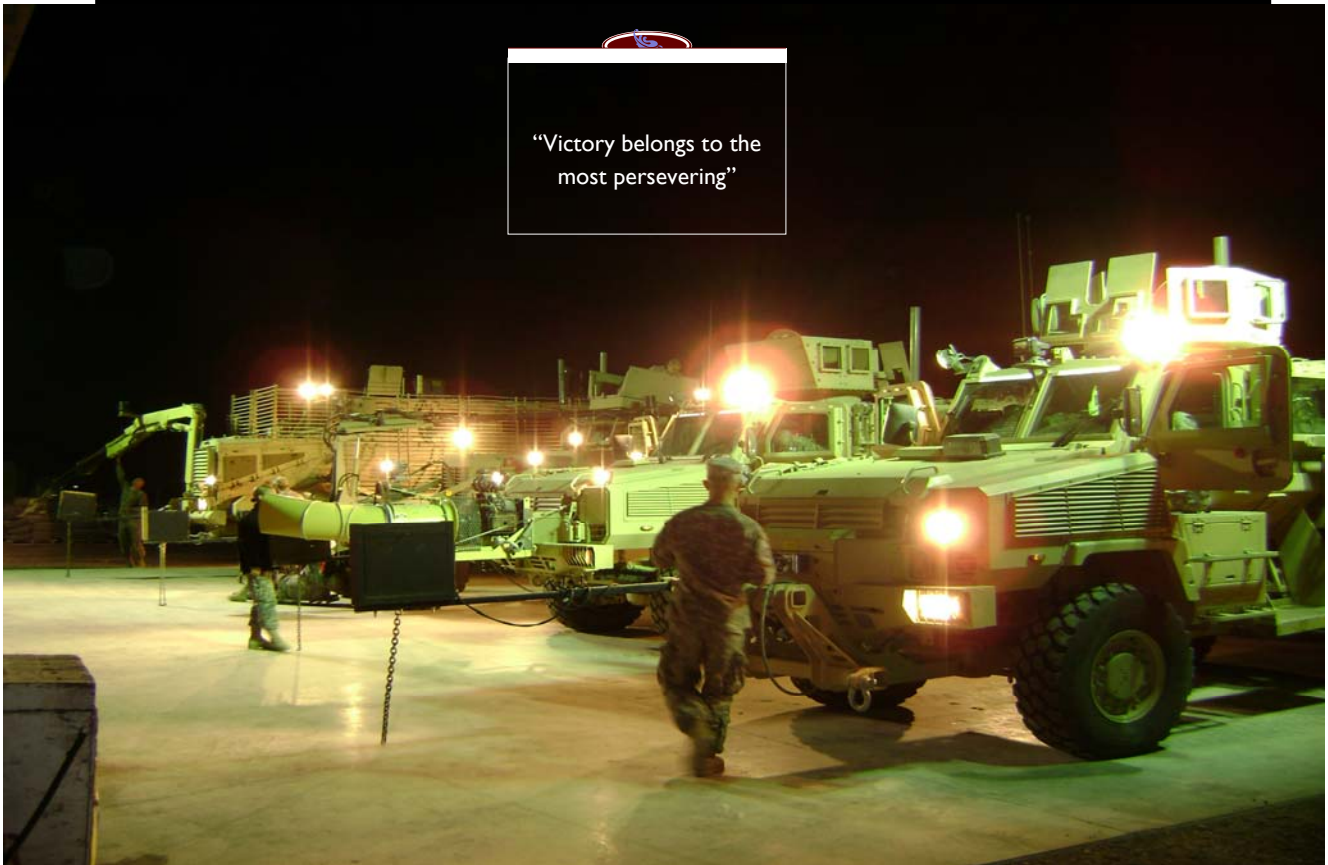


Good as Done

"Victory belongs to the most persevering"



107th



Engineer Newsletter

Another day in the Sun...

Special points of interest:

- Learn about what the 107th has been doing
- What is the fate of the TOC....
- Quit acting like you don't want to look, go ahead and look

HSC Engineer Circular

Special points of interest:

- S4/ S6 Sections spotlighted
- Line Units come prepared
- Partying with some Packer Fans
- 107th hosts Sapper Call

Inside this issue:

CSM Corner	3
LT Kohtala doing great things	3
S4 Section	4
S6 Section	6
171st Sappers	9
1138th Sappers	12
FSC	14

Mid Deployment Blues

Now that the excitement of Christmas is over for the Soldiers, the time here has seemed to come to a grinding halt. The Mid Deployment Blues is a period of time when a Soldier looks back at the mobilization process and can't remember it, seeming so long ago. The Re-deployment process is still too far off to dream about, being at least 6 months away. Many Soldiers are going on leave. Those that have gone already return refreshed and ready to work. Those that haven't, dream about getting out of here, even for just a few days. Some have chosen to take leave later in their deployment, picking dates for weddings, graduations, or births of children. Others try to time their children's spring break around their leave.

