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# RED BULL EXPRESS

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## 1/34th BCT Takes the Bull by the Horns

From the infantryman conducting patrols, to the field artilleryman launching rounds, in the Army it takes nearly a dozen combat supporting roles to keep a combat soldier, fed, paid, supported, sheltered and healthy.

In an Army Brigade, a headquarters company usually is where these important mission supporting functions for the subordinate battalions are managed. Everything from legal actions, human resource requirements and medical assistance, overseeing operations is handled by these military men and women in mission essential roles, which keeps a unit going.

Recently, the outgoing brigade headquarters company from the New Hampshire National Guard, 197<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigades (197<sup>th</sup> FiB) conducted a Transfer of Authority Ceremony with the incoming brigade headquarters company from the Minnesota National Guard, 1st Brigade Combat Team 34th Infantry Division (1/34<sup>th</sup> BCT) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

“We are about to participate in a simple ceremony, but one of great significance,” said Chaplain (Maj.) Steven Venoitte, chaplain for the 197<sup>th</sup> FiB during the invocation at the ceremony, “From the casing and uncasing of colors, it signifies something far greater than the simple actions that occur. For the 197<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade, this signifies our mission completion and now we can focus on the long waited road home with pride in a job well done.”

Having deployed before in Iraq from 2004 to 2005 supporting base security and convoy escorts, the 197<sup>th</sup> FiB has played a critical part again in supporting the security and mission in the region.

“Your time here, many of you have grown closer, part of a family,” Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd, 1<sup>st</sup> Theater Sustainment Command Commanding General, “You have become a part of the TSC family, nothing makes me prouder.”

“I want to say thanks to the Granite Thunder Brigade, you have accomplished a tremendous amount. You accomplished a critical role in theater operations,” said Maj. Gen. Dowd.

For the outgoing unit, transitioning from citizen-to-soldier was a lengthy process, some who were preparing for three years. Shortly, the entire unit will return stateside and prepare to integrate themselves back into their communities and neighborhood.

“Despite never having fired rocket or round of artillery, the 197<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade will be forever proud to say we have served as part of 1<sup>st</sup> Team,” Col. Peter Corey, commander of the 197<sup>th</sup> FiB, “The missions were meaningful to the theater and the nation and the sense of camaraderie of the one army concept were recognized and greatly appreciated.”

For some of the soldiers of the 197<sup>th</sup> FiB, the deployment was a time of professional and personal development. Spc. Joe Vicinanza, paralegal specialist, will be starting law school in the spring. He explained how he learned a lot about how to juggle multiple responsibilities and felt he got a head start for his law career during his tour.

“I am proud of how much I learned,” said Vicinanza and native of Concord, N.H. “I definitely learned time management and how to ‘lean forward’

to get things done and to be proactive”

The enlisted and officers of the 1/34<sup>th</sup> BCT are now officially in charge of mission. All who have been training for since the beginning of the summer for their deployment to Kuwait.

“You will find this brigade ready, willing and able,” said Col. Eric Kerska, commander of the 1/34<sup>th</sup> BCT. “To the Red Bull soldiers, you have trained very hard for this moment for a very long time. You are ready as any team will be.”

The soldiers of the 1/34<sup>th</sup> BCT are now officially in the seat and have taken over the mission from the 197<sup>th</sup> FiB. Spc. Tim Connolly worked with Vicinanza during the transferring of responsibilities in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the headquarters company. Connolly, a new recruit, deployed within a year of completing the Army’s advance individual training for paralegal specialist and also plans on attending a law related college after his return.

“They did all that they could to make it a smooth transition,” said Connolly, a native from St. Louis Park, Minn. “I am excited to do my job on full time, ‘active-duty’ basis. I think the deployment will help me with college. Working with the military lawyers, who are also civilian lawyers, will help teach me with their experiences on both the military and civilian side. It will better prepare me for my career.”

The soldiers from the 197<sup>th</sup> FiB are expected to return stateside by the end of the month and the soldiers from the 1/34<sup>th</sup> BCT are expected to stay in theater until early summer of 2012.

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CAPTION:  
2nd Lt. Ryan Zinkle, an infantry platoon leader in C. Co. 2-135 Infantry from Prairie du Sac, Wisc., puts out a controlled fire during fire warden training at northern Kuwait Forward Operating Base.

