







# Task Force 34 Commander

Task Force 34 RED BULLS, our deployment to Iraq and OIF 08-10 tour of duty supporting Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) as the Corps Aviation Brigade is rapidly coming to a close. I have been honored to serve with you over the past year and truly thank you and your Families for your dedicated service to this Task Force, your State, and our Country. Because of your day-to-day perseverance to safely get the job done, both here in Iraq and on the homefront, TF 34 has earned a tremendously positive reputation of flying MNC-I Soldiers and cargo throughout all parts of Iraq.

Army Aviation is THE preferred method for moving people around the MNC-I battle space, and we have certainly done that! Executing an anticipated 40,000 total flight hours, TF 34 crews will have moved more than 130,000 passengers safely to their destinations. This has only been possible with the superb abilities of our Command Teams, Aircrews, Unit Maintenance and Support Personnel. While we have been here, we have completed over 120 maintenance phases on our aircraft. Just like a well oiled machine, this coalition of experience has enabled TF 34 to support over 97% of our MNC-I mission sets. On more than one occasion, I have heard MNC-I or OCF-I Senior Leaders and Soldiers proclaim their faith and appreciation for our ability to bring them safely to their destination and back home.

With over 2,400 TF 34 Soldiers spread across Iraq at more than a dozen locations, TF 34 has been literally everywhere across the battlespace influencing the fight. All TF 34 aviation units to include TF Voodoo, TF Pegasus, TF Quick-strike, TF Jokers Wild, TF Cascade, and TF Skater have flown and supported tough, open-desert, NVG missions that underwrite both OCF-I and Special Operations Command Warriors. These forces have grown accustomed to TF 34 safely transporting them to the fight. Your strong efforts and contributions have significantly enhanced the security of Iraq. Many insurgents have been taken out of the fight, and all of you, either directly or indirectly, have had a part of making this history!

During our OIF 08-10 tour, we have seen the Government of Iraq (GOI) conduct national elections, a reduction in Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) insurgent activities, and the Iraqi people taking positive steps toward self-governance at the local, provincial, and national levels. These are all indications that your collective efforts on this tour of duty have truly made a positive and tangible difference. Even though TF 34 Soldiers have done so many good things, there has also been shared grief and tears. We will forever remember the horrible tragedy and loss of Red River 44. It is vitally important that you keep our Fallen Seven and their Families forever in your prayers. Many of us have also tackled tough, personal issues, and through them all, we have stood together and held strong to our faith.

We will soon be moving on to the next chapter of our lives. Over the next few months, and through the years, reflect back and remember to apply what you've learned through the sweat of hard work, challenges of a high OPTEM-PO, and the ultimate price paid by the loss of Friends and fellow Soldiers. You, the next generation of leaders, are solemnly charged with ensuring that mistakes of the past are not repeated. Remember the Tiger-Traps that are ever present in Aviation Operations, both in and out of the war fight and avoid them at all cost.



RED BULLS, I am extremely proud of each of you and all that we have accomplished together. Units from eleven different states and Germany came together to form this GREAT Task Force. Individual Soldiers from across the United States were added to round-out our Task Force. And, as One Unit, One Team, we accomplished our wartime mission and YOU set the standard for others to follow!

Now, as we begin our redeployment, we will soon head our separate ways. You have CSM Thesing's and my sincerest appreciation for your tremendous work ethic, sense of duty, and incredible initiative to improve the flightline and accomplish our mission. I ask that as each of you go home and reunite with your Families and Friends, to be careful and responsible; maintain "SA", and use common sense as you enjoy your hard earned "Reset" time. RED BULL Soldiers continue to take care of your Battle Buddies, attend your individual State reintegration events, and train and fly safely as you rehone the blade for the next fight. Thank you for a job well done and for one of the greatest opportunities that I have ever had. It has been a blessing and a privilege to serve as your commander. I will always be grateful.

**ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT, ATTACK**

*COL Clay Brock  
"WILD 6" out*





# Task Force 34 CSM

Hello to the families and Soldiers of Task Force 34. We are drawing to a close here in Iraq and believe me, there is a renewed sense of enthusiasm and excitement; we are coming home soon! It seems like years ago when we started training for this deployment, in fact it was July of 2007. All the staff officers and NCOs who were identified for the deployment from the battalions, met at Camp Ripley and we started training on the different digital battle command systems. That was the first time the majority of the leadership met each other and started to build our relationships. Since that time, we attended numerous events around the country; each event checked the block on a checklist that is required for pre-deployment training. Some of the events were "in progress reviews," "aviation training exercises," Brooke Army Medical Center visit, Family Readiness Group meetings/seminars, higher headquarters visits/briefings, and specific staff training. During the pre-deployment time, each Soldier also attended training at their home stations, which meant more time away from home; when you add up the pre-deployment train up time and the deployed time at Ft. Sill and in Iraq; we have been gone a long time! It is time to pack our section equipment, our personal gear and our personal items, and go home!



I will always remember the Soldiers who made up Task Force 34; I have made some great friends throughout the Task Force. I have met some great Soldiers in this Task Force, and am humbled at times when I get to meet Soldiers who give so much for their country or witness the great things that the TF 34 Soldiers are doing in support of our mission here.

To all the loved ones back home; you can be proud of the accomplishments your husbands, wives, sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, and relatives have done here in Iraq; they are extraordinary people, they are extraordinary Americans. On that same note, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the sacrifices that the families also gave for this cause here in Iraq. You all equally gave in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; you made it possible for us to do our mission as you all took care of the home front, took care of our children, took care of the home, the yard, the vehicles, the daily chores, and ... I could go on and on about all the things families do at home while we were here in Iraq; my point is we are a team, the families and the Soldiers. There is no "I" in the word team, so I am grateful to the families and all the support you have given us throughout this deployment, despite your own day to day mission at the home front. We love and miss you all, see you soon!

CSM *Gery Thesing*  
"WILD 7" out



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as part of Task Force 34  
history to highlight the many  
and the dedicated Soldiers that

**include:**

TF 34 Unit Home Bases

**IRAQ**

**GER**

TF 34 HHC, 834, 2-149, F, 1-189  
C, 2-211  
1-244  
3-159

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### 2-641 Aviation Regiment

Task Force Cascade, 2-641 AVN provided commanders with fixed-wing airlift support by transporting high priority passengers and cargo throughout multiple operational theaters. TF Cascade is an Oregon National Guard based unit.



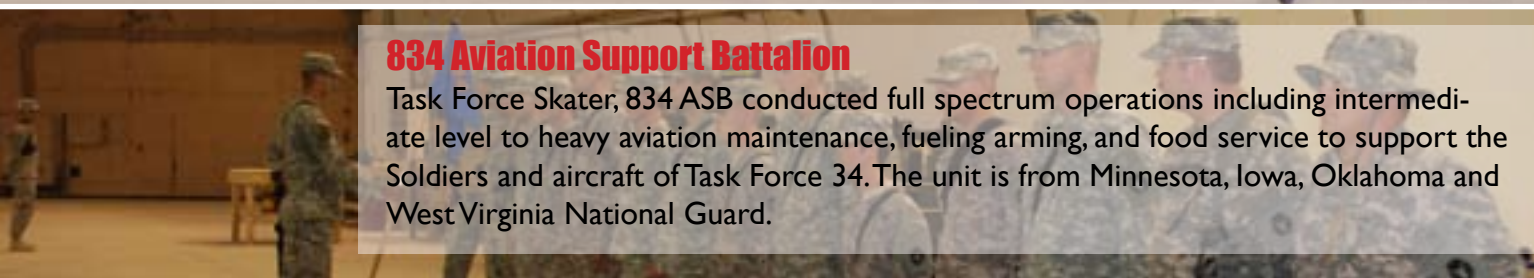
### 3-159 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion

Task Force Quickstrike, 3-159 ARB conducted base defense, utility helicopter escort, general security and attack reconnaissance missions throughout the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Area of Responsibility. The unit is based in Illersheim, Germany under the 12th CAB.



