

# 1430

## Engineer Company

**Promotions  
and  
Achievements**

**Patching  
Ceremony**

**1-649th  
Engineer Company  
(Horizontal)  
joins us**



**Inside this issue:**

Commander's Corner	3
Executive Officer's	4
First Sergeant's Rap	5
1st Platoon	6
2nd Platoon	8
3rd Platoon	10
HQ / Maint Platoon	12
1-649th	14

**An Inspiring Story...**

Another month down, and another step closer to mission completion. The soldiers of the 1430th Engineer Company continue to impress with every mission they complete. The awards have been piling up from other units in hopes of showing the troops how much they appreciate their efforts, and the amazing work that they do. Also this month, the Soldiers were awarded their combat patch. During the ceremony, the Battalion Commander, LTC Kevin Dial told a story to the troops that explained the importance of what they do here...

A General came across 3 Soldiers working on a project. He asked the first what he was doing and he replied laying bricks, when he asked the sec-

ond he replied, building a wall. Finally when he asked the third Soldier he said building a church. The moral behind his story was that we may not all know that each little thing we do, is part of a bigger project. While what we do here helps better the lives of other Soldiers, and make other missions possible. The support you all send from home has it's purpose also.

From all the troops here... Please except our gratitude to all the people and organizations that are supporting us. You have sent us comforts from home and uplifted the morale of all the Soldiers. Because of this we are able to focus on our work and be very successful.

# Captains Corner

## Hello friends and family of the 1430<sup>th</sup>/649<sup>th</sup>.

Once again I am happy to write you with another month in the books. Our time here in Afghanistan is getting shorter and shorter, but the need for our skills has not decreased. Without fail every time we start a new project your Soldiers surprise everyone by completing the projects above expectations and ahead of schedule. In the short time we have been here we have completed over 100 missions, many of which have greatly increased the quality of



**“In the short time we have been here we have completed over 100 missions.”**

life for our fellow Soldiers here in Afghanistan. Over the past couple of months we have received many care packages and cards from our friends and family. I can’t thank you all enough for the support you have shown this unit. You have all kept our spirits up, and it is clear that all the Soldiers here

are well loved. We started the mid tour leave process last month and I am very pleased to see our Soldiers head out and spend time with their friends and family. This time away from here is such an important time for all of us. The leave process is also a clear indication that time is ticking by and it

won’t be long until we are back home looking forward to the holidays. I know if any of you are like me we have already had discussions about what we are going to do when we get back.

I encourage you all to utilize your leave time for some much needed rest and relaxation. The months ahead will be very busy for us. Our project list is very long, but this will undoubtedly keep us busy. Many of you may ask if we are making a difference over here and the answer is a resounding yes. Your

Soldiers are not only making a difference they are sought after for their skills. Your Soldiers are making the lives of everyone they come in contact with better. Thank you for your continued support, and we all look forward to seeing you all soon!  
-CPT Rolling

**CPT Jason Rolling “patching” SPC David Moyryla**



# Executive Officer's

Hello friends and family of the 1430<sup>th</sup>/649<sup>th</sup>.

Rainy nights and damp days of Afghanistan's February could certainly make for a prolonged gloom, fortunately we've be comforted by sunny stretches of weather amidst the 28 day month. Missions continue to come and go met with the 1430<sup>th</sup>'s determination, and 1LT's Riley and Hanson continue to jointly enter my office and root around, shuffle and steal anything and everything I need to keep track of.

Now that my two resident Platoon Leaders have left, I will continue my updates. Last month we gained an excellent addition to our company, with the arrival of 1<sup>st</sup> PLT of the 649<sup>th</sup> EN CO (Horizontal) out of California. As soon as they arrived they fit right in as one of our family, and we are glad to be supporting their missions and operational needs;



**"My personal thank you goes to the Cliffs Military Support Network for their Valentine Care Package Drive."**



it's an exciting change of pace to be able to work on both Vertical and Horizontal Engineering. I'd like to continue to extend thanks to the terrific support we're receiving from everyone back in the States. My personal thank you goes to the Cliffs Military Support Network

for their Valentine Care Package Drive. Your selfless efforts do not go without notice.

