

April 15, 2007

DESERT



BULLS

TASK FORCE WILD ON THE JOB



# Honoring

## Our Fallen Soldiers

# Staff Sgt. Greg N. Riewer

## Task Force BEARCAT

Story by 1st Lt. Nicolas Rice  
Task Force BEARCAT UPAR

CAMP AL TAQADDUM, Iraq -- Staff Sgt. Greg Riewer was remembered Friday, March 29, at the Mainside Chapel as an excellent leader, friend and brother in arms who made his decision to deploy because he needed to be here for his fellow Soldiers.

Riewer, an infantry fire team leader for Task Force Bearcat's Company A, died March 23 when his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb while supporting 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment in a counterinsurgency operation near Fallujah, Iraq.

Sgt. Brent Steinmetz, Riewer's team leader, remembered him saying the word "Soldier" best described him because he was "here for the guys and to do his job."

"He never tried to make anyone mad and was never trying to impress anyone," said Steinmetz. "He would go out of his way to make sure the guys were safe, but at the same time making things fun. You could always count on Staff Sgt. Riewer to say a couple words to make you smile."

Staff Sgt. Jeff Anderson, Riewer's squad leader for the deployment, recalled that Riewer "had joined the National Guard to be a part of a team."

"He volunteered to come to Iraq- not for the medals or money or a sense of duty to his country, said Anderson, "he came for us - his buddies, friends and comrades in arms.

"Everyone has their own families back home, but then there is the Guard family and we were his," he continued.

Capt. Adam Gilbertson, Riewer's company commander, recalled Riewer as a man who was well respected by the company's Soldiers and leaders.

"He was not a man of many words, but he more than made up for that through his actions," he said. "He had a big heart, a constant, kind smile and he was a friend and mentor to the Soldiers in the company."

Gilbertson also recounted Riewer's decision to volunteer for this deployment. "Riewer's decision to deploy was based on his belief that he needed to be a part of this mission because he had brothers in the company that would be going," he said. "Both blood relatives and brothers in arms, and he knew he needed to be right there with them."

Riewer's brother, Andrew, also was "right there with him." He is deployed with Company A here in Iraq.



Greg Riewer was born and raised in Frazee, Minn., and graduated from Frazee High School in 1997. He enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard in 1998 and was assigned to the Detroit Lakes, Minn.-based Company C, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry. He deployed with this company to Bosnia for NATO's Stabilization Force 14. In August 2005 Riewer was assigned to Company A, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment. In October 2005 he mobilized for this deployment. Along with his fellow Soldiers, Staff Sgt. Riewer completed a six month train-up at Camp Shelby, Miss., prior to deploying overseas in March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. He served with the company's second platoon.

Riewer's awards and personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal.

He is survived by his parents, Richard and Janice Riewer of Frazee, and 12 brothers and sisters.



# Red Bull history: Medals of Honor

## 2nd Lt. Ernest Dervishian

U.S. Army, 34th  
Infantry Division.  
Near Cisterna, Ita-  
ly, May 23, 1944.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

2nd Lt. Ernest Dervishian (then Tech. Sgt.) and four members of his platoon found themselves far ahead of their company after an aggressive advance in the face of enemy artillery and sniper fire. Approaching a railroad embankment, they observed a force of German Soldiers hiding in dugouts. Dervishian directed his men to cover him and boldly moved forward firing his carbine forcing 10 Germans to surrender. His men advanced and captured 15 more Germans occupying adjacent dugouts and returned them to the rear to be picked up by advancing units.

From the railroad embankment, Dervishian and his men observed nine Germans across a ridge. He and his men opened fire wounding three. As his

men were firing, Dervishian, unnoticed, fearlessly dashed forward alone and captured the fleeing enemy before his companions joined him on the ridge.

At this point four other men joined Dervishian's group. An attempt was made to send the four newly arrived men along the left flank of a large dense vineyard, but murderous machine gun fire forced them back. Deploying his men, Dervishian moved to the front of his group and led the advance into the vineyard. He and his men suddenly became pinned down by a machine gun firing at them at a distance of 15 yards.