1st BCT can be followed on:



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# THE RED BULL EXPRESS

1st Brigade Combat Team  
34th Red Bull Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office

Commanding Officer  
COL Eric D Kerska

Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Herr

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1/34th Brigade Special Troops Battalion  
1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor  
1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry  
2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry

## To the Soldiers of the 1/34 BCT,

The transfer of authority is complete and the mission is now squarely on our shoulders. As a brigade, our mission is complex and our responsibilities are many. All of us have worked and prepared for this moment for more than two years. It is now our chance to show the Army and the Nation what this brigade is made of.



Most of you feel safe here in Kuwait. While many of our soldiers operate inside Iraq every day where the danger is obvious, most of us do not. Do not allow yourselves to be lulled into complacency. What we do as soldiers is inherently dangerous, whether driving out on the road, clearing weapons, working around electricity or walking alone at night. Take care of the soldier to your left and right. Be sure to remind each other to use the proper safety equipment. Take a battle buddy with you wherever you go. Check each other and encourage each other.

A deployment can be a lonely place, even with so many people around you. Don't allow yourselves to withdraw emotionally where negative thoughts can overwhelm you. Build your team, be inclusive and pull others out of their shells. The mission is changing and many of you are taking over new missions where equipment and training is still to come. Be patient and strive to improve what you can and recognize that some of this will take time to develop. As the new security missions develop, you are setting the stage for units in the future.

The brigade's mission is not glamorous, but it is vital to the war effort. Someone must provide the security for the units as they leave to go home. That is our job. Take that job seriously as we provide force protection for bases, for busses, and for convoys. The enemy is always watching and waiting for you to let down your guard. Ask yourself what you can do today to make life for another just a little bit better and a lot more safe.

The patch on your sleeve means something to everyone around you, including your families back home, and they will be quick to judge us all based on our actions or inactions. You only have one chance to make a first impression. Uphold the honor of your regiments. Do the hard right, and remain calm.

**First to Attack!**



Recently, the outgoing headquarters company from the New Hampshire National Guard, 197<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigades (197<sup>th</sup> FiB) conducted a Transfer of Authority Ceremony with the incoming headquarters company from the Minnesota National Guard, 1st Brigade Combat Team 34th Infantry Division (1/34<sup>th</sup> BCT) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

# Hear the Herr

To all the Soldiers of the 1/34 HBCT, the TOA for the Brigade has passed and we now own the mission this also means that we own the bad along with the good. From what I have seen and the feedback from higher head quarters you are all doing a fantastic job and continue to make me and our citizens of Minnesota proud of the "Red Bulls".

I encourage all Soldiers of this brigade to not only continue to excel in their job performance but to also look at creating goals for yourself. We are here for a while you can accomplish a lot in the next 9 months. I would like to remind Soldiers needing NCOES courses that Structured Self Development (SSD) is now required for entry into most NCOES courses.

Your Sergeants Major and ISGs should have the information for this. Enroll now and get ahead of the game. Now is the perfect time to position yourselves for promotion in the future and get ahead of your peers back home. I encourage personal goals also whether they are large or small.

Sign up for distant learning courses, college, loose a few pounds or get in better shape. You are only limited by your own imagination. This is also an opportune time to save some money and position yourselves to get a better job or a new job once we get back. When I was deployed to Bosnia in 2003-2004 I had no job to come home to. I looked for jobs on line and kept in contact with those people back home that could also keep their eyes open for me. I found a job opening and applied while in theater and when I returned home I landed the job. Needless to say the economy back home is difficult. Now is the time to improve your marketability and look for those jobs. It may not seem like it now but there will be a life after deployment and we all need to prepare for that life in every way possible.

Do not forget your loved ones back home. They miss you and let's be honest they are carrying a great burden. They are performing tasks that you may have been doing while home along with what they did before. This puts great pressure on wives and husbands especially ones with children. As Soldiers we tend to become focused on what we are doing here and have a tendency to lose regular contact with them. Even in this age of email and Skype we forget or put off communication. They want to hear from you. In fact they need to hear from you. Let your spouse or significant other vent. Do not try and fix their problems from here you can only point them in the right direction or give advice as a general rule. The FRGs and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon groups are poised to help families along with many other organizations at home including your Armories so help them help themselves. This will allow you to stay focused on your mission and not lose sleep at night wondering how they are coping with life's day to day challenges.