Soldiers cope with the routine task of war in different ways. One has seen the poker tournaments, cribbage clubs, and Texas hold-em games in previous editions of the Newsletter. There are a few opportunities here in Iraq that we actually may not have in the States. One of which is the great recreational facilities here on Base. The MWR Scorpion Gym provides everything in Fitness needs. 7 treadmills, 7 elliptical machines, 4

stationary bicycles, and four stair-climbers handle most of our cardio needs. We also have running areas for outside jogging. The weight area is filled with dumbbells, free weights, and cable weight lifting equipment. The gym is open 24/ 7 to accommodate all the different Soldiers schedules. Many Soldiers have transformed in the last few months. Pounds have been shrinking away, bench press maximums have been increasing and muscles are being toned. I would bet that our Army Physical Fitness Tests this spring are some of the highest ever. The MWR facility also has a relaxation center. Books, Movies, SPAWARE phones, and a computer internet café is available. Pool, ping-pong, and foosball tables are also available to relax, even for just a few minutes. On our own pad, Soldiers take advantage of the movie shop. Here you can buy just about any movie that one can think of. Some companies have started a Blockbuster shelf were Soldiers come in and sign-out movies to watch in their rooms. The internet remains to be the most popular of choices, however. The internet seems to take everybody away from here, doing internet shopping, researching trips,



MAJ Burton at another staff meeting at the Palace

checking stocks, or keeping in touch with loved ones. Whatever your Soldier does here to stay busy, it's a break for him or her from the everyday task of being here. Most of our Soldiers are working ten or twelve hour days. Some never have had a day off. Remember that when you're talking to them.

MAJ Burton
S3 Plans/PAO





The Sun has set on LaLa land in the BN TOC.

“We have officially started down the second half of our journey”

Complexion of TOC drastically altered from “play land” to “hell on earth”

Soldiers who, until two weeks ago, felt like they were back in Band Camp where their biggest worry was if they would get on the computer for a long enough period of time to be able to break their spider solitaire score, now see a new outlook on life in the TOC.

Soldiers in the TOC are ordered in one by one at 0300 in the morning to state the Soldier’s creed verbatim while holding the Red Bull beanie baby with their big toe on the left foot. If the Soldier completes the task on the first try- they are not flogged. If they don’t get it the second time- they still don’t get flogged- actually they never get flogged- that would just be cruel. The Soldier then starts off the day with 200 push ups and 200 sit ups followed by a twenty minute run which brings them to 0330. At 0330- the actual work day starts with a review of yesterday’s reports and statistics. Soldiers are then quizzed on their knowledge of army equipment. It is now 0500. Soldiers then man their positions and are ordered to conduct a hasty range card of their positions. The rest of the day is simply a blur of random outbursts of anger and yelling and screaming. Finally at 2200- the Soldiers are allotted ten minutes each to shower, shave and brush their teeth. Then at 2210- Lights out.

Editors note: LTC Degrote-after being falsely quoted in the last newsletter- decided that it was time to get down to business in the TOC and implemented new policies regarding the treatment of Soldiers in the TOC. His first executive decision was to fire the idiot who wrote the last article.

P.S If you don't catch the sarcasm here, I am very sorry for you

107th Soldier doing great things

LT Kohtala, though he grew up in the 107th, was recently temporarily transferred to our Brigade because of his civilian experience. LT Kohtala has done an outstanding job at Brigade and has drawn many compliments to both himself and our Battalion. LT Kohtala started out the deployment as the FSC Executive Officer, in late October he was attached to the 35th Engineer Brigade as the Brigade Electrical Engineer.

Since coming over to the 35th he has been very busy. He works as part of a design team that does all of the planning for new projects as well as upgrades to existing Combat Outposts (COP) and Joint Security Stations (JSS) in all of Multi National Division – Baghdad (MND-B). He has been very busy going on electrical assessments and quality assurance missions throughout Baghdad. So far, he says that

he has learned a lot, and has gotten to see way more of Baghdad than he ever wanted to.



CSM’s Corner

Greetings everyone. We have officially started down the second half of our journey. We now are strategically planning for our transition from here, though it is still many months away. The missions continue to be very successful due to good planning and execution. Little rain, as it has turned cooler here. It is a fact, not rumor that we had snow here one

morning. However, it did not feel like home no matter how you slice it. Every Soldier continues to do his/her part to ensure that our mission here is a success. I can’t say it enough; the pride I have in the 107th

Engineer Battalion Soldiers from every state. We will continue to pray for each of you back there as you pray for all of us here. Thank You, CSM Wagner



SGM Wagner after hearing the score of the NFC Championship game



This month's Spotlight: The Fantabulous S4 Section

The 107th Engineer Battalion S4 Section sends their best wishes to all of our families, friends, fellow Soldiers, and retirees. We currently have an operating strength of 8 dedicated Soldiers. Our primary mission is to support the RC operations of our 3 Sapper companies. In doing such, we facilitate new equipment coming in to the battalion and make sure that these hard working 21B's have everything they need to accomplish their dangerous mission. We as the S4 do not actually go out and get equipment and supplies for these guys, we more or less make sure that they are supporting themselves and they know that we are here to help them in any way, shape or form.

