

34th Infantry Division

Association

7105 NW 70th Ave
Johnston, IA 50131

Association Web page:
www.34IDA.org

Fall 2020 Issue

The 34th ID Newsletter is
published three times a year.

34th Infantry Division

Assn. Virtual Reunion



Email for Newsletters

34th Infantry Division Assn. 73rd Annual Reunion Virtual Meeting, Oct 3, 1400hrs

34th Infantry Division Association President, Nicholas Jedlicka, made an announcement in the Spring 2020 Newsletter that the Annual Reunion was cancelled due to the Virus, but we may have a virtual online 73rd Annual Business Meeting, utilizing our computers.

And that is what occurred, when the 34th Infantry Division Association members logged in from their own homes, to the "GoToMeeting" software, for a Reunion meeting set up by the Association President. This Virtual Meeting took the place of the originally scheduled 73rd Annual Reunion. We had approximately 22 members participate, with many more logged in at one time or another using cell phones, for the two hour gathering.

The National Secretary, Russ Bierl, sent a meeting announcement with instructions in late September, to all association members who had provided us with an email address. We encouraged members to start logging in to the site at 1:45 P.M. (1345 hrs) U.S. Central Standard Time, so the meeting could start promptly at 1400 hrs. The meeting was limited to 150 participants.

Members from all of our local chapters were represented, to include the Des Moines Chapter, the Commanders Own Chapter, the 1st Minnesota Last Man Chapter, the Council Bluffs & Waterloo "Iron Man" Chapter. We had also invited our Italian 133rd Infantry "Iron Man" Chapter, to join us.

The big thrill was to have LTC Garrett Gingrich, Commander, 133rd Infantry Battalion join us from his forward deployed site in Qatar. The idea was to gather in members from across the country, and the world, to continue our association's reunion, meeting as Red Bull Soldiers and "Comrades-In-Arms," during the corona virus lock down.

We were also blessed with the presence of two former commanders of the 34th Infantry Division, Maj Gen Gerald Miller, from his home in Michigan, and Maj Gen Rod Hannula, from his residence in California. Thank you for joining us for our first Virtual Reunion.

(Continued on Page 4.)

We Need Your Email Address:

The 34th Infantry Division Association is implementing the plan to send 99% of all newsletters by Email, by the Spring of 2021. The objective is to discontinue using the U.S. Mail System, except for those members who do not have a computer or an internet connection. We want you to know, "No Member" will be left without a newsletter!

We hope to convert to a totally digital newsletter format, due to the difficulty we are experiencing with the printing, addressing and mailing of the newsletters that are sent to over 769 individuals, three times a year. With a digital format we will reduce costs and may be able to increase the mailings to four times per year.

Please email your **Name and Email address** to the Association Treasurer, COL (Ret) Mark Newhall at mark.d.newhall@gmail.com or text to 515-210-1812.



COL (Ret) Mark Newhall, who retired after serving 30 years in the 1-133rd Inf Bn , 334th BSB, 2/34 IBCT, and the Iowa Joint Forces HQ's, volunteered to serve as Treasurer for the 34th Infantry Division Association, after the sudden death of our long time Treasurer, LTC (Ret) Michael Musel. This photo shows Mark while he was serving as the XO in the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th ID, in Afghanistan in 2011.

Greetings Fellow 34th Inf Div Assn. Members,

I give a big "Thank You" to everyone who made the Virtual 73rd Annual Reunion Meeting possible on Sat, 2 Oct. We learned that people do want to attend virtual meetings and hope to set up another opportunity for a follow on meeting in the future.

One item that came out of the discussion at our virtual meeting was the problem of suicide among our service members. According to the DoD report, 498 U.S. military service members (all branches) died by their own hand in 2019. This is higher than the 326 service members lost to suicide in the previous calendar year. According to previous reports, the National Guard has higher rates of suicide than any other military component, and yet we have the least available support. As of Oct. 1, 2020, a total of 77 Guardsmen have taken their own lives this year. We must address this issue. Some wonder for the COVID 19 Virus quarantine has a impact on this. Talk to your fellow soldiers. Ask our legislative leaders for help. This tragedy must be addressed.