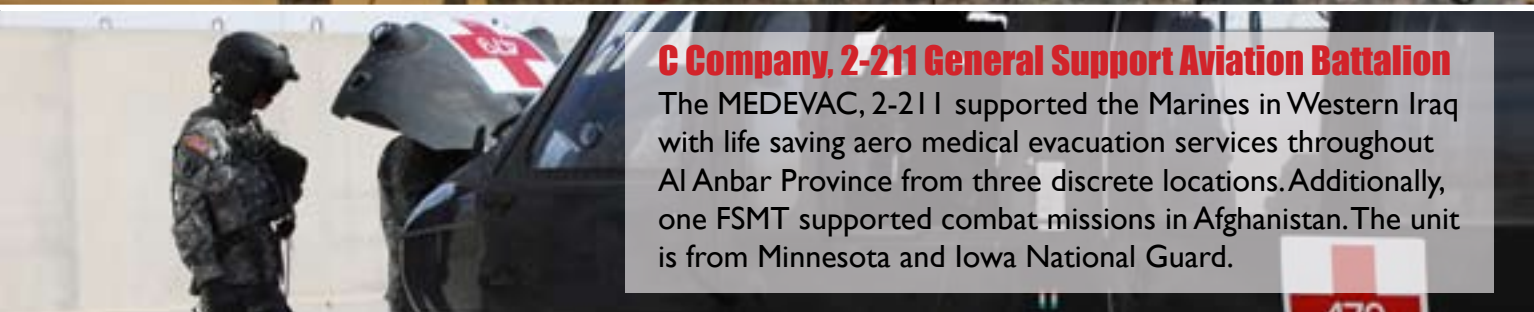
### 834 Aviation Support Battalion

Task Force Skater, 834 ASB conducted full spectrum operations including intermediate level to heavy aviation maintenance, fueling arming, and food service to support the Soldiers and aircraft of Task Force 34. The unit is from Minnesota, Iowa, Oklahoma and West Virginia National Guard.



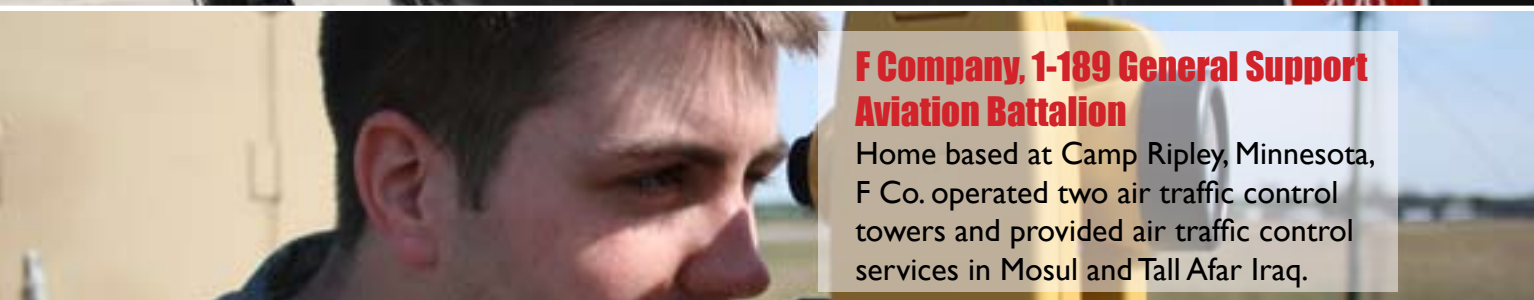
### C Company, 2-211 General Support Aviation Battalion

The MEDEVAC, 2-211 supported the Marines in Western Iraq with life saving aero medical evacuation services throughout Al Anbar Province from three discrete locations. Additionally, one FSMT supported combat missions in Afghanistan. The unit is from Minnesota and Iowa National Guard.



### F Company, 1-189 General Support Aviation Battalion

Home based at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, F Co. operated two air traffic control towers and provided air traffic control services in Mosul and Tall Afar Iraq.







# Task Force 34

## Brigade Command

**Commander: COL R. Clay Brock, Jr.**

**Command Sergeant Major: CSM Gery Thesing**

Task Force 34 was a brigade sized aviation task force originally comprised of National Guard units from 11 states and one U.S. Army battalion headquartered in Germany.

### Our Mission

Task Force 34 conducted a full spectrum of aviation operations supporting the Multi-National Corps–Iraq mission to maintain a secure and stable environment enabling the Iraqi National Government to assume responsibility for the security and governmental functions of Iraq.

### Accomplishments:

The Task Force projected combat power throughout the theater of Iraq, and through the combined efforts of all the Battalions and Soldiers accomplished the following significant accomplishments:

- 834th ASB FLE supported MNC–I C4 Aviation efforts by establishing SSA and Combat Aviation Brigade footprint at Tallil to support MND–S operational aviation requirements.
- F Co. I-185th provided C-23 support to cover mission requirements previously supported out of Ali Al Salem Air Force Base by a sister company. This critical function provided the movement of aviation AOG parts and support personnel throughout the theater of Iraq.
- Projected long range combat power and maintenance by dividing the headquarters and subordinate companies of 3-159 ARB between Balad and Basrah.



CHAP (LTC) Joel Severson  
Chaplain

COL Basil Leblanc  
Flight Surgeon

MAJ Eric Pikula  
S2

CW5 David Laurie  
Master Gunner

MAJ Patricia Baker  
S4

CW5 Jeffrey Pratt  
Standardization Instructor Pilot

LTC Todd Kubista  
S3

LTC Darryl Ducharme  
Deputy Commander

COL Clay Brock  
Commander





## Headquarters and Headquarters Company

**Commander: CPT Sheldon Atwood**

**First Sergeant: ISG Clifford Steenberg**

The Task Force 34 Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) were formed from the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade HHC of the Minnesota National Guard.

Soldiers of HHC performed pre-mobilization training at Camp Ripley, MN and were activated May 31st, 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



### Accomplishments:

- Established Command and Control of Task Force 34 and formed a cohesive operations team including all subordinate battalion's and units
- Successfully tracked over 5,600 missions and 40,000 flight hours in support of MNC-I combat operations with virtually no issues. This allowed for the transportation of over 130,000 passengers and over 11,670,000 lbs of cargo which was moved in support of MNC-I combat operations to sustain the fight
- Provided support in Logistics, Communication, Medical, Legal, Public Affairs and Ministry to a Task Force of over 2,000 Soldiers



CSM Gery Thesing  
Command Sgt. Maj.

LTC Michael Taff  
Executive Officer

LTC James Yates  
EO Officer

MAJ Mark Bonner  
S6

MAJ Douglas Simon  
JAG

MAJ Randall Hedegaard  
Med. Ops. Officer

MAJ Roy Fuhrmann  
Catfish Air; Public Affairs

CW5 Gary Arne  
TAC Ops.

MAJ Michael Weaver  
S1

MAJ Taylor Cox  
IG





# 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 244<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Battalion



LTC Patrick  
Bossetta

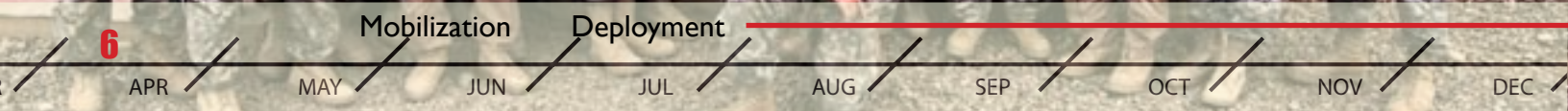


CSM Myron  
Creecy



"The 1st Battalion, 244th Assault Helicopter Battalion has been at the tip of the spear. As this mission in Iraq continues to move toward stabilization and moves more towards stability operations in a peacekeeping operation, there still is a combat mission. MNC-I and TF 34 are conducting that combat mission, and we are a very large part of it with air assault missions in support of special operations. And, that is something I would like to highlight that the battalion has been incredibly successful in doing, as far as the combat missions are concerned. We were the tip of the spear in that mission. Based on what this unit has done over the last four years, if the folks back home want something to be proud of, something to be positive about with all of the negative news we hear, you don't have to look too much further than the Louisiana National Guard and Florida National Guard."

*LTC Patrick Bossetta  
Commander, 1-244 AHB*







## Headquarters and Headquarters Company

**Commander: CPT Scott Miroddi**

**First Sergeant: ISG Dannie Bergeron**

Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the “Spidermen,” were responsible for supporting the execution of multiple complex air assault insertion and extraction missions under the most demanding modes of flight for United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM), as well as TF 714. They simultaneously supported air movement operations in direct support to Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Multi-National Corps–Iraq, and Baghdad, Iraq. HHC supported every facet of the 1-244th’s mission sets from SOCOM to general aviation support and the Spidermen never let their guard down and provided human resources, Military intelligence, tactical operations, chaplain, logistics, medical, and communications support.