The whole deployment concept is new for this Battalion Headquarters, as we are the first of the new engineer alignment (HSC/FSC) to deploy to Theater. Just that struggle alone would have been enough, but we had three Sapper companies thrown under us as well. *Now, one mite tink dat it wood not be too bad, but us Yoopers had to adjust to doze funny talkin guys from down sout. It took a while, but doze boys from Virginia, Mizzuri, and Nort Carolina (no relation to Nort Lake, much to my dismay) finally started talkin normal like us.* In all seriousness, we could not have asked for 3 better companies to join us in this endeavor.

Our S4 section was thrown together just before the deployment. Only SFC Nora was in the S4 prior to the Battalion being alerted. Currently, the section looks like this: S4 Officer- CPT Mike Nemetz; Property Book Officer- 1LT Trent Anderson; NCOIC- SFC Perry Nora; Construction Ops NCO- SSG Nick Palmreuter; Assistant Supply Sgt- SGT Brian Lomax; Property Book NCO- SGT Stephanie Schroeder; Supply Specialists- SPC Ben Sherlund and SPC Casey Wilson. It should be noted that CW5 Joe Floriano was in the 4 shop as the EERT, but quickly assumed the duties of the Battalion Maintenance Officer. What a truly lucky battalion we are to have Mr. Flo with us. His knowledge of maintenance operations is second to none. However, his cribbage skills still need some work.



Some of the daily duties of the 4 shop include distributing what we like to call "snacks and treats" to all the companies. The FSC Distro section picks them up twice a week, and delivers them to us. SGT Lomax has taken the lead on breaking down the goodies to the companies. The snacks and treats include Gatorade, Rip-it, muffins, cookies, and everybody's favorite, Blueberry Pop Tarts! We also track and report fuel usage within the battalion for JP8, diesel, and the old standby, GAS. SSG Palmreuter has done a great job requesting and gathering Class IV Construction materials for the battalion. This has been an integral part of the 'Home Improvements' that several Platoons have done so far. These improvements are typical of the 107th attitude; leave it better than you found it. SSG Palmreuter is also handling most of the Class V ammo for us as well. SPC Sherlund has been helping out with Class IV and V as well. SPC Wilson has been a do it all for the section. He has done 'gofering', carpentry, painting, and even a little bit of logistics. LT Anderson and SGT Schroeder have been handling the property book with ease. Not bad considering they both are fairly new to the property book world. CPT Nemetz has done a marvelous job facilitating incoming and outgoing equipment. All in all, the 4 Shop has had a great few months in Iraq. We have had a lot of fun so far, but we all can't wait to get back home to our loved ones. The 4 Shop has created a bond within itself that we all will cherish for the rest of our lives. So, until next time, take care, and like a wise man once said, "Wherever you go, there you are'.

SFC Perry Nora
S4 NCOIC



SPC Sherlund being "that guy"

"It took a while, but doze boys from Virginia, Mizzuri, and Nort Carolina (no relation to Nort Lake, much to my dismay) finally started talkin normal like us."



A typical day in the life of SFC Nora

CPT Michael Nemetz

CPT Nemetz is a 1990 graduate of Negaunee HS. He has over 17 years of military experience, including 2 years as A Co 107th Commander, and a previous OIF deployment with the 1436th Engineer Company (Montague). CPT Nemetz's forte is moving and shaking (usually in his CHU). He is very adept at getting stuff (wink, wink) and getting equipment moved. He does however tend to overuse the word 'hence', hence the nickname "Hence". He currently resides in Marquette with his wife Kym and 2 boys, Hogan and Liam.



1LT Trent Anderson

"P-Bo" as we have all come to know him hails from Gladstone, Michigan. He has over 10 years experience in the Army. He volunteered to deploy with the 107th, then later volunteered to be the Battalion Property Book Officer (PBO), hence the P-Bo nickname. P-Bo is responsible for overseeing the several million dollars of property and equipment that the battalion brought along. No easy task, but he handles it with a flair and style very becoming of a PBO. P-Bo doesn't really live anywhere, but he does have a wife Betsy, and his faithful dog Kasey.



SFC Perry Nora

SFC Nora graduated from Westwood HS in 1990, and has over 18 years in the Michigan National Guard, over 15 with the 107th. 'Chuck' is the S4 NCOIC and is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the section. His logistical knowledge is second to none. But it is his witty banter, sense of humor, and overall positive attitude that has been the mainstay of this deployment. He lives in Ishpeming with his wife Jessi, son Cedric and daughter Isabella.



SSG Nicholas Palmreuter

SSG Palmreuter came to the 107th from Camp Grayling, Michigan. He has over 27 years of military experience. 'Big Nick' is the Construction Operations NCO for the battalion, and resident wood carver. Many a nights he can be found in his CHU with a pile of wood shavings up to his ankles. He and his wife Cassandra live in Saginaw, Michigan.