Dervishian assaulted the position during a halt in the firing. Using a hand grenade and carbine fire, he forced the four German crew members to surrender. Four of his men on the left flank attempted to enter the vineyard but encountered machine gun fire killing one Soldier and wounding another. The enemy intensified the fight throwing potato-masher grenades at Dervishian and his men.

Ordering his men to withdraw, Dervishian jumped into the machine gun position he had just captured and opened fire with the enemy weapon in the direction of the second hostile machine gun nest. Observing movement in a dugout two or three yards to the rear, he seized a machine pistol. Simultaneously blazing away at the entrance to the dugout to prevent its occupants from firing and firing his machine gun at the other German nest, he forced five Germans in each position to surrender. Determined to rid the area of all Germans, Dervishian continued his advance alone.

Noticing another machine gun position beside a house, he picked up an abandoned machine pistol and forced six more Germans to surrender by spraying their position with fire. Unable to locate additional targets in the vicinity, Dervishian conducted these prisoners to the rear.

The prodigious courage and combat skill exhibited by Dervishian are exemplary of the finest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Memorial: Staff Sgt. Greg N. Riewer**
- 3 Red Bull History**
- 4 Reintegration**
- 5 Family Reintegration Academies**
- 6 Task Force WILD Spotlight**
- 7 Task Force WILD Spotlight**
- 8 Combat Awards March 2007**
- 9 CMO: Red Bulls make roadways in Iraq**
- 10 JAG: Accepting gifts as a servicemember**
- 11 Chaplain's Corner: Task Force WILD**
- 12 In our Sights**

### The 1/34 Brigade Combat Team

Col. David Elicerio

Command Sgt. Major Doug Julin

### Desert Bulls Staff:

Capt. Mark Lappegaard, public affairs officer

Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, managing editor

Sgt. Kent Westberg, broadcast journalist

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 #37

On the cover:

**Sgt. Jesus Cervantes prepares a 240B machine gun for a mission on top of an armored security vehicle at Camp Adder. Photo by Sgt. Abbie Litchke, Task Force WILD Historian.**



# Reintegration

## A Commander's Perspective

By Capt. Aaron Krenz

Serving as a company commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom, I knew my men were trained for any situation on the battlefield. However, nothing I knew or could do would prepare me and my men for the challenges we would face coming home.

Without the reintegration training our unit received upon arrival back home we would have had a much more difficult time identifying and addressing our issues.

On Nov. 20, 2005, I returned to my family with the expectation I would adjust easily back to my roles as a husband and father. The reality was my family and I changed and the mental snap shot of the life I left behind was different. This was obvious to me during the first four weeks after my return, but I couldn't understand why little had changed after four months.

I questioned why it was so hard to reconnect with my wife and daughter and why I felt like a stranger in my own home. The answers to these questions would help me understand what was happening.

I learned my wife was absolutely exhausted from doing everything by herself. I felt like I shouldn't step into my roles right away, but my wife wanted me to immediately take over many responsibilities I had never done before. I knew how we worked together before the deployment, but didn't understand what she expected me to do now that I had returned.

My patience for little things had vanished during the deployment. I was used to making decisions for me and my men without any dis-



cussions. I was easily frustrated when I could not get my daughter ready for school on time. I left items in different locations than my wife was used to and communicating with her was not as fluid as before. These are just a few of the small issues that created tension within our family.

The reintegration process shouldn't be underestimated. I felt confident I would have an easy transition home. I was blinded by the overwhelming desire to get back to the way it was, without understanding the way it had grown to be.

Later we participated in the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program marriage retreat to help us learn how to communicate more effectively.

I can honestly say in my family, the journey "all the way home" was the greatest challenge to overcome.

## A Soldier's Perspective



By Sgt. Laura Lundequam

I served one tour in Iraq at Camp Adder, Iraq, from Aug. 2004 to July of 2005.