Privileged to Serve,

2LT Tripp



# First Sergeants Rap



## Welcome back Family and Friends.

It's hard to believe that I'm writing to you again. It seems only like yesterday I wrote my last newsletter notes. As I go around to all the job sites and talk to the Customers, I couldn't be more proud of the Soldiers we have here. They continue to work hard and more importantly work together as a Team. They bring an attitude to the job site that is so positive it's infectious to the Customer. By the time they are done with each project

they have spread the Positivity to the Customer. Every day I get E-mails from Customers thanking us and are very happy to have a Unit like ours here supporting their mission. The 1430<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company is a name that has spread like wildfire we get so many job requests daily that pretty soon we may have to turn them away, but I doubt that it will happen as the Soldiers and Staff we would have a hard time saying no. We have ex-

panded our realm of what we can do, we have a Platoon from the 649<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company from California, and aside from the accent you can't even tell they are not Yoopers. They are a Horizontal Engineer Platoon, and they are as hard working as we are. They have integrated into our Company and now are a part of our Family as well.

The 1430<sup>th</sup> now with over 200 Soldiers have taken on all kinds of missions Horizontal as well as our Vertical, and now with SSG Jaqua at the helm, we have taken on welding missions. We have already logged over 100 job completions already, and that's quite a feat. I also want to say even with all the work they do, they also find the time to unwind

and take advantage of some much needed recuperation time. They find time to bond together by watching the Packers win and now its basketball and now NASCAR is starting up.



**"When the last Soldier gets back from leave we will be real close to coming home."**



As we roll into March we will continue to provide service for this whole region. We are expecting our first Soldiers back from leave as we have more leaving, this will continue through the summer. When the last Soldier gets back from leave we will be real close to coming home. So until the next time I bid you all farewell and I'm looking forward to

writing the next chapter of our exploits.

-1SG Wagner

# 1st Platoon

## Hello again from 1st PLT.

I would like to start off by saying hello again to our friends and family back home. From reports in Michigan it sounds like the winter is hit full swing in the UP. We have been fortunate here, until recently the days have been sunny with temperatures in the mid 60's. At night the temperature is still dropping significantly to levels at or around freezing. So, from the Yooper standpoint, this winter is a walk in the park compared

to what most of your soldiers are used to. You may also be pleased to know that your soldiers have gotten into a daily rhythm here in country and have started becoming rather busy with various construction projects. 1st PLT is already working on their 31st job since we have arrived here in Afghanistan. These jobs have ranged in scope, size, and length. Some of our jobs have been small electrical jobs that are

**"As you can see they are clearly a step above the rest!"**

a couple of days, to larger construction projects that have spanned for nearly a month. Another high point to so much outstanding work is that your soldiers have caught the eye of many influential leaders around our Area of Operation. One example would be recently a few members of my

Platoon built an expansion to a building for some of the medics here on base. Their superb effort drew the attention of our post commander, who was elated with the finished product that your loved one's produced. Another instance was an e-mail I received from a customer who

did nothing but praise the effort and assistance offered by the 1430th. It goes without saying, as their Platoon Leader I am never disappointed at these soldiers ability accomplish a mission regardless of what is asked of them.

SFC Albert Rockhold



SPC Joseph Erbetta and PFC Eric Palmateer

# 1st Platoon

In that same breath, I encourage all of you back home to spread to others the amazing job completed thus far. Believe me when I say this, it is truly incredible how influential your soldiers' hard work has been in the short time since we arrived. As you can see they are clearly a step above the rest! Switching gears, this month has started off great for the majority of our unit; due to the fact that any time the

Packers win is a good day, but when it is a Super Bowl victory that is just icing on the cake. Although it was not the same enjoying the game here as it was back home, the majority of our soldiers woke up early and still made the best of the situation. I heard from several people that even though they lost a little sleep, the chance to relax and watch the game with friends was one of the best events so far. Now that football has come to a

close, we have taken to watching the redwings and getting ready for the NCAA tournament, so we are making do with what we have. Other than that, everything has been going smoothly. So in closing, know that we all miss you and whether it be leave or completion of this deployment we cannot wait to return home.

-1LT Patrick Riley

**From Left to right: SSG Duane Beauchamp, PFC Eric Palmateer, SPC Robert Koszla, PFC Devin Odea, SPC Amanda Soules, and SPC Krystal Tucker.**



# 2nd Platoon

## Hello to everyone from 2nd Plt at FOB Shank,

“To sin by silence, when they should protest, makes cowards of men.” That line from Abraham Lincoln is one of my favorites, and it’s a principle I live by. Hi, I’m Alex Thorsen, the new platoon leader in 2nd Platoon down at Shank. I’ve lived in Michigan for over twenty years, grew up in Ann Arbor and was living in Lansing until I volunteered for this deployment. Since this is my first deployment, I really was venturing into the unknown.

