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December 8, 2009

3rd HBCT Soldier honored at FOB Delta

By 3rd HBCT

Public Affairs Office



FOB KALSU – For the Soldiers of “B” Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, Nov. 25 was not a day to look forward to Thanksgiving, it was a day to look back.

Two days earlier, their comrade, Staff Sgt. Briand T. Williams, was killed by a sniper while providing security during a U.S. State Department Provincial Reconstruction Team visit in An Numaniah, located in the Wasit Province of Iraq.

To honor and remember their fallen brother-in arms, the 1-10 FA Regt. held a memorial service in his honor at Forward Operating Base Delta.

On one side of the auditorium, commanders and command sergeants major from all six battalions of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division sat with Ambassador Christopher Hill, the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq; Maj. Gen. Kahlif, the Wasit Provincial head of police; Brig. Gen. Kahlif, a federal police commander; and Brig. Gen. Abad, the 32nd Iraqi Army commander.

The rest of the large auditorium was filled to standing room capacity, with Williams’ battery occupying on the first few rows surrounded by their fellow Soldiers serving at FOB Delta.



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd ID, salute the battlefield cross honoring Staff Sgt. Briand Williams during a memorial service at FOB Delta, Nov. 25. Williams, a platoon sergeant assigned to “B” Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th FA, was killed two days earlier while providing security for a U.S. State Department Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Wasit Province.



Photos by 3rd HBCT Public Affairs Office

A stand containing the boots, helmet, weapon and dog tags of Staff Sgt. Briand Williams pays tribute to the life and service of Williams during his memorial ceremony.

“His enthusiastic support of the soldiers under his charge, his commitment to the mission and the safety of the PRT, and his friendly camaraderie, all marked him as a leader of the finest caliber. It is the dedication and commitment of Soldiers like Staff Sgt. Williams that enable us to carry out our important work in Iraq.”

—AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER HILL
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ

gious throughout the unit.”

The ceremony’s speakers made similar observations about the man many Soldiers referred to as “Sergeant Will”.

“In all the conversations I have heard about him, our brother has sounded more like a superhero than a man,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Timothy Griffis, 1-10 FA Regt. “He sounds like an American Soldier; a man who cares about those he

leads and serves alongside; a man who understands and executes all the tasks of being a friend.”

According to Col. Pete Jones, the commander of the 3rd HBCT, Williams’ death was a bitter loss not just for the Soldiers of the 1-10 FA Regt, but for the entire 3rd HBCT.

“Sgt. William’s death

GOOOOAL!

Camaraderie to be found in the night time soccer games at Camp Savage

By Pfc. J.P. Lawrence

34th Red Bull Infantry Division PAO



COB BASRA – They play soccer every night at Camp Savage, every night except Sunday. They are Soldiers from America, Sabre International guardsmen from East Africa and translators from outside the gates. Speakers of a menagerie of tongues -- English, Ugandan, Swahili, Arabic -- But this game -- this soccer, football, koura el-khadim -- connects them.

And all throughout you can hear their camaraderie in the multi-lingual sounds of soccer.

Wild slides and jukes send gravel skittering across the field and throw dust into the air. Stuttering feet in desperate chase drum syncopated rhythms. The net rustles as the football courses through its contours before nestling at the bottom near the defeated goalie's feet.

And then there is the jubilant cry GOOOOAL!