SGT Brian Lomax

SGT Lomax joined the 107th from Selfridge ANG Base. He quickly became the go-to guy to get stuff. Brian gets about 15 packages a week from the states. Soon after arriving in Iraq, he started getting box after box, earning the scorn of the mail people. Their scorn quickly dissipated after realizing that he was getting Starbucks coffee. After the deployment he plans to retire and collect on his Starbucks investments. Brian lives in Clinton Township with his wife Susan.



SGT Stephanie Schroeder

SGT Schroeder is a graduate of Gwinn HS. She was all set to ETS in May of 2007 after 6 years in the National Guard. Fortunately for us she was stop-lossed and joined us on the deployment. Steph assumed the duty of the Property Book NCO, assisting P-Bo in the Property Book office of the battalion. She is a quiet, hard working Soldier, who learned to drive a stick shift since arriving in country. SGT Schroeder has also had the distinction of being promoted while we have been here. She now lives in Appleton, Wisconsin with her new husband Matt.



SPC Benjamin Sherlund

SPC Sherlund attended Cedarville HS (we are not sure if he graduated or not) and was a member of the 1437th Engineer Company in Sault Ste. Marie before volunteering to deploy with us. 'Big Red' has been a vital part of the 4 Shop since his arrival at the end of October. He is a quick learner, and almost as quick witted as SFC Nora. He also has the lead for the title of 'That Guy'. The 30 year old single lives at home with his parents in Cedarville, Michigan.



SPC Casey Wilson

SPC Wilson is a graduate of Kingsford HS, and was recently a member of the 1432nd Engineer Company. Casey arrived in Iraq in early December and has entertained us all with tales of Ultimate Fighting Championship dreams. Casey now lives in Iron Mountain with his daughter Chianna and son Alexander.



BUFFALO BULLETIN



Future Article Topics:

- The inside scoop on why Radios never work
- Take our quiz to find out if you are cut out for the life of a signal Soldier
- Find out what Computer matches your personality.
- Nanotechnology— good or bad for society?

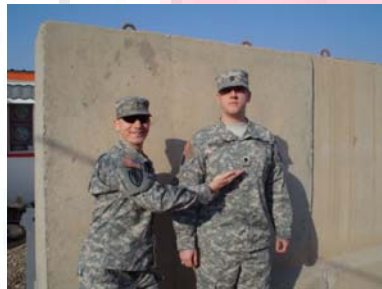



107th Good as Done

Good as Done

S6 Section stake their claim in the lineage of BN

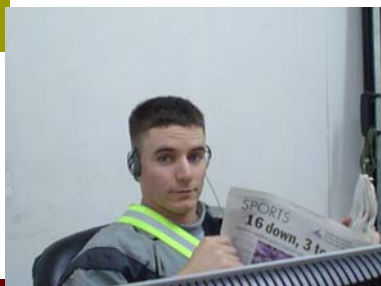
The S6 section basically does two things- they ensure the radios and the computers work. We have fun doing what we do and we make the most of our days here in the wonderful country of Iraq. The S6 crew works hard but manages to stay sane and even have a little fun when time permits. The S6 posse has been responsible for our network and for all of the communication systems we use here in Iraq. When we first arrived on ground, we had very little interaction with any of the systems we currently use, but the Soldiers trained very hard and are now at the point they can walk you through how to troubleshoot any of the systems we currently operate with.



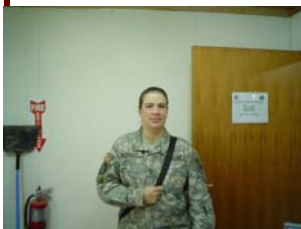
The S6 section was pieced together from units all over Michigan and one from New Jersey. Though they came from all walks of life, they have managed to come together as a team. A team that is made up of Soldiers who may be unequal in experience, talent, or education, but who are equal in their commitment to working together to achieve the goals of the organization, each other and their fellow comrades.

I am very proud to work alongside the S6 section. Though we were pieced together from units all over, I wouldn't give up any of our Soldiers to their respective units when we return back to the states if that decision were left up to me. Throughout the deployment, each Soldier has proven their valor in their own way, as each S6 Soldier brings a different skill to the table. Collectively, we form a very solid foundation of network and radio support for our Battalion. Our Soldiers have learned much about the equipment and more importantly about themselves; they have built character and distinguished themselves as unique and principled Soldiers through discipline, developing habits of commitment to service, courage and thoughtfulness for others. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with these Soldiers who are constantly looking to improve themselves. I look forward to working alongside them for the remainder of the deployment.

2LT John Trumbull
S6 OIC



I would like to introduce all of our Soldiers in the S6 section...So Ladies and Gentlemen, here is YOUR S6 section....



