

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE

June 8, 2009

## Highway 1 reopened to Iraqi motorists

By Spc. Darryl Montgomery  
MND-S



CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER SCANNIA – The Governor of Babil Province, Salman Al Zargany, and the United States Ambassador to Iraq, Christopher R. Hill, joined together here to cut the ribbon officially reopening Highway 1 and signifying the U.S. Military's cooperation with recent security agreements made with the government of Iraq.

Highway 1, which has been closed for six years, runs through Basra, up to Baghdad and further north. According to Lt. Col. Jim Barren, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, the road is probably the most modernized highway in the country.

Since all six lanes of the highway were closed off by barriers, it forced motorists to use a bypass road that ran adjacent to the highway. The bypass was a one lane dirt road, which passed through a salt marsh.

According to Master Sgt. Hollis Champlain, an operations sergeant with 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, due to the road being so small, there was an average of four major incidents per week where Coalition forces had to respond and assist with the removal of overturned vehicles.

"This is a great project and a great example of the partnership between the U.S. and Iraqi people," said Lt. Col. Christopher Lestochi, commander of the 54th Engineer Battalion. "The Iraqi



Photo by Spc. Darryl Montgomery  
Iraqi motorists wait for the official reopening of Highway 1 here. During the six years the road has been closed, motorists were forced to take a bypass that runs adjacent to the highway.

engineers were very enthusiastic to help, because they knew how important this road is to the people of Iraq."

The 54th Engineer Battalion and the 8th Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment worked together to make reopening the highway possible by moving over 1,800 barriers to the inside median of the highway.

"Opening the road to the public will save a huge amount of time," Barren continued. "There are always traffic jams. If a vehicle has a roll over or gets stuck on the bypass road, it just stops all traffic flow until someone can come and get that vehicle moved."

"It has been a long time coming and is definitely a step in the right direction," Barren said. "I think it's about time we did this."

"Two years ago, you would never have thought about reopening the road, because the area was getting attacked often," said Brig. Gen. David Elicerio, a Ham Lake, Minn. resident and deputy commanding general of operations, 34th Infantry Division. "Twenty months later, we are able to reopen the highway again, right beside the convoy support center. It shows the significant improvement in this area."

"We stand on a road that people have used for many thousands of years," Hill said about Highway 1. "When we have a moment like this, we should remember those tough times that got us here and will help us build a better future for Iraq."

For all of Spc. Montgomery's stories, go to:  
[www.TheRedBulls.org/Montgomery](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Montgomery)

### HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT



This hometown was called "Ham Lake," after the lake which had acquired that name on account of its shape.



Commentary by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford  
MND-S



# The three (plus) knife system

*I've heard the comment "you sure carry a lot of knives" numerous times in the years since I've retired my crossed rifles. The fact of the matter is Soldiers and outdoorsmen have been using the three-knife system for generations. I just take it a step, or two, further.*

The basic three-knife system is a simple concept. It's comprised of one fixed blade, one folder and one multi-tool. Each knife serves its own purpose.

In the case of the outdoorsman, the system usually includes one fixed-blade hunting knife, a medium duty folder and a multi-tool, such as a Swiss army knife. With these three knives, any task the outdoorsman may need to accomplish should be possible. He can hunt and kill game, skin his catch, cut firewood and even start a fire.

Like the outdoorsman, Soldiers have used, and even been issued, a three-knife system. Take for example the bayonet, switchblade and multi-tool. These knives are rarely issued together anymore, much to my disappointment, but we tend to fill in the blanks.

The most important factors in any system are that you have the right equipment and you employ it properly. Do the terms technically a tactically proficient ring any bells? Let's start with the fixed blade.

Your choice in a fixed-blade combat knife, if you're not issued a bayonet, should be based on two primary factors. How much abuse can it take and how much damage can it inflict. This knife will be used to cut, pry and chop. However, if the enemy ever gets past your muzzle it will be used to kill.

A well made fixed-blade combat knife will be heat treated



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

*Soldiers and outdoorsmen have been using the three-knife system, comprised of one fixed blade, one folder and one multi-tool, for generations.*

in a unique way so that the edge of the blade is harder than the blade itself. This is so that the blade does not snap when being used to pry, yet the knife will hold a sufficient edge for chopping and cutting.

Now you may be thinking this will dull the knife and make it less effective in a last ditch combat situation. This is not so. The fixed blade knife is not intended to be razor sharp. The damage is caused by the sheer size and weight of the knife. Do you remember the instructions that came with the bayonet? They said the attached sharpening stone was to remove burs only, and not to sharpen the knife.

The most important reason not to sharpen your combat fixed blade is that heavy, sharp knives tend to cut into bone when used for thrusting, and therefore "stick to ribs."

