

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

December 14, 2009

Serving our troops a great success

“Serving our troops is a very special and unique way to give these families a chance to share a delicious meal together that happens to feature an amazing steak.”

- Pat Harris
Saint Paul City

Council Member / Organizational Co-founder



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Soldiers enjoy made-to-order steaks, grilled by members of the organization Serving Our Troops, at Contingency Operating Base Basra during an event designed to bring Soldiers and their families together and thank them for their support and service, Dec 12.

By SSG Chris Carney
367th MPAD



COB BASRA – A taste of home was served up “Saint Paul” style, Dec. 12, as members of the Minnesota-based Serving Our Troops organization catered to Soldiers at COB Basra, Iraq, and Camp Buering, Kuwait, as well as family members who gathered at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St Paul, Minn., all connected via a live video link. Local chefs, who flew into Kuwait two days ago, grilled and served more than 6,500, quality 12-ounce steaks – also delivered for the special meal – to members of the 34th Infantry Division. More importantly, the occasion allowed everyone involved a chance to connect with family 6,000 miles away.

“This was the highlight of my day,”

said Master Sgt. Jeff Vaske, Roseville, Minn., 34th Inf. Div., Senior Eng. NCO.

Occasionally, days can get redundant, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffry Taylor, Bryton, Minn., tactical command post, 34th Inf. Div.

“But, today was awesome,” he said.

The event entitled “Saint Paul to Iraq and Kuwait” is the seventh project for the non-profit group since 2004 they have served over 40,000 steaks in their history, but this was the largest staging yet.

“Each mission is more complex and more expensive and we continue to reach out to businesses and the entire community for donations and support to make it happen,” said Pat Harris,



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

Dan O’Gara, owner of O’Gara’s Bar and Grill in St. Paul, Minn. grills steaks and chats with Lt. Col. Thomas Sonnen, Deputy of the G7 here on Contingency Operating Base Basra.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

The Redbull Riders, 34th Infantry Division band’s country group, performs at the dining facility for Soldiers during dinner.



Photo by Spc. Stephanie Cassinos

Members of the National Guard, including Maj. Gen. Rick Nash (fourth from left), commander 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division and Multi-National Division South, celebrate the National Guard's 373rd birthday, Dec. 13, with the ceremonial cutting of cake with a sword in Baghdad, Iraq. More than 50,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen serve in Iraq and Afghanistan.

National Guard celebrates 373rd birthday

By Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence
34th Red Bull Infantry Division PAO



COB BASRA – On Dec. 13, the National Guard celebrated its 373rd birthday. The National Guard traces its birth to 1636, due, in part, to a middle-aged Puritan merchant named John Oldham.

On July 20, 1636, Oldham was mur-

dered aboard his ship near Block Island in New England. His death, allegedly at the hands of the Pequot Indians, enraged the citizens of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and led to the ignominious Pequot War. At the end of the year, the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony organized the colony's militia into North, South and East Regiments.

These three regiments still exist in the Massachusetts National Guard. Not only are they the oldest units in the National Guard, they are the oldest continuously-serving units in the United States Army, and among the oldest units in any army in the world.

BIRTHDAY
Page 6

THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office



Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Rick Nash



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin

Editorial Staff

The Red Bull Report is an authorized publication for members of MND-S. Contents of *The Red Bull Report* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 34th Infantry Division. All editorial content of *The Red Bull Report* is prepared, edited provided and approved by the 34th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office.

34th Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Kevin Olson
OIC, Command Information: 1st Lt. Shamika Hill
NCOIC, Command Information: 1st Sgt. David Bennett
NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Chris Carney
Managing Editor: Sgt. Ben Kibbey
Graphics Designer: Sgt. Francis Horton
Layout/Design: Spc. Francesca Stanchi
Staff Writers: Sgt. Francis Horton, Spc. Sam Soza,
Spc. Samantha Johnson, Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

Contributing Units

- 3rd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division
- 17th Fires Brigade
- 4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
- 28th Combat Aviation Brigade
- 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Media Queries please contact 34th Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office at MND-S_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

From Page 1
TROOPS

Saint Paul City Council member and organizational co-founder.

“Serving Our Troops is a very special and unique way to give these families a chance to share a delicious meal together that happens to feature an amazing steak,” he said.

Normally catering to members of the Minnesota National Guard, Harris was proud to be at COB Basra where the 34th Infantry Division “Red Bulls,” from Minnesota, are stationed while in command of Multi-National Division South. Additionally, those involved savored the chance to feed Soldiers from outside of Minnesota who are stationed at COB Basra.