SFC Sandra Borucki

SFC Borucki is from Spalding, MI. SFC B is the commo (communications) chief for the 107th EN BN and supervises all of the Soldiers in her commo section. SFC Borucki does a great job at maintaining a positive atmosphere for her Soldiers to work in. SFC Borucki is an avid barbecuer.

SGT Chad Schmitt

SGT Schmitt originates from Lake Linden, MI. SGT Schmitt is the resident Radio expert and also handles business with his usual candor. SGT Schmitt takes on all NCO business when SFC Borucki is not around. SGT Schmitt also likes to take walks on the beach during sunsets.



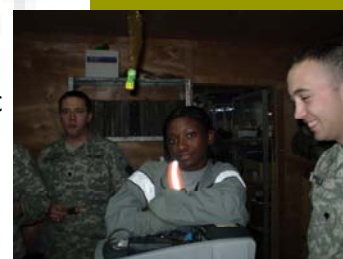
SPC Scott Graser

SPC Graser hails from Hurley, WI. SPC Graser, aka Gumball, is our most versatile Soldier; the man can do anything you ask him. SPC Graser is from Wisconsin but funny enough is not a Packer fan- we don't hold that against him...much. SPC Graser's favorite color is blue.



SPC Karshena Pierce

SPC Pierce lives in East Orange, NJ. SPC Pierce came to us from the IRR (individual ready reserve). SPC Pierce despite being pulled out of IRR has provided us with a great source of inspiration with her constant positive attitude towards everything. SPC Pierce recently pointed out that if you squint with one eye while looking at the big dipper you could make out an animal shape.



SPC Scott Koets

SPC Koets grew up in Flushing, MI. SPC Koets is actually from the FSC company but does us the pleasure of providing us with his company. SPC Koets has recently made another 6 year commitment to the MI National Guard, so we do appreciate his dedicated service. SPC Koets recently invested in a new pencil- we would like to wish him all the best on that risky endeavor.



SPC Shane Bergeron

SPC Bergeron started off in Jackson, MI. SPC Bergeron is one of the BN's bright young minds- he has the ability to do great things if he puts his mind to it. SPC Bergeron also handles the BN network- fixing computers, printers and such. SPC Bergeron is an avid weapon fan and spends his free time looking up different forms of weapons systems and their capabilities. SPC Bergeron is our local PS3 guru.



SPC Andrew Henry

PFC Henry hails from Grand Ledge, MI. PFC Henry is our resident smart-aleck (he even has the tab to prove it- and if you have the tab it pretty much means its true no matter what). He helps maintain a tight grip on our BN network ensuring no people do things they shouldn't be doing. PFC Henry gave 3 of 4 stars to the critically acclaimed movie "Glitter."



SPC Paul Penfold

SPC Penfold is from Onaway, MI. The new guy in the section. SPC Penfold recently moved from the S3 section over to our section. He is great with computers and is learning his job very quickly and has quickly carved his niche in the section. SPC Penfold plays soccer back home and in his downtime hones his skills by kicking around the 'ol soccer ball. He was also awarded the most enthusiastic Soldier award last newsletter- so kudos to him.



SPC Owens Montgomery

SPC Owens Montgomery is from Ypsilanti, MI. SPC Owens-Montgomery joined us in December after graduating from her military specialty course. SPC Owens-Montgomery is our resident personality- things can get kind of dull when you deal with computers and radios all day- SPC Owens-Montgomery helps provide the spark of energy that keeps everyone enthusiastic and having fun. SPC Owens-Montgomery is not a fan of peanut butter.



2LT John Trumbull

2LT Trumbull is from Tucson, AZ. Well not much to say about his guy except that he is like the greatest officer ever, he has a bunch of sweet skills like numchuck skills, computer hacking skills and staff meetings skills. We all look up to 2LT Trumbull, figuratively of course cuz he is pretty short in real life.



Check out of our Newsletter next Month!

- Future Article Topics:
- 'FBI in Red Bull City... Myth or Legend?
- The 107th Property Book Office Streamlines Logistics
- Cookin' with the 4 Shop



Good as Done

107th Hosts Sapper Call

On January 26, 2008, the 107th Engineer Battalion hosted the monthly Sapper Call, held at the Goat House, which was once a place Saddam used to bring hunting prizes to after a long day of hunting. There were roughly 200 Soldiers that attended the Sapper Call in which they had a meal catered from the chow hall and were entertained with a slide show of the route clearance in action and awards that were handed out to a few deserving Soldiers to include SPC Vanburen and SPC Smith from the 107th. This is the first Sapper Call that the 107th put on and it was a little chilly outside but the burn barrels kept the Engineers warm throughout the night.