**KNIFE**

Page 3

## THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office



Commanding General  
Maj. Gen. Rick Nash



Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin

### Editorial Staff

34th Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Kevin Olson  
OIC, Command Information: Maj. Page Baldwin  
NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford  
Managing Editor: Staff Sgt. Derek Smith  
Design Editor: Sgt. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
Graphics Designer: Sgt. Eric Jungels  
Photo Editor: Spc. Tyler Maulding  
Layout/Design: Spc. Stephanie Cassinos  
Staff Writers: Sgt. Brandon LeFlore, Sgt. Frank Vaughn, Spc. Darryl Montgomery,  
Pfc. J.p. Lawrence

### Contributing Units

172nd Brigade Combat Team  
2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division  
4th BCT, 1st Armor Division  
41st Fires Brigade  
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
193rd Military Police Battalion  
Special Troops Battalion, 34th Inf. Div.  
Task Force 28  
450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne)  
Media Queries please contact 34th Inf. Div. Public  
Affairs Office at MND-S\_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

**The Red Bull Report** is an authorized publication for members of MND-S. Contents of **The Red Bull Report** are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 34th Infantry Division. All editorial content of **The Red Bull Report** is prepared, edited provided and approved by the 34th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office.



**From Page 2****KNIFE**

A slightly less sharp knife will deflect off of bones and into soft tissue where it will do the most damage. Your knife does you no good if it's stuck in the guy on the ground.

The tactical folder is used if your fixed blade is lost, broken or stuck. This knife should be kept razor sharp, as it does not have the size or weight of the fixed-blade, and will be used primarily for slashing. This knife serves only one purpose in the world and should never be used for common, everyday tasks. Its sole purpose for existence is to end the life of your enemy.

When choosing a tactical folder you will want something that is low maintenance, can be opened with one hand and has hard enough steel to hold an edge. A very solid locking system will also be imperative. Many tactical folders now come with features including secondary locking systems, assisted or automatic opening and glass breakers. Keep in mind that with every additional feature there will be additional cost. This knife, however, is not something you want to scrimp on. Decide what features are important to you, keeping in mind the blade is the most important feature, and be prepared to spend a few bucks.

The multi-tool is just that; it is a tool that can be used for a multitude of tasks. The multi-tool used for military application differs from your typical Swiss army knife in the

uses it is designed for. For example, not many Swiss army knives come with heavy-duty wire cutters. Like the folder, it is your job to determine what tools are most used in your military occupational specialty.

This is where I stray from, or I should say expand upon, the three-knife system. I carry two additional knives; a pocket knife and a back-up.

Hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't ask me, "have you got a knife". The pocket knife is the one I hand them. This is by no means a cheap or disposable knife. That would just be embarrassing. On the other hand, this is a knife specifically intended for common tasks such as cutting 550-cord, hundred mile-an-hour tape or opening mail. The only mail I'll open with my tactical blade is spelled M.A.L.E and carries an AK47.

The back-up, or last-ditch knife, is usually small and carried in the boot or around the neck on a chain. Whatever you do, don't carry anything around your neck on 550-cord, and only carry a knife around your neck specifically designed for that purpose. This knife is meant to save your life, not end it by strangulation or accidentally impaling yourself; and, yes this knife goes to the shower with me.

So, now you know the three (plus) knife system. I haven't found much use for a machete in Iraq yet, but if I do...

To leave a comment or share this story, visit:

[www.TheRedBulls.org/Lankford](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Lankford)

# MINNESOTA MILITARY APPRECIATION FUND

**1st Prize Men & Women: Hotel stay in MN for one night  
T-shirts for participants (first 200 registered)**

# 5K RUN

# BASRA 5K

**WHO:** Anyone wishing to participate  
**WHAT:** 5K MMAF run  
**WHERE:** COB Basra, Starting point: TBD  
**WHEN:** Father's Day, 21 June 09 06:00 start time  
**WHY:** MWR effort to familiarize MN soldiers about MMAF its grants and more

**TO REGISTER Contact:**  
**adam.m.hoffman@iraq.centcom.mil**  
**with Name, Unit, whether you are a father, and**  
**whether your family will be participating in the run back in Minn.**