I ask that those of you who have not sent the Association their Email address, please do so. You will save our volunteers much work and the Association a lot of money \$\$ in print and mailing costs.

I thank all the Officers and Trustees for their service during the past year and ask that you continue to serve another year thru to the 2021 Reunion. I am very happy to continue on as president for another year to carry us thru the Corona Virus epidemic.

Please mark your calendars for the 74th Annual Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Assn. on 1-2 October 2021, in Johnston, Iowa.

ATTACK! ATTACK! ATTACK!
Nicholas Jedlicka, 1SG (Ret)
President, 34th ID Association



nicholas.jedlicka@gmail.com

34th Infantry Division Final Roll Call

Winter 2020

Masaur "Dick" Fujiwara B 100th Inf, 34th ID
John A. Velar, 1st Marine Div/ 34th ID
Agie Harada, B 100th 34th Inf Div
Jean L. DeCurtins, D 135th Inf, 34th Inf Div
Takeo Kojima, C 100th, 34th Inf Div

Spring 2020

Kiyoshi Kami, A 100, 34th Inf Div
Arthur Van Erem, B/ 133 Inf Bn, 34th ID
Ralph Rose, 34th Infantry Division
Reginald Ballantyne, C 133rd Regt, 34th ID
Ed Gabbard, Aviation /Cav, 34th Inf Div
Rocky Roque Riojas, 135th Regt, 34th ID
Richard Lee Taylor Jr. 2-133 IN Bn 34th ID
John Robert Rodgers, IL, 34th Inf Div
Michael Musel, 1-194 FA Bn, 34th Inf Div

Fall 2020

Richard Hyde, 34th Infantry Division
Larry Thompson, 1-133, 34th Inf Div
Mark Parmenter, 1-133rd, 34th Inf Div
Harry Hopkins, 34th Infantry Division
Emil Segebart, 1-113th Cav Sqdn, 34 ID
Robert Jackson, 34th Infantry Division
Jeffery Clark, 34th Infantry Division
Robert E. Luckan, 34th Infantry Division
Gerald Robertson, 168th Inf, 34th Inf Div
CW2 James A. Rogers Jr., 211 Gen Spt
Aviation Bn, 34th ID
CW2 Charles P. Nord, 211 Gen Spt
Aviation Bn, 34th ID
Sgt. Kort M. Plantenberg, 211 Gen Spt
Aviation Bn, 34th ID

Final Roll Call Prayer

*May they have no
more hills to climb,
nor cold, nor rain, nor mud,
nor enemy fire,
and may they now rest in
Peace.*

National Office-34th Infantry Division Association

Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge - Bldg 3692,
7105 NW 70TH Ave, Johnston, IA 50131

Association Website <http://www.34IDA.org>

74rd Reunion..... 1-2 Oct 2021 Johnston, IA

Secretary: COL (Ret) Russell Bierl, bierlhome@msn.com

Treasurer: Mark Newhall 515-210-1812, mark.newhall@iowa.gov
mark.d.newhall@gmail.com

Facebook Manager: Herman Poggensee

Website Manager, Historian: MSG Daniel Ewer, justcallmesarge@gmail.com

Facebook 34th Inf Div Assn: <https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc>

Internet 34th Inf Div Assn: <http://www.34IDA.org>

Also, follow Red Bulls at

1st ABCT: <http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaRedBulls>

2nd IBCT: <http://www.facebook.com/iowaRedBulls> <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/2-34IBCT>

<http://www.twitter.com/iowaRedBulls> <http://www.flickr.com/iowaRedBulls>

The Last WWII, 34th Infantry Division Ranger Volunteer Passes

By Russ Bierl, 34th Inf Div Assn.

MSG Lester Bernard Cook, 97, passed away August 9, 2020 at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Des Moines, IA. Lester was born Sept 25, 1922 in Des Moines, IA, to Otis and Florence Cook.

Lester graduated from East High School and immediately began his long and decorated military career with the US Army. In February of 1941 he enlisted into Co. A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, Iowa National Guard, 34th Infantry Division. The entire 1st Battalion, departed from Des Moines Rock Island Railroad Depot shortly after Feb. 10, 1941, for Camp Claiborne, LA. While at Camp Claiborne, the 34th Division went through extensive training to include participation in the Louisiana Maneuvers.