It’s hard for me to imagine what this place would be like before I came over here. Being up in the mountains is great, and standing on a few high points provides a remarkable view. Afghanistan has an amazing landscape in every direction. The work here has been great, too. It’s been non-stop work requests with no end in sight- make no mistake, we’ve got more than enough to keep us busy until we eventually pack up and



**“I’ve been told this bunch is the hardest working and most deserving platoon on FOB Shank”.**



head home. We’re currently working on at least half a dozen projects during March alone, and a lot of soldiers will also be going on leave at that same time. Everyone here has a great work ethic and an overall positive attitude. This is in spite of a seven-day work week the last couple of

weeks and cold, snowy weather. I’ve been told this bunch is the hardest working and most deserving platoon on FOB Shank, and they certainly have lived up to their reputation. Stay strong on the home front, and GO BLUE! (Yes, I’m a Wolverine)

-1LT Alex Thorsen

### A note from a Soldier...

My name is Private Anthony Henning, in 2nd Platoon here on FOB Shank. Over the past couple of months we have been busy applying our skills as carpenters and electricians. We’ve taken on many jobs to improve FOB Shank as well as improve the living quality of

the surrounding area. Keeping busy makes time fly, but since we’re still relatively new to the deployment it seems like the prospect of going home is a long ways off. I’d like to say hello to my mom Linda Henning of Iron Mountain, MI, and to the rest of my family.

Leave is only about a month away, and after that a few more months and then home again.

-PV2 Anthony Henning



# 2nd Platoon

## This is straight from all the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon females:



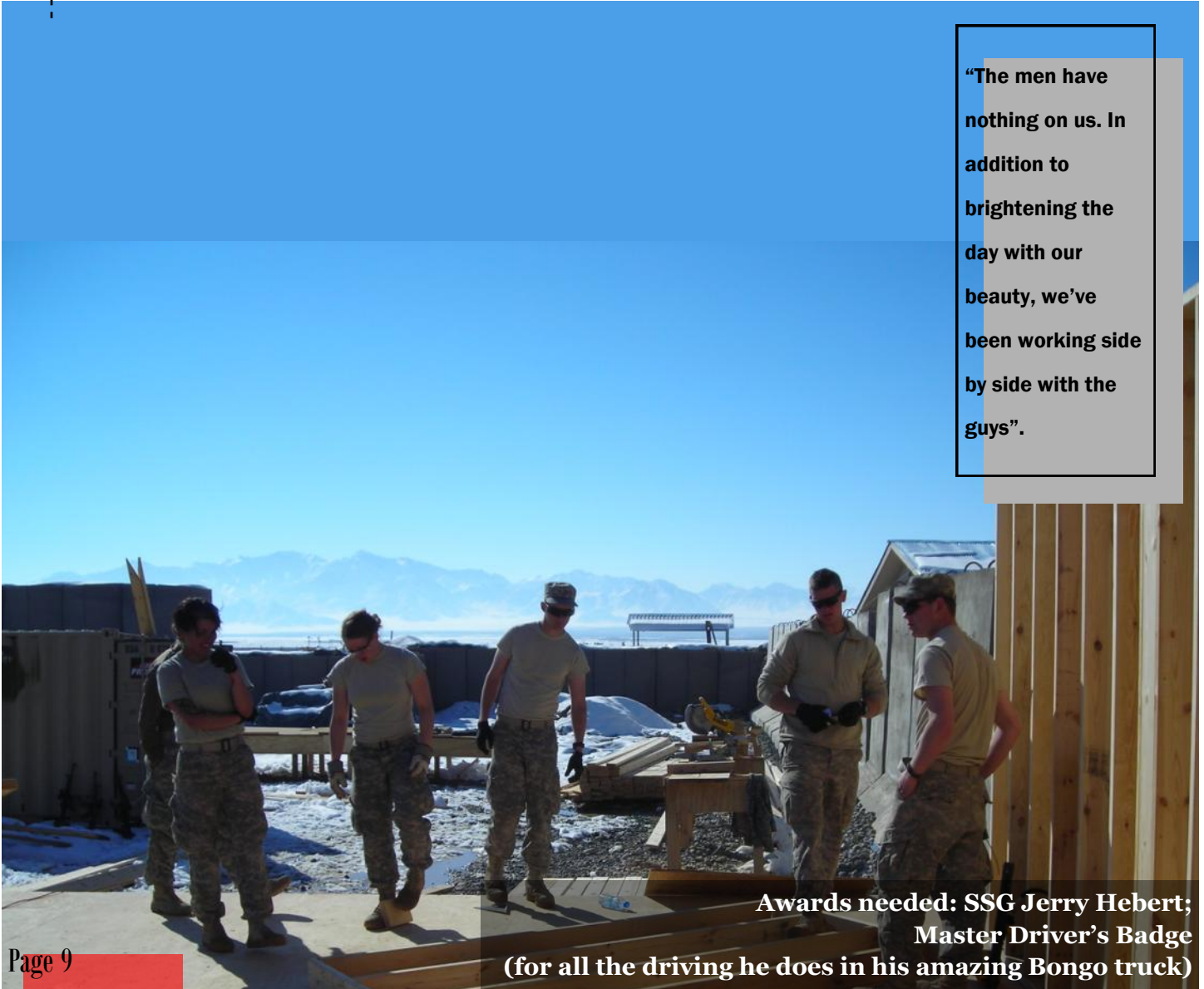
The men have nothing on us. In addition to brightening the day with our beauty, we've been working side by side with the guys hammering nails, cut-