# Thanks

**MINNESOTA'S MILITARY APPRECIATION FUND**

34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

# Red Bull Reel

Video dispatches of the Red Bulls in action

Available on

WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG



www.dvidshub.net

D	E	I	L	L	O	C	B	A	S	S	E	T	H	O	U	N	D	Y
R	R	A	P	E	K	I	N	G	E	S	E	D	G	R	E	O	O	K
E	R	E	D	N	U	O	H	Y	E	R	G	N	D	E	T	I	S	S
I	D	W	H	H	L	B	R	A	T	A	I	R	B	Z	U	D	O	U
R	G	N	I	P	E	H	I	E	R	D	A	S	O	U	M	P	L	H
R	P	E	U	A	E	E	A	E	T	N	R	R	X	A	A	D	E	B
E	P	O	G	O	P	H	V	S	R	N	O	E	E	N	L	A	I	L
T	T	L	M	R	H	E	S	E	A	T	I	C	R	H	A	C	N	O
S	E	U	A	E	I	R	B	N	T	A	H	O	B	C	M	H	A	O
F	H	H	E	R	R	T	E	W	A	I	P	U	P	S	A	S	P	D
F	S	E	T	N	N	A	E	E	H	M	L	S	E	T	R	H	S	H
I	Z	E	E	I	A	I	N	U	D	L	R	T	O	E	S	U	R	O
T	R	T	A	P	L	D	A	I	D	L	T	E	H	P	A	N	E	U
S	L	S	I	E	D	H	T	O	A	E	Y	C	G	P	M	D	K	N
A	O	N	R	P	U	O	G	A	R	N	S	O	P	I	O	T	C	D
M	H	E	W	A	S	R	G	O	E	N	N	R	U	H	Y	G	O	S
N	A	I	T	A	M	L	A	D	I	R	I	G	G	W	E	D	C	E
C	H	O	W	C	H	O	W	P	O	F	G	I	E	L	D	O	O	P

## Word Search: *80s Songs*



AFRICA  
ALWAYS  
AMERICA  
BEAT IT  
BROKEN WINGS  
CALL ME  
CONTROL  
CRUISIN'  
DOWN UNDER  
ENDLESS LOVE  
FAITHFULLY  
FAME  
FAST CAR  
FREEDOM  
GLORIA  
GUILTY  
HEARTBREAKER  
HEAVEN  
HOLD ME  
HUMAN  
HUNGRY HEART  
INFATUATION  
KOKOMO  
LA BAMBA  
LET'S DANCE  
MAGIC  
MANIC MONDAY  
MONY MONY

NEVER  
NOTORIOUS  
OUR HOUSE  
PASSION  
PATIENCE  
PINK HOUSES  
PURPLE RAIN  
ROCK ON  
SAILING  
SARA  
SATISFIED  
SHOUT  
SONGBIRD  
SUKIYAKI  
SUSSUDIO  
THE FLAME  
THE LOOK  
THE ROSE  
TIME  
TOO SHY  
TRUE  
TRULY  
TWO HEARTS  
VACATION  
VOICES CARRY  
WE BELONG  
WHIP IT  
YOUR LOVE

For puzzle solutions visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/puzzlesolutions](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/puzzlesolutions)





## Around the world in 34 seconds

### World News:

**UNITED KINGDOM** - A passenger jet which crashed into the Atlantic last week transmitted 24 error messages before disappearing off the radar. The loss of the Airbus A330's autopilot was among the system failures reported, claim investigators. They say it is not clear whether the system malfunctioned or was switched off manually by the pilots themselves. The Air France Flight 447 from Rio De Janeiro to Paris sent out a series of pre-crash signals during Sunday's flight, according to Paul-Louis Arslanian, the director of the French agency leading the crash investigation. Speaking at a press conference June 6 Arslanian said errors in velocity calculations were a recurring problem on the Airbus made jets.

### U.S. News:

**WASHINGTON** - Millions of households will lose television reception next week when about 1,000 broadcasters around the nation shut off their analog signals and complete their conversion to digital programming, federal officials say. The government has spent more than \$2 billion to ease the transition to digital television, and in the last few months has cut in half the number of households that are unprepared for the final conversion on June 12. But the latest survey by the Nielsen Company indicates that as of the end of May, more than 10 percent of the 114 million households that have television sets are either completely or partly unprepared.

### Sports News:

**CINCINNATI** - Carlos Zambrano was prepared to do everything he could to earn his 100th career victory. Zambrano pitched into the seventh inning, hit a key home run and added a couple of heads-up defensive plays for good measure to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 2-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds on June 5. "I felt good," said Zambrano, who didn't allow a hit until Adam Rosales lined a single to left with one out in the fifth inning. "Thank God we won the game. I'm happy about the 100th win. It makes me proud, but the most important thing is we won. After my last start, I felt bad about what happened." Zambrano gave up two hits and a season-high five walks in 6 2-3 innings.

### Odd News:

This calls for a "Yee-haw!" A cowboy who had his trailer repossessed and couldn't pay his taxes lassoed one of the biggest lottery jackpots in history - a \$232.1 million Powerball prize. South Dakota rancher Neal Wanless came forward June 5, a month after he bought the lucky ticket in a town called Winner. "I want to thank the Lord for giving me this opportunity and blessing me with this great fortune," said the 23-year-old. "I will not squander it." Wearing a black hat and a grin as wide as the plains, Wanless looked like he'd just stepped out of central casting for a Western. He lives on his family's 230-acre ranch near Mission, S.D., raising cattle and sheep but, apparently, not much money.