

December 15, 2006

DESERT



BULLS



**TASK FORCE THUNDER ON THE JOB**

**SPOTLIGHT ON THE 1-125'S OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL IRAQ**



A Task Force THUNDER Soldier is greeted by World War II Veterans before deploying to Iraq in March, 2006. Photo by Chris West, [www.gxonline.com](http://www.gxonline.com)

## Five tips to get started now

# Reintegration

- 1. Realize reintegration takes effort.** Like any life event such as marriage, school, or buying a home, you get out of reintegration what you put into it. Plan your work. Work your plan.
- 2. Get in shape.** If you want to get in shape, lose a few pounds, or quit tobacco before you go home, now is the time to start. Trying to do it all during the transfer of authority isn't setting yourself up for success.
- 3. Commit to your battle buddy.** Share helpful information. Remind each other about tasks and dates such as taxes, insurance, and packing. Talk about concerns. Workout together.
- 4. Manage expectations.** As you probably learned while on R&R Leave, don't expect perfection. Don't make promises you can't keep later. Seek first to understand over being understood.
- 5. Get smart.** Use what you learned about yourself on this deployment. Go to the Redeployment page on [www.redbullweb.com](http://www.redbullweb.com). Encourage your family to do the same. The more they prepare, the easier it will be for you. Preparing together demonstrates commitment and caring.

For more information, log on to the "Redeployment" page at [www.redbullweb.com](http://www.redbullweb.com)



# Day in Red Bull history

13 FEB - 2 APR 1945

On the move in Italy between  
le Croci di Calenzano and Monzuno

MG Charles L. Bolte, commanding 34th Infantry Division, visited our company area near le Croci di Calenzano. During this break we were presented the 100% Combat Infantry Streamer. LT Eudell O'Brien, T/SGTs George Jindra and Rex L. Hall received the Bronze Star.

The Company moved from le Croci di Calenzano to new positions near Monzuno. On 16 March MG Geoffrey Keyes, commanding II Corps, inspected our gun positions. With our very good weather and observation, fire missions were plentiful, both day and night. On 20 March we fired 190 rounds stopping a Jerry counter-attack and on 23 March we fired over 550 rounds in support of an attack by the 168th Infantry Regiment. Approximately 5700 rounds were fired during this period.



T/4 Robert Bollinger of Carlisle, Pa., checks telephone line for the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop near San Benedetto, Italy, Jan. 9, 1945.

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

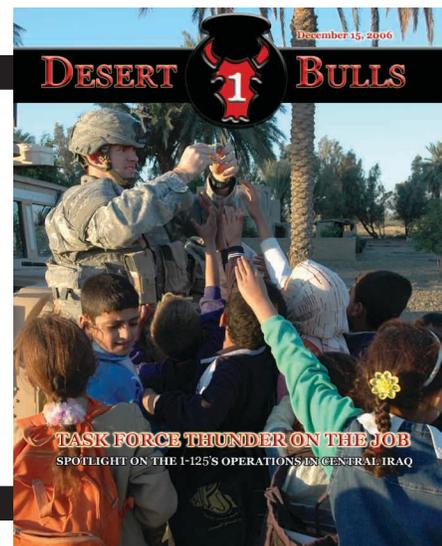
The 1/34 Brigade Combat Team  
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Spc. Dustin Perry, assistant editor  
Spc. Brian D. Jesness, production editor

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

## Issue #31

On the cover:

Spc. Jeffery Millsbaugh,  
Task Force THUNDER,  
hands out stickers during  
an outreach patrol near  
CSC Scania. Photo by  
Spc. Brian D. Jesness,  
1/34 BCT PA.



# Who will tell my family if ...

## I am killed?

1. Once your identity and status is confirmed, a message is sent to the Department of the Army. They contact your state or reserve command.
2. Your state or reserve command assigns a casualty notification officer to notify your primary next of kin as listed on your DD93- emergency notification card. (Ensure yours is correct!)
3. The casualty notification officer, often accompanied by a chaplain and police officer, will notify your primary next of kin in person.
4. After the initial notification is made, a casualty assistance officer will help your primary next of kin with funeral, life insurance, survivor benefits, legal and other similar arrangements. The casualty notification officer will remain dedicated to your primary next of kin for as long as needed.

## I am wounded?

1. If possible, you will be given the opportunity to call your family. It is always best for you to notify them immediately.
2. In the event you cannot call yourself (due to your injuries or treatment), a message will be sent to the Department of the Army. They will contact your primary next of kin and keep them informed until you are able to do so. This notification is done over the phone.
3. If your condition requires your family to travel to you, an escort officer will be assigned to assist with travel arrangements.