A lot of people don't realize that when a Soldier comes home from war, they are not the same person they were before they left. This can be hard for families to understand. Families want

to believe that nothing has changed, and that Soldiers will quickly readjust. However, people can't fully understand what Soldiers have been through unless they were Soldiers themselves.

In Iraq, I felt like my life was standing still while my loved ones back home went on with theirs. I became resentful about being stuck in Iraq unlike my family and friends. I was told what to do, how to do things, and when.

Over time, I felt like Iraq was my home. My family didn't understand or like that I felt that way. The Soldiers I was there with became my extended family. We watched out for each other and had a common bond of survival.

Soldiers may talk to each other about what they went through together, rather than family and friends once

they are home. The war is the last thing they want to talk about.

I felt this way when I got back home. The thing I needed the most was my space. I didn't want to be overwhelmed with questions of what happened or what I went through. I didn't always want to be around everyone.

Eventually, Soldiers move forward. If they don't, family and friends may need to gently guide them to seek professional help. I needed some help and my family steered me in the right direction. After having someone other than a family member or friend to talk to, I woke up from the slump I was in.

After readjusting, Soldiers are able to look back and see that their loved ones were there for them and they always will be.

# Empowering Families

## Minnesota's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program prepares families for Soldiers' return

By Capt. Bruce Ehlers  
1/34 BCT Deputy Information Operations Officer

In a recent speech, Maj. Gen. Larry Shellito, Minnesota adjutant general, observed that when he returned from Vietnam in 1971, "No one gave a damn" about returning Soldiers. Soldiers released from active duty had no preparation for the challenges of reintegrating into their families and civilian society. To ensure that doesn't happen again, the State of Minnesota is putting a great deal of effort into providing a comprehensive reintegration training program not only for Soldiers, but for our families to empower them to be active participants in the process of reintegration.

The December 31, 2006 issue Desert Bulls (Issue #32, pg. 7) introduced Family Reintegration Academies (FRAs) and outlined the workshop topics. In January and February of 2007, several state and federal agencies teamed up with the Minnesota National Guard and conducted the first round of FRAs.

Suzanne Jenny, wife of Maj. Marc Jenny of Team PANTHER, recently attended an FRA and wrote, "I was and still am overwhelmed by and also grateful for how much the Minnesota National Guard cares about not only its Soldiers, but also the families. It was amazing to see how much work went into presenting the workshop and to know that they wanted to make a difference, to help Soldiers and their families."

Jenny continues, "...there were indeed moments when my eyes misted up; but there was also humor and understanding and acceptance and a sincere appreciation of military families and what we go through on a daily basis. There were a variety of sessions on benefits, TriCare, combat stress, reconnecting with children, how married couples can reconnect and so many more." Professionals from agencies such as TriCare and the Veteran's Adminis-

tration present the workshops, answer questions, and provide contact information.

Much of the information presented is also available on the Minnesota National Guard Web site [www.dma.state.mn.us](http://www.dma.state.mn.us). Click on the "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Reintegrating Returning Troops" button, and then scroll down to "Roadmap to Reintegration." Handbooks with this information are provided to Families and Soldiers during FRAs and demobilization, respectively.

Jenny's letter commented on her experience after, the conclusion of the academy. "I came home feeling better not just about reintegration, but also the whole deployment experience and I also came home with an armful of brochures, handouts and books and even a disc with the presentation slides. It was an amazing and empowering experience."

Information is power, and the FRA experience is designed to empower families to participate in reintegration as a full partner with their Soldier.

Additional FRAs are being offered on April 21 in Brooklyn Park, April 22 in Rochester, May 19 in Brainerd, and June 23 in Moorhead. Day care is provided on site and staff can assist families to submit a mileage reimbursement claim during check-in at the event. To register, contact Robyn Aiken at 651-268-8207/8200 or e-mail [robyn.aiken@mn.ngb.army.mil](mailto:robyn.aiken@mn.ngb.army.mil).