Games have always had the power

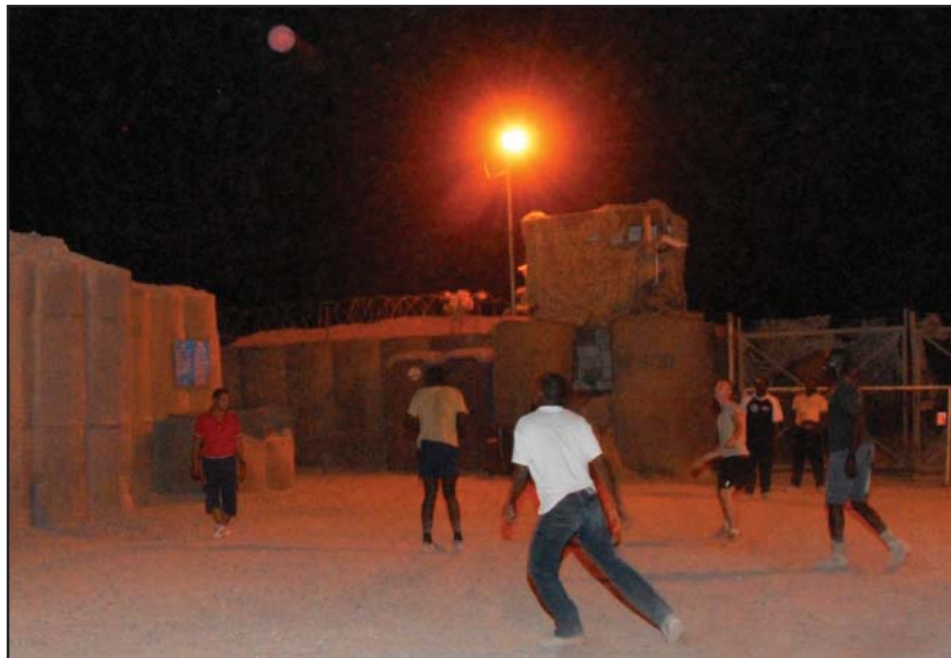


Photo by Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

Soldiers, Sabre Guardsmen and Iraqi translators play soccer at Camp Savage. While, some Soldiers spend their free time on deployment watching TV or playing video games, there are worse ways to spend time than connecting with your coworkers playing soccer, the global game.

to bring people together, and it's no different for the Soldiers, Sabre guardsmen and Iraqis.

Their field is the base parking lot; their boundaries are the bunker walls, the trailer and the humvee. Their language is soccer.

George Easirija, a Sabre guardsman, dribbles left, but someone's there. He dribbles right, but no!

He stops. He pops the ball into the

air and then lofts it through a thicket of limbs to his teammate up ahead, who advances it forward. GOOOAL!

Semuyala Livingstone, another Sabre guardsman, is covered. He spins and passes to a man in front of the goal. He shoots and the ball ricochets to Frank Tumusiime, who has an open

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**The Red Bulls
can be found
on a cell phone.**

(Tell family and friends.)

mobile.TheRedBulls.org



THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office



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Maj. Gen. Rick Nash



Command Sergeant Major
(Command Sgt. Maj.) Doug Jullin

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Photos by Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

Spc. Adam Houtkooper, a satellite transmission operator and Minneapolis, Minn., native, checks the gauges on a generator that fuels the satellite dishes of the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division.



Spc. Mike Swenson, a Shoreview, Minn. native and satellite transmission operator with the 34th Infantry Division, does daily checks on a STT satellite dish.

Satellite Soldiers keep Red Bulls connected

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



COB BASRA – Think about your last email.

You typed it, clicked send, and then, like magic; it appeared in your boss's inbox. But have you ever thought about how this happens?

The Soldiers of the Network Support Co. know. It's their job to provide secured and unsecured Internet as well as phone service for the 34th "Red Bull" Inf. Div. deployed at COB Basra.

Equal parts mechanics, network operators, and carpenters, these Soldiers work around the clock to ensure that Soldiers and their commanders can communicate effectively on today's battlefield.

"We provide communication so [Soldiers] can talk to the commanders and senior officers and know what to do and what's going on," said Spc. Lindsay Fox, a Burnsville, Minn., native and satellite transmission operator with the 34th Inf. Div.

NSC Soldiers work "so people can call home and each other for morale and business."

The Soldiers of the NSC spend their days near a farm of satellites

and humvees. Solar netting is everywhere. The low and constant gurgle of diesel generators is punctuated by the occasional whine of a power drill. Soldiers check routers and switches and make sure that the machinery is running at optimal temperature. It's a life of constant vigilance and maintenance.

