

Where are the Red Bulls Now? Well ...

They aren't 'Red' any more, because the olla and skull patch is now done in 'subdued colors', they're the 'Desert Bulls': the insignia shown on the website is a 'cream' skull in a 'dark rust' olla.

1-34th Brigade Combat Team, preparing for deployment 'somewhere in Southwest Asia', includes about 5,000 soldiers; the battalions are:

- 1-125th Strike Battalion (Field Artillery)
- 1-133rd Infantry Battalion
- 1-34th Brigade Troops Battalion
- 134th Brigade Support Battalion
- 2-136th Combat Arms Battalion (CAB)
- 1-167th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition (RSTA) Squadron

They all have a proud lineage, and well do we know that, especially those of the WW II 125th Cannoneers and 1-133rd 'Ironmen'.

And now for the rest of the story ...

Honoré: 1-34th BCT will be the best equipped and trained.

Lt. Gen. Russell L. Honoré, commanding general of the U.S. First Army, [known to some as the "John Wayne dude" or "Rambo" of the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts], met with the staff of our 1-34th Brigade Combat Team at Camp Shelby MS saying that "... 1-34 BCT is the future. You are the most important Brigade Combat Team getting ready for theater right now. Those soldiers will soon be wearing the new ACUs (Army Combat Uniform). And the new ACH (Army Combat Helmet). They were already issued the new IBAs (Interceptor Body Armor) and ESS (Eye Safety System) goggles.

"And the senior leaders of the Army are watching you," he said. "You are going to be the best equipped, best trained BCT ever. You're Hooah. Now we're gonna make you more dooah. When I come back here, I want to see lasers hanging off those weapons. And optics. And rails."

He said the Army's intent is to have the Soldiers' relatives asking 'What kind of weapon is that?' Honoré also asked the staff, including the brigade commander and battalion commanders, several questions during the BUB [Battle Update Brief]. Some of these included how much emphasis was being placed on maintaining equipment, and what kind of training Soldiers living at the Forward Operation Bases were participating in?

Regarding maintaining equipment, Honoré, whose son is a Guardsman who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, said maintaining equipment is very important. "Every vehicle that breaks down doubles and triples the possibility the enemy will kill you," he said. "People have to take pride in taking care of their equipment."

Like maintaining their equipment religiously, Honoré said the Soldiers living on the FOBs [Forward Operating Bases] also should train frequently. "Every hour in the FOB has to be a useful training day," he said. He told the commanders that FOB training is important because this will be similar to their missions in Iraq.

Honoré also told the staff that the BCT's mission is still being drawn up. He said the Army has learned that the formation of this BCT has to be as well or better equipped than Active Army BCTs. "This is about the transformation of the 1-34 on your way to combat," he said. "We're training for full spectrum operations." And training with the best equipment also.

Based on an article by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1-34th BCT Public Affairs Office, appearing in "The Desert Bulls", 26 October 2005:
<http://www.redbullweb.com/10-26%20newsletter%20final.pdf%203.pdf>

With appreciation for background information from Capt. Mark Lappegaard,
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