Note: personal medical information is private and protected by law. In most cases, a Soldier must agree to release it.

Notifying the family early, releasing private medical information, or pressuring another Soldier for Killed-in-Action or Wounded-In-Action information has, unfortunately, resulted in tragic consequences. The notification process confirms details, provides support, and respects privacy. Use it. Trust it.



Photo by Sgt. Kent Westberg  
1/34 BCT PA.

# CITIZENSHIP IN A COMBAT ZONE

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

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – On the day after Veteran’s Day, five Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, were among 44 service members who took the Oath of Allegiance during a naturalization ceremony at LSA Anaconda to become citizens of the country they are serving.

As in times of peace, many servicemembers in the American military enlist without being citizens of the country they serve.

“You came from Africa to Asia, from Europe to South America. But today in Iraq- a country struggling for its own freedom-you are all Americans,” said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at the ceremony.

Thanks to a law passed by Congress in 2004, naturalizations can now take place outside the United States. Before the 2004 congressional action, the law required that all naturalization ceremonies must occur in the United States.

“Over the past four years, more than 20,000 men and women in uniform have become citizens of the United States – the country they serve,” Terry said.

Speakers at the ceremony included Terry, Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Fountain, 13th SC (E), and Dr. Emilio T. Gonzalez, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

“Thousands of immigrant troops are making extraordinary sacrifices for America,” Gonzalez said. “These men and women have pledged to defend with their lives liberties they have yet to secure for themselves. There is no more fitting way for a grateful nation to show its appreciation than through granting qualified military servicemembers U.S. citizenship as quickly as possible.”

Gonzalez, a former Army colonel and non- U.S-born citizen, said his position signifies America’s uniqueness. He said the fact that a foreign-born citizen is now America’s director of citizenship and immigration, is an illustration of the country’s distinctive melting-pot quality.

During Terry’s speech, he quoted several of America’s past leaders on what it means to be truly American.

“You can go to live in France, but you cannot become a Frenchman. You can go to live in Japan, but you cannot become Japanese. But anyone, from any corner of the world, can come to live in America and be an American,” Terry said quoting former President Ronald Reagan.

“Becoming an American can have nothing to do with birth or ancestry” Terry said. “That is because America is an idea, not a race.”

The servicemembers who were naturalized came to the ceremony from bases all over Iraq, as well as Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Naturalization candidates must go through an interview and citizenship process before being eligible to become Americans. Unlike the process stateside, servicemembers can apply for and obtain citizenship without having to wait the minimum time civilians in the U.S. must wait.



Spc. Aly Diasse, Task Force IRON, takes the pledge of allegiance at a naturalization ceremony at LSA Anaconda, Nov. 12.

**Its 0300, do you know where  
your flash drive is?**

**SECURE  
YOUR  
FLASH  
DRIVE!**

**Keep it accountable.**



# Task Force



# THU

**Story by Cpt. Paul Rickert**  
**Task Force THUNDER UPAR**

The 1-125 STRIKE, also known as Task Force THUNDER, is in charge of the base security for Combat Support Center Scania in south central Iraq near Diwaniyah. This responsibility includes supporting all convoys passing through the base with fuel and repairs as well as giving the Soldiers a place to rest and relax before continuing with their mission. Operations include patrolling the immediate area around the base, working with Iraqi Police and performing missions with the Iraqi Army to track down and arrest insurgents.

The 1-125 STRIKE has many Civil Military Operations projects in the area. These CMO efforts include reconstruction projects such as water purification plants and restoration of electricity in local communities. The CMO projects also include distribution of school supplies to over 4,300 children attending schools in the area.

The base provides medical coverage to local residents by the Smith Gate Clinic. The clinic specializes in treatment of burns and other common ailments in the area. The clinic is open to the public three days a week.



# UNDER



Above: Sgt. Jeffery Woltman snaps a picture of some local children during a routine patrol through Ash Shumali to promote interaction between Task Force THUNDER Soldiers and the residents of the city.

Right: Spc. Nhial Ruach solders connections on upgraded headlights on a humvee in the Task Force THUNDER motor pool at CSC Scania.

Left: Sgt. Lee Walraven (left) speaks with Spc. Charles Halfmann and team members during a brief before morning gate duty at CSC Scania.

Photos by  
Spc. Brian D. Jesness  
1/34 BCT PA



For more photos from this set, visit [www.redbullweb.com](http://www.redbullweb.com), Photos, Page 29.