"I come into work; I talk to the people on the shift before, make sure everything is running well, do my daily check up on the vehicles and generators and the other equipment inside the shelter, and continue monitoring from there," said Spc. Tanner Winter, an Eyota, Minn., native with the 34th Inf. Div.

Winter operates and maintains the Joint Node Network System, one of the NSC's most important communication tools. Installed in the rear of a humvee like a 21st century switchboard, it directs all Internet and phone communication for the Red Bulls.

"It has a bunch of networking equipment in it, so it basically distributes the signal from the satellite down in the telephones and Internet," said Winter, who, prior to mobilization, traveled to St. Petersburg, Fla., with ten other Red Bull Soldiers to take a ten-week concentrated course on the system.

Following the wires connected to the network, one is lead to the satellite dish, where information is bounced up to a geosynchronous satellite over 22,000 miles above the Earth.

So how does that email get to your boss?

A switch fires as the send button is clicked, and the email zips through cables, flashes through a switchboard and blasts through a satellite transmitter up to a satellite. Then, after sprinting down to earth, the email bounces right back up to the satellite

Chipping Contest!

December 12, 1500 to 1600
Open field next to the PX
PRIZES for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Twenty-five openings, on a first contact basis
Contact Spc. Belland, RBVB at james.belland@iraq.centcom.mil

TEE TIME

Tee it up for the Troops is traveling with Serving our Troops. J. B. Ball will be in attendance. Ball started Tee It Up For The Troops to honor his son stationed in Iraq and to help veterans and their families.

Tee it up for the Troops, Inc. is a non-profit organization created to help support the fallen and disabled members of our Armed Forces, and their families.

This event is sponsored by
Tee It Up For The Troops.

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Photo by Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

Their field is the base parking lot; their boundaries are the bunker walls, the trailer and the humvee. The almost nightly soccer games help build camaraderie on base.

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

During a 30-day power shortage in the winter of 1929/1930, Tacoma was provided with electricity from the engines of the aircraft carrier USS Lexington

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SOCCKER

shot. With a long step and swing, Tumusiime boots the ball past the goalie and past the goal and over the barbed wire fence that separates the base from the dangers outside.

The game is halted until the gate guards retrieve the ball.

Spc. Andrew Hoffman, a Tacoma, Wash., native and air conditioning mechanic with the 308th Brigade Support Battalion darts around the field, kicking and yelling.

There is quite a bit of shouting, but all involved insist it's good-natured.

"It's all fun and games," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Mason, a Rochester, N.Y., native and a mechanic with the 308th BSB. "After the game, we shake hands, just like, in the beginning, we all pray before the game."

No one takes themselves too seriously.

"At times we play rough, but we don't mean it," said George Easirija. "We just play."

While, some Soldiers spend their free time on deployment watching TV or playing video games, there are worse ways to spend time than connecting with your co-workers playing soccer, the global game.

"We get to meet new friends," said Mason.

"New people. New cultures," said Hoffman. "And it's something to do."

For more of Pfc. Lawrence's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.Lawrence



*Host a Private Movie
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POC: Bev Mullis
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Kbanks@uso.org





St. Paul to Iraq

Saturday, December 12th

For all Servicemembers on COB Basra:

Delicious Steak Meal with all the trimmings

What: Volunteers from *Serving Our Troops*, a Minnesota-based civic group, are traveling from St. Paul to Iraq to serve COB Basra service members a grilled steak dinner.

Special DFAC Dinner Menu: On Saturday, December 12, both DFACs will serve a 12-ounce grilled steak dinner meal during regularly-scheduled hours, courtesy of *Serving Our Troops*.

