



**THE HUSKY HERALD**  
**1431st Engineer Company**  
**SAPPER**  
**February, 2009**



**FROM THE COMMANDER: CPT Thomas K. LaFave**

Hello family and friends, as most of you have heard we are now at our final destination and have started working. Our mail is coming in, it is taking about 7-10 days to get here but there are times that it could take longer. Receiving mail has kept the morale of the Soldiers up which is a hard thing to do here, but you the family and friends have helped keep it that way and we can't say THANK YOU enough for the hardships you put up with while we are deployed.

So you all know the Soldiers of the 1431<sup>st</sup> are still outdoing themselves they have proven to be proficient in their jobs and have shown their abilities to everyone over here already. Even 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, has shown the 235<sup>th</sup> Engineers how Yoopers work and do it right.

I am sure that you have all heard about the living conditions here at our FOB, they are considered to be some of the best in the whole country so we have lucked out on that. There are other niceties here on the FOB as well; we should be getting a Burger King here soon, which will also help the morale.

Congratulations to SGT Joseph Rose for his selection as NCO (Non Commissioned Officer) of the Month and to PFC Kyle Loar for his selection as Soldier of Month for the 1431<sup>st</sup>. They will now be entered into the competition for the Battalion awards.

CO



FOUO-UNCLASSIFIED

**1431<sup>ST</sup> EN CO (SAPPER)**  
**NCO OF MONTH**



- SGT Rose sets the example of what a Teamleader should be. He goes the extra mile to ensure his Soldiers are taken care of and trained to the highest standard. SGT Rose is a be, know, do NCO who lives the Army Values.

SGT Rose, Joseph



## 1431<sup>ST</sup> EN CO (SAPPER) SOLDIER OF MONTH



PFC Loar, Kyle

- PFC Loar has proven himself as an outstanding Soldier. He consistently uses sound judgment and takes appropriate action in all situations that he finds himself in. PFC Loar exemplifies the Company Motto "GOOD AS DONE"

### FROM THE FIRST SERGEANT: 1SG Jeannotte

Greetings from lovely FOB \*\*\*\*\*! The Soldiers of the 1431<sup>st</sup> have completed the handoff from the 201<sup>st</sup> and are continually making improvement to their equipment and honing their skills. The Soldiers here are keeping very busy between missions, maintaining equipment and all the little extra details that we have to do. It is a busy schedule but it makes the time going by. Morale is high and with mail coming in that helps to keep a smile on our faces. There is internet that can be purchased here by the individual Soldier, it is nice but at times can be slow and at times doesn't work but it is nice to have. We also have an education center on the FOB that Soldiers can use to continue education while they are deployed. There is a PX (Post Exchange) which is a little store that has most of the small things you might need and a few extras. We also have a coffee shop, barber shop, gift shop, small movie theater, gaming room, gym and chapel to keep Soldiers busy in the little bit of down time they get.

1SG Jeannotte

### FROM THE OPERATIONS SERGEANT: SFC Rye HUSKY 3

Being somewhat of an adopted member of the 1431 for me this has been a rewarding experience. Some of you probably don't know this, but I met this unit in Grayling during this last summer during their pre-mob training and noticed a very professional and experienced group of soldiers. I learned they were in need of an Operations Sergeant and through some in-depth discussions with my wife I volunteered to go with the 1431<sup>st</sup>. Being an MP for the last 6 years with the 46<sup>th</sup> MP CO was an experience, but my heart has always been an engineer since becoming one way back in 1980 with D Co of the 107<sup>th</sup>. (And believe me I get reminded all the time about my a--, er, experience). Since being with the 1431<sup>st</sup> since mid July, I have seen this Unit develop, grow, and gain vast experience needed to do this job here in Afghanistan. They have exceeded expectations at a very alarming rate, dealing with situations like seasoned veterans. Everyone looks out for each other and reminds their battle buddy to call home once in awhile, even when the schedule demands a lot of time and effort to do this job. So don't be surprised when the young boys that went off to serve, come home as young men. So be proud, be patient and most of all be vigilant in your prayers.

**"It takes Tough Men to do this job, so people sleep safe at night"**

**HUSKY 3 – SFC Rye**

## **SAPPER ADMIN**



**Somebody's got to do it!**

### **FROM THE ADMIN SERGEANT: SSG Houle**

Hello all, it has been a very busy month. We have been traveling from the Camp Shelby to Afghanistan, which was quite an adventure. We are now working with the Company that we are replacing, going out on missions with them to learn the area, routes and how they "do business".

The area around us is actually quite beautiful, reminds me of the Pacific Northwest. It is very rugged and mountainous with snow covered peaks. The temperatures here are mild compared to home, lows are generally in the upper 30's to low 40's and the highs are 60 to 70.