After the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the 34th Infantry Division was ordered to move immediately for Europe. They loaded on trains and moved to Fort Dix, NJ. Between January and March 1941, all divisional units had been shipped to Northern Ireland. The 34th Inf Div. was the first U.S. Army Division to arrive in Europe for WWII. The 1st and 2nd Bn's of the 168th Inf traveled across the Atlantic on the "SS Duchess of Athol."

While training in Northern Ireland, Pvt. Lester Cook, and many other 34th Infantry Division soldiers, volunteered and were selected to serve in the U.S. Army Rangers, also known at the time as Commandos. They later became known as Darby's Rangers. Through the entire war Lester Cook served with his Iowa 168th Infantry friend, and leader, MAJ Lester Kness, from Audubon, IA, who passed away last year. At the end of the war MAJ Kness served as Commander of the 4th Ranger Battalion.

The 1st Ranger Battalion of "Darby's Rangers" was an elite special operations force that trained with the British Commandos in Archnacarry, Scotland. Out of 1500+ men who volunteered when the 1st Ranger Battalion was assembled, only 500 were chosen to undergo the realistic and rugged training under live fire.

"My understanding is that I am the only one of us still alive," said Sgt. Cook by telephone recently. That status ranks him as the "Lone Ranger."



"I had no idea what I was getting into when I saw a notice on the bulletin board about the Rangers. Lester embarked on a military career that spanned three wars and 26 years. The "boy" from the Eastside of Des Moines became a man who earned 2 Silver Stars, 4 Purple Hearts, 2 Presidential Unit Citations among many other accolades for intrepid exploits in faraway battlefields ranging from North Africa, Sicily, Italy to Korea and Vietnam.

He served the full tour with Darby's Rangers. He was awarded his first Silver Star Medal for action on the Winter Line in Venafro, Italy. After fighting the Germans at Cisterna, Italy with the 4th Rangers as a SGT, he had enough time to return home with 197 other seasoned Rangers on the ship "SS Edward Richardson." The Rangers disembarked at Hampton Roads, Virginia on 3 May, 1944. They were transported to Camp Butner, North Carolina.

After the Rangers returned from much needed furloughs, they were honored and presented awards in June of 1944. Life magazine covered the event. By the time VE Day was finally achieved, Sgt. Cook was back at Fort Campbell in Kentucky. He recalls his distinguished service now with the unique mix of matter-of-fact modesty and pride that's like a birthmark of the Greatest Generation. "I wasn't there (in Europe) then, so I don't remember really celebrating," he said. "But I sure was glad that it was over."

SGT Cook continued his military career serving in the Korean War. He served as a platoon SGT with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team "Rakkasans." He earned another Silver Star Medal in his tour in Korea. In Vietnam Lester served as the SGT Major of the 77th Special Service Group.

(Continued on Page 4)

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Soldiers from the 75th Ranger Regiment fold the U.S. Flag at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery for MSG (Ret) Lester Cook, WWII Ranger.

(Ranger, MSGT (Ret) Lester B Cook, Continued)

After his military career, Lester began a second, less hazardous one, as another type of public servant with the US Postal Service that lasted 27 more years.

This past summer, in July 2020, MSGT Lester B Cook (ret), was inducted into The Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia. "I won't be there because my wife broke her leg and can't travel," he said. "But they said they'll come and deliver (the award) to me out at Camp Dodge in July." Lester was asked by David Williams (President of Descendants of WWII Rangers. Org.) Why after all those years refusing to accept the honor did he agree to accept the RHOF induction? Lester replied "David, I am the only one left."

Sadly, Ranger Lester B. Cook experienced a stroke and died 9 August 2020. His Lord and his beloved Rangers will be there to welcome him home.

Lester was known for being stubborn, but funny, and could be seen out on his bicycle until he was in his late 70's. He also enjoyed his model trains, fishing, reading books, and watching "The History Channel" where he was always pointing out the inaccuracies in the military programs. To sum up Lester's life, he set an example for others to follow.