I have also put together some basic living requirements for living areas throughout the Brigade and have listed them here. We are Soldiers and we must stay disciplined even when it easy not to. I expect your living areas to be neat and relatively organized with the limited amount of space you have. This will help prevent theft and sickness from degrading our ability to perform our mission. NCOs are charged with maintaining these requirements.

You are all great Soldiers and the commander and I expect nothing but great things from you all.

## First to Attack!

CSM Paul E Herr.



# Living Area Requirements for Soldiers with in the 1/34 BCT

Overall living areas are expected to be neat, clean and secure.

Bunks will be neat looking every day. That means the covers are not just pitched to the side when you wake up and left that way.

No clutter:

This means everything in a place, dress right dress, not where you like, including footwear. Clothing is put away or in a laundry bag. The only things allowed to hang around are drying PT clothes and towels and these items are to be on a hanger or hook.

No opening will be less than 3 ft. wide to enter and exit a living area.

No food left open or just laying around. It must be inside a locker, tote, Fridge, etc... When living areas are not occupied curtains will be left open. Refrigerators will be clean and well maintained. No uncovered food will be kept in the barracks.

Floors will be swept and mopped daily. Where there are carpets they will be cleaned and free of debris. Badly stained or frayed carpets will be discarded.

Highly pilferable items (items having a ready resale value or application to personal possession, which are especially subject to theft,) will be secured with a lock or in a locked container like a foot locker or wall locker. Theft is common in billeting and the harder the target the less likely we will be subject to it. Examples of highly pilferable items include but are not limited to; laptop computers, watches, iPods, iPads, cell phones, credit cards, wallets, CAC cards, cameras, money, checkbooks, etc...

All living areas will be marked with the names of the individuals that occupy them and their respective sections S-1, S-2, S-3 etc... Wall lockers, totes and any locked containers found in the living areas will be marked with the last name and rank of the individuals that own them. This includes refrigerators.

Great moments are born from great opportunities. That's what you have here in Kuwait, warriors. That's what you earned here in Kuwait, by virtue of your commitment to your fellow soldiers, your families, and your country.

Although this deployment presents great challenges, it also presents great opportunities. Who you are at the end of this deployment is the sum total of the choices you make between now and then. While you're here, you have an opportunity every day to increase your personal resilience in five key areas:

**Physical:** You demonstrate physical fitness by the ability to meet the demands of any combat or duty position, accomplish the mission, and continue to fight and win. The opportunities for physical fitness during the deployment are unlimited and available to everyone. Need to quit smoking? You can do it here. Need to lose weight? You can do it here. Want to learn self-defense or yoga? You can do it here, all for free.

**Emotional:** If you're emotionally fit, you face life's challenges in a positive, optimistic way through self-control, stamina and balance. But what if you're struggling, stressed out, hopeless? All of the above? Take time to sit down with someone who is deployed for the specific purpose of providing you support. Did you know that there is a Resiliency Center in Zone 6? Get away from your PCB or Tent, sit in the quiet environment, read a book, sit in one of the massage chairs, or just take the pulse of your soul.

**Social fitness:** If you're socially fit, you maintain great relationships that are personally fulfilling. What does that look like? Good communication, and a comfortable exchange of ideas, views, and experiences. Movie theatre, video games, and MWR events are all easy ways to enhance this area.

**Family fitness:** Soldiers build family fitness by being part of a family unit that is safe, supportive and loving, and provides resources needed to live in a healthy and secure environment. While it's tough to do what when you're deployed, you can engage in United through Reading (Zone 6 Resiliency Center), Skype, regular phone calls, and smart planning for leave as a way to set yourself up for success when the deployment is over.

**Spiritual fitness:** Spiritually fit soldiers strengthen the beliefs, principles and values that sustain them beyond family, institutional, and societal sources of strength. Worship and study opportunities are available in both Zone 1 and Zone 6 nearly every day of the week. In addition, call on your Unit Ministry Team for confidential counsel or spiritual assistance.

Don't just survive deployment, thrive through this deployment as a result of an intentional, meaningful approach to life!

~ Chaplain Buddy Winn, 1/34th BCT



Chaplain (MAJ) Buddy Winn

Financial Peace University starts on September 14th at the Zone 6 Chapel at 7 pm at Camp Arifjan. Financial Peace University trains thousands of servicemembers every year with informative, video-driven lessons that have proven to be the difference-maker in building financial peace. Participants are empowered to get their finances under control as Financial Peace University addresses all areas of personal finance including budgeting, paying off debt, giving, saving for emergencies, and building wealth for retirement.