### Accomplishments:

- Supported over 15,000 flight hours
- Completed 3,000 combat missions
- Completed the movement of over 40,000 U.S. Soldiers, civilians and foreign nationals

## Alpha Company

**Commander: CPT Jacques Comeaux**

**First Sergeant: ISG Terry Morrison**

Alpha Company, the “Supermen,” performed combat air assault and air movement operations on Blackhawk helicopters within the Iraqi and Kuwaiti area of operation.



### Accomplishments:

- Flew over 4,900 combat hours
- Flew 966 hours in the month of October alone
- Transported 30,000 passengers
- Transported 41,000 lbs of baggage





# 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 244<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Battalion

## Bravo Company

**Commander: CPT Timothy Cleighton**

**First Sergeant: ISG Kevin Currie**

Bravo Company, the “Batmen,” supported the Ambassador’s office, executed air assaults, Time Sensitive Target missions, battlefield circulation, and supported MNSTC-I.

Additionally, B Co. performed BDE DART missions, CASEVAC, aerial reconnaissance, and detainee movements. All of these achievements could not have been accomplished without the expert skill of Bravo Company’s pilots and crew chiefs. They maintained aircraft maintenance at an 80% operational readiness while also executing missions.

Bravo Company received an official letter of recommendation from Ambassador Ryan Crocker’s office, and commendation and visit from our supported ground commander, and Task Force 34 commander.

### Accomplishments:

- Flew over 4,300 hours
- Transported over 13,500 passengers
- Transported over 160,000 lbs of cargo



## Charlie Company

**Commander: CPT Randy McCreary**

**First Sergeant: ISG Christopher Downey**

Charlie Company, the “Privateers,” was responsible for the execution of multiple complex air assault insertion and extraction missions under the most demanding modes of flight for United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM), as well as TF 714. Simultaneously provided air movement operations in direct support to Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Multi-National Corps–Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq.

### Accomplishments:

- Flew over 5,000 flight hours
- Completed 1,200 combat missions
- Completed the movement of over 22,000 U.S. Soldiers, civilians and foreign nationals







## Delta Company

**Commander: CPT James Wells**

**First Sergeant: ISG Michael Swanson**

Delta Company, the “Iron Men,” provided maintenance to 30 Blackhawk Helicopters of the Battalion that flew over 15,000 combat flight hours with Soldiers from Louisiana, Florida, Washington, Minnesota and West Virginia.



### Accomplishments:

- Culminated in over 3,000 Combat Missions
- Maintained an over 83% Operational Readiness Rate
- Completed over 400,000 maintenance man hours
- Completed over 3,000 Work Orders
- Completed 134 120-Hour Inspections
- Completed 40 Phase Maintenance Inspections
- Controlled the flow of over \$20 million in aircraft parts
- Maintained a mission ready DART, Downed Aircraft Recovery Team

## Echo Company

**Commander: CPT Marlin Jenkins**

**First Sergeant: ISG Chad Happel**

Echo Company, the “Juggernauts,” provided seamless logistical support to all Battalion operations. Specializing in fueling, maintaining vehicles, and running the Dining Facility. This National Guard unit hails from Hammond, LA.

### Accomplishments:

- Maintenance Platoon maintained a 97% Operational Readiness Rate
- Completed 50 carpentry projects
- Distribution Platoon pumped approximately 1.8 Million gallons of fuel in support of Flight missions
- The Food Service section assisted with Dining Facility operations, supervising an output of approximately 16,000 meals per day







# 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 149<sup>th</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion



LTC Joanne  
MacGregor



CSM Anthony  
Simms



“What I would like people to remember about this deployment is what the Soldiers have achieved, individually and collectively as an organization. It was a pretty incredible task when we started this whole transformation in June 2006 all the way to the deployment in May 2008. Essentially, we went from 60% strength to over 104% strength in less than six months, and went through several inspections as well as a rigorous train up in preparation for this deployment. The Soldiers stepped up to the plate and did a phenomenal job. I would say that is probably one of our biggest accomplishments. We took one of the most complex aviation battalions, in the brigade and turned it into a functioning war fighting machine, and I’m the most proud of that.”

*LTC Joanne MacGregor  
Commander, 2-149 GSAB*



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Mobilization

Deployment

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## Headquarters and Headquarters Company

**Commander: CPT Carisa Kimbro**

**First Sergeant: ISG Robert Quinn**

The Headquarters Company, “Mavericks,” element supported all the Soldiers within the company. The S1 section provided administrative support which included accounting for all Battalion Soldiers, Personnel Actions, Legal, and Mail Operations. The S2 section provided Intelligence and threat assessment for every flight mission executed. The S3 section provided training and operations support for every 2-149 flight mission. The S4 section provided logistical support to the battalion. The S6 section provided IT support for 100+ computers and managed over \$5 million of equipment.

### Accomplishments:

- S1 completed record reviews on all 575 Soldiers in the battalion and managed over 150 OERs and NCOERs
- S2 conducted over 400 Intelligence Briefings to support flight operations
- S3 provided flight following and Battle TOC Operations for over 970 flights, producing over 6,500 flight hours
- S4 supported over 100 work orders and provided over \$200,000 of spending support to battalion projects
- S6 responded to over 125 Helpdesk requests and ensured that over 450 computer accounts were created in four different Forward Operating Bases



## Alpha Company

**Commander: CPT Patrick Fleming**

**First Sergeant: ISG Kenneth Caldwell**

A Co., 2-149th “Palmetto Hawks,” represented the detached Command and Control (CAC) Company of the 2-149th GSAB stationed out of Eastover, South Carolina. As the CAC element for the battalion, A Co. was selected to serve as the Multi-National Force–Iraq and Multi-National Corps–Iraq Commanding Generals’ Flight Company. The unit was forward-deployed from the battalion, operating from Dragon Landing Zone, Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq.



### Accomplishments:

- Flew 513 hours in support of the MNC–I and MNF–I Generals
- Accomplished more than 7,000 hours of aircraft maintenance
- Completed 331 missions, and flew over 2,600 total flight hours





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 149<sup>th</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion

## Bravo Company

**Commander: CPT Ashley Brown**

**First Sergeant: SFC Kevin McAnally**

The Bravo Company “Hookmasters,” have been praised for their support by many supported ground units. The Heavy Assault Company, flying CH47 helicopters, supports three different organizations, Segasoic, Task Force 714, as well as General Corps Aviation Support, based out of Grand Prairie, Texas. B Co. performed a diverse set of missions for customers across Iraq and Kuwait. Missions included Air Assaults, Direct Actions and general support for OCFI, CJSOAC, and the Theatre Corps, not to mention VIP movements in support of two presidential visits to Iraq.

Bravo Company started the deployment under the command of CPT Jason Rowe and ISG Julio Ordonez. ISG Ordonez was tragically killed in the Red River 44 accident, along with six other members of the Battalion. CPT Rowe changed command with CPT Ashley Brown in February 2009.



### Accomplishments:

- Flew over 400 combat missions
- Completed over 3,130 flight hours
- Moved over 29,540 passengers and 3.14 million pounds of cargo throughout Iraq

## Charlie Company

**Commander: MAJ Carlos Tamez**

**First Sergeant: ISG Jon Polozeck**



C Co., 2-149th “Alamo Dustoff,” provided general aeromedical evacuation support to all United States and Coalition forces in MND–N from Balad and FOB Normandy. This responsibility included: Corps-level aeromedical evacuation support in support of MNC–I medical priorities and objectives including; MND–B Level III patient transfers, emergency resupply of Class VIII (Blood), patient transfers to facilitate the medical movement of Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility patients, patient transfers to facilitate the medical movement of Host Nation patients, and the emergency movement of medical personnel, equipment and biological. Their motivated and highly knowledgeable flight operations Soldiers were critical during each 9-line MEDEVAC request and provided the aircrews with the real time enemy intelligence, weather, patient injuries and pickup locations. The company is based out of San Antonio, Texas.