Agenda: 34th Inf Div Assn. Reunion

Call the Meeting to Order: President Nicholas Jedlicka

Pledge of Allegiance: Chap. (COL) Raymond Leach

Invocation Prayer: Carroll Tungesvik

Introduce those in attendance: Nicholas Jedlicka

Secretary, Read the 2019 Minutes: Russ Bierl

Treasurers Report: Mark Newhall

Website Manager / Historian: Daniel Ewer

Chapter Report by Chapter Representatives

Des Moines Chapter: Herman Poggensee

Commanders Own Chapter: Wayne Hayes

1st Minnesota Chapter: Chris Stroner

Council Bluffs Chapter: Dooley Skyler

Waterloo Iron Man Chapter: Marv Peters

Italian Iron Man 133rd Chapter: Alessandro Querci

Update Brief of deployed 34th ID Organizations:

LTC Gingrich MAJ Lewer

Briefing on 34th Inf Div Operations: Wayne Hayes

Briefing by COL Tim Sulzner, G-3, 1st U.S. Army

Announcements, Officers for next year, 2021

Final Roll Call & Memorial Service:

Carroll Tungesvik

Remember Our Service to our Nation & Toast to

Fallen Comrades: Chris Stroner

Open the floor to New Business from our Log In Attendees.

Adjourn Meeting: Nicholas Jedlicka

President Nicholas Jedlicka announced that all currently elected officers and trustees will continue to serve for the coming year until the next reunion.

A suggestion was made from the online attendees, that the Association hosts another On Line Virtual Meeting before Jan 1, 2021.

Another online suggestion was made that 34th ID Assn. soldiers who have a particular interest, such as, the Knife Making Group, gather for online meetings.

An announcement was made that the 2021 Reunion will be hosted by the Des Moines Iowa Chapter in Johnston, IA on 1-2 Oct.

34th Infantry Division Assn. Officers



President 2019	1SG (Ret) Nick Jedlicka
1st Vice Pres 2018	COL (Ret) Wayne Hayes
2 nd VP	CHP MAJ Skip Manus
Past President	MAJ James Avrams
1 Year Trustees	Dr. Chris White MSG Daniel Ewer Bob Worthington MAJ Randall Stanford
2 Year Trustees	Mark Zirkelbach Willie Adams Ron Curly Albrecht Daryl Drake
3 Year Trustees	CSM (Ret) Chris Stroner Dr Chris White 1SG (Ret) Larry Woodworth CW5 (Ret) Herman Poggensee
Secretary	Russell Bierl
Treasurer	Mark Newhall
Information Officer	
SGT at Arms	Eugene Leifeld
Website Mgr & Historian	MSG Daniel Ewer
Chaplain	CPT Nathan Perry

Purpose of the 34th Infantry Division Association (Short Version)

- Maintain association with our comrades with whom we served in the 34th Infantry Division.
- Maintain and honor the memory of those who died in action and remember all of us who pass later.
- Gather and maintain the History of the Organizations, Units and Soldiers of the 34th Division.
- Support our "Wounded Warriors" who have faithfully served our nation.
- Support the museums, historical buildings and Armories of units associated with the 34th Division.

Des Moines Chapter 34th Inf Div Assn.

Meets at the Iowa Gold Star Museum
Bldg 3692, Cp Dodge, Johnston, IA
Dinner Meetings Six times a Year
VP: Jerry Jensen 515-278-5704 -Next Mtg. Nov 17th
ajjmjensen@q.com
Sec: Carroll Tunesvik 515-709-9451
ctunesvik@gmail.com

**Council Bluffs Chapter,
168th Infantry (SE Iowa Red Bulls)**
President: Skylor Dooley Sec: Bill Wege
Our chapter is forty members strong. Our members meet at monthly luncheons or dinners.
Contact: nicholas.jedlicka@gmail.com
Phone 712-310-1234

Commander's Own Chapter
President: COL (Ret.) Matt Vatter
Tres: MAJ Mark Gile
VP: COL Chad Sackett Sec: MAJ Ryan Rossman
The Commander's Own Chapter is collocated with the 34th Infantry Division headquarters in Rosemount Minnesota. Quarterly meetings are held at the Rosemount VFW or the Rosemount Armory. As of Oct. 16, 2016, the chapter is 49 members strong. Contact:
Commander's Own Chapter
34th Infantry Division Association
13865 South Robert Trail
Rosemount, MN 5506

1st Minnesota Chapter – "To The Last Man"
President: CSM (Ret) Chris Stroner
VP: Adam Stock
Secretary / Treasurer: Joseph Kelly
Mankato-based 2-135 Inf Bn & Southern Minn.