Packer Fans Prepare for the "Big Game"

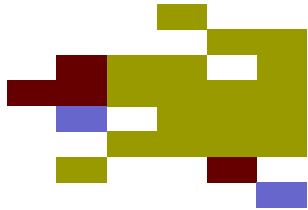
With the recent unexplainable occurrences; Baghdad getting snow for the first time in 100 years, as well as seeing unseasonably cold temperatures, it is still good to see the Soldiers from the 107th Engineer Battalion battle the weather to have a cook out for the Green Bay Packer and New York Giants NFL playoff game. Most Soldiers, not from the Upper Peninsula, were quick to blame the recent temperatures and snow on the "Yoopers" but were quick to take back their remarks when they sat down to enjoy some delicacies from the UP. The S-4 chefs SFC Nora, ILT Anderson, and

SGT Lomax, served up some home made chili, tacos, and finger foods to the Soldiers eagerly awaiting the playoff game which was played at 2:30AM Baghdad time. Every Soldier that attended was thankful for not having to eat at the D-FAC for one night!





171ST SAPPER



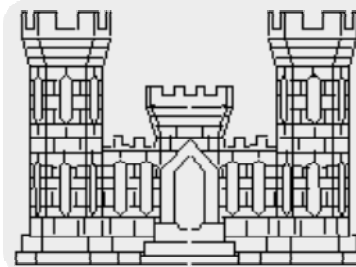
Special points of interest:

COMMANDERS ADDRESS

NEW CLEARANCE VEHICLE



171 SAPPER "BULLDOGS"



171 IN IRAQ

The 171st continues it's trend of successful missions in Iraq. We have found over 21 hazardous devises in playing our part to bring peace to Iraq and stability to their new government. The line platoons have done an excellent job of maintaining focus and motivation during the high operational tempo.

The month of January has brought many changes. Temperatures regularly drop below freezing at night, rarely get into the 50s during the day, and there is a steady wind to give you a chill. A noticeable difference from the 120 degree temperatures we experienced upon arrival. This time has also brought rain to this usually dry and arid place. On January 05 we even had the opportunity to wake to snow, the first in over a

hundred years. The Iraqi's believe this is a sign of peace to come in the future and we hope it is also. Although it did not accu-



mulate, the site of large white snowflakes were an unusual site and quite unexpected for the Bulldogs.

We are well taken care of as a company from both a logistics and administrative perspective. This is in large due to the hard work and dedication of the

company HQ section. We constantly get new and improved equipment and do not lack for anything. Awards and administrative requirements are often processed within hours of eligibility and notification. As a company we continue to stress safety and accident prevention. We have not had any safety re-

lated injuries at this point and will continue to focus on this area until we return from deployment. This appears to be our greatest challenge at this point of our deployment.

We greatly appreciate your continued support from the home front and look forward to our return. Bulldog6 out.



171st Bulldogs



1st Platoon

Along with 3rd Platoon, 1st Platoon recently went on a Route Clearance mission with another purpose. In an effort to bring a more reliable and larger power source to Baghdad, the U.S. government assisted in the movement of several large generators for installation into the power grid. Increasing the average availability of power from 2 hours to 15-18 hours, this would help some of the most depressed and most troublesome neighborhoods of Baghdad. 1st Platoon's mission was to make sure that there were no IED's on the route that would take

the generators on the final leg of their trip. The mission took many hours to plan, and an incredible 15 hours on the road. 15 hours is a long time for any mission, but especially so for a Route Clearance mission that requires constant vigilance. While all the Soldiers did their part, one deserves special recognition SGT Joe

Maiorino was the lone crewman in the HUSKY vehicle and went the whole way with out being relieved. Rest assured nobody was happier than him when the mission made it back onto base. The mission was a success and hopefully will result in a continued feeling of good will between the American troops and the residents of Baghdad.



2nd Platoon

2nd platoon lead by Lt Grabos and SFC Nelson have logged 64 missions. The men have found 11 IED's and counting.

2nd platoon members keep working even after the mission is complete. Weapons must be cleaned and ready for the next mission and these fine Soldiers make it happen. SPC Rose. Is a proud member of 1st squad (Pictured left). He has been a steady force and dependable.

SPC Rosa sends his love to family and friends in Hope Mills North Carolina. He said he will keep working hard to make them proud and come home safe. SPC Baron (right) Is trusted with one of the hardest jobs in the platoon, he is the lead driver in the force. It would be very hard to find another person that had as much commitment as he has shown. (Baron) "I'm fine, I am proud to be here serving with

SFC Nelson and the rest of second platoon." " I would like to say hi to all of my family at home in North Carolina. Ill be home soon, love you guys."



171ST SAPPER COMPANY

171 Sapper Co
Unit # 43481
APO AE 09344-3481



Headquarters



SFC William Lanterman, the Operations NCOIC for the 171st Engineer Company, has been working diligently to assist Soldiers in becoming United States Citizens. A little known fact is that non-citizens are capable of serving the armed services of the United States. This option serves as an expedited path to earn their citizenship. Two HQ Soldiers currently tak-

ing this path are PFC Greivin Pena, of Costa Rica, and SGT Yosimy John, of the Island of Truck (Micronesia). Both are excellent Soldiers and have already given more back to our great country than many will do in a lifetime. We already consider them our brothers and our fellow citizens. They shine as an example of doing the right thing in a time when illegal immigra-

tion has become a unpleasant issue in our country. We look forward to the near future when these two great individuals will be documented as United States Citizens.