# IRAQ 101: Iraqi Food

by Maj. Michael Goldsborough  
1/34 BCT Equal Opportunity Officer

Iraqi culture places great significance on mealtimes and the use of food in daily life.

It is common for meals to center around visiting with guests as well as friends on a regular basis. Honoring the presence of guests is such a priority that extra food is often cooked to prepare for surprise visitors to one's home. It is expected that guests honor their host by accepting all foods offered.

Iraqi cooking is similar to most Arabic cuisine and draws heavily on Iranian and Turkish influences in different parts of Iraq.

The staple meat products of Iraqi food include lamb, goat, mutton, beef and poultry. Pork products are rare in the Iraqi diet, as more than 90 percent of Iraq's population is forbidden to eat pork in accordance with Islamic Law.

Breakfast is a light meal often featuring rice and fried egg dishes similar to omelets. Strong black coffee, chai tea and fruit juices are common drinks served with breakfast. Fruits such as raisins, citrus fruits, melons and dates are a regular part of breakfast.

Breads such as khubz, a flat bread similar to pita bread, and samoon, a thicker bread in the shape of a diamond, are common in a breakfast meal and are considered uniquely Iraqi. These breads are often eaten with butter, jam, honey, date molasses and gaymer, a cream cheese made out of water buffalo milk.

The evening meal is usually served around 8 p.m. and often features grilled meat kebabs, quizi, which is roasted and stuffed lamb, and kubba, minced meat with nuts, raisins and spices. Samoon and khubz bread is also common with evening meals. Desserts often consist of fruit, rice pudding, Turkish delight and baklava.



Samoon bread.



Khubz or flat bread.



Lamb Kebabs.

# Operation Comfort and Joy

Story by Cpt. Colin Fleming  
1/34 BCT Deputy Civil Military  
Affairs Officer

**O**peration Comfort and Joy is our small effort to employ the generosity of our families and friends at home for the poverty-stricken and suffering Iraqi families during our traditional holiday season. Thankfully, donations are not in short supply. The generosity is not limited to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division or American people. We receive donations from the U.S. Air Force, the 82nd Airborne Division, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Australian and British families. Regardless of the source, these donated items are greatly needed by the local citizens.

As we drive along the single-lane dirt road, vast stretches of land are interrupted only by heat and wind, sharp chunks of dirt in the road and occasional Bedouin tents. It is 135 degrees inside our Humvee, which locks the air conditioner in an endless losing battle with the suffocating heat.

We are 150 yards from our next stop when about eight children in bare feet sprint across the broken ground to the edge of the road, smiling and waving at us as we drive by. From the other side of the road, a smaller group of children swimming in the irrigation canal stand at the top of the dried mound of dredged dirt to do the same. The children shout a chorus of spirited pleas for pens, flashlights and toys as we pass.



**Iraqi children in their classroom after receiving school supplies from a 1/34 BCT CMO project near Al Batha Nov. 20. Photo by Spc. Dustin Perry, 1/34 BCT PA.**

It is partly a game – in this part of the world, negotiation skills are critical, and the training begins at an early age – but the needs are real. The children really do sleep on dirt floors, and the livestock are kept in chicken wire pens next to the family tent. The government provides flour, rice and beans and the Bedouins raise sheep, so hunger is not as devastating as in other parts of the world, but the elements are hard on these people.

That was in June. Five months later, the weather has dipped from average daily highs in the 120s to lows in the 30s. The rainy season has started, so many of the area roads – the ones we haven't fixed yet – are impassable as we venture into the villages to help bring some relief to these families.

The CMO team distributes supplies to individual families. Keeping up with the flow is a constant challenge, but everyone will be working overtime and enlisting the help of organizations and nations of the coalition to reach the needy with these gifts during the holiday season. On behalf of the 1/34th BCT and the people of Iraq, thank you.



**Two Iraqi girls and their "presents" at a 1/34 BCT CMO project near Al Batha Nov. 20. Photo by Spc. Dustin Perry, 1/34 BCT PA.**