### **Congratulations to the below Soldiers on their Promotions:**

Dustin Mitchell was promoted to Private First Class

Kent Hay was promoted to Private First Class

Steven Kinnunen was promoted to Specialist

Joshua Niemi was promoted to Specialist

David Smith was promoted to Specialist

Dominic Fredianelli was promoted to Specialist

John Kilpela was promoted to Staff Sergeant

The mail is really starting to flow, Thank you to all who have been writing to your Soldiers and sending care packages. It really does make a difference! I would like to personally thank the Baraga American Legion for their generous contributions to the Troops.

That's it for now...Thank you all for keeping the home fires burning!

### **FROM 1<sup>st</sup> PLATOON: 2LT Harrington and SFC Stevens**

**Hello Family and Friends,**

We've arrived at FOB \*\*\*\* and are getting settled in. The next couple weeks will be the busiest to date as we complete the handoff from the unit we are relieving. The time and effort that 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has put into training has paid off and it shows in how proficient the troops are as we've gotten involved in our missions.

FOB \*\*\*\*\* is among the most well-established FOBs in Afghanistan, with plenty of support for our mission and lots of MWR opportunities available for Soldiers on our low battle rhythm days. Internet and phones are available with no more than a short wait at the MWR tent, there's a great gym, basketball and volleyball courts, and even an education center where a fairly wide selection of both college level and general-ed courses are taught.

Lots of work stands in front of us, leading to long days and late nights, so don't be alarmed if you don't hear from your Soldier for a couple of days at a time. We appreciate you all keeping us in your thoughts and

prayers! As always, if any issues arise on the home front, please don't hesitate to contact the Family Readiness Group.

**Respectfully,**  
**2LT Harrington**  
**2LT, EN**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Platoon / 1431<sup>st</sup> EN CO**

### **FROM 2<sup>nd</sup> PLATOON: 2LT Van Eerden and SFC Battsifore**

**Families and Friends,**

Well, we've made it into country and have started to do our job. Our trip into country was a long one with multiple flights and many stops. Our rooms are much nicer than we thought and the chow is good. Needless to say I don't think our guys will be losing too much weight while we are here. Things are going very well for 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT. We have found a new home with the 235<sup>th</sup> Engineers (SAPPER). They have done an outstanding job taking care of our Soldiers. From getting the supplies we need, all the way to making sure we get a good nights rest (when available). Needless to say, both SFC Battsifore and I agree that they meet the YOOOPER standards of taking care of troops.

SFC Battsifore and I have noticed a huge amount of care packages that have been sent out. This shows how great our families have been in ensuring our Soldiers can get everything possible to make our lives a little bit more comfortable around here. We would like to send our gratitude out to all the families. Also, we received a huge care package from the American Legion from Baraga, we would also like to thank them for their support and if you see any of those guys around, please thank them in person for us.

**Sincerely,**  
**SFC Battsifore, Platoon Sergeant**  
**2LT Van Eerden, Platoon Leader**

### **FROM 3<sup>rd</sup> PLATOON: 2LT Matthews and SFC Yaniskivis**

Hello family and friends. My name is SSG Corrigan; I am the 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, Squad leader for 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon. A little about the climate, the weather right now is fairly mild, lows in the 40's and highs in the 60's. It has been raining every few days, just when everything is drying up it seems to rain again. The elevation is just over 3000 ft, and in the distance we can see snow covered mountains.

Everyone is getting settled in and into a routine, the living conditions are comfortable, the showers are hot, the beds are soft, and we get fed three times a day, so we can't really ask for anything more. We have a laundry facility that washes and folds our clothes, very convenient. Other facilities include gym, PX, chapel, barbershop, 24hr coffee shop, alterations, phone and computer center, and recreation center.

The past year of training and preparation was probably a little tough on several family members but it is definitely paying off for us now. Every Soldier knows their job inside and out and is performing at 110%, there is not another group of guys that I would want to be deployed with.

Hope everything is going well at home, the guys really appreciate the mail and packages; it's definitely something to look forward too. On the positive note we are a quarter of the way through the deployment, and time is flying by. We thank you for all your support and keeping us in your prayers.

**Sincerely,**  
**SSG Corrigan**

## FROM THE FAMILY READINESS GROUP:

The Family Readiness Group has been very busy, keeping busy! We've had great turnout at our meetings. The involvement in the group has been wonderful and very supportive. We recently had a sledding event at the Covington sledding hill. Tons of fun was had by all. We also celebrated SPC Wheeler's birthday at one of our meetings....Hope you had a great birthday SPC Wheeler! Coming up here in March we're planning a ladies night, a care package event and a meeting. We're very excited about our new t-shirt designs that will be coming out soon..stay tuned for those! Everyone here has been in good spirits.

### Website Info

We're on the 107th website. A spot has been reserved for the FRG on the site [www.107thengineers.org](http://www.107thengineers.org). Watch for our meeting minutes and pictures from our events.



Stacey Corrigan