“It’s a point of Minnesota pride to be able to serve everyone,” said Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, commander of MND-S. “They provided 5,500 steaks to Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airman, and civilians from all over.”

The Serving Our Troops volunteers in Basra, who included local business owners, were joined by representatives of the Saint Paul Police Federation, the Minnesota Vikings, the golf event Tee It Up for the Troops, and “Superstar” Mike Morris from KFAN radio.

The live video feed and the chance for service members to use Skype - a video conferencing software - to speak to and be seen by, loved ones, were the highlights of the dining experience.

Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Maj. Gen. Larry Shellito, Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General, were among the speakers who addressed the troops from Minnesota.

At one point, a birthday cake appeared on the screen with lit candles and the words “Happy 22nd Birthday Spc. Ramos.”

With much cheering from the crowd, Spc. Michael Ramos, Stacy, Minn., an entry control point team member with the 34th Military Police Company, walked up to the screen and simulated blowing out the candles from the other side of the globe.

He was then treated to a rousing performance of “Happy Birthday” from his fellow Soldiers.

For more of SSG. Carney’s stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Carney



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

1st Lt. Adam Ingalasbe from Burnsville, Minn. HHC 34th Division Special Troops Battalion is promoted by Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, Commanding General of the 34th Inf. Div. Ingalasbe was promoted while his family watched online using skype during Serving Our Troops



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Brian Leighton, native of New Brighton, Minn., singer with the G.B. Leighton Band, performs for the Soldiers.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza
Coals are prepared for cooking steak by the hands of Serving Our Troops members.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

A Soldier enjoys a rare steak dinner. Definitely a rare treat on COB Basra.



Photo by Spc. Soza
Charcoal fueled the fires.



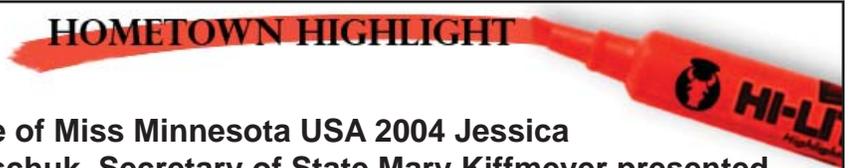
Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

34th Infantry Division Soldiers autograph a sign in appreciation of the support their families, friends, and employers offer throughout their deployment.

More Support the Troops highlights inside

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Home of Miss Minnesota USA 2004 Jessica Dereschuk. Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer presented a gubernatorial proclamation declaring Dec. 20 Jessica Dereschuk Day in Minnesota for her hard work inspiring young voter participation.



Tee It Up for the Troops

By SSG Chris Carney
367th MPAD



COB Basra – Tee It Up for the Troops held a chipping competition Dec. 12, during the day-long events leading up to the Serving Our Troops steak dinner and video conference at Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Founder and president, James “J.B.” Ball, was on hand to give out prizes to the winners before donning an apron and helping with the cooking.

Tee It Up for the Troops is a non-profit organization whose goal is to honor and recognize the needs of all veterans who have served the nation.

“It’s a simple way of saying thank you,” Ball said.

The nationwide program gives donations to over 40 different charities that help support the fallen and disabled members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The winner, Maj. Paul Sarver, Multi-National Division South deputy provost marshal, was awarded with a weekend at the Saint Paul Hotel, St. Paul, Minn., and gift certificates to area restaurants.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

Cpt. John Donovan, Chief of the Basra Visitors Bureau presents a plaque to James Ball in recognition for the support Tee it up for the Troops has given to the 34th Inf. Div.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

Maj. Paul Sarver, MND-S deputy provost marshal chips a golf ball while competing in the “Tee it Up for the Troops” contest.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

The winners of the “Tee it Up for the Troops” event pose with John Ball, the president of the charity. First place went to Maj. Paul Sarver (Center), second to 1st Lt. Ron Jarvi (left), and third to 1st Lt. Michael Thompson.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

Sgt. Gary Seal, an Operations Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, attempts to win points chipping a golf ball at the “Tee it up for the Troops” event.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

Lt. Col Thomas Sonnen, 34th Inf. Div. Deputy G7, gauges his shot at the “Tee it up for the Troops” event on Contingency Operating Base Basra.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Oakes, 1st of the 130th Attack Recon Battalion, native of Graham, N.C., talks to Mike Morris after finishing first in the lightweight class during the bench press contest. Oakes, weighing in at 155 pounds, won with a finishing lift of 265 pounds.