ting lumber, and hauling equipment. In fact, we've done more than our share of the work. Most of us have been going to town on the balloon yard project, which is a massive 100ft by 26ft housing facility. It's been a lot of work-it started off slow but now it's picked up and, thanks to us, ahead of schedule. There was also a decking job for the 705th EOD that one of our females helped on as well; that

job was knocked out lickety-split. It's been a busy month with even more jobs to come. We can't believe we are yet another month closer to seeing our families again. We miss and love you all.

-SPC Shannah Erath,  
SPC Regina Briones,  
SPC Keara Kangas,  
PFC Kristen Olson,  
PFC Erin Genewick

**"The men have nothing on us. In addition to brightening the day with our beauty, we've been working side by side with the guys".**



**Awards needed: SSG Jerry Hebert; Master Driver's Badge (for all the driving he does in his amazing Bongo truck)**

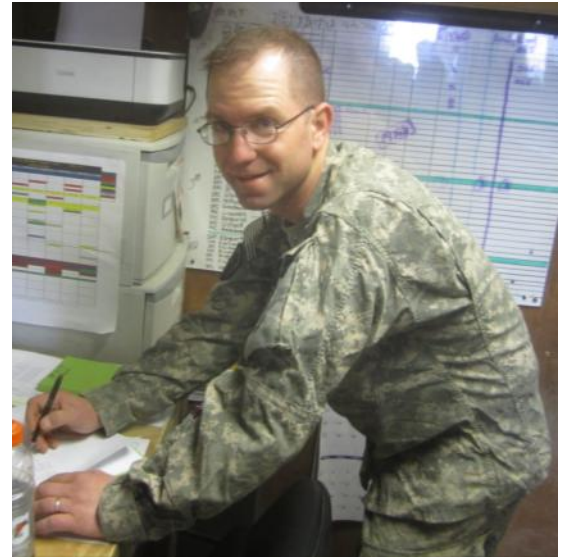
# 3rd Platoon

## “Third Da Herd”

Projects are continued to be rocked out and we are up to 33 so far! The Soldiers are working hard and I have never been more proud. We are currently conducting a lot of FOB Fenty upgrades for our fellow Soldiers such as living quarter improvements, shelving, and desks. We are currently working on a project for the Apaches, Blackhawks, and Kiowas to help improve their supply storage. Our Carpenters will be busy for quite

some time along with a few electricians. The plumbers have been busy as well. They have plumbed an entire latrine and have a huge project on the horizon consisting of 16 showers, 16 latrines, and 16 sinks. Everyone has been chipping in and helping out to complete the Engineer Mission. As a Platoon Leader, I have never seen so many Soldiers work together so hard.

1LT Hanson



SFC Lynch 3rd Platoon SGT

“I have never seen so many Soldiers work together so hard.”



SSG Matthew Jaqua

### A few words from your Soldiers-

So far the deployment has been a good experience for me. It is a lot different and better than I expected it to be. Our living quarters are pretty decent and the chow is good. The weather has been very comfortable, we have only had rain a couple of times and it hasn't even snowed so I can't complain. We are doing a good job at

getting the jobs we are doing done. I miss my family and friends. I'm just taking it one day at a time and I'll be home before I know it.