Families of 1/34 BCT Soldiers signing in at a family reintegration academy in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

# Soldiers come to aid of fellow convoy attacked on road

# 1-34 Br

Story by Spc. Dustin Perry, 1/34 BCT PAO

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Last November, a convoy escort team was on the road when they witnessed the detonation of an improvised explosive device followed by a shower of small-arms fire. Neither of the attacks was meant for them, but the team responded as if they were.

Members of the Stillwater, Minn.-based 1-34 Brigade Troops Battalion were escorting supply trucks to a base in southern Iraq. They had stopped at a checkpoint along the route when a large blast rang out several hundred meters ahead, hitting another convoy in front of them. Soon after, a barrage of tracer rounds began to be fired at the convoy's trucks.

Sgt. Grant Johnson said it didn't take long for him and the rest of his team to respond.

"At that point, we decided to push our front two gun trucks up to support them by fire because to us it looked like they were getting hammered pretty hard," said Johnson, 36, a policeman from Champlin, Minn. "As we started moving in and getting closer, we immediately began taking small-arms fire. There were red tracer rounds coming from everywhere, some as close as right off the road."

Johnson was the gunner of the lead Humvee and began returning fire. The scout Humvee ahead of him had also joined in at this point and was receiving the bulk of the tracer rounds. Johnson heard on the radio that the rear of his convoy was engaged as well, so he ordered them to move up past the threat.

Johnson said he decided to maneuver his Humvees to provide suppressive fire on the enemy.

"As they started pushing through, we shifted left to allow the convoy to get by while we were slowly moving up the road."

The small-arms fire lasted for about five minutes, Johnson said, before it finally subsided and the rest of their convoy was able to get through. After ensuring none of the Soldiers on the team were injured, the lead and scout vehicles turned around to check on the supply trucks and their drivers.

Sgt. Paul Crosby, then acting team leader of the convoy, exited his vehicle and headed to a truck with its cab on fire. Crosby put the fire out with an extinguisher and noticed a truck that had gone into a nearby ditch. He went to check on the driver's condition when scores of rifle fire started up again near their position. Crosby continued to check for the driver while Johnson covered his comrade's position and returned fire.

"It was kind of scary, I guess you could say," said Crosby, 35, a nuclear security officer from Clearwater, Minn. "The tracer rounds were unbelievable; we refer to it as a 'Star Wars'-type scenario, there was so much flying through the air."

After a short while, the secondary fire stopped and Crosby continued with his recovery mission. He found the driver of the supply truck, who had suffered a few serious bumps and bruises, and a medical evacuation team was called while Johnson and Crosby cleared the area. Aside from the driver, only minor injuries were reported, Johnson said.

It was a little nerve-racking having to make quick decisions and deal with the threat, but Johnson immediately went into the mind frame of what he needed to do, he said.

"I want to say I was nervous, but it was controlled anxiety – I knew chaos was happening, but I had enough training going through my head so the anxiety wasn't able to take over,"



# 34 Brigade Troops Battalion

said Johnson. “You’re thinking about yourself and the people around you getting hurt, but at the same time, there was a job we had to do.”

Reaching the convoy and suppressing their attackers was the first thought that went through Crosby’s mind, he said. He was so focused on what he was doing, the close proximity of the enemy fire didn’t become a reality until the fight was done and he saw the side mirror of his Humvee had been shot out, Crosby said.

Teamwork and proper training are what led to the convoy’s success against the enemy, Johnson said.

“Everything clicked pretty quickly, everybody knew their roles,” said Johnson. “There wasn’t a lot of confusion; there was no uncertainty. That made it easier because I was able to let go as convoy commander and have it go right and not have to worry about it.

“Until you’re tested, you don’t know how you’re going to act,” continued Johnson. “We got tested and we acted properly, so we became more confident in what we do.”



Above: The passenger-side mirror of Sgt. Paul Crosby’s Humvee, which was shot out during a firefight with enemy combatants Nov. 13, 2006, while he and other members of Task Force WILD were escorting a convoy of supply trucks to a base in southern Iraq. Photo courtesy of Sgt. Paul Crosby.