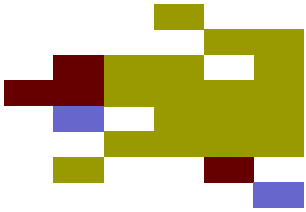




1138th SAPPERS



What kind of training? Aaaaarmy training, sir.



The casevac team begins the extraction process.



The casevac team has secured the individual and is preparing to move them out of the vehicle.



The casevac team has removed the individual from the vehicle



The 1138th has been conducting training to keep their Soldiers ready for any situation they might face. Some of the most recent training that has been conducted is CASEVAC (Casualty Evacuation) drills and marksmanship training. CASEVAC drills are a crucial part to keeping Soldiers safe and secure. CASEVAC drills include rescuing a Soldier out of a military vehicle, securing them, and preparing them for transfer. This can be a difficult task, given the military vehicles that are used for route clearance. Marksmanship training keeps Soldiers prepared for any hostile situation they might face and ensure that the Soldiers' weapon system is accurately sighted in and properly functioning.

SPC Daniel Hale conducted the CASEVAC training for 3rd platoon. SPC Hale is the combat medic for 3rd platoon who ensures that the medical readiness of the platoon is top notch. He instructed Soldiers on the proper method for securing Soldiers to a spine board, and extracting them from a vehicle. This can be a difficult task which requires a well coordinated CASEVAC team. When a CASEVAC team is well trained and prepared they can extract almost any Soldier out of any vehicle ensuring that the Soldier is properly secured and quickly removed from the vehicle.

Some of the following pictures show the CASEVAC drill in process. The first step in the CASEVAC drill is for the wounded Soldier's battle buddy to make an initial assessment of the injured Soldier, and begin first aid. After that is conducted, the CASEVAC team is called in to begin the extraction process. This process starts with the CASEVAC team securing their appropriate equipment. The team then climbs into the vehicle and starts extracting the Soldier. The CASEVAC team uses great caution to ensure the safety of the casualty and prevent further damage. After the extraction is completed, the casualty is given further medical attention and is taken to a medical treatment facility if it is required. This task is crucial to the safety of our Soldiers and increases the readiness of the unit. This training ensures that this task can be performed in a timely manner and ensures the well-being of the wounded Soldier.



1138th Engineers continue training even while in theatre

Army marksmanship training is the most basic skill of all Soldiers despite MOS and branch. It is a crucial skill for all Soldiers. It is a skill that is routinely trained on and refined by the 1138th and its' Soldiers. Marksmanship training provides Soldiers with the opportunity to ensure their optic systems and sights on their weapons are properly zeroed. It also refines the Soldiers individual shooting skills. The marksmanship training conducted by the 1138th consisted of zeroing the weapon, firing from the kneeling position, and firing from the standing position. Improving an individual's marksmanship skills is accomplished through coaching from experienced Soldiers and hands on practice.



Ssg Zeysing assists SPC Moore in adjusting his iron sights.



1138th Soldiers firing from the kneeling position



1138th Soldiers firing from the standing position



Training events are a vital part of a Soldier's life while in theatre. It ensures that they are prepared for any situation and can successfully complete their mission. It provides them with the knowledge and skills that are critical to ensuring the safety of the Soldier and the unit.





Field Support Company



107th FSC

Commander's Corner

Hello Everyone,

Just wanted to take a few minutes and give you some updates on the progress of the FSC. Everyone is doing well here and I think here (just like back home) everyone is glad to have the holidays over with. I think finally after three months everyone has settled into their routines and are starting to mesh well together. There are things you get to know about people when you are deployed together, and despite the fact that Guard units become family, a unit that deploys together form friendships that last a lifetime.

Its 2008 which means we will be on the downhill slide of this deployment before we know it. It's almost what could be construed as cold here (50's during the day and high 20's at night) but I hope everyone makes a point to remember and enjoy this because here (unlike back home) it will be in the 80's here within the next 60 days or so. It even actually snowed in Baghdad for what I am told was the first time in 100 years! Only fitting that the Good Lord decided to drop a snowflake on the Yoopers while we were here! I also wanted to take a moment and thank everyone back home (FRG, AnySoldier.com, VFW, Schools, individuals and many more) for the TREMENDOUS outpouring of gifts, cards, letters, and prayers over the holiday season. I know myself and my Soldiers have made every effort to personally write and thank everyone, but if you didn't get a Thank You, know that it certainly wasn't because it wasn't felt. Our standard work week is 12hr days 6 days a week and it doesn't leave a whole lot of time for correspondence. I know it would not be possible to do what we do here without the love and support of folks like you at home. Since I have the soapbox here, I want to extend a special Thank You to my lovely wife, Michelle, and kids Amanda, Jessica, Jonathan, Stephanie, Mya and Maddie for all of your support during the holidays. Love and miss you all and I will be home before you know it! If there is anything I can do as Commander to help any of the Soldiers under my command or their families back home please do not hesitate to contact me at john.roberts20@us.army.mil Until next month we'll keep the wheels and wrenches turnin' and keep the FSC motto alive "Maintain to Sustain"