Contact: **Chris Stroner** cstroner@hotmail.com
First Minnesota Chapter, 34th Inf. Div Assn.
100 Martin Luther King Drive
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
Facebook:

133rd Infantry "Iron Man Chapter" Waterloo
President: Gary Czuba
Sec: Marv Peters marvpeters@southslope.net
Tres: Curley Albrecht ronald.l.albrecht4.ctr@mail.mil

The Chapter hosted the annual Sept Golf outing at Prairie Links Course in Waverly. Great comradery and memories. Winning golf score was 68 shot by Terry Imhoff, Scott Droessler, & Kim Droessler. \$120 donation to Family Readiness Group. Thank you MAJ Smith for the briefing on the 133rd Bn and Christine Grew for update on the Family Readiness.
marvpeters@southslope.net
Iron Man Chapter, 34th Inf. Div. Assn.
3106 Airport Blvd., Waterloo Iowa, 50703
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

Eight National Guard Divisions

By Corey Dickenstein, STARS AND STRIPES
Published: August 1, 2020

WASHINGTON — The Army National Guard has plans to move most of its infantry and armor brigades under the command of its eight established division headquarters, as it reorganizes its fighting formations to give the force more combat power and some soldiers new career opportunities, officials said.

The Army Guard move will mark a substantial increase in the number of fully manned divisions that the U.S. Army can deploy, as only the service's 10 active-duty divisions are now filled out with subordinate units, said Lt. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the director of the Army National Guard. The increase to 18 complete Army divisions comes at a time when service officials believe a major conflict with a near-peer rival namely “Russia or China” would require the employment of full divisions.

For the last two decades, the Army has focused on its smaller brigade combat teams as its primary fighting elements for counterterrorism operations and deployments focused on assisting the forces of other nations.

“When you look at the [2018] National Defense Strategy and competition among near-peer competitors, peer competitors — that great power competition, there is a potential for large-scale combat operations ...and it could actually be division level fights,” Hokanson said in an interview Thursday ahead of the Guard’s planned announcement Saturday. “We wanted to make sure that everything that the Army National Guard did was in support of the total Army and the National Defense Strategy, and one issue was that our divisions are just headquarters they don’t have actual brigades assigned under them.”

The National Defense Strategy, crafted by former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, guides the Pentagon on future planning, placing the potential for major conflict with rivals China and Russia as the nation's primary national security threat. For the two decades prior, the military had focused almost exclusively on fighting transnational terrorist

organizations, which the strategy defined as a lesser threat than those posed by nation-state competitors.

The Army National Guard now has eight Division headquarters elements stationed in Virginia -29th, Texas -36th, Pennsylvania -28th, Minnesota -34th, Kansas -35th, Indiana -38th, California -40th and New York -42nd, which are each made up of approximately 300 soldiers. Most have established relationships with subordinate units, but none are fully manned in the way the Regular Army has built its divisions, which boast about 20,000.



Corporal Fred Adams (age 97), served in Co D, 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Div in North Africa and Italy, during WWII. Fred was mobilized in Des Moines at the Argon Armory and served in Co D, (Weapons Co) in the Heavy Machine Gun Section and was a Squad leader for a section with the M1917A1 (Heavy) Water-Cooled Machine Gun.

This photo was taken at the 34th Infantry Division WWII Memorial at Camp Dodge in July 2020. Fred speculates he may be the last living member of D Company, 168th, who was mobilized with the National Guard, 34th Infantry Division, on February 10, 1941, prior to WWII, and sent to Camp Claiborne, LA, by a Rock Island railroad train, for training.