### Accomplishments:

- Flew over 1,700 patients, including 86 urgent patients and 25 urgent surgical patients
- Completed 600 missions with 1,290 flight hours, 869 hours at night under Night Vision Goggle systems





## Delta Company

**Commander: MAJ Matthew Masias**

**First Sergeant: ISG Michael Garcia**

D Co., 2-149th “Chupacabra’s,” mission was to provide 24 hour, general support, aviation, unit-level maintenance and combat aviation support across the designated area of operations. Delta Company ensured that no aviation support mission was cancelled due to maintenance delays which contributed immensely to the GSAB’s success. During this tour, Delta Company successfully deployed two Downed Aircraft Recovery Teams off FOB without incident, fully recovering all aircraft. In addition, Soldiers from D Company also performed many maintenance tasks outside their required spectrum by conducting Non-Destructive Inspections of critical aircraft parts and equipment, thereby increasing mission readiness by reducing aircraft down time.



### Accomplishments:

- Processed over 2,200 aviation maintenance work orders
- Completed over 17,000 man hours
- Maintained an 85% Operational Readiness rate

## Echo Company

**Commander: CPT Clint Hughey**

**First Sergeant: ISG Laurie Armstrong**

E Co., 2-149th “Outcasts,” based out of Grand Prairie, Texas, is the Forward Support Company that is located in Balad as well as Baghdad International Airport, and Normandy. They provide refuel operations, maintenance as well as Dining Facility support.

### Accomplishments:

- The Class III distribution section Issued over 1.6 million gallons of JP8 and serviced over 7,500 aircraft
- The Class I distribution section issued over 9,240 liters of bottled water and 13,114 rounds of Class V
- The Maintenance Platoon completed over 447 work orders
- The Supply Section monitored five property books totaling over \$10 million and monitored the requisition of over \$269,243 dollars of Class II items
- The Food Service section assisted with multiple Dining Facilities at Joint Base Balad







# 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 641<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment



LTC Todd  
Farmer  
Jul08-Jan09



LTC Christian  
Rees  
Jan09-Jul09



CSM Karen  
Jacobsharryman



## Accomplishments:

Total Missions: 2,418  
Total Hours: 10,678.5  
Total Passengers: 45,875  
Total Cargo: 8,350,600 pounds  
Total AMRs processed: 21,780

"The factor that influenced our success was training. We have some very highly skilled aviators in this organization coming from a wide variety of backgrounds, and they had a very important mission here of the 'white birds', which were the C-12 and UC-35 used to fly the VIP missions throughout theater. On a daily basis they were flying four-star generals, and ambassadors, a very demanding customer because their schedules are very tight and constantly changing. They did so day in, day out, in a wonderful fashion.

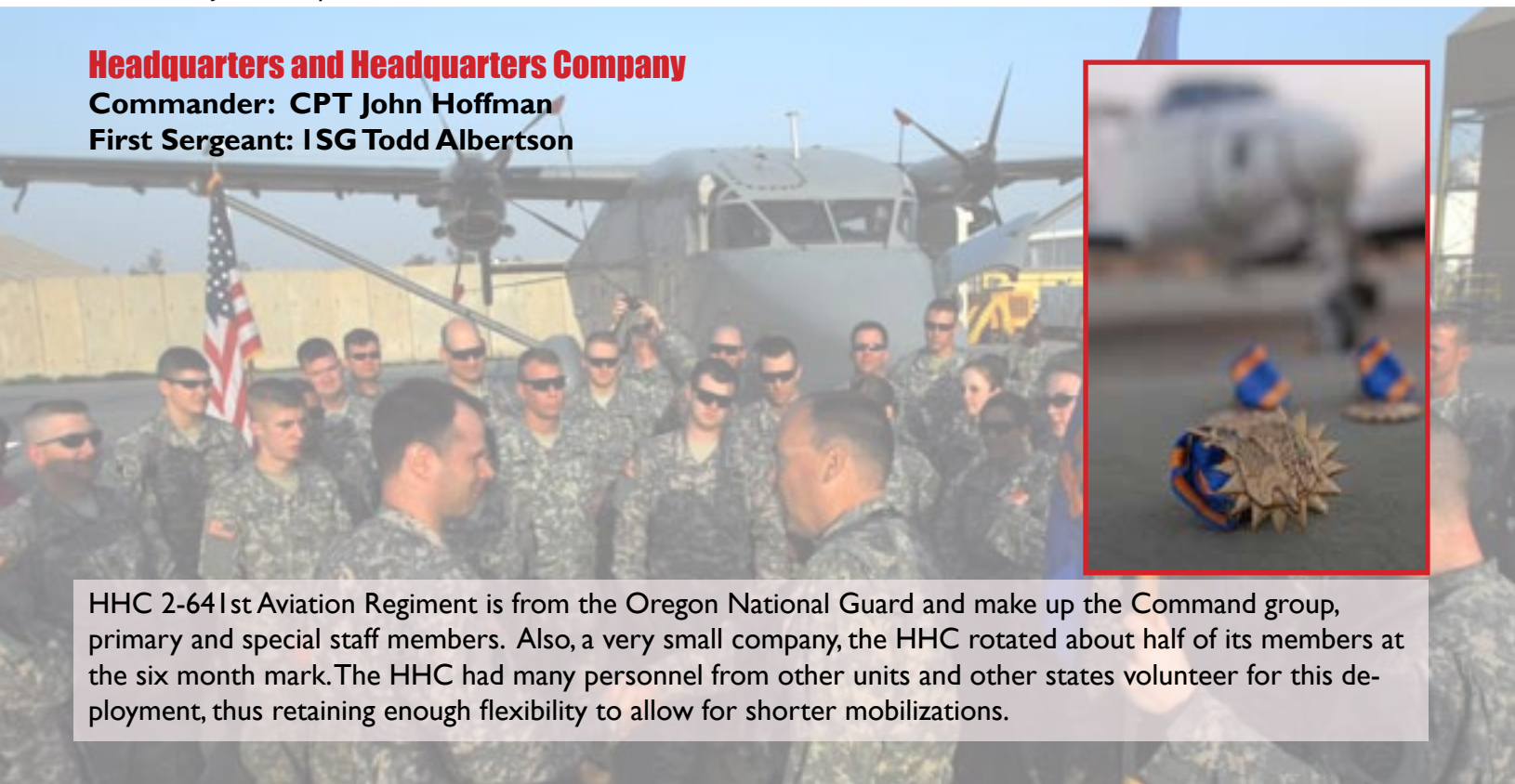
As the 'gold birds' were concerned, the C-23 Sherpas, we had Soldiers, many of which came from a variety of aviation backgrounds, different aircraft, and some of them new to the C-23. They quickly adapted to the mission, which involved flying with night vision goggles, picking up personnel and cargo and transporting them to keep the war fight going. The training they completed, their ability to operate in austere conditions, and their consistency throughout the entire deployment are absolutely outstanding. I just can't say enough about the effort these Soldiers made. I am very pleased."

LTC Christian Rees  
Commander, 2-641 AVN

## Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Commander: CPT John Hoffman

First Sergeant: ISG Todd Albertson



HHC 2-641st Aviation Regiment is from the Oregon National Guard and make up the Command group, primary and special staff members. Also, a very small company, the HHC rotated about half of its members at the six month mark. The HHC had many personnel from other units and other states volunteer for this deployment, thus retaining enough flexibility to allow for shorter mobilizations.

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Mobilization, Deployment

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## Charlie Company

Commander: MAJ Kevin Powers

C Co., 2-228th Aviation is from the U.S. Army Reserve in Fort Bragg, NC. It is the C-12 and UC-35 company which transports VIP and DV passengers throughout the entire region. Being a very small company in overall numbers, some members of C Co. were able to mobilize for six months, while the company flag and about half of its members remained the entire year.



## India Company

Commander: CPT Scott Smith

First Sergeant: I SG James Williams



I Co., 185th Aviation is from Connecticut, California, Mississippi, and Missouri National Guard and is the C-23 Sherpa Cargo airplane company transported high priority cargo and passengers throughout the theatre. All Sherpa units come from the Army National Guard, with two or usually four states making up one full company. I Co., 1-185th provided C-23 support to cover mission requirements previously supported out of Ali Al Salem Air Force Base by a sister company. This critical function provided the movement of aviation AOG parts and support personnel throughout the theater of Iraq.