Left: The Task Force WILD convoy escort team in front of one of their Humvees at Camp Adder, Iraq. Front row, Sgt. Adam Stock(left), Sgt. Paul Crosby, Spc. April Alle, Sgt. Tad Wellsted, Spc. Patrick Kelly, Sgt. Grant Johnson and Sgt. Joshua Weckman. Back row, Sgt. Nicholas Richter, Spc. Johnny Wadsworth, Sgt. Blake Hayden, Sgt. Jesus Cervantes and Staff Sgt. Christopher Erickson. in front of their Humvee at Camp Adder, Iraq. Photo courtesy of Sgt. Paul Crosby.

# 1/34 BCT Combat Awards March 2007



## Bronze Star Medal with Valor

Deadrick	Drew	SGT
Hammac	David	SSG
Klimek	Jasen	SPC
Knetter	Charles	SPC
Olson	David	SGT
Olson	John	SPC



## Bronze Star Medal

Gallant	Adam	SGT
Jessen	Bradley	SGT
Moberly	Price	SSG
Mettille	Michael	SGM
Muller	Michael	SSG
Stewart	Carla	SPC
Vonhoff	Jason	SGT



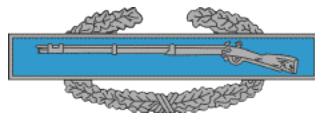
## ARCOM with Valor

Black	James	SPC
Bridgeman	Kirk	SPC
Dennis	Joedy	SGT
Dunphy	Peter	SPC
Durkin	James	SPC
Grutsch	Robert	1LT
Johnson	Brian	SPC
Kelm	Matthew	SPC
Kevan	Timothy	MAJ
Marquez	Rudy	1SG
Mehlhorn	Joseph	SGT
Moe	Jared	SPC
Ortmann	Joseph	SGT
Pappa	Brett	SPC
Shaw	Ryan	SGT
Shelton	Michael	PFC
Taylor	Jacob	SPC



## Purple Heart

Carrigan	Darren	SPC
Dillman	Jeremy	SPC
Glover	Donald	SGT
Nichols	Jason	PFC
Shaw	Ryan	SGT
Stans	Anthony	SPC
Walker	William	SGT



## Combat Infantryman Badge

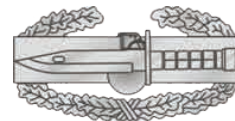
Anderson	Benjamin	SPC
Borgmann	Matthew	SPC
Duckwitz	Ernest	SPC
Dunkley	Matthew	PFC
Fahlin	Nathan	SPC
Felt	Michael	SGT
Ferguson	Robert	SGT
Fredricks	Raymond	SGT
Goldstein	Jonathan	SGT
Halvorson	Duwayne	SGT
Helgestad	Jacob	1LT
Hughes	Nathaniel	SPC
Huss	Aloysius	SPC
Johnson	Andrew	SPC
Jones	Kelly	SSG
Kazmierczak	Nicholas	SPC
Kypke	Joshua	SPC
Lindbom	Christopher	SPC
Marts	Eric	SFC
Mattson	Robin	SSG
Micheletti	Brian	SPC
Miller	Mark	SPC
Morinville	Chad	SPC

Moua	Lue	SPC
Oliver	Carlton	SPC
Perry	Randy	SPC
Popelka	Scott	SFC
Roberts	Gregory	SGT
Salzman	Darrell	SPC
Steinberg	Matthew	SPC
Steinbruckner	David	SPC
Stroner	Chris	SPC
Torgerson	Michael	SPC
Vue	Lee	SPC



## Combat Medic Badge

Lessard	Joshua	SPC
---------	--------	-----



## Combat Action Badge

Baerg	Clinton	SPC
Baptist	Alfred	SPC
Blake	David	SPC
Blocker	Jerad	SPC
Bonander	Clarence	SPC
Bontjes	Brandon	SPC
Brand	Nathan	SPC
Brecht	Michael	SSG
Brooks	Christopher	SPC
Chapman	Craig	SSG
Cheek	Jerry	SSG
Crotts	Mark	SPC
Dillman	Jeremy	SPC
Dirks	Kevin	SSG
Dolberg	Timothy	SGT
Ebsen	Clint	SGT
Ewing	Stephen	SGT
Exman	Gabriel	1LT
Filbeck	Andrew	SSG
Freestone	Jason	SPC
Gibson	Jerry	SPC