Financial Peace University provides the security of a sound financial plan during all phases of the Deployment Cycle. Results in an average attendee pay-off of \$5,300 in debt and personal savings of \$2,700, just during the course. Financial Peace University offers military bonus material on topics like the Thrift Savings Plan, the G.I. Bill, and the SGLI, and Survivor Benefits.

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information!

# From the Red Bull Safety Office



Vehicle accidents in Kuwait have killed 17 US Soldiers and many more non-Army Servicemembers and contractors since 2001. Take your "Admin" missions seriously: do PCCs/PCIs and mission briefs, wear seat belts, follow procedures, travel at a safe speed, and stay alert. This recent accident killed one contractor employee. (Photo provided by 2-135 IN)



# 2-135 IN Keeps Red Bulls Moving

Everyone sees the pictures of soldiers on patrol in Army vehicles but few people ever see the maintenance it takes to get the vehicles on the road. The maintenance section attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment (HHC 2-135 IN BN), is the cog that keeps the wheels turning in Kuwait for the rest of the battalion.

Ten soldiers divided in three shifts have the job of keeping the vehicles for a battalion ready to go at a moment's notice and to fix any problems that come up from driving in a harsh desert environment.

The heat affects more than the vehicles. Most of the routine maintenance is done at night due to the heat. Staff Sgt. Bryan Haley, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from North Branch, Minn., describes the routine.

"Our first shift focuses on the admin side of maintenance with the dispatches and turn in of vehicles, along with reminding units which vehicles are due for services," Haley explained.

"Second shift usually brings in the vehicles, gets everything set up and then starts on the basic maintenance after it cools down. This allows the third shift to spend their time turning wrenches in the cooler weather," Haley concluded.

The maintenance section has adapted to more than the weather. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Linskey, the maintenance section NCO from Hayfield, Minn., said "[i]t's been a good experience because we've been able to work with MRAP's and other vehicles that we don't have back home."

"Since we've spent most of the past two years training up on general soldier tasks we fell behind a bit on doing our actual MOS (military occupational specialty) of vehicle maintenance," Linskey noted.

National Guard units have to spend a lot of the drills and two-week annual training time prior to a deployment



Staff Sgt. Bryan Haley, (left) from North Branch, Minn., works with Sgt. Roger Viker (right) of Winona, Minn. to replace a generator. Both are wheeled vehicle mechanics in Kuwait attached to the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment.

proving to the Regular Army that they can defend themselves and attack an enemy along with doing their Army jobs.

Some soldiers have to expand their horizons even after their pre-deployment training due to the military's heavy use of civilian contractors. Spc. Michael Dougherty's experience is one example.

"My MOS is being a generator mechanic but the civilians do that where we are so I had to train on new tasks to make me feel more like part of the team," Dougherty said.

Spc. Dougherty continued, "I've been the TAMMS (The Army Maintenance Management System) operator because I got to go through Train the Trainer at Fort McCoy, Wisc. and got help from Sgt. 1st Class Linskey to get me up and running. Now I'm getting to use this in a real-world situation."

Despite transitioning from the colder weather of Minnesota to the heat of the Kuwaiti desert and working with equipment that is new to them, the HHC 2-135 IN BN Maintenance section is revved up and running at top speed.



Spc. Curtis Musolf, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from Dodge Center, Minn., guides a generator as it's lowered into position. Spc. Musolf is attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion 135th Infantry Regiment based in Mankato, Minnesota.

**Staff Sgt. Yaser Saleh Ishtaiwi ...** was born May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1966 in Talkarm-West Bank, Jordan. His father was an auto mechanic and his family lived well and life in Jordan was good.

“The price of living was cheap and the country was safe.” That all changed though after Iraq invaded Kuwait. Refugees flooded into the area causing a strain on resources and inflation. “The inflation affected everything. Land and food prices were especially bad.”

He had to cross between the West Bank which was under Israeli occupation to get to Amman, Jordan. He bought an airplane ticket and flew on air France to first Paris then Chicago. In Chicago things got a little tricky “I needed to get to Wisconsin. and I hadn’t arranged a ride.” He was lucky though that he found one of his friends was dropping someone off at the airport that day and was able to get a ride from them.