The museum staff were able to find a 1941 Company D / 168th Inf Regt group showing CPL Fred Adams. Fred recounted his experiences and soldiers he had served with in Ireland, North Africa, and Italy.

Fred received a Purple Heart for a shrapnel wound in the neck while participating in the N Africa fight for Hill 609. He said a German Potato Masher grenade went off between him and another soldier and wounded both of them. He still carries some of the shrapnel in his neck to this day.

34th Infantry Division National Membership Application Form

NOTE: If your address Label shows (L), (W), (T) or (1) you do not owe dues for the Current Year

- () Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Annual Membership in the 34th Infantry Division Association. Annual membership period is – 1 Sep thru 31 Aug of each year. (Open to past and present members of units / organizations assigned to the 34th Inf Div or soldiers who have been members of the National Guard for six years or longer.)
- () Enclosed is \$10.00 for my Associate Membership in the 34th Infantry Division Association. (Annual Fee) (Period is – 1 Sep thru 31 Aug of each year). (Individuals who do not meet membership requirements, ie: Spouses , Friends, Other Services)
- () Enclosed is \$_____ for my LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the 34th Infantry Division Association.
(See Fee Schedule Below) {No Further Annual Fee}.
- To Age 60 \$100.00 At age 60 & older \$50.00
- () Enclosed is \$ _____ for my donation to the 34th Infantry Division Memorial Fund.
(Maintain all monuments and annual flowers for the Cemeteries in North Africa, Italy & U.S.)

Name _____ Street _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 E-Mail: _____ Phone Number _____
 Age _____ Military Unit/ Organization _____ Signature: _____

Note: The purpose of the 34th Infantry Division Association is to preserve the history of the 34th Divisional units & attached organizations of soldiers that have served their nation since 1917. The National Association schedules an annual meeting each Fall.

The National Secretary is COL (Ret) Russ Bierl. His E-Mail address is bierlhome@msn.com The National Association Website is <http://www.34IDA.org> Membership Treasurer: Mark Newhall 515-210-1812 Email: mark.d.newhall@gmail.com

A newsletter is sent to current members three times a year by U.S. mail. All newsletter are shown on the Association Website. The 34th Infantry Division Association maintains files and a desk at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum.

Museum Store - 34th Inf Div Assn Price List – Dec 2013

34 th Red Bull Polo Shirts Size _____	\$ 25.00	34 th Red Bull Div Insignia Pins (Lapel Pin)	\$5.00
34 th Red Bull T-Shirt Size _____	\$15.00	Red Bull Patch (Black & Red)	\$5.00
34 th Div "Red" Red Bull Ball Cap	\$15.00	34 th Div Red Bull Neck Tie	\$15.00
34 th Red Bull Window Decal	\$2.00	34 th Div Red Bull Flag (3X5')	\$65.00
34 th Red Bull Jacket Size _____	\$45.00	Red Bull Memo Pads, 50 Sheet	\$ 2.00
34 th Div "Camouflage" Red Bull Ball Cap	\$15.00	34 th Red Bull Coffee Mug	\$ 6.00

Books Available: Roaring Bull, 34th Infantry Division in the Global War on Terror\$25.00

*Add \$5.00 for shipping the first ITEM and \$2.00 per each added ITEM in the same shipment.

Sub Total \$ _____
 Shipping \$ _____
 Total \$ _____
 Name: _____

34th Infantry Division Association
7105 NW 70th Ave, Camp Dodge, Bldg 3692
Johnston, IA 50131

Street Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Call 515-210-1812 if you have a question.

Status of Mobilized / Deployed 34th Infantry Division Units / Organizations

Open Sources

The 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade is in the process of redeploying back to the U.S.

The 2-135 Inf Battalion, plus one platoon from the 1-168th Inf. Bn, is in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.

The 1-133rd Inf Bn is in Kuwait, UAE, and Qatar according to the commander, LTC Garrett Gingrich.

C/1-113 Cavalry and B/1-168 Infantry is currently in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.

The 1-194 Field Artillery is transitioning to locations in Afghanistan.

HHC/2-34 IBCT and 1-113 Cavalry is transitioning to Kosovo (KFOR).

The UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) Platoon, 224 BEB is in TX conducting a SW border mission.