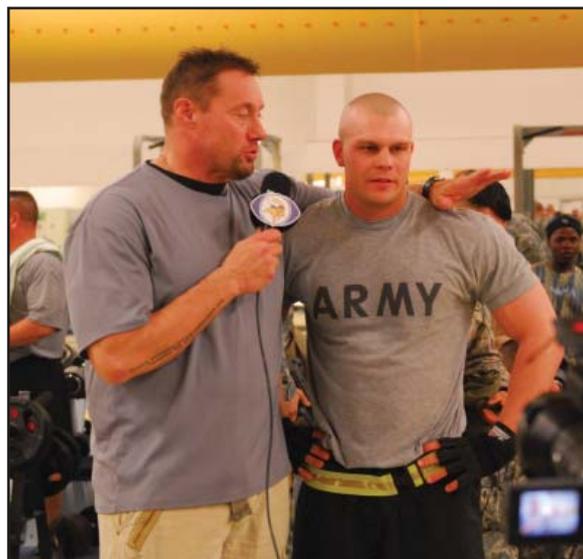


Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Cpl. Brian Fleming, of Orlando, Fla., 810th Military Police Company, finished first in the heavy weight class in the bench press contest, at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Dec. 12. Fleming, weighing 225 lbs, won with a final lift of 365 pounds.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Soldiers watch a contestant during the bench press contest held at the main gym on Contingency Operating Base Basra. Former Minnesota Vikings player turned radio host, Mike Morris, hosted the event.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

"The Superstar" Mike Morris broadcasts from Contingency Operating Base Basra to the morning radio show he hosts in Minneapolis, Minn. Morris hosts the Power Trip Morning Show on KFAN.

Weight Lifting with the "SuperStar"

COB BASRA – The "Superstar" Mike Morris, KFAN 1130's Power Trip Morning Show host took time to judge a weightlifting competition at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Dec 12.

Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Oakes, Graham, N.C., "A" Com. 1-130 Attack Rec. Batt., took the honors for the 177 lb and below class with a bench press of 265 lbs.

In the 178 lb and above group Cpl. Brian Fleming, Orlando, Fla., 810th MP Com., rose to the top with a bench of 365 lbs.

The competition was part of events leading up to the Serving Our Troops festivities help the same day.

Morris broadcast his Power Trip Morning Show live from Iraq Dec. 11 and is hosting a 34th Inf. Div. Minnesota Vikings viewing party during the Vikings vs. Bengals game Dec. 13.

The viewing party is linked live to the KFAN broadcast from the Metrodome.



Mike Morris, former Minnesota Vikings football player turned radio show host, lifts 365 pounds at the end of the bench press contest. Morris hosted the contest while visiting deployed troops from the 34th Infantry Division, based out of Rosemount, Minn.

Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

From Page 2
BIRTHDAY

Since the National Guard’s beginning 373 years ago, entire empires have risen and fallen, entire philosophies have waxed and waned, and yet throughout, the Guard has stood ready.

Since 1636, America has grown from a hardscrabble colony to a provincial giant to a world-spanning superpower, and its National Guard has fought in every one of its major wars along the way.

The National Guard has seen 126 of its members awarded the Medal of Honor, and countless others have served with distinction upon America’s battlefields. And since 9/11, the National Guard’s combat obligation has expanded, at times comprising over two-sevenths of total U.S. forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, commander of the 34th “Red Bull” Infantry Division, a Minnesota National Guard unit, said the more than 50,000 Soldiers and Airmen serving in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrate America’s values honorably.

“America can be proud of its National Guard completing each mission with honor and success, responding to the nation’s call again on its 373rd birthday as it’s deployed around the world,” Nash said.

In addition to their role as the nation’s reserve defense, members of the Guard serve as defenders of the homeland and protectors of the state, in case of disasters like 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina.

By historical measures, the year 1636 was not a good year. The Thirty Years’ War was once again tearing apart the kingdoms of Europe, the King of Denmark was forcing beggars to work in the galleys, and Japan’s military dictator, the shogun, was hastening that country’s descent into isolation by forbidding his citizens from ever leaving the island.

But of all the legacies of 1636, the National Guard has endured while monarchies and fiefdoms have not.

Happy birthday, National Guard.