A Special Invitation for Minnesota Soldiers:

Dinner with your family

In St. Paul: *Serving Our Troops* is hosting a unique, free event for families at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium from 9:30am to 3:00pm CST. Your families will enjoy free steak meals, ice cold beverages, live music, special kids activities, and free tickets to the Science Museum and Children's Museum. **Tell your family to RSVP to www.servingourtroops.com.**

The St. Paul family event will be linked via two-way video to the COB Basra Red Bull LSA.

At COB Basra: Join *Serving Our Troops* volunteers for a special event in the Red Bull LSA from 1700 to 2200. Live music from the 34th Red Bull Division Band and special guest GB Leighton. Freshly-grilled steaks, a special program, and a live video link back to St. Paul, with opportunities to speak to loved ones.

Al-Anon

For Friends & Families of Alcoholics

If your life has been affected by another person's drinking, Al-Anon offers an anonymous fellowship opportunity for you to share with others in similar situations. We welcome you to attend one or several meetings.

When: Tuesday evenings at 2000

Where: Holy Joe's Coffee Shop, located in Red Bull LSA

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HONORED

"Sgt. William's death makes us realize that Iraq is still a dangerous place," said Jones. "Contrary to reports on the news, there are still people willing to attack U.S. and [Iraqi Security] forces and try and undo all the progress that has happened here."

Tooke reminded his Soldiers that they needed to stay focused on the mission their fallen teammate died performing.

"We are in a position to potentially write one of the last chapters in a book that began with the Marne Division, the Sledgehammer Brigade and the Rock's Support Battalion back in 2003," said Tooke. "In partnership with our Iraqi Security Force brothers, the Provincial Reconstruction Team and the Wasit Provincial Government we stand ready to be a part of something much larger than ourselves. This is exactly what Staff Sergeant Williams, his teammates in 3rd platoon Bravo Battery and the PRT were doing on November 22 and what he'd want us to continue to do in his absence."

In a show of solidarity and support, both Ambassador Hill and all three ISF generals paid respect to Williams' memorial stand and gave their condolences to Jones, Tooke and the Soldiers of "B" Battery.

"His enthusiastic support of the soldiers under his charge, his commitment to the mission and the safety of the PRT, and his friendly camaraderie, all marked him as a leader of the finest caliber," said Hill. "It is the dedication and commitment of Soldiers like Staff Sgt. Williams that enable us to carry out our important work in Iraq."

Despite Williams passing, his friends and comrades still treasure the memories they have of him.

"Whatever faith or belief you have, if there is a better place after death, believe me, he is there," said Sgt. Kevin Behling, a fellow non-commissioned officer in "B" Battery. "His legacy will never be forgotten."

Williams is survived by his wife, Atiyhia; his daughter, Briana; and his son Antonio Godbold.

Williams awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal (three times), Army Achievement Medal (two times), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (campaign star), Iraqi Campaign Medal (campaign star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (three times), the NATO medal, Combat Action Badge and Air Assault Badge.

SUDOKU

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3						8		
6								
		5		1		3		9
	1						8	
9			6				7	

For puzzle solutions visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/puzzlesolutions

For more information on the 3/3, visit
www.TheRedBulls.org/Sledgehammer

Pheasant Hunt Anyone?



As a way to show their appreciation to soldiers, the Yellow Ribbon Networks for the cities of Stillwater and Hugo, Minn., are organizing a hunt at the Wild Wings of Oneka shooting preserve in Hugo.

The event is open to all returning Soldiers whose deployment overseas caused them to miss a hunting season.

The event will be held on Sunday, March 14, 2010; timed to coincide with the 34th Inf. Div. Red Bulls, return from deployment to Basra, Iraq.

Returning soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division are invited to reconnect with the great American hunting tradition by enjoying an all expenses paid Pheasant Hunt at Wild Wings of Oneka.

Wild Wings of Oneka is an exclusive private hunting club and sporting clays facility located in Hugo, Minn., just minutes from the St. Paul/Minneapolis metro.