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 159<sup>th</sup> Attack Reconnaissance Battalion



LTC Brian  
Dillon



CSM John  
Sundermann



The 3-159 ARB provides attack reconnaissance assets and utility helicopter support throughout the Multi-National Corps–Iraq Area of Responsibility in order to facilitate efforts to achieve a stable Iraq through the advancement of a sustainable security environment. The Attack Reconnaissance Battalion was comprised of HHC Company, three flight Companies, a maintenance company and a refueling company. The Battalion was physically split between Balad and Basrah, Iraq, providing attack aircraft coverage from both locations and covering a large portion of the country. 3-159 ARB is a U.S. Army unit, based in Germany under the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. “The biggest challenge the BN faced was providing attack aircraft coverage from two separate locations and covering the large geographic area of the country.”

*LTC Brian E. Dillon  
Commander, 3-159 ARB*



Deployment

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## Headquarters and Headquarters Company

**Commander: CPT Dan Brice**

**First Sergeant: ISG James Cook**

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the “Mustangs,” focused on providing Command and Control, flight operations support, flight following, conduct intelligence analysis, supply management, human resources functions, communications networking and repair, logistical, administrative, and medical support for a Task Force of over 600 Soldiers. The Mustangs deployed to both Joint Base Balad in Northern Iraq, and Contingent Operating Base Basrah, located in the Southeastern corner of the country. While supporting all the Task Force’s Air Missions, HHC specifically was charged with providing one Aerial Weapons Team (AWT) daily to counter the Indirect Fire threat on Joint Base Balad, as well as being the Armed Escort for the top U.S. Commander in Iraq.



### Accomplishments:

- Supported a Task Force of over 600 Soldiers while located on 2 FOBs
- Above regular duties, put together an Aerial Weapons Team (AWT), and provided Armed Escort for the top U.S. Commander in Iraq

## Alpha Company

**Commander: CPT Michael Dyer**

**First Sergeant: ISG Charles Wagenbrenner**

Alpha Company, the “Playboys,” one of the three Apache helicopter flight companies, conducted many classified missions that included a full range of ground mission support such as base security, direct support to ground maneuver operations, general security support for Baghdad and Basrah areas, indirect fire/counter mortar and attack reconnaissance. Their missions were completed with the command intent of deterring enemy influence and attacks on coalition forces. Alpha Company’s impact and success was measured by the reduction of direct and indirect fire attacks on coalition forces. Their efforts assisted the Iraqi Government’s efforts to become a stable and creditable entity. Throughout the deployment, Alpha Company was called on to support multiple UK rotations, 4th BCT, 10th Mountain Division, and all missions given by Multi-National Corps–Iraq. The tour concluded with a handover with the 1-130th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion from North Carolina.

### Accomplishments:

- Flew over 4,000 flight hours
- Completed over 1,000 combat missions







# 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 159<sup>th</sup> Attack Reconnaissance Battalion

## Bravo Company

**Commander: CPT Matthew Peterson**

**First Sergeant: ISG John Palesch**

Bravo Company, the “Bounty Hunters,” one of the three Apache helicopter flight companies, conducted many classified missions that included a full range of ground mission support such as base security, direct support to ground maneuver operations, general security support for Baghdad and Basrah areas, indirect fire/counter mortar and attack reconnaissance. Their missions support included Operation Telic in all relative areas with 15 different mission sets. In addition, they supported numerous counter indirect fire missions (C-IDF), cordon and searches, route reconnaissance missions, High Value Individual (HVI) raid, Troops in Contact (TIC), and Task Force Spartan missions. They successfully resounded the commander’s intent of “On Time, On Target” motto for all tasks completed.

### Accomplishments:

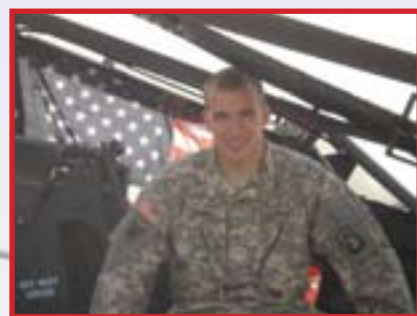
- Flew over 3000 hours
- Completed over 1000 combat missions

## Charlie Company

**Commander: CPT Scott Schmidt**

**First Sergeant: ISG Henry Champlin**

Charlie Company, the “Phantoms,” as one of the three Apache helicopter flight companies, provided support to British, Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and numerous Coalition forces, and conducted many mission sets that ranged from deliberate air assaults, vehicle interdictions, border reconnaissance and MEDEVAC Chase to aerial escort missions for Battlefield Circulation of passengers and cargo. These missions were accomplished out of FOBs Basrah, Tallil and Garry Owen, Iraq. The unit’s mission set included direct support to British Operation Telic, counter smuggling interdiction, direct support and air assault operations for 4th BCT 1st CAV Division, and battlefield circulation and general support to coalition military personnel and contractors assigned to Multi-National Corp—Iraq Southeast and Center.



### Accomplishments:

- Flew over 3,900 hours
- Escorted 17 Air Assaults missions

- Escorted 135 MEDEVAC missions
- Escorted 3 QRF missions
- Completed 10 HERO missions
- Assisted in capture of over 250 HVI





## Delta Company

**Commander: CPT Nathanal Patton**

**First Sergeant: ISG Nathan Mahaney**

Delta Company, the “Outlaws,” enabled the Battalion to complete its wartime mission by providing Aviation Unit Maintenance and limited Intermediate Maintenance support during split-based operations over an extended battlefield in up to four geographic locations. The Company maintained 24 AH-64D Longbow Apaches stationed at Joint Base Balad and Contingency Operating Base Basrah while providing the logistic support for eight UH-60 Blackhawks. The Company incorporated an aggressive Phase Maintenance program to improve bank time from well below 50% to over 60%, enabling the Battalion to fly in support of Multi-National Corps–Iraq in two geographic regions over multiple Operating Environments. Delta Company kept the Battalion flying and able to execute its missions while maintaining a sustained Operational Readiness Rate of eighty percent throughout the deployment.

### Accomplishments:

- Completed 48 125-Hour Inspections, improving the completion time from 24 hours to less than 10 hours
- Completed 20 250-Hour Inspections, reducing the completion time from 72 hours to just under 24



## Echo Company

**Commander: CPT Kerry Motes**

**First Sergeant: ISG Viktor Vaupel**

Echo Company, the “Executioners,” performed split-based operations running a Forward Logistics Element in Contingency Operating Base (COB) Basrah, Iraq with a Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP), ground maintenance, distribution section and a movement control team as well as a jump FARP at Forward Operating Base Garry Owen, Iraq, keeping the aircraft armed and refueled for rapid deployment and response capabilities. They also spearheaded the redevelopment and renovations of an 8,018 lbs. Net Explosive Weight Ready Ammunition Storage Area on COB Basrah.



### Accomplishments:

- Fueled over 7,500 Apache, Chinook and Blackhawk helicopters with over 2,650,000 gallons of fuel
- Armed over 450 attack aircraft with over \$5,750,000 in ammunition without any casualties, accidents or loss to the government
- Conducted 800 unscheduled maintenance, 126 schedule services and 112 recovery or off-site repairs
- Submitted over 6,000 Class IX requisitions in support of 126 pieces of rolling stock and Ground Support Equipment (GSE)
- Maintained an Operational Readiness rate of 97% on ground vehicles and equipment





# 834<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion



LTC Eric Waage



CSM Jeffrey Lindberg



"The 834th has three essential jobs that is to support, sustain and communicate. I think we're most famous for our aviation maintenance and that seems to be a big part of our job, but we do much more than that. We provide food and water, and medical care for all of the Soldiers of the Task Force. For the equipment of the Task Force, we repair ground vehicles, get fuel, and ammunition and other things to help support the equipment. We also provide the infrastructure for the Task Force to communicate, both internally and externally. They achieved it through great flexibility. One of the most remarkable things I think that we did was support two Task Forces, not just Task Force 34, we also arrived and supported Task Force 49, and that became 449, in the southern part of Iraq. So we had to split ourselves and create separate entities."

LTC Eric Waage  
Commander, 834 ASB



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Deployment

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## Headquarters and Support Company

**Commander: CPT Daniel Dobler**

**First Sergeant: ISG Craig Heggerston**

Headquarters Support Company, 834th ASB, based in St. Paul, Minnesota, contains both vital staff sections and critical support elements.