Grace	Roy	SSG
Guggisberg	Kenneth	SSG
Hernandez	Juan	SPC
Herrmann	David	SGT
Himebaugh	Jacob	SGT
Hinz	Seth	SPC
Hobbs	Darryl	SPC
Holt	Nathan	SPC
Inskeep	Jason	1LT
Johnson	Jacob	SFC
Johnson	Joseph	PFC
Johnson	Kyle	SPC
Johnson	Lucas	SPC
Johnson	Trent	SSG
Kallberg	James	SFC
Kaminski	Brian	SPC
Kamrath	Alan	SFC
Kerkaert	Travis	SPC
Krouse	Michael	SGT
Kruger	Scott	SFC
Krzmarzick	Scott	SGT
Kuehn	Jason	SSG
Lamb	Teresa	SPC
Laurin	Jason	SPC
Londo	Dean	SSG
Lynch	Joseph	SGT
Magofna	John	SPC
Matray	Tommy	SPC
Montgomery	Andrew	SGT
Murray	Patrick	SGT
Nelson	Marcus	SPC
Oye	Christopher	SPC
Page	Gerald	SFC
Peck	Robert	SPC
Portner	Lee	SFC
Reed	Nathan	SGT
Ruisard	Ryan	SPC
Schultz	Billy	SSG
Schwoppe	Matthew	SPC
Siegel	Jacob	1LT
Smith	Jonathan	SFC
Solomonson	Timothy	SGT
Strommer	Joshua	SPC
Suttles	Dominick	SGT
Tembreull	Luke	SPC
Thormodsgard	Dwayne	SPC
Tingley	Craig	SSG
Tri	Jeremy	CPT
Vonhoff	Jason	SGT
Williams	Christopher	SPC
Zimmerman	Nathan	SPC

# Redbulls make roadways in Iraq

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

CAMP ADDER, Iraq –Minnesota Army National Guard Soldiers and Iraqi citizens of Al Batha recently restored 15 kilometers of Al Batha city streets in southern Iraq.

The Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division’s Civil Military Operations team supervised projects to grade the city’s streets, which had not been maintained in the last 20 years. Most of the streets were nothing more than dirt trails with deep ruts from vehicle traffic.

“Many of the streets had eight-foot-wide pot holes filled with mud, sewage and garbage; making the street impassable for municipal vehicles, daily routines and commercial transit,” said Capt. Colin Fleming of Burnsville, Minn., 1/34 BCT deputy civil military operations officer.

The project restored many streets in Al Batha to serviceable gravel roads free of the sewage and debris that partially obstructed many of the city’s streets.

The repairs inspired Al Batha city officials to work with provincial authorities to pave the streets and complete the project.

To date more than 30 miles of roads have been repaired in Dhi Qar province by Redbull CMO projects.

The 1/34 BCT CMO teams have completed several other road projects throughout Iraq.

Since April 1, 2006, south-central Iraq has seen improvement of more than 540 kilometers of roadways through a highway maintenance program employing local workers to clean up highways. The program removed debris along highways to provide routes safe from road-side bombs for civilian traffic and Coalition Forces. Road side bombs are one of the biggest threats to supply convoys of Coalition Forces throughout Iraq.

Last fall, the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery CMO team constructed a new bridge over a canal in the rural date-farming village of Bahkan in Babil province near Camp Scania. The project, contractors and workers were coordinated by 1st Lt. Stephen Hall of Austin, Minn., effects coordinator for 1-125 CMO team.

“I picked a contractor from that community and all the workers were hired from Bahkan so they took pride in the work. Now the main access to their village is open again,” said Hall.