Established in 1956, it is the oldest hunting club in the state of Minnesota, with many years of tradition and a rich history.

Its 537 acre landscape features rolling hills, open fields, hardwood timber forests and peaceful lakes less than 30 minutes away from cities,

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a Minnesota National Guard pioneered program which empowers community leaders to coordinate support efforts and to build an enduring network of support for Service Members and families throughout the deployment cycle.

The Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign is a reminder that supporting Service Members cannot end when they return home from deployment and the yellow ribbons are untied.

Space and accommodation for the hunt is limited so register early.

Soldier Registration and Questions or Comments

Chuck Haas, 651-247-0354, charles.haas@ipl.com

Mike Polehna, 651-303-7569, mike.polehna@co.washington.mn.us



THE POWER TRIP

BE IN
THE
STUDIO
AUDIENCE!

MIKE "THE SUPERSTAR" MORRIS
LIVE FROM COB BASRA, FRI., DEC. 11

**1500-1800 TOWN HALL (MAIN CHAPEL)
NEAR D-MAIN AND GREEN BEANS COFFEE**



THE SERVICEMEMBER'S CIVIL RELIEF ACT

You have heard it referred to a million times, but you may be asking yourself... what the heck is the SCRA?

The SCRA, or Servicemember's Civil Relief Act was passed by Congress in 2003 to protect the men and women who are called to active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces when their legal rights and financial obligations are involved.

The date that a servicemember enters into active duty is generally the date the individual becomes eligible for the protections of the SCRA, and the protections usually end somewhere between thirty days and six months after release from an active duty status. It allows for the reduction of interest rates on some debts, the extension of time limits for repayment of debts, the suspension of garnishment of wages, delays for court and administrative proceedings, and various other protections for the servicemember while he or she is deployed.

Under the SCRA, a military member can have the interest rate for most obligations entered into before entering active duty capped at a six percent interest rate, as long as the servicemember's ability to meet the obligations are materially affected by being called to active duty.

In order to apply for the reduced interest rate, the military member must provide written notice to the creditor as well as a copy of his or her orders. The 6 percent cap on interest begins the first day that the service member is on active duty and lasts for the duration of active duty service. Although you may be able to have your interest rate reduced, this does not mean that the SCRA allows you to stop paying on your credit cards and loans. However, in certain cases, you may file a petition with a court to suspend payments on obligations.

The SCRA also provides protections when it comes to your home. It allows you to terminate a residential lease when you provide written notice to the landlord and a copy of your orders. Once you provide written notice to your landlord, the lease will be terminated thirty days after the next date the rent is paid on. In addition, once the lease has been terminated, the landlord must give back any rent that was paid in advance, as well as the security deposit, if there is no damage to the home. The SCRA can also protect you from being evicted while you are deployed if you rent



an apartment or a house. The same goes for mortgages- the SCRA can provide temporary relief from paying your mortgage if the agreement was entered into prior to being on active duty. If you feel that you may be unable to meet the obligations set forth in your rental agreement or mortgage, stop in and see your legal assistance attorney.

There are various other protections offered by the SCRA, including being able to cancel or suspend your cell phone bill without an early termination fee and being able to get out of an automobile lease.

For more information contact SPC Jennifer Aga, Legal Assistance NCOIC at 8584098 or jennifer.aga@iraq.centcom.mil.

For more of JAG's comments, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/TheGavel

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before saying a quick hello again to the hub. One last frantic dash to the satellite, and finally the email is home, tip-toeing sheepishly back down to Basra and then to your boss's inbox.

And all this happens at the speed of light.

So thank your local NSC Soldier. They have an important job, making sure Soldiers can communicate with their commanders and with each other. Maybe shoot them an email; they'll get it on the bounce back from

the satellite.

Just don't ask them how to fix your personal Internet.

"No idea. Outside my job," said Winter.