After talking to a few friends he decided to join the military. “I wanted to be a soldier. I wanted to prove to myself and others that I am a man that can make it in the army.” On March 26<sup>th</sup> 1992 he joined the Minnesota Army National Guard as a heavy equipment operator and was assigned to the 682<sup>nd</sup> Engineering Battalion. For six years he worked out of Roseville, Minn. until the



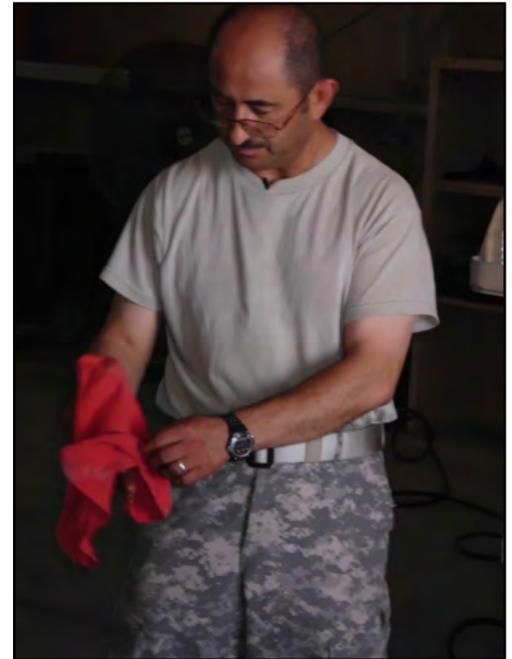
unit moved to Willmar, Minn. Eventually the commute started to become a hassle and he decided to switch to the 134<sup>th</sup> FSB in North Minneapolis.

As a Muslim in the military at that time they did not have a Muslim chapel service. “I was not able to attend Friday prayers during Annual trainings for the national guard and the only time I was able to do so was on the deployments.”

When Sgt. Ishtaiwi deployed to Iraq in 2005 he was original mechanic duties with his unit, but that changed after brigade found out he could speak fluent Arabic. He was transferred to brigade Headquarters’ where his tasks included translating contracts, being an interpreter for officers and other members of the populous, and translating local radio broadcasts to see how the locals were viewing American troops in the area.

After his deployment to Iraq he felt empowered to make the right decisions and act upon it. Yaser decided to start helping his community as much as he could. He started by tutoring kids in Math and Physics at some local schools and to some of the neighbor children who need help.

“My experiences in Iraq encouraged me to help our own citizens who need help.” Along with tutoring Ssg Ishtaiwi also enjoyed helping organize community activities and projects. One of these projects was to help open an Islamic center in Minneapolis for people of the Islamic faith that support what the United States does abroad and supports the



American troops that are serving overseas.

Currently Staff Sgt. Ishtaiwi is on his second tour overseas. “I volunteered to go.” He wanted to expand his horizons and test himself so he can become a better soldier and a better person. “I want to learn more and also pass the knowledge I already have to the younger soldiers.” Currently Staff Sgt. Ishtaiwi helps by managing the mechanics shop and in his spare time he helps tutor any soldier that is doing college on this deployment with math, physics or any other education they might need.

As this is his second time here he is finding it to be a great experience. “By joining the army it has giving me chances to come to countries I probably never would have visited in my civilian life.” Staff Sgt. Ishtaiwi is currently looking forward to a Moral Welfare Recreation event where he will go visit Kuwait City. “I am excited for the tour. I get to visit a new place I have been interested in and get to see how a different culture lives.”

MWR offered free camel rides to everyone on Camp Virginia. This popular attraction's waiting line only got larger and larger as the evening drew on. For most this was their very first experience riding a camel.

