

The 34th Infantry Division has been one of the most deployed units since 9/11

In **2001**, Minnesota National Guard troops were activated within days to provide extra security to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.



In **2002**, thirty Red Bulls participated in a joint service 'cyber-deployment' exercise aboard the USS Mount Whitney, a command and control ship for the Navy's 2nd Fleet.

In **2003** more than 1,100 Minnesota Army National Guard's 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Soldiers officially started the largest Red Bull deployment since World War II Sept. 30, 2003 in a Transfer of Authority at Peacekeepers Hall on Eagle Base in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Most of the 34th ID Soldiers had already deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge as the NATO-led SFOR 14 peacekeeping mission by the middle of September.

In May **2004**, the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment (augmented by Company D, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry Regiment), 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, and with nearly 100 key positions filled by members of the 1st Battalion (IRONMAN), 133rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, commenced combat operations at 13 Provincial Reconstruction Team sites throughout Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



In **2005** the 216th Air Defense Artillery and the 134th Signal Battalion returned stateside and they became the newest participants of a locally created pilot program called "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon", to help all service members and their families acclimate to their 'new normal'. This program

would soon become the blueprint and model for states across the nation to identify and develop resources for service members and their families as they transition back into civilian life.

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In March **2006**, 2,600 Soldiers of the 1st Brigade of the 34th Infantry Division commenced combat operations in central and southern Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, marking the largest single unit deployment for the 34th Infantry Division since World War II. With its return in July 2007, 1st Brigade became the longest-serving brigade combat team during the Iraq war, (Activated for 22 months total with 16 in Iraq).

In **2007**, 34th Infantry Division troops participated in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as training exercises in Egypt, Canada and Croatia.

The Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team distinguished themselves in Iraq by traveling more than 2.2 million convoy miles, disarming more than 400 explosive devices, building seven water purification plants and constructing 90 miles of roadway in the Dhi Qar region.

B Co., 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion safely returned home after flying CH-47 Chinooks on 5,400 combat missions in Iraq. The 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Regiment deployed to Iraq with UH-60 Blackhawks and is expected home in summer of 2008. Minnesotans relied on the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade to assist in suppressing fires, providing emergency transportation during floods, providing heavy-lift capabilities at the I-35W bridge collapse and assisting with recovery of a downed aircraft.

In **2008**, The 34th Combat Aviation Brigade deployed to Iraq in support of the aa18th Airborne Corps. The 34th CAB flew more than 40,000 flight hours, commanded aviation units that spanned the Iraqi countryside from Mosul to Tallil and controlled assets worth \$1.1 billion in military equipment, before returning to the U.S. in May 2009. The Minnesota National Guard has deployed six Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams. The Finance, Military Police and other specialized units have also deployed to support the Global War on Terror.



In Feb **2009** the division headquarters deployed to Iraq. More than 1,200 Citizen-Soldiers representing 273 Minnesota communities and 14 states deployed with the Red Bulls. Four hometown Minnesota



National Guard units deployed: The 34th Infantry Division Command Post from Rosemount, the 34th Infantry Division Special Troops Battalion from Inver Grove Heights and Faribault, the 34th Infantry Division Band from Rosemount, and the 34th Military Police Company from Stillwater.

The Soldiers of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment Air Ambulance (C Co, 2-211) served in Iraq and Afghanistan performing aero-medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and medical resupply missions. This was the first time a Minnesota Army National Guard unit received a change of mission to Afghanistan while already serving in Iraq. In Afghanistan, C Co, 2-211 personnel provided MEDEVAC in the Regional Command-South and -West from the Kandahar Airfield.

C Co, 2-211 performed more than 300 MEDEVAC missions, providing lifesaving evacuation services to more than 500 patients while flying more than 1,700 flight hours with 12 medical evacuation helicopters.

In **2010**, the Red Bull headquarters returned home in April. The 34th Infantry Division made a lasting impression on agribusiness in southern Iraq, assisting in acquiring 20 tractors, 20 water pumps, and greenhouse material for the Az Zubayr Farmers Association. The Red Bulls embraced their mission and set the conditions for a successful drawdown of U.S. military forces in Iraq.

In **2011**, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division deployed more than 2,700 soldiers to Kuwait to play a vital role in the largest logistical drawdown of U.S. Forces since the Vietnam War. This deployment succeed 2006 as the largest single deployment of Minnesota Army National Guardsman since World War II.

1st Brigade Combat Team

The mission in Kuwait is the largest deployment of Minnesota Guardsmen since World War II, and the brigade played a significant role. The brigade's mission includes base management, convoy security, reaction forces, and management of specialized units from the Army, Navy and Coast Guard. During the 2011-2012 deployment, the brigade drove 1.35 million miles and escorted 25,970 trucks during 480 missions prior to the last U.S. military convoy departing Iraq.

At 0703, Dec. 18 2011, 3rd platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry crossed into Kuwait as the Rear Guard for the last ARCENT logistics convoy out of Iraq.

I will never forget the look in the eyes of the soldiers--They had a look of joy and relief that the brigade had pulled off this historic mission virtually without a scratch," said 1st Brigade Combat Team Commander Col. Eric Kerska. "For me personally, it ended my 21-year association with Iraq. It felt real good to tie a bow on that war."

2nd Brigade Combat Team

Soldiers of Task Force Red Bulls in Nuristan province, Afghanistan, fought the largest battle of the 34th Infantry Division since World War II, May 25, 2011.

The battle involved only about 40 U.S. Servicemembers from the Reconnaissance Platoon from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and six Soldiers assigned to Company C, both of 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Ironman, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Task Force Red Bulls, and about 20 of their Afghan counterparts. The Red Bull's 2nd Brigade Combat Team returned home in 2011, with 220 stories from that deployment.

34th Combat Aviation Brigade

In 2011, the St. Cloud based B Co., 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) returned from a combat tour in Iraq, providing CH-47 Chinook helicopter heavy lift capability during the drawdown of U.S. military forces. The 34th CAB executed Emergency Management Assistance Compacts with both N.D. and S.D. by providing lift and hoist capability during Missouri River Valley flooding. In Minnesota, 34th CAB helicopters dropped more than a half million gallons of water during two wildland fire suppression efforts.

The brigade is now transitioning to an upgraded CH-47 enhancing the performance and avionics in the dual-rotor helicopter.

In **2012**, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division capitalized on the lessons learned during previous international exercises and turned their attention to the Pacific region. The Red Bulls participated in Yama Sakura, an annual U.S./Japan bilateral exercise hosted by the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces and U.S. Army Pacific. Yama Sakura is a full-spectrum operations exercise focused on the defense of Japan.

Future Objectives

The 34th Infantry Division will continue to seek out opportunities to participate in these international exercises in order to sustain the relationships developed with U.S. military and international partners. With nearly 3,000 Citizen-Soldiers recently returned from duty in both Kuwait and Afghanistan, the division will continue to encourage Yellow Ribbon Networks to expand throughout Minnesota. A high priority for many returning Citizen-Soldiers will be obtaining meaningful employment.



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More than
25,000
Soldiers and
Airman have
deployed
in support of
The Global War on Terror
since 9/11...

18 Minnesota
National Guard Soldiers have
lost their lives while serving in
a combat zone

Before and during the
Global War on Terror
Minnesota National Guard
soldiers and airmen are
“always ready” to support and
defend this state and nation.