The Support Operations Section (SPO) faced some of the biggest challenges in supporting two Task Forces without an increase in personnel. Their efforts directly impacted over 4,000 military personnel and associated equipment, including over 140 airframes. The SPO Aviation (SPO-AV) ordered and procured over 1,130 Aircraft-on-Ground (AOG) and high-priority parts.

SPO Transportation (SPO-TRANS) submitted 116 Transportation Movement Requests (TMR) for the brigade, involving 1,595 pieces of equipment over a period of 6 months without committing an error. They also flawlessly moved 2,429 passengers on 137 separate flights. They trained the Unit Movement Officers from 18 companies in the Task Force on the TMR process and improved the overall tracking system.

SPO Medical Logistics (SPO-MEDLOG) identified serious deficiencies in TF 34 aircraft first aid kits, combat lifesaver bags, and Downed Aircraft Recovery Team (DART) resources.

Approximately \$108,000 of supplies were quickly procured and assembled to address the problems and provide combat crews with the most up-to-date medical resources.

### Accomplishments:

- The Combat Service Support Automation Management Office (CSSAMO) established the first hardwired and wireless maintenance network for the Army aviation footprint on Balad. Over nine miles of cable was installed, three miles of wireless networking shots were established, and more than 100 computer systems networked
- The maintenance section averaged 17 job orders and over 2,000 man-hours of work per week, spread across five maintenance areas
- The medical section averaged over 178 patients per week and met all ambulance, immunization, and periodic physical requirements. Their immunization effort alone totaled over 7,000 vaccinations
- The Food Service section assisted with Dining Facility operations at three locations at Balad, supervising an output of approximately 17,000 meals per day
- The unit ministry team conducted 63 worship services at three chapels for five distinct worship communities





# 834<sup>th</sup>

## Aviation Support Battalion

### Alpha Company

Commander: CPT Christopher Staples

First Sergeant: ISG William Buystedt

Alpha Company, 834th ASB, is headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota and is the Distribution Company for the battalion. Its job is to acquire, transport, store and deliver critical resources such as ammunition, fuel, water and aviation repair parts for the units it supports.



### Accomplishments:

- Among the most important functions run by Alpha Company was the largest Class IX (Air) Supply Support Activity in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations. They stocked over 4,196 LINs of aviation parts valued at more than \$128 million, and processed over 93,000 supply requests
- The Fuel and Water platoon section operated two Forward Arming and Refueling Points (FARP) providing over one million gallons of fuel in more than 4,500 separate fuel operations supporting U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Department of State, and Iraqi Air Force helicopters at the largest military base in Iraq
- The Water Section delivered more than 500,000 liters of bottled drinking water to 50 water drop points sustaining the military and civilian personnel on the west side of Joint Base Balad. They also purified over 5 million gallons of bulk potable water to support personnel and operations at FOB Normandy
- The Transportation Platoon logged an excess of 9,000 miles of safe and efficient delivery of aircraft repair parts to the SSA warehouse from various logistics points and the joint distribution center on Balad







## **Bravo Company**

**Commander: MAJ Kevin Tullberg**  
**First Sergeant: ISG Don Burrows**

Bravo Company, 834th ASB, is headquartered in Oklahoma, with detachments in Minnesota and West Virginia. To support the Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment (OIF 08-10), the company was further augmented with Soldiers from B Co. 248th ASB of the Iowa National Guard to fill critical shortages. Bravo Company is the battalion's Aviation Maintenance Company, responsible for providing Aviation Intermediate Level Maintenance (AVIM) support and aircraft recovery for Task Force 34 of MNC-I. In addition, the company had a major additional responsibility to provide phase maintenance, back-shop and specialized contact team support to Task Force 449, the Combat Aviation Brigade for MND-C.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Completed AVIM phase maintenance inspections on twelve UH-60 Blackhawk aircraft, plus completed another twelve UH-60 phases as part of innovative combined Soldier-contractor teams. Among these, nine Blackhawk phases were four MND-C aircraft from 3-142 AHB
- Completed six CH-47 Chinook phase maintenance inspections itself, plus an additional four CH-47 phases as a joint Soldier-contractor team
- Generated 12,640 additional aircraft flight hours beyond the total from the phases conducted at the flight battalions. This amount represented over 40 percent of the combat flight hours of the units supported, and was well beyond typical AVIM output
- Completed more than 6,000 work order repairs, services and inspections for a wide array of customers. In the process, the unit requisitioned over 16,000 parts for both Bravo Company and contractor operations
- 378 pairs of night vision devices (NVD) were restored, plus the full replacement of over 190 image intensifiers

## **Charlie Company**

**Commander: ILT Brian Fitch**  
**First Sergeant: ISG Norm Baker**

Charlie Company, 834th ASB, is headquartered in Hastings, Minnesota and is the battalion's Signal Network Support Company. The company formed the communications backbone of the brigade. It is comprised of two principle elements: the Network Operations Platoon and the Joint Network Node (JNN) platoon. Both platoons ensured that a secure communications network was installed, maintained, secured and defended for uninterrupted voice and data flow. Additionally, the company established a SSA in Tallil to support MND-S operational aviation requirements. ILT Brian Fitch took over command from CPT Kent Kogler in February 2009.



### **Accomplishments:**

- Supported two Task Forces simultaneously from three different locations in Iraq
- Help desk operations supported over 1,000 workstations and over 1,300 individual user accounts for both Non-Secure and Secure Internet Protocol Router (NIPR and SIPR) network
- The NET OPS platoon requested and maintained over 300 individual frequencies for the Automatic Link Establishment databases in multiple locations
- They also provided an Aerial Command Console NCOIC for the Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I) command and control mission which netted 12 missions and 20 flight hours of support
- The JNN/Command Post Node (CPN) platoon's cable team improved the network structure at all supported locations by removing 65,000 feet of unserviceable or worn CAT-V cable and installing over 166,000 feet of new CAT-V cable





# Charlie Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 211<sup>th</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion

## Charlie Company

Commander: MAJ James A. Shirk

First Sergeant: ISG Andrew Carrillo



C Company, "Northstar Dustoff," 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion's MEDEVAC mission in support of the Marines in western Iraq was a unique and autonomous mission. With the primary mission of providing lifesaving aeromedical evacuation services throughout Al Anbar Province, C Company's pilots, medics, crew chiefs, and support personnel demonstrated incredible dedication and resourcefulness throughout the deployment.

As of April 1, 2009, C Company had performed approximately 300 MEDEVAC missions, providing lifesaving evacuation services to over 500 patients. Through a combined effort of aircraft maintainers, aircraft fuelers, flight operations personnel, and flight crews, over 1,700 flight hours had been executed. C Company's fuelers provided support to the Marine's helicopter fleet as well, delivering over 200,000 gallons of fuel to aircraft. Finally, in April one Forward Support Medical Team was deployed to Afghanistan to support the developing fight.

C Co. proudly served their country in the efforts to stabilize Iraq and dedicated themselves to mission success on two fronts until returning home in late July. The adaptability and dedication demonstrated by every Soldier in C Company was a true testament to the outstanding Soldiers of Minnesota, Iowa, Georgia, and Arizona.

**"When We Have Your Wounded"**

### Accomplishments:

- 300 MEDEVAC missions
- Lifesaving evacuation services for over 500 patients
- Over 1,700 flight hours
- Delivered over 200,000 gallons of aviation fuel

Mobilization  
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# Fox Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 189<sup>th</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion



## Fox Company

**Commander: CPT Jesse Graber**

**First Sergeant: ISG Ronald Smith**

Home based at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, F Co. operated two air traffic control towers and provided air traffic control services in Mosul and Tall Afar, Iraq.

The units' insatiable quest for excellence led to 23 Army Air Traffic Controllers receiving their FAA Tower Certification, and 10 receiving their Army Radar Approach Control Rating. The Maintenance sections continuous support led to minimal equipment down time, resulting in continuous 24 hour operations of all ATC facilities.