For more of Pfc. Lawrence’s stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Lawrence



Word Search:

ICE CREAM

O I H C A T S I P B B N K N A O
 O R L V C N A I L T A T Y N O U
 C H E A A Y A U A T M U R O L C
 V H C C E N E C I U T N R M A T
 U R O A I B I L E U L L E A L K
 P O C C E R O L N P B A H N M U
 A C N R O P O L L A R W C N O L
 L K R I A L E C N A U E E I N O
 B Y U E E Z A A I E R L T C D R
 I R N T A C N T E L O P E T L K
 N O U H E A K C E I B A B A U B
 A A T A P U M P K I N M A K B B
 A D S T R A W B E R R Y T Z R N
 O T H G U O D E I K O O C H H C

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ALMOND | LICORICE |
| BANANA | MAPLE WALNUT |
| BLUEBERRY | NEAPOLITAN |
| BUTTER PECAN | PEACH |
| CHERRY | PISTACHIO |
| CHOCOLATE | PUMPKIN |
| CINNAMON | ROCKY ROAD |
| COOKIE DOUGH | STRAWBERRY |
| HAZELNUT | VANILLA |

For puzzle solutions, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/PuzzleSolutions

Red Bull Radio
PODCAST
405th CA
TOA
www.TheRedBulls.org/podcast

The Basra Beat

WEST POINT WANTS YOU!
*CADETS
*INSTRUCTORS
INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG/EDUCATION

TAEKWONDO
SELF-CONFIDENCE. FLEXIBILITY.
BALANCE. STRENGTH. HEALTH.
tuesdays
8 p.m.
main gym
Questions?
Contact 1LT Ron Jarvil
ronald.jarvil@iraq.centcom.mil

Funk Aerobics
Weds. & Fri.
6 - 7 p.m.
Main Gym, Ab room
Instructor: Staff Sgt. Paul Gidding

USO hours
"A touch of home"
sidewalk cafe
guitar hero/rockband room
xbox/playstation "battle stations"
theater
phones/internet
high-def tv
new movie titles
open daily
10 am till
6 am
Located in the main gym

GOSPEL CHOIR EXTRAVAGANZA
COME ONE
DEC. 18
COME ALL
1900-2100

Note to Self:
Main Gym
open 24/7!

Soldiers/Hunters:
Click here or visit
www.TheRedBulls.org/events
for information about
an all expense-paid
pheasant hunting trip!

Around the world in 34 seconds

WORLD BHUBANESWAR, India - India successfully tested a nuclear-capable ship-based ballistic missile on Sunday off its eastern coast, a defense official said. The Dhanush (meaning "bow") missile was fired at 11.31 a.m. local time (0601 GMT) from naval ship INS Shubhadra off the Chandipur coast in Orissa state, S. P. Dash, the director of the test range, told Reuters. The surface-to-surface missile, which was developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization, is a naval variant of the Prithvi ("earth") missile built as a part of India's ambitious integrated guided missile development program. Dhanush has a strike range up to 350 km and a payload of up to one ton, Dash said. "It has met all the mission objectives. It was a text book launch," Dash said.

U.S. WASHINGTON - The Obama administration has focused on an Illinois prison as it searches for a facility to house terrorism suspects now at Guantanamo Bay, but has not made a final decision, Illinois officials said on Friday. Democratic Senator Dick Durbin and Governor Pat Quinn said they had "learned of a draft internal Obama administration memo" they said signals the government has focused on buying the Thomson Correctional Center in rural Illinois. A portion of the prison would be used to house detainees from the controversial naval detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which was opened in 2002 to house terrorism suspects after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. "We are told that the administration has not made its final decision, but that such draft memoranda authorizing federal officials to begin the next steps in an acquisition process such as this are routine," Durbin and Quinn said in a statement. White House officials were not immediately available for comment.

SPORTS NEW YORK - Running back Mark Ingram of top-ranked University of Alabama won the Heisman Trophy for the best college football player on Saturday in the closest vote ever for the award. "I'm just so excited to bring Alabama their first Heisman winner," an emotional Ingram told a national television audience after finishing 28 points ahead of running back Toby Gerhart of Stanford University. University of Texas quarterback Colt McCoy, University of Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh and University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, the 2007 winner, completed the top five.

ODD BERLIN - German police arrested a man who claimed to be a "secret agent" after a high speed chase in pursuit of a car with a blue flashing light on its roof. Police in the southern city of Fuerth caught up with the man after he raced past them, ignored signals to pull over, and ran a red light as they gave chase. Smelling strongly of alcohol, the 44-year-old whispered only that he was "one of them," on a secret mission and belonged to the Federal Crime Office -- a body similar to the FBI -- local police said. A check revealed he had no such credentials. "After matters were taken care of, the would-be 'Mr. Bond' was again released," police said in a statement on Thursday. A local police spokesman said the man in reality had "a normal job" and declined to explain his nighttime sortie. He faces charges for a variety of driving offences.