-SPC Travis Smith

SPC Nicole Dollar



# 3rd Platoon

### A few words from your Soldiers-

This deployment has been a great experience for myself and my wife as well. Being here in Afghanistan has been a great opportunity for me and my fellow Soldiers to grow together and develop friendships that will last a lifetime. I miss my family and my wife who is also in Afghanistan, and I can't wait to return to the states and resume my life where I left off.

I would like to thank you for all your support and prayers.

**-PFC William Genewick-**



**SPC John Glasco**



SPC Justin Nedeau,  
SPC Ryan Higgins,  
PFC Adam Fields

**"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."**

### A few words from your Soldiers-

This exciting adventure has been great so far. We've been doing lots of jobs for various units and been keeping very busy. It's been a great experience for me to see and interact with a different culture and to see a different country. Time goes by fast, but I can't wait to get back home and see my family and friends. I also can't wait to get home for the

beginning of trapping season, ride my snowmobile, and do lots of ice fishing.

**-PV2 Joshua Vidlund**



**SPC Daniel Uhl**

# HQ/Maint Platoon

Hello, from the Supply section of the 1430th EN CO.

Hello to everyone back home. Hope all is well and everyone has recuperated from the holiday's.

Well we have been here at FOB Fenty for almost 2 months. Supply jumped right into the swing of things and we are busy with materials request from the Class IV yard ( ie. Lowes) for the many jobs the platoons are working on. We seemed to adjust to our new lives here and keep each other entertained

all day long with many laughs, it seems to make the day go by a little quicker and life here a little easier.

SSG Giroux has been busy teaching SPC Seger and I the process on how supply works through the computer with the PBUSE (Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced). SPC Seger and I have some basic training with it but are learn-

ing quickly the many steps to make things happen.

SPC Markham jumped into his new role as the BOM (Bill of Materials) manager, and is doing a great job managing and controlling all of the materials for the projects.

**"We seemed to adjust to our new lives here and keep each other entertained all day long with many laughs".**

He is also learning a bit about the supply area and how to look up NSN (National Stock Number) for all the different types of building material needed for projects. Well that is all for now take care and we miss all of you.  
- SGT Patricia Thomas

### Hello all...

Things are going great here at FOB Fenty. Super busy all the time here doing supply stuff. I have been working hand in hand with SPC Markham getting lumber for him to give out to the platoons for job sites. I've also been learning more about the ordering, tracking, and receiving of materials and goodies that everyone

wants so much. Turns out I can't get much of the cool stuff, but I do what I can for the guys. Well, I have to get back to work. I love you all.

-SPC Troy Seger



# HQ/Maint Platoon

## Thank You

Thank you to all the folks who purchased and packed items that were sent to the 1430<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company. Everything we received was useful and much needed. Deodorant and toothpaste may be odd gifts back home, but here they are always a welcomed offering.

I took some time to read through the letters and Valentine cards. Actually, the very first card I picked up hap-

pened to be from my sister, which was a nice reminder of home...Thanks Becca! If there was time to respond to everything individually, then I would. The truth is, we are just too busy, which shouldn't be taken as a negative, as we enjoy the work we do over here.

For those generous elementary/middle school graders who don't know about the 1430<sup>th</sup> EN CO, we are a verti-

cal construction company out of Marquette and Gladstone. We also have one platoon of horizontal engineers from the 649 EN CO (hailing from sunny California). The horizontal element takes care of everything on the ground...all digging, roads, culverts/drainage, etc.

They have some great soldiers and I feel as though we work together quite well. The 1430<sup>th</sup> specializes in

everything vertical...buildings, gates, towers. Together we have the capacity to handle just about any construction project out there. Again, we appreciate all the time and effort that was put in to the care packages. Hope this spot in the newsletter is enough to convey our gratitude.

It's always nice to know that everyone back home is so supportive of the work we do half

A world away.

- SPC Andrew Markham



# 1-649 Horizontal Platoon



**SPC Pedro Tejada**

In closing just let me say that we all miss you tremendously and we value all your letters and packages so very very much. Those little touches of home can really brighten your day and make this all a little more bearable.