Sincerely,

John S. Roberts
ILT, TC, FSC
Commanding



Day Shift doing their "PMCS"



Snow in Baghdad (though it is hard to see)



Day Shift Crew
Sgt. Leahy is not pictured



107th FSC

Hello from the 107th FSC. As of January 19th, we will be 6 months into our deployment. We are well into our routines and our people are rotating home for some well deserved R&R. The morale of the company remains high, and we are doing a good job with our missions. Maintenance is running at a 97% mission capable rate, and distribution is successfully running any mission that comes their way. We had a noteworthy event in the middle of January. It snowed! We couldn't believe it! The picture of the truck shows the snow coming down. (If you zoom in on the picture, you might be able to make out the snow.) Unfortunately the snow did not stick. The ground is too warm. Our temperatures are around 25F at night, and in the mid 50's during the day. It has been pretty chilly. Well, as we promised in the first newsletter, we are going to highlight a group every newsletter. This time we want to highlight the recovery team. This team is broken up into two shifts, Day and Night. This group stays at a high state of readiness at all times since they never know when they will be called up to go "outside the wire" to recover a broken vehicle. The Leader of the group is John VanBrocklin. He is the NCOIC (NonCommissioned Officer In Charge) of recovery. SSG VanBrocklin is in charge of both day shift and night shift operations. Since SSG VanBrocklin doesn't do so well when we try to keep him up 24 hours a day, SGT. Lavigne has stepped up to take on the NCOIC duties of the night shift. The recovery crew has had 20 missions so far, 7 missions on day shift and 13 on night shift. The recovery crew also is the force behind the Hotwash operation. The Hotwash operation is crucial to the success of the missions that we have here. When a Route Clearance mission returns from outside the wire, they come down to the "Hotwash" area. SGT. Crankfield (The Hotwash NCO) radios the dayshift recovery crew to let them know a convoy is coming into the Hotwash area. The recovery guys, along with the operators, swarm all over the vehicles. They do Preventative Maintenance checks such as checking on the fluids, belts, and all of the "special" systems that the trucks are equipped with. The Recovery crew also is responsible for all of the services on the Route Clearance equipment. This keeps the vehicles in a high state of readiness, and reduces breakdowns and vehicle problems. Day shift is SSG John VanBrocklin, SGT. Leahy, SGT. Millner, SPC. Wright, SPC. Pleaugh, and SGT. Carlson. Night shift is: SGT. Carl Lavigne, SGT. Blahnik, SPC. Bourdage, Spc. Erath, and SGT. Ahola. We have high regards for our Recovery Crew. We also want to highlight SGT. Crankfield, our Hotwash NCOIC. He coordinates the Hotwash system for us and helps keep it all running straight. That is all I have for this month. We are all thinking of you, just as we know you are thinking of us.

CW2 Steven A. Krupp



Night shift Crew



The Wrecker....



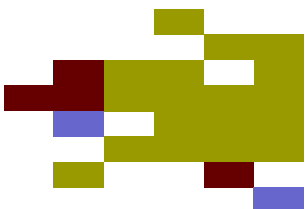
SSG VanBrocklin and Sgt. Crankfield
"I, VB, do thee wed"



"Bordo" in the Christmas spirit!



Spc. Bourdage, Sgt. Lavigne, and
Spc. Erath



Another day in the Sun:

107th RED BULLS



ISG Mike "Tooch" Touchinski takin' 5 before his workout.



CPT Mike Nemetz dealin' 'em out!





107th RED BULLS

SFC Scott Cleary, SFC Perry Nora, CPT Mark McNeill, CPT Scott Etelamaki behind the ALOC, Camp Liberty Iraq October 2007.



HSC 107th Engineer Battalion Section Sergeants- Camp Liberty Iraq. Back row L-R: SSG Jackson Wells; SFC Perry Nora; SFC Scott 'Klinger' Cleary; SPC John 'Skinny Pete' Peterson; ISG Mike 'Tooch' Touchinski; SFC 'Chopper' Bob Nault; Front row L-R: SFC Dave Lundin; SFC Sandy Borucki; SFC Rick 'Papi' Lopez.





107th RED BULLS



Snacks and treats for the 107th. L-R: SFC Bernie Peschel, SSG Jodi Peterson, SPC Kallie Deroin, SFC Perry Nora, SPC Jake Perry, and SGT Brian Lomax (kneeling).



SGT Stephanie Schroeder gets a flag-folding lesson from CPT Nemetz (center) and CPT Mark McNeill.



This pretty much says it all. Flag given to SFC Nora by Terry Lawer (Ishpeming), and it hangs proudly in the ALOC of the 107th Engineer Battalion over SFC Nora's desk.