

## Lesson #20 : Buddies Still Matter

***“A conglomerate mass of Americans gathered from all walks of life who had been shaped into a cohesive organization for the purpose of performing certain military tasks, the unit was ... not simply the place where members lived and worked, ate and slept, the unit was the Soldier's family.”***

A description of the squads, platoons, and companies of the 291<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion, WWII



***“We have funny things that happen. I can remember standing in a land fill in southern Iraq where we began one of our attacks, and watching my guys so tired from lack of sleep...literally fall on the ground, with their gear on, on top of each other. I then watched “my boys” swat flies for each other, guard each other, share water with each other, offer food for those that did not have any chow, express their disdain for the trash heap that was our home, all the while ready to do battle and if necessary die for each other. I saw with my own eyes the actual creation of the closeness and bond that historians write about in times of war amongst fighting men.”***

***1LT John G. Gibson, 82nd Airborne Division, Baghdad, Iraq***

***“They say they're scared, and say they won't do this or that, but when it comes time to do it they can't let their buddies down, can't let their friends go outside the wire without them, because they know it isn't right for the team to go into the ballgame at any less than 100 percent.”***

***Army Lieutenant, Iraq***