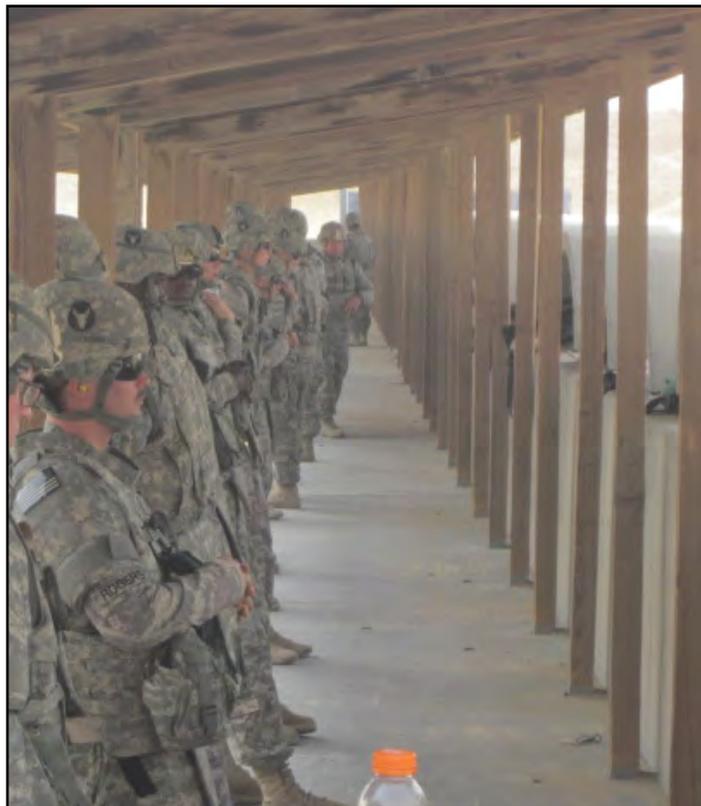


Some of the highlights of August included the Coast Guard's Birthday 5k Fun Run in which several complete squads from B co 1-194 participated in, regardless of the early time which was a staggering 5a.m. start from the finish line.



“While it was exhausting and pretty hot, it was fun to participate with so many across the different service branches and we got a free t-shirt,” commented Private 1st Class Tyler Nelson of Bravo Company 1-194 Combined Arms Battalion.

# 1-125 FA is Right on Mark in Kuwait



Soldiers from Charlie Battery Task Force 1-125 Field Artillery patiently awaited commands from range personnel while they conducted a M4 zero at Camp Arifjan on August 4th, 2011. C Battery arrived in theatre just a hand full of days prior.

“These concrete bunkers overhead are so loud, you need double ear protection! The sound doesn’t reverberate back home on our ranges but here it sounds like a bomb is going off every time I fire,” said 1st Sgt Danny D. Orand, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery.

This was the first time each Soldier has had to fire inside a concrete dome, known as a “tomb” which restricts the muzzle of the weapon from exiting the range limits.

As part of the Relief in Place and Transfer of Authority, each soldier from C Battery had to verify their M4 zero as a requirement upon entering the Army’s Central Command (ARCENT) area of responsibility. The M4 zero is just one item in a multitude of tasks that each Soldier is required to complete upon arrival in ARCENT.

When asked what the importance of this zero was, Capt. Nicolas P. Rice responded, “I think this exercise is a confidence builder for our Soldiers. I mean, they get one final chance to verify that their weapon is shooting where they want it to shoot after it has traveled 6880 miles to Kuwait from Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin.”

CAPTIONS: (above) Soldiers from C Battery, 1-125 FA, await instructions on the M4 zero range at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (bottom left) A Soldier from C Battery, 1-125 FA, aims down his sights at the M4 zero range at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (bottom right) A Soldier from C Battery, 1-125 FA, aims down his sights at the M4 zero range at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



# BSTB Helps the Home at Camp AJ

“I just got here and need somewhere to stay” said a soldier as they walked into the Camp Arifjan Zone 6 Billeting Office, wanting nothing more than to lay down after a long day of traveling.

The Camp Arifjan Zone 6 Billeting Office is the coordination point for units that are getting ready to go home after a long deployment and a place for units just beginning their mission in Kuwait to get a place to rest as they begin their mission.

While units are living in Zone 6, they are housed in a pre-constructed building (PCB) that consists of cement floors, cement walls and 2 large air conditioning systems that keep the building at a comfortable temperature. Inside the PCBs there are bunk beds to sleep on, wall lockers to store all the soldiers gear, and cable television through the Armed Forces Network (AFN).

In addition to welcoming new units and saying farewell to those who have completed their mission, billeting is responsible for keeping the tenants comfortable by replacing and repairing furniture such as wall lockers, bunk beds, and mattresses. With thousands of soldiers moving in and out every year, all the furniture goes through a lot of wear and tear and needs constant attention.

With the wide variety of tasks to be completed for the Zone 6 tenants, the Zone 6 Billeting Office stays busy. Every day is a new challenge and keeps all the members of the Zone 6 billeting team on their toes.



Spc. Brantley removes a mattress from tents that are no longer useable and replaces it with a new mattress for the next tenant.

