: 9 - 11:30 a.m.,
1:30 - 4 p.m.
Sunday
Open: 1 - 4 p.m.

DFAC 1 Worship

Sunday
Roman Catholic Mass, UK
led @ 9:30 a.m.
General Protestant @ 11 a.m.
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter Day Saint @ 2 p.m.
General Protestant @
6:30 p.m.

DFAC 3 Worship

Sunday
Gospel Worship @ 2 p.m.

DFAC 4 Worship

Monday - Saturday
Daily Mass @ 8 p.m.
Sunday
Protestant Contemporary
Worship @ 10 a.m.
Holy communion, Protestant
(UK) @ 11:30 a.m.
Roman Catholic Mass, UK
led @ 8:30 p.m.

MWR Stage

May 16
Basra Idol @ 6 p.m. To
audition contact CW2
Meeks at 858-4526 or email
robert.l.meeks@iraq.centcom.
mil