



## Company increases proficiency with machineguns

Story by Sgt. Daryl G. Sanford  
1/34th BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from A Company, 134th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, qualified their Soldiers in crew served weapons Aug. 8, 2010 at Camp Ripley, Minn.

The qualification was the last step in preparations that lasted several months for training events at Camp Ripley, according to 1st Lt. Duane Kimball, A. Co.

"Our company was tasked to have several trucks ready for this training," he said. "Since March, we have had two platoons focus on getting ready. They were working very hard."

Over the course of the past few months, as well as the first part of annual training, "A" Company Soldiers sharpened their skills in mounted land navigation, vehicle identification, marksmanship instruction on multiple medium and heavy weapon systems, and many others. This will culminate with a live fire exercise that will showcase what the company has learned, said Kimball.

Spc. Anthony Keck, also of A. Company, said he really enjoyed the training. Keck, who has 8 years of experience in combat arms, mostly active, said that before he joined the unit, he believed the stereotype that reserve or guard Soldiers couldn't be as proficient  
see Weapons, page 2



Photo by Sgt. Daryl Sanford

Spc. Anthony Keck, A. Co., 134th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, fires a round while zeroing M2 .50 Cal. Heavy Machinegun Aug. 8, 2010, at Camp Ripley's Center Range.

## Headlines

### National

Military dog recovers from PTSD

### Local

Storms spawn tornadoes in North Dakota, Minnesota

### Sports

Emmitt Smith brings HOF audience to tears with speech

## Weather

Today  
August 9, 2010



HI: 86°F

Low: 67°F

Humidity Ave. 72.4%

20% chance of rain

Tomorrow  
August 10, 2010



HI: 83°F

Low: 65°F

Humidity Ave. 84.8%

40% Chance of rain

Weather provided by Weather Underground at [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

## Minnesota elections are coming soon!



State Primary:  
August 10

State General  
Election:  
November 2

In order to vote for Minnesota's next Governor and other federal and state offices this year, you must submit an

absentee ballot application. Keep in mind, absentee ballots will only be sent to voters who have applied (or re-applied) since January 1, 2010.

Applying is easy. Simply go to: <https://minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm> and follow the step-by-step instructions to apply for your absentee ballot.

Voting is easy too since your ballot can be sent to you by email. Vote and exercise the rights that

## God Uses Failure

### Chaplain's Devotional



CH (1LT) Daryl Thul  
HQ 1-125 STRIKE

*Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now. - John 2:10*

Have you ever thought, "Hey, this is going to end badly," while watching a TV show or movie? You've probably done the same thing while reading the Bible. Think about it. David sees Bathsheba bathing on the roof. You know that's not going to end well. How about Joseph lording his dreams and his father's love over his brothers? Not a good choice. These are easy pickings, but they prove a point. They illustrate the fact that God uses our failures and missteps in His success stories. David and Bathsheba's son Solomon is a great king. Joseph saves his family. At the wedding at Cana, we get the same pattern—a screw-up followed by a bailout. Make no mistake who is messing up and who is fixing it. Today's message centers on Jesus' first public miracle when he turned water into wine. He was attending a wedding when his mother told him that the wine was almost gone. He did something. "They've saved the best for last," declared the master of the feast. Running out of wine might not seem like a big thing to us – hey, we can just run down to the local liquor store – but it would have been really, really bad. God gets us through the things we cannot get through on our own. I'm talking about a God who is active and involved in the world today. Ask any recovering alcoholic or addict. Ask cancer survivors. Ask the couple who were told they couldn't have any kids and ended up with a quiver-full. Ask the widow who learns to love again, the soldier who survives the IED and all of us who know, deep in our hearts, that if life were fair, we'd be dead. I'm talking about restoration, transformation and sanctification. I'm talking about all the touch points in Christ we see and the bulk of them that we never see.



Photo by Sgt. Daryl Sanford

Pvt. Sai Cha, A. Co., 134th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, looks for an impact after Spc. Anthony Keck fires his M2 .50 Cal. Heavy Machinegun during qualification Aug. 8, 2010, at Camp Ripley's Center Range.

Weapons, from page 1

as their active duty counterparts. Now, he believes differently. "Out of all the units I have trained with, these M-day Soldiers can hang with any other unit out there," he said.

Check out our  
Facebook page!



[www.facebook.com/  
MinnesotaRedBulls](http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls)



Photo by Sgt. Daryl Sanford

Spc. Anthony Keck and Pvt. Sai Cha, both in A. Co., 134th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, load their M2 .50 Cal. Heavy Machinegun Aug. 8, 2010, at Camp Ripley's Center Range.