



THE HUSKY HERALD
1431st Engineer Company
SAPPER
May 2009



FROM THE COMMANDER: CPT Thomas K. LaFave

Hello friends and families.

We are about half way done. I am excited to hear that the FRG is having a half way deployment meeting I am sure that will be enjoyable. As always all the troops here are doing an outstanding job. We have accomplished so much in only three months. As you all have heard it is heating up over here the temperature is starting to reach into the triple digits which we are not accustomed to. As you see below we have been awarded the 168th EN BDE patch as our combat patch. The 168th EN BN is out of MS this is a long standing tradition in the Army, it is a proud day for all of us to have earned a patch during a combat mission. Along with this we have also promoted these Soldiers:



CPT LaFave

APRIL
 AVRAMENKO
 NIEMI
 SHARDLOW
 STOINSKI
 TEMPLIN
 TERDOEST
 VOAKES

MAY
 CHAMPAGNE
 HAINES
 IDSTEIN
 KIVELA
 LOAR
 NICHELSON
 RHODES
 ROSE, SCOTT
 SMITH, COLE

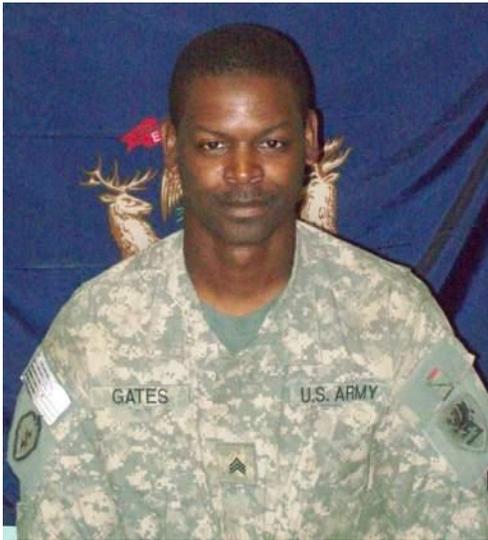
Congratulation to all of you.

I would also like to thank all of you for the packages that we have been getting I can see that there are a lot of people back home that are supportive of what we are doing. Thank you for all the support it really helps the moral of the troops to get news and goodies from home.

CO

FROM THE FIRST SERGEANT: 1SG Robert J. Jeannotte

Hello again family and friends. The Soldiers of the 1431st have been keeping busy between conducting mission and do all types of sustainment training to keep their skills fresh. The weather here this month has been a warm one on FOB Salerno and I'm sure the next few months are going to be even warmer. The NCO and Soldier of the month for April which is posted in May were SPC Scott Rose and SGT Spencer Gates.



SGT SPENCER GATES

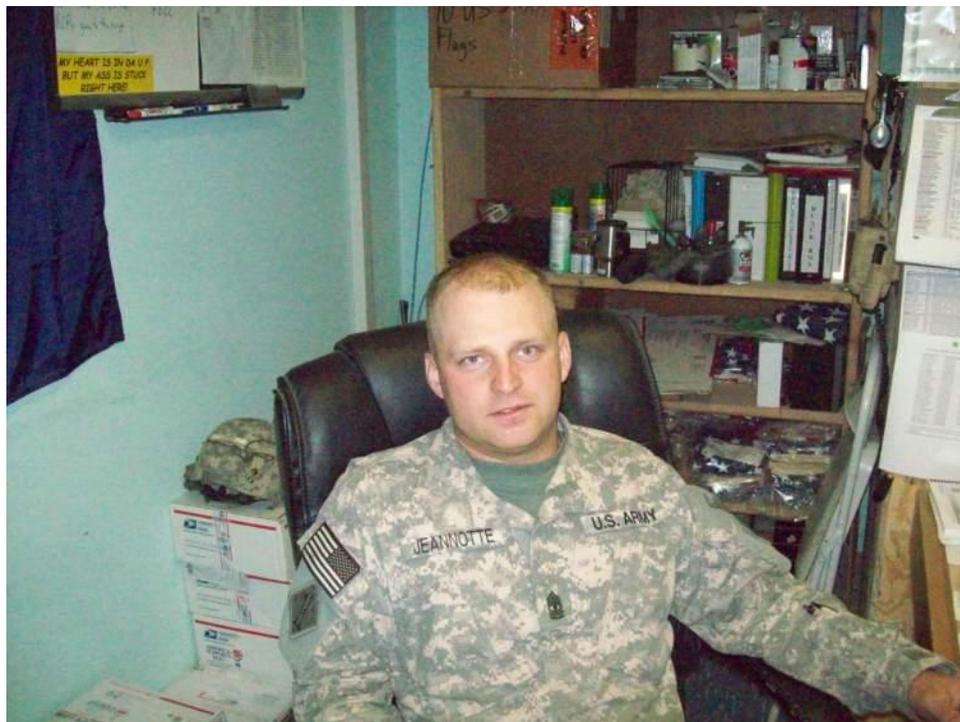


SPC SCOTT ROSE

SGT Gates is an integral part of the RCP's battle readiness. He uses his mechanical expertise and recovery knowledge to ensure the RCP is positioned for success before, during and after missions. SGT Gates consistently demonstrates great respect to leadership and the Soldier's he is in charge of. He is a great example to other Soldier's with his positive and upbeat attitude and his ability to mentor other Soldiers. SGT Gates is an NCO who goes the extra mile and exceeds the standards. He is a great addition to the 1431st Engineer Company.