## Accomplishments:

- Controlled approximately 400,000 aircraft movements, at two separate Army Air Traffic Control Facilities, without accident

- Handled over a dozen aircraft emergencies resulting in all aircraft landing safely without loss of life

- Supported Hajj Pilgrimage, Iraqi Air Force, Multi Forces Support, U.N. Mission, and ICAA efforts

- Made significant facility improvements of a vehicle maintenance shop

- Built an addition for the Army Approach Control facility in Mosul

- Built additions for Sykes Tower and Warhorse Tower



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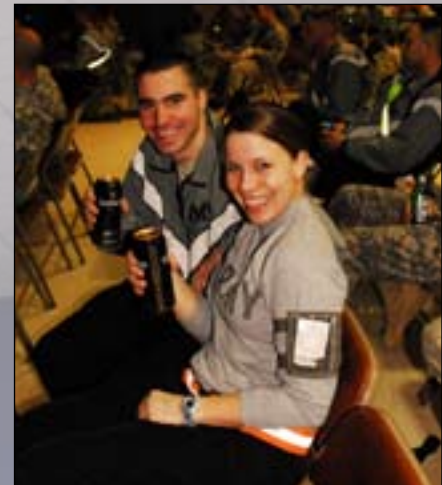
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# Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The West Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Center provides Task Force 34 Soldiers and all of the residents of the west side of Joint Base Balad, Iraq with activities to keep their spirits high when done with a busy work day. Soldiers used this facility to keep in touch with loved ones, practice physical fitness, and unwind with friends.



## Everyday activities included:

- Internet café
- Phone booths
- Exercise equipment
- Movie room
- Video game room
- Pool tables
- Foosball tables
- Ping pong tables
- Libraries of donated books
- Board and card games

## Activities occasional or weekly included:

- Karaoke
- Poker tournaments
- Exercise classes
- Guitar classes



## Super Bowl Sunday Iraq style

By SGT Timothy Stocking

Task Force 34 Soldiers enjoyed a break from the war fight and watched Super Bowl XLIII. The MWR center was rocking as the giant screen and blasting tiered sound system showed all the action. The Pittsburgh Steelers triumphed over the Arizona Cardinals in dramatic fashion on a last minute touchdown.

Read more on [www.TaskForce34.org](http://www.TaskForce34.org)





# Sports



## Minnesota Guardsmen historic hockey

By SSG Lynette Hoke

The love of sports is one trait that was not left behind on deployment for many Task Force 34 Soldiers. Soldiers enjoyed being actively involved in sports and cheering on home sports teams. For many, it brings a little piece of home to them. Activities such as softball and floor hockey helped to keep morale high.

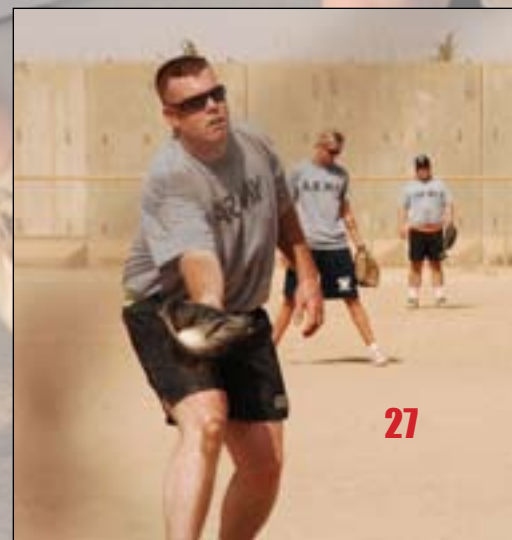
Read more on [www.TaskForce34.org](http://www.TaskForce34.org)



## Sports offered include:

- Volleyball
- Softball
- 5K Runs and Marathons
- Basketball
- Swimming
- Floor hockey
- Dodgeball

Read more on [www.TaskForce34.org](http://www.TaskForce34.org)







# Bettering Morale

## Morale Trips



**Chaplains lead tour in land of Abraham**  
By SFC Daniel Ewer

... In contemporary times it was the Ur archeological site in Tell el-Mukayyar, Iraq that brought together Soldiers of Task Force 34. Some followed the Chaplain's tour for a personal connection to Biblical history, others were fascinated by the ancient ziggurat, palace ruins and tombs; still others were amazed at the dynamic geology that could place an ancient sea in a modern desert ...



"It's hard enough dealing with being away from family and home, and with the holidays around the corner, it tends to get you a bit down. The closest thing [in Iraq] to family are the bonds we build with the people we are spending the next year day in and day out with"

PFC Marie Soderstrom  
TF 34 HQ Assistant Supply Clerk  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

## The Holidays



Being so far from home for the holidays can really take a toll on the morale of Soldiers. Units from across the Task Force celebrated such holidays as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years with parties and festive activities.





# Bettering Iraq



Read more about  
these stories on  
[www.TaskForce34.org](http://www.TaskForce34.org)

## It took a war to bless a child

By SPC Jodi Krause

"I guess the old Persian adage; 'I wept because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet' is an appropriate summary of this humanitarian effort," said Chaplain (ILT) Paul Woodward, 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion Chaplain of Enid, OK.



## Iraq Improvements



Since arriving at Joint Base Balad, Iraq in late 2008, the Soldiers of TF 34 constantly worked to improve their working and living areas. After the beginning of the rainy season at Joint Base Balad, the Soldiers built walkways to the latrines and, with the help of third country nationals as well as local nationals, built up the housing areas with rocks and pavers for walkways during floods.



## Humanitarian Missions



A Co., 834th Aviation Support Battalion delivered fuel to the local Bakir Village on Mar. 12. Spec. Benjamin Peterson helped provide security for his unarmed chaplain as he discusses world religions with the local Iraqi elders. Task Force 34 also took this opportunity to distribute humanitarian supplies, shoes, and candy to the Iraqi elders and children.







# Soldier Milestones



## Keeping the dream alive

By SPC Jodi Krause

... CW4 Gordon Eatley, Task Force 34 Headquarters Safety Officer from Carencro, La., was the oldest Soldier to deploy with Task Force 34, turning 63 during his time at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, before deploying to Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

PVT Eric McAllister, 2nd Battalion 641st Aviation Flight Operations Specialist from Portland, Or., was the youngest Soldier deployed with Task Force 34, having stayed back for age requirements from the first rotation of 2-641 AVN Soldiers and deploying during the second rotation just months after his 18th birthday ...

## Supporting many with few; 57 Soldiers support Task Force of thousands

By PFC Jasmine N. Walthall

The average aviation task force, made up of several units and a brigade headquarters, would normally have an aviation support battalion. This support battalion would see to their aviation and ground maintenance, supplies and equipment and ensure the task force's needs were met. Task Force 449, however, receives its support from just 57 Soldiers, who take on a job intended for hundreds. The 834 Forward Logistics Element is a part of the 834 Aviation Support Battalion, a Minnesota Army National Guard unit out of St. Paul, Minn. that provided Class IX materials to another CAB in theater ...

## TF 34 Soldiers re-enlist, celebrate Guard's 372nd Birthday

By SFC Daniel Ewer

Task Force 34 was well represented at the National Guard's 372th Birthday celebration in the Al Faw Palace rotunda Dec. 13 when 60 TF 34 Soldiers reenlisted accompanied by more than 150 other Multi-National Corps-Iraq Soldiers ...

## Testing above the rest

By SSG Lynette Hoke

... Recently at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Blackjack Education Center, Soldiers were offered a chance to improve their ASVAB score by taking a four week course designed to help them improve in the sections most Soldiers are weakest in ...

## TF 34 Soldiers gain U.S. citizenship

Written by SPC Jodi Krause

Ecuador. Russia. Mexico. Three Task Force 34 Soldiers have left their roots to call the United States home.

These Soldiers were initiated as United States citizens on 4 Nov., at a naturalization ceremony held in the Water Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq. One of these Soldiers was SGT Edison Cevallos, D Co. 3rd Battalion, 159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion technical inspector. A native of Ecuador, being a citizen of the U.S. has been a life's journey.

## Soldiers are baptized in Biblical lands

By SPC Jodi Krause

"Water baptism represents death, the grave and resurrection," said Chaplain LTC Joel Severson, Task Force 34 Chaplain. "When you go in, it's like dying. When you come up, you take a deep breath and live" ...

## Soldiers receive Combat Action Badge

By SPC Justin Adelman

Nine Soldiers, deployed with the 834th Aviation Support Battalion, were awarded long awaited Combat Action Badges in a ceremony Oct. 20, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq ...

## Recalled Soldiers receive their just due

By CPT Marlin J. Jenkins

... When we were preparing for deployment it was painfully obvious that the JUGGERNAUTS were going to be under strength to complete our mission in Iraq and this would require us to call on the IRR pool for support ...

