



# RED BULL EXPRESS

Serving the 1/34 BCT Soldiers at Camp Ripley, Minn.

July 16, 2009

## Headlines

### Tanker explodes in Mich.

A gas tanker carrying approximately 13,000 gallons of fuel exploded on I-75 north of Detroit last night. The blast, which sent flames hundreds of feet into the air, caused an overpass to collapse onto the interstate below.

### Taliban claims missing soldier

A Taliban commander in Afghanistan claims that a missing U.S. soldier is being held unharmed by insurgents, Reuters reported. Mawlawi Sangin accused the U.S. military of harassing and arresting Afghans in the southeastern provinces, and threatened to kill the soldier if these actions did not cease. The U.S. military said the soldier has been missing since late June and was presumed captured.

### Jobless claims at 6-month low

The number of Americans filing for initial unemployment insurance fell to the lowest level in six months, according to government data released Thursday.

### Today in history

Forty years ago, Apollo 11 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on the first manned mission to the moon.

## Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain (CPT) Buddy Winn  
1/34 BCT Chaplain

Calvin Coolidge once said, "Nothing can take the place of perseverance. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' will always solve the problems of the human race." The apostle Paul talked about perseverance when he said, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Perseverance - an identifying mark of a successful soldier.

## Soldier of the day

Hometown?  
Minnetonka, Minn.

### What is your most memorable experience from being in the Army?

The BCT deployment. Because of the nature of the deployment and the type of Soldiers I had around me.

### Why do you like your job?

Having the ability and opportunity to help Soldiers with their issues.

### What is your favorite movie?

Taken.

### What is your favorite type of music?

Reggae.

### What is your favorite meal?

I eat whatever comes my way.

### What are your hobbies?

Playing soccer



Sgt. Alkali Yaffa  
Human Resources Sgt.  
HHC 1/34 BCT

## HHC 1/34th BCT readies Tactical Operations Center

Photo and Story by  
Sgt. Daryl G. Sanford  
1/34 BCT PAO

Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1/34th Brigade Combat Team stood up its Tactical Operations Center in a Command Post Exercise July 16, 2009 at Camp Ripley, Minn.

The purpose of the exercise is to familiarize Soldiers with TOC operations and allow them to gain experience in a variety of situations, according to Sgt. Maj. Brian Olson, operations sergeant major.

"Our main goal is to develop our [standing operating procedures] and capture how we will do message flow in the future," he said.

*See TOC Page 2*

## Sports

British Open begins at Turnberry  
Mayfield test positive for meth again  
Pedro gets 1-year deal with Phillies  
Favre admits he's 'running out of time'  
NHL's Winter Classic set for Fenway Park  
Armstrong still in 3rd after 11th stages

## Weather

**July 17**  
Cloudy with a few showers. High 61F. Winds NNW at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

**July 18**  
More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s.

**July 19**  
Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.

**July 20**  
Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s.



### *TOC continued*

During the exercise, the Soldiers will be exposed to many different situations and scenarios to test their ability to communicate with each section in the TOC, and to test current measures that will shape procedures for future exercises and operations.

The exercise first began in May, when the HHC Soldiers began to familiarize with equipment and software that will be used in the exercise. The early obstacles, Olson said, were deciding how the command would organize distribution lists and file, store and log e-mail message documents.

After brushing off the dust in May, the Soldiers built the TOC in a day and a half, which is an improvement from prior exercises. However, Olson said they are already identifying changes that will allow the Soldiers to set up the TOC faster and make things run more efficiently.

“We are working with a young, inexperienced staff,” said Olson, “but they are working hard and doing an outstanding job.”