## Contracting Office Representatives Take Care of Soldiers



Spc. Johnathan Card (left) and Sgt. Nikolaus Curley (right), COR, 1/34 Brigade Special Troops Battalion based in Bloomington, Minn., as they are getting ready to conduct weekly inspections to ensure compliance with the contracts within Zone 6 Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The five flags that mark the location of the Zone 6 Camp Command Cell are a well known landmark of the service members and employees of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, but very little is known of the Contracting Office Representative (COR) section, located in the Camp Command Cell.

The mission statement of the COR office is to “provide professional execu-

tion and thorough oversight on contracts in order to procure assets that will improve and sustain the quality of life in AJ Z6 [Arifjan Zone 6].”

COR officer-in-charge Maj. Martin Leppert and Capt. Carl Thunem, along with four enlisted COR technicians; man-

age several contracts in Zone 6. For example, KMS is under contract to clean shower and latrine facilities used by service members, maintain and empty dumpsters in Zone 6, and provide potable water to latrine areas. KMS also removes wastewater from these facilities.

Other contracts belong to Al-Qabandi whose employees maintain the cleanliness of Zone 6, and Aggreko which maintains the generator which provides Zone 6 electricity.

Maj. Leppert and Capt. Thunem also conduct market research on new and existing contracts. Possible future changes involve “actively improving the safety in Zone 6,” according to Capt. Thunem.

Sgt. 1st Class Paul J. Hoffmann supervises a small team of COR technicians who inspect the performance of the contractors to ensure standards defined within the contract are met. The COR tech’s inspections ensure clean, healthy, safe facilities for the service members of Zone 6, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

# Pride in the Red Bull Patch



All Soldiers assigned to the 34th Infantry Division (34th ID) wear the division patch on their left shoulder sleeve indicating they belong to the Red Bull Division. Only Soldiers who deployed with the units within the 34th ID wear the Red Bull patch on their right shoulder sleeve indicating war time service with this unit.

On August 7th, Officers and Soldiers assigned to the 134 Brigade Support Battalion, 1/34 Brigade Combat Team deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, stood in formations on Camp Virginia and the Army Life Support Area (LSA), Kuwait, while Lt Col. Brian Bobo, 134th BSB Commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Kampsen, 134th BSB Command Sgt. Major presented each individual with their combat patch during their respective Patch Ceremonies.

"I'm proud to be a part of this ceremony," said Command Sgt. Maj.

Kampsen, "Receiving the patch makes the Soldiers feel like they are an important part of this mission. They have amazed me from day one and I'm very happy for them."

Each individual was patched and

***"I'm proud to be a part of this ceremony," said CSM Kampsen***

shook hands with the Battalion Commander and Sergeant Major. "I felt proud," said Spc. Joseph Lecuyer. "It was historic for me."

Deployed Soldiers since World War II have carried on the tradition of a ceremony for the Army Combat Patch, now known as the Shoulder Sleeve

Insignia – Former War Time Service (SSI-FWTS). The Combat Patch is earned by those who deploy to a combat zone.

For many Soldiers and Officers in the battalion, this was not their first combat patch. For Sgt. 1st Class Nina Nesvold, this is her fifth deployment, "I had the same feelings I had at my first patch ceremony. I'm proud."

"This is my first patch," said Spc. Parker Donley, "it was cool that the Battalion Commander and the Command Sergeant Major patched us." Donley is like thirty percent of the battalion here, this is his first deployment.

This unit plays an important role in the drawdown of troops in Iraq. While this mission is very different from the unit's mission in 2005-2007, it plays a vital life support role to those Soldiers still in Iraq, preparing to redeploy home.





# *Have a Photo?*



Help us tell the story of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division to everyone!

If you have a photo that shows what you and your unit is up to, please send it to [Lynette.R.Hoke@us.army.mil](mailto:Lynette.R.Hoke@us.army.mil)

Look Out for Next Edition for Stories Like



On July 28th the 134 Brigade Support Battalion (134 BSB) Command Cell celebrated the Grand Opening of the new MFE (Mobile Food Exchange) on Camp Virginia. Camp Commander Lt. Col. Brian Bobo and Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) General Manager Barbara Travis cut the ribbon signifying the opening of the MFE.

“The 1-103rd did a great job getting the AAFES trailer on line and it will provide a big improvement for soldiers waiting in the gateway.” said Lt. Col. Bobo, “It will allow them to purchase items they need and aren’t able to go to the main post exchange for.”