## D Co. 3-159 exceeds standard for reenlistments

By SPC Neil Dalson

... It was in these conditions, along with F-16s thundering overhead, that the D Co. "Outlaws" were to set the standard for reenlistment. On Oct. 11, Delta Company's commander CPT Nathaniel J. Patton swore in eight United States Army Soldiers, collectively taking in close to 80 thousand dollars in bonuses for continuing their service to their country ...





# Operational Milestones



Task Force 34 served as the Multi-National Corps–Iraq (MNC–I) Combat Aviation Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10. The operational mission for Task Force 34 was supporting the MNC–I Commanding General's mission of defeating AQI and violent extremists, denying enemy resurgence, protecting the populace and achieving sustainable security.

The key tasks to meeting those mission requirements included: proactive aviation maintenance; combat operations with attack helicopters; MEDEVAC and CASEVAC; force protection and battle field circulation of key leaders across the Iraq Theater.

Task Force 34, in order to accomplish the established missions and key tasks, was organized as follows: CAB Headquarters; one Assault Helicopter Battalion; one General Support Aviation Battalion; one Attack Reconnaissance Battalion; one fixed wing Battalion and one Aviation Support Battalion.

— Task Force 34 consisted of 102 rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft, performing 37 daily mission sets, based out of four bed down locations across Iraq.

— In total, Task Force 34 executed over 5,600 combat missions totaling over 40,000 flight hours.

— Additional key Task Force 34 accomplishments included: transporting over 130,000 passengers and 11,670,000 pounds of cargo; conducted 120 phased maintenance inspections; conducted over 1,400 critical MEDEVAC missions; and transported over 2000 key senior U.S. military leaders to include the President of the United States, the President and Vice President Elect and countless congressional delegation members.

— Other noteworthy operations included: conducting ground convoys to a local community to deliver fuel; conducting countless facility upgrades and improvements; assisting in the expansion of new, long term locations for U.S. Forces in central and southern Iraq; and helping to shape the future of Army Aviation assets in the Iraqi Theater.

# Logistical Milestones

The logistical train for TF 34 units is significant and was stretched across the entirety of Iraq.

— TF 34 S4 shipped over one million short tons of equipment, requiring two separate cargo vessels

— TF 34's footprint on Joint Base Balad covered over 2.5 sq. miles. At the peak of the deployment TF 34 housed over 2,000 people and 114 aircraft.

— Over six million dollars spent supporting the Corps CAB mission

— Authored 20 Operational Needs Statement's ensuring funding was provided for the most mission essential shortages. Equipment ranging from maintenance stands to forward looking infrared systems

— Conducted 'Rapid Fielding' of hundreds of items, including all of the 'Air Warrior' items and helicopter door guns

— TF 34 was geographically located on at least 12 different operating bases





# Iraq Milestones

## August 2008

- U.S. and Iraqi delegations negotiating the security agreement reach an accord stipulating a withdrawal of all U.S. troops in Iraq by 2011
- Muqtada al-Sadr ordered his followers to lay down their arms and become a social movement
- King Abdullah of Jordan visits Baghdad. He is the first Arab head of state to visit Iraq since Saddam Hussein's regime collapsed in 2003
- Prime Minister al-Maliki orders the return of all former Army officers to service so that Iraq may benefit from their experience
- In Baghdad, over 50,000 spectators crowd into the national football stadium to watch a soccer championship

## September 2008

- al-Anbar Province is the 11th of 18 provinces to switch from coalition to Iraqi control. The al-Anbar tribes were critical in the defeat of AQI
- Coalition nominally hands over control of the 54,000 Sons of Iraq fighters in the Baghdad region and the GOI begins paying the members of the Baghdad SOI
- Defense Minister Abdel Qader Jassem Mohammed announces Iraq has taken delivery of US-built Beechcraft King Air surveillance spy planes to bolster its security forces
- Iraqi Airways takes delivery of their first new aircraft in more than twenty years, a Bombardier CRJ-900

## October 2008

- Iraq's Oil Minister hosts a conference in London for 34 international companies interested in investing in joint ventures in Iraq

## November 2008

- Iraq's cabinet approves the security framework agreement
- Through October of 2008, attacks dropped by 68% from the previous year. Nearly all IA divisions in the battle space are capable of planning and executing independent operations

## December 2008

- An all time record of 5,820 MW of electricity is produced for a one week period. Iraqi electricity production reaches a level 25% higher than the same week of the previous year

## January 2009

- The new security framework agreement for Iraq went into effect. The bilateral agreement between Australia & Iraq went into effect. The bilateral agreement between Great Britain and Iraq went into effect
- The Coalition handed over control of the Green Zone and Saddam Hussein's presidential palace to Iraqi authorities. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki proposed January 1<sup>st</sup> be declared a national holiday to commemorate what he called "Sovereignty Day"- the day Iraq took the lead in security away from U.S. forces, regained control of its airspace and reclaimed a wide swath of Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone (IZ)
- A report is released indicating the number of U.S. military fatalities in Iraq (314) in 2008 fell two-thirds compared to the previous year (904). The report also indicated that violence in Iraq has fallen some 80 percent since the surge of 33,000 U.S. forces began in January 2007
- Coalition Forces handed over control of the Sons of Iraq (SOI) program in Diyala to the GOI. There are approximately 9,000 members of the SOI in the Diyala Province
- Iraq holds their first nationwide elections in more than three years. More than 14,400 candidates, about 3,900 of them women, are competing for 444 seats on ruling councils in 14 of the country's 18 provinces





## February 2009

- The United Nations considers scrapping the sanctions placed on Iraq during Saddam Hussein's reign. Many of the sanctions were initiated on August 2, 1990
- GOI officials announce that a total of 191 Iraqis were killed in January, the lowest monthly toll since the U.S.-led invasion of March 2003
- Final election results for the January 31<sup>st</sup> provincial elections are released. Prime Minister al-Maliki's State of Law coalition won a plurality in nine of the 14 provinces that voted, more than any other party. Voter turnout was 51 percent
- Iraq's National Museum reopens in Baghdad almost six years after its ancient treasures were looted in the aftermath of the U.S.-led invasion. Tourism and Antiquities Minister Qahtan Abbas says about 6,000 items have been returned from inside Iraq, from its neighbors and around the world

## March 2009

- Chinese engineers inaugurate an Iraqi oil field in the first major oil development deal secured by a foreign firm since the 2003 fall of Saddam Hussein
- Turkey's President Abdullah Gul became the first Turkish head of state since Fahri Koruturk in 1976 to visit Iraq calling for greater cooperation from Iraq's Kurdish leadership in preventing Kurdish rebels from launching cross-border attacks
- Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki urges Iranian businesses to invest in Iraq and help with the post-war reconstruction. Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani responds by saying Iran is ready to support the Iraqi government and to remain at its side to make the Iraqi economy grow
- The British-led coalition base in Basrah lowers its flag and transfers the base to U.S. control. The British departure begins almost 50 years to the day of the British exit from Habaniyah near Fallujah in 1959 which ended a British presence in Iraq dating to 1918

## April 2009

- Raad Hamoudi, who led the Iraqi national soccer team to its only World Cup appearance in 1986, is elected to serve as chairman of Iraq's new National Olympic Committee.
- Abdul Zahraa al-Talqani, a tourism and antiquities ministry spokesman, announces plans for the Saddam museum. The museum will be filled with weapons, statues, paintings, furniture and artifacts related to Saddam and will most likely be in one of the presidential palaces in Baghdad. The clothes, documents and various gifts Saddam received from foreign leaders will be among the possessions displayed





**"As their commander, I will be forever indebted to each of them for their personal sacrifice."**  
 -LTC Joanne MacGregor, 2-149th General Support Aviation Battalion Commander.



# Remembering *Red River 44*



**"So now great Task Force 34 Soldiers, Aircrewmen, and Commanders, we will not forget our Fallen Seven. In honor of their selfless commitment to duty; carry the memory of our friends in your heart and go forward to finish the good race that was set before them and still lies before us today."**

-COL Clay Brock, Task Force 34 Commander



CPT Robert Vallejo II  
Texas



CW3 Brady Rudolf  
Oklahoma



CW2 Corry Edwards  
Texas



SGM Julio Ordonez  
Texas



SSG Anthony Mason  
Texas



SGT Daniel Eshbaugh  
Oklahoma



SGT Michael Thompson  
Oklahoma