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



Red Bull Radio
PODCAST
Apache
husband/wife
team
www.TheRedBulls.org/podcast

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Masa' al-kher ~
Good night





34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

MINNESOTA VIKINGS VIEWING PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

VIKINGS VS. BENGALS

21:00 hrs. @ THE RED BULL LSA, near the VOLLEYBALL COURTS



Be in the audience as the Red Bulls Viewing Party is linked LIVE to the KFAN broadcast to the Metrodome.

Mike "The Superstar" Morris for this live RADIO broadcast.

Game coverage from 2100 to 0000.

Stay after the game for the post-game show



COME JOIN THE EXCITEMENT!
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GO VIKES!



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Soldiers/Hunters:
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 for information about
 an all expense-paid
 pheasant hunting trip!

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon... your Fort Minnesota.
34th ID Headquarters and 34th STB Family Reintegration Academy
Dec. 12-13, 2009
at the St. Paul River Center & Roy Wilkins Complex
 click here for more information or visit
www.BeyondtheYellowRibbon.org

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

Around the world in 34 seconds



WASHINGTON – Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden may periodically slip back into Afghanistan from his remote hideout in neighboring Pakistan, a senior White House official says, adding a new twist to the mystery of the elusive terrorist's whereabouts. President Barack Obama's national security adviser, Gen. James Jones, said bin Laden, believed hiding mainly in a rugged area of western Pakistan, may be spending some time in Afghanistan, where he was based while plotting the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. But Obama's Pentagon chief, Robert Gates, said the U.S. has lacked good intelligence on bin Laden for a long time — "I think it has been years" — and did not confirm that he'd slipped into Afghanistan. Jones and Gates spoke Sunday on separate TV interview shows as part of an administration effort to explain and defend Obama's new Afghan war strategy, which Gates said includes a focus on preventing al-Qaida from again gaining a foothold inside Afghanistan. A concern is that the Taliban, if permitted to regain power in Kabul, could facilitate a return of al-Qaida's leadership.



PEARL HARBOR – Ed Johann will always remember the sound of planes diving out of the sky to bomb U.S. battleships, the explosions and the screams of sailors. He still recalls the stench of burning oil and flesh. The 86-year-old retired firefighter is due to return Monday to Pearl Harbor for the first time since World War II to attend a ceremony marking the 68th anniversary of the Japanese attack. "I really don't know how I'm going to handle it," said Johann, from his home in Oregon. "When I think about it, all I have is unpleasantness. I'm sure it's not like that now." Johann was a teenage apprentice seaman on Dec. 7, 1941.



TEXAS – There were five undefeated teams and only two spots in the title game. Alabama and Texas came out winners in that bit of BCS math, while TCU, Cincinnati and Boise State were left with nice consolation prizes. The imperfect method of choosing a national champion paired top-ranked Alabama against No. 2 Texas in the BCS title game — a Jan. 7 meeting that will bring together Heisman Trophy hopefuls Colt McCoy of the Longhorns and Mark Ingram of the Crimson Tide. No. 3 TCU, No. 4 Cincinnati and No. 6 Boise State also finished undefeated. All three were included in the BCS, but none will play for the championship — a predictable result that will renew the annual debate about college football's way of determining the best team in the land. The other BCS matchups: Oregon against Ohio State in the Rose Bowl; Iowa against Georgia Tech in the Orange; Florida against Cincinnati in the Sugar and TCU against Boise State in the Fiesta.



LONDON – Britain's Ministry of Defense has had a close encounter of the credit crunch kind. After more than 50 years of service, the ministry has shut down its UFO investigation unit, saying it could no longer justify the cost of running the service. The ministry said it had found no evidence of a threat to Britain or proof of the existence of extra-terrestrials, despite the public sending thousands of reportings of UFOs to a ministry hotline and email address. It said it held no opinion on the existence or otherwise of alien life, but added it had "no specific capability for identifying the nature of such sightings." The dedicated UFO officer who dealt with the reports has been re-assigned to another post, saving 44,000 pounds (\$73,000) a year.