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

# IMPACT ING IRAQ

## Military Justice Log

- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a field grade Article 15 for being AWOL for approximately five days. He received reduction to private (E2); reduction to private (E1), suspended; forfeiture of \$500 per month for two months, one month suspended; restriction for 60 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a company grade Article 15 for violating visitation policy. She received reduction to private first class; restriction for 10 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force SABER received a company grade Article 15 for having a personal music player on while on duty, against SOP. He received reduction to private first class; forfeiture of \$394; extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a company grade Article 15 for being disrespectful to a commissioned officer. He received reduction to private (E2), forfeiture of \$250, suspended; extra duty for 10 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a field grade Article 15 for larceny and forgery. He received reduction to private (E1); forfeiture of \$636 per month for two months, one month suspended; extra duty and restriction for 45 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a company grade Article 15 for losing accountability of his weapon. He received forfeiture of \$626; restriction for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a company grade Article 15 for failure to report on three occasions and failing to obey a noncommissioned officer and a commissioned officer. He received reduction to private (E1), suspended; forfeiture of \$290; extra duty and restriction for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received a company grade Article 15 for losing a sight attachment for his weapon. He received reduction to private first class; and received restriction and extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a general officer Article 15 for falsifying official documents. He received 30 days restriction; forfeiture of \$1,982 per month for two months, one month suspended.
- A Soldier from Task Force IRON received a company grade Article 15 for a general order number one violation (possessing pornography). He received reduction to private first class; forfeiture of \$394; extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force BEARCAT received a company grade Article 15 for failure to report. He received forfeiture of \$100, suspended; restriction for 14 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a company grade Article 15 for disobeying an order and violation of an equal opportunity regulation. He was reduced to private first class.
- A Soldier from Task Force WILD received a field grade Article 15 for assaulting an NCO and failure to

- report. He received reduction to private first class; reduction to private (E2), suspended; forfeiture of \$713 per month for two months, suspended; restriction for 45 days.
- A Soldier from Task Force BEARCAT received a company grade Article 15 for being disrespectful to a commissioned officer. He received reduction to private (E2); forfeiture of \$451; extra duty and restriction for 14 days.
  - A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a field grade Article 15 for violating a no contact order. He received reduction to sergeant; forfeiture of \$1,263 per month for two months; extra duty and restriction for 45 days, suspended; oral reprimand.

### Paralegal Focus



Spc. Brandon Bresson, Team PANTHER, works in the LSA Adder Consolidated Legal Office staff as a paralegal. Bresson lives in Minneota, a small town in southwestern Minnesota and graduated from Minneota High School in 2005.

Bresson enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard in January of 2004. He joined the 1-151st Field Artillery and completed his initial entry training in 2005 after completing high school. Bresson volunteered to join the 1/34 BCT for this deployment. Bresson serves as the legal assistance paralegal helping soldiers with personal legal issues, notarizing documents, and preparing powers of attorney.

After this deployment, Bresson plans to pursue an education in law enforcement and criminal justice. Bresson plans to attend Alexandria Technical College, and later pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

**LOYALTY DUTY RESPECT SELFLESS HONOR INTEGRITY  
SERVICE**



# PERSONAL COURAGE

## ARMY VALUES

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

**P**ersonal courage manifests itself in physical and moral bravery. It depicts the military virtue that enables us to face fear, danger or adversity no matter what the situation is, be it physical or moral.

Personal courage includes the idea of taking responsibility for your decisions and actions. It also involves the ability to perform critical self-assessment, confront new ideas, and to change. Personal courage is the strength to do what is right, to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct, to lead by example, and to make tough decisions under stress and pressure.

Physical courage is putting the body into action to achieve the objective, despite the fear of pain or injury that tries to hold us back. It is a quality of mind that allows us to meet danger or adversity with calmness and firmness.

In the strictly military sense, physical courage is overcoming the impulse of fear. It is self control. It is the control of your mind over your physical self saying, "We will go forward."

Moral courage is standing up for and doing what is right, even when what's right is not what other people are doing. Moral courage goes hand in hand with honor and integrity. It is also the quality that brings a person to admit when they are wrong. Only a fool believes – or even tries to give the impression – they make no mistakes.

Moral courage has perhaps been glorified less than physical courage, yet needed more. Mark Twain, the American author and philosopher, once noted, "It is curious – curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare."

Without the moral courage to ensure that what we do is right, physical courage is worse than meaningless. The supposed demonstration of courage to achieve an evil objective is not courage at all, but is just the aggressive pursuit of selfishness or the demonstration of a need for attention.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Above all, we must realize that no arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have."

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Above: Cpl. Tim Pollock, Task Force THUNDER, gears up in the turret of his humvee for a patrol. Photo by Spc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PA.



Right: Brig. Gen. Carmine De Pascale, commander of the Italian Joint Task force, presents the Italian Campaign Medal to Soldiers of Team PANTHER at LSA Adder. Photo by Spc. Dustin Perry, 1/34 BCT PA.

# IN OUR SIGHTS



Task Force SABER Soldiers eating their Thanksgiving Day meal together at LSA Anaconda. Photo courtesy of Task Force SABER.