The old bridge was made of concrete only a foot thick, was the only access across canals surrounding the villages home to more than 100 families. The old bridge had degraded to reveal the support beams, formerly covered by concrete.

In Dhi Qar and Babil provinces, civil transportation offices are rare. Many roads are left impassable year round from heavy erosion during the winter rainy season. Residents are left to find alternative passage to basic necessities of agriculture, clean drinking water and schools.



Above: The old Bahkan bridge (left), the newly constructed Bahkan bridge.

Below: A street in Al Batha before the recent grading and paving projects (left), an Al Batha street during the paving project.



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

# IMPACTING IRAQ



## Military justice log

- Sixteen Soldiers from Task Force SABER, six Soldiers from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS, and one Soldier from Task Forces WOLVERINE, THUNDER, BEARCAT and WILD received an Article 15 for violating General Order No. 1 violations for use of alcohol.
- Three Soldiers from Task Force WOLVERINE, two Soldiers from Task Force SABER, and one Soldier from Task Forces ORIENT EXPRESS, THUNDER and BEARCAT received an Article 15 for negligent discharge.
- Three Soldiers from Task Force SABER, one Soldier from Task Forces SNAKE EYES and ORIENT EXPRESS received Article 15s for violating General Order No. 1 for possession of pornography.
- Two Soldiers each from Task Forces WOLVERINE, ORIENT EXPRESS and THUNDER, along with one Soldier from Task Forces SABER and BEARCAT received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty.
- Two Soldiers from Task Force SABER received Article 15s for violating the visitation policy and committing adultery.
- Two Soldiers from Task Force SABER received Article 15s for making a pornographic video and committing indecent acts in the video.
- Three Soldiers from Task Force WOLVERINE and one Soldier from Task Forces BEARCAT, ORIENT EXPRESS and IRON received an Article 15 for failing to report to their appointed place of duty.
- One Soldier from Task Forces SNAKE EYES and ORIENT EXPRESS received an Article 15 for failure to obey an order and making a false official statement.
- Three Soldiers from Task Force WOLVERINE, and one Soldier from Task Force WILD and BEARCAT received an Article 15 for being AWOL.
- One Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS received an Article 15 for reckless driving.
- One Soldier from Task Force ORIENT EXPRESS and THUNDER received an Article 15 for failing to obey orders.
- One Soldier from Task Force SABER and WOLVERINE received an Article 15 for communicating a threat to another Soldier.
- One Soldier from Task Force SABER received an Article 15 for failing to obey a direct order and for sleeping on duty.
- A Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received an Article 15 for conspiracy and making false official statements.
- One Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received an Article 15 for larceny and making a false official statement.
- One Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received an Article 15 for disrespecting an NCO and assault.

- One Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received an Article 15 for falling asleep while on duty.
- One Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a summary court martial for violating General Order No. 1 for use of alcohol. He received confinement for 30 days, forfeiture of \$867.00.
- One Soldier from Task Force WOLVERINE received a summary court martial for three offenses. He was found guilty of the offense, unlawful entry and received forfeiture of \$1,965.00.
- One Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received an Article 15 for loss of government property (NVGs).
- One Soldier from Task Forces THUNDER, IRON and ORIENT EXPRESS received an Article 15 for violating an order and being disrespectful to an NCO.
- One Soldier from Task Force THUNDER received an Article 15 for wearing the wrong rank on his uniform.
- One Soldier from Task Force SNAKE EYES received an Article 15 for assaulting another Soldier.

## Accepting gifts as a servicemember

By Maj. John Engels, 1/34 BCT Command Judge Advocate

There are significant restrictions on your ability to accept gifts given to you because you are a servicemember. Indeed, something as simple as having someone buy you lunch was a technical violation of the joint ethics regulation (JER). The restrictions, of course, apply only to gifts you receive because of service or gifts between servicemembers, and do not apply to gifts among family members or friends.