Shenanigans!  
LT Wilson

## Shenanigans ...

Well, another month has slipped by and 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, 649, finds itself deeply involved in a wide variety of projects. Your soldiers are working hard to improve the quality of life for others here in our area of operations. FOB and COP security projects and expansion projects, road improvements and our favorite drainage projects, all of these add up to good work that we know will make life

better for the short term as well as long term. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have joined forces with the 1430<sup>th</sup> EN CO here at FOB Fenty, they are truly a great bunch of folks and from day one our units have meshed and worked together beyond anyone's expectations. I know that we were all a little worried to know that we would be away from the rest of the 649<sup>th</sup> for this deployment and it has

been a tremendous relief to be able to work alongside a friendly and welcoming group of professionals like the 1430<sup>th</sup>. The only downside is quite a few of us have picked up a slight Michigan accent, so we may all come back talking a little funny, doncha know? Yeah, you betcha!



**SPC Tiffany Logan**

**"The only downside is quite a few of us have picked up a slight Michigan accent, so we may all come back talking a little funny".**



**SPC Ryan Rovito, SGT Steel Davis, SGT Morgan Little**

Well another month has passed and the Soldiers of 1st platoon/649th find themselves gaining momentum on the many projects that we have here. While preparing to write this portion of our newsletter I spoke with several of the 1st platoon troops and this is what they had to say. SPC Elmore when asked quoted "that he had nothing appropriate to say". That's our Elmore, always the bright eyed optimist. SGT Davis while adoringly studying his

visage in a handheld mirror stated "nose hairs". SPC Wilkey when asked for a quote to give for our newsletter stared at me glassy eyed and said "I love the motor pool". And finally I sought out my friend SGT Little, who is always a fountain of mirth and knowledge, and while under penalty of getting my rear-end in trouble smiled begrudgingly and stated, "I love it here".

So there you have it families, a sampling of 1st platoon's finest! Of course, know that we miss you and love hearing from all of you. As I'm sure LT. Wilson would want me to I'll close with our platoon motto, "Shenanigans", and of course my personal motto, "I should have gone to college".

SGT E. White, Random E-5

(However vastly better looking than all the others)

# Company Events



### Promotions-

On the left, PFC Garrett Spear , and on the right, SPC Paul Lafleur is promoted by the Commander and the First Sergeant. Congratulations!



### APFT Rock Star-

PFC Michael Beattie represented the 1430th Engineer Company at the FOB Fenty Bench Press Competition. He won his weight class tossing up an impressive 275 lbs. Nearly twice his body weight. The guys were quite impressed. Shortly after that PFC Beattie took a PT test to see if he could improve his score. He soared off the

charts with 93 push ups in 2 minutes, 85 sit ups in 2 minutes, and ran the 2 mile in 12 minutes and 45 seconds. This allowed him to reach the extended scale, giving him a grand total of 325 out of 300.



**Hard work and dedication has continued to honor our Soldiers with promotions and awards.**



### Certificate of Achievement-

CW2 Misenheimer poses with PV2 Anthony Henning, SPC Michael Glinn, and SPC Matthew Curtis, in front of a building that they constructed. These soldiers from 2nd platoon were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for meritorious achievement while constructing a building for Alpha Com-

pany , in support of Task Force Knighthawk. Their Innovation and dedication to excellence during the construction earned them much deserving respect from Task Force Knighthawk. They were presented the award by LTC Wendt.



In June 2007 the 1075th Maintenance Company along with C Company of the 107th Engineer Battalion folded their flags, and joined together to become the 1430th Engineer Company. Over the next few years, the soldiers worked together to create a cohesive unit and build camaraderie amongst their peers.

In March 2008 the 1430th completed its first mission in Soto Cono, Honduras. The soldiers put all their previous efforts in action shining above the rest. Finally in 2010 several soldiers from various units integrated with the 1430th, and began training for their upcoming mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The soldiers are continuing their legacy ensuring all surrounding task forces know that the "Yoopers" will complete every mission above and beyond all expectations.



#### "Patching" Ceremony-

The Soldiers of the 1430th and 1-649th were awarded the 176 Engineer Brigade, Task Force Hammer's Combat patch. Also known as the "shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service," the combat patch is meant to recognize Soldiers' participation in combat operations. While several of your Soldier's are already authorized to wear this honor, it was the first for most of them. Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Dial and Sergeant Major "Patched" 1SG Wagner and CPT Rolling who in turn, patched all the soldiers that were able to attend the ceremony.