Recent amendments to the JER now give greater latitude to servicemembers who were injured or became ill as part of their service, and are offered gifts from people who may appreciate your service. In particular, you may now accept unsolicited gifts of up to \$300 from most sources without violating the JER. Greater gifts can be accepted if an ethics official certifies that the gift is acceptable from that source under the JER. Judge advocates are appointed the ethics officials in the Army, and our office serves as the ethics officials for the 1/34 BCT.

We will be issuing a blanket endorsement letter allowing injured servicemembers to accept gifts from the Minnesotans' Military Appreciation Fund, which issues gifts to returning servicemembers upon application. If you are offered an unsolicited gift from another organization exceeding \$300, you may contact our office to inquire about an ethics endorsement.

## Unit ministry teams

By Chaplain (Maj.) Jerome Fehn, Task Force WILD

From the very first day of Chaplain Officer Basic Course, I learned the importance of team ministry. Though I am a Roman Catholic priest, the importance of allowing, fostering and protecting the religious freedom of all Soldiers is my primary mission. It is the responsibility of the commander and carried out by the chaplain.

A second important responsibility of the chaplain is “nurturing the living, caring for the wounded and honoring the dead.”

The third important job the chaplain does is to develop and carry out the commander’s Religious Support Program. While the chaplain does the work, it is the commander who approves the chaplain’s work. The term “ministry of presence,” refers to the chaplain and the assistant traveling around to the Soldiers and meet them wherever they are, whether it’s the chow hall, motor pool, office or bus stops.

A battalion chaplain does not usually sit in an office all day waiting for Soldiers to enter; they go out to them. We do need to have some office times posted, but the majority of my work is among the Soldiers. It has been somewhat difficult to get to some of my Soldiers, but I am always praying for them.

For me, it is essential to have a good chaplain assistant. My chaplain assistant is more than a bodyguard, an office clerk or a vehicle driver. Chaplain assistants, while not strictly assigned to do chaplain work, can and are an integral part of my ministry. Some Soldiers will talk to a chaplain assistant sooner than to a chaplain; whether it is because chaplains are officers, I am not sure, but I know chaplain assistants can be an invaluable source of information for the chaplain.

The chaplain assistant does not “tell” on anyone. They help the chaplain assess a general feeling of how the Soldiers are doing spiritually. I do not expect the chaplain assistant to address or resolve any issues. Making the chaplain aware of them can help me help others.

It is great when chaplain assistants are inclined, with awareness of the chaplain, to be “force multipliers” by



spending time with Soldiers, even praying with them. I try to treat my chaplain assistant with due respect. I try to make them aware of what is going on so they can always be in the loop and take my place at meetings or other functions that might require my presence and I am not available. My battalion is blessed to have a good chaplain assistant, Sgt. Sean Flaherty.

The Army talks about “battle buddies.” My battle buddy is my chaplain assistant. He is someone I need to count on day or night. My assistant covers down and watches out for me. I am a non-combatant, which means I do not carry a weapon nor can I officially use one. I might carry my cross, but my chaplain assistant carries me, as well as his weapon, to ensure our protection.

I never want to take a chaplain assistant for granted nor do I think the chaplain assistant is a job anyone can do without training. I know I could count on any Soldier to help me, but my chaplain assistant is especially my guardian angel, more like a St. Michael in battle to protect me from the enemy.

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Michael Trenary of Task Force Iron with children in a refugee camp in Trebil. The soccer balls were sent by Trenary's wife. Photo courtesy of Task Force Iron.

Left: Spc. Christina Massena inserts a nasal airway device for Pfc. John Zagrzebski as Sgt. Anthony Mayne watches during a demonstration for Task Force WILD's Combat Life Saver class at Camp Adder on Feb. 28. Photo by Capt. Lappegaard, 1/34 BCT PAO.

# IN OUR SIGHTS



Right: Task Force THUNDER's mortar team conducts a night fire exercise at Camp Scania. Photo by Capt. Paul Rickert, Task Force THUNDER UPAR.

Below: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Roberts, Task Force BEARCAT, looks for insurgents in a field during an operation Feb. 9 south of Camp Fallujah as his company commander, Capt. Chip Rankin, watches. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PAO.