SPC Rose is a Combat Engineer who is assigned the additional tasks of Husky TOC radio, BFT and CPOF operator. SPC Rose has gained quick mastery of these systems and greatly enhanced the 1431st ability to communicate and battle track the RCP Platoons. He has accomplished this despite his strong desire to be a member of the RCP Platoons. SPC Rose is a Soldier which exemplifies "Selfless Service".

1SG Jeannotte



1SG Jeannotte

FROM THE OPERATIONS SERGEANT: SFC David A. Rye HUSKY 3

Well, it must be time for my monthly submission to the Herald as SSG Houle is giving me gently reminders of the deadline, (like sticky notes pasted all over my workspace), anyway let's see what we have in store.

Weather-Getting hotter, we are now starting to get that triple digit temperatures now, that means we get to see the A/C repairman more often, since they never seem to work right anyhow. Not to worry though, a few of us can afford to sweat off a few pounds, (Did I say us?)

Home news-A few newborns have been bestowed upon some of our soldiers, Congratulations to them, I hope and pray they find it as enjoying and rewarding raising them as I did/do. I may be older than most here, but I'm not used up. By the way I'm a new great-uncle, my niece Candice and her husband Noel just gave birth to a strapping baby boy. (8lbs, 1oz, 20in long) Congrats to my Brother also, finally making him a grandpa.

News from the Front-Sorry can't tell ya, OPSEC you know. Just Kidding. Recently we had a combat patch ceremony, for those who received their first combat patch they should wear it proudly, for now they are officially combat veterans. A short narrative of the symbology of the combat patch was read by 1SG Jeannotte and then CPT Lafave bestowed each and everyone their combat patch. Military History in the making.

Well we are half way there, I am sure you all are tracking the downhill trek to redeployment back home. It will be a time of reunions and celebrations, just remember to be safe and keep in mind what sacrifices each and every one of you have made in this support of defeating the Global War on Terrorism. Being a Battle Buddy doesn't stop once we get home, keep in touch, and support each other when situations come up that warrant being there for each other.

GOD BLESS
SFC Rye



Soldiers with their new 168th Engineer Brigade Combat Patch



CPT LaFave & 1SG Jeannotte present Combat Patches to Soldiers of the 1431st



Headquarters and 1st Platoon receiving their Combat Patches

SAPPER ADMIN



"YOU NEED WHAT?"

FROM THE ADMIN SERGEANT: SSG Timothy J. Houle

Hello Everybody,

The month of May went by fast for us. I received a whole bunch of emails on Memorial Day from family, friends, and Veteran Organizations thanking me for my service.... I appreciate every one of them; it sure does make our job seem more tolerable knowing that there are so many people supporting us. When expressing thanks and remembering our fallen veterans, please don't forget the families of the veterans.... They have sacrificed as much, if not more, than the veterans themselves. I try to put myself in the shoes of the Mothers. Fathers and Spouses back home having to do all the chores, make all the day to day decisions, taking care of the children by themselves, wondering what is happening in Afghanistan, etc... and I truly believe I have the easier job.

God Bless you all

Till next time, SSG Timothy J. Houle

FROM 1st PLATOON: 1LT Nicholas G. Harrington and SFC Ross T. Stevens

Family and Friends,

First platoon continues to excel at our mission. All of our troops deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication resulting in 1st Platoon being recognized as RCP of the month for March among all of the RCPs in the battalion. Outstanding performance!!

Weather's getting hotter and dry and the sun gets a little more intense each day. Our schedule has changed some and we're able to get in a little more down time but we dedicate a lot of time for training to stay proficient on current and future tasks.

As always, FRG stands ready to assist with issues on the home front. Please be sure to contact them if you come across things you are unable to resolve or just have questions about the military.

Congratulations once again, 1st PLATOON!

1LT Nick Harrington & SFC Ross Stevens



Soldiers of 1st Platoon (RCP 7) by their Barracks at FOB Salerno

FROM 2nd PLATOON: 1LT Michael J. Van Eerden and SFC Joseph F. Battisfore

Hello Friends and Families,

Things have been going pretty good for us lately. We've finally been granted some time off for maintenance so I hope your Soldiers have been calling home. Even though we have been working hard and doing good things it's nice to get a chance to catch our breath. The guys built a Platoon gathering spot complete with benches, shade, and a fire pit where they can relax a little bit after hours and hang out. We have also had the chance to host a Bar-B-Q, and have a "blonko ball" (I think that's what it's called) tournament. Needless to say the guys have been in high spirits. Some of the Soldiers have also started a Bible Study where they meet once a week and talk about faith and pray for each other. Frequently the 235th EN CO (SAPPER) makes comments about how close and tightly knit our Platoon is and how well the Yoopers perform.

We continue to receive a lot of packages and letters from home. SFC Battisfore and I would like you all to know how much we appreciate your continued support and as soon as we can we will be writing back.

1LT Van Eerden, Michael J. PL
SFC Battisfore, Joseph F. PSG

FROM 3rd PLATOON: 1LT Robert Matthews and SFC Joshua Yaniskivis

Hello friends and family back home. We are approximately halfway through our deployment and our leave time is starting to cycle through regularly. So look for us as we rotate to and from home. We can definitely tell that summer is on its way due to the increase in temperature. We have seen it in the 80's, 90's, and even in the 100's on occasion and it's only the middle of May right now. The hot weather doesn't affect our play time after missions though, as we can still manage to arrange an impromptu horseshoe tournament. We also find many other ways to amuse ourselves like we are a bunch of guys off at college (minus the beer). Other than that we are just keeping busy doing what we have to do. The mail and support from all of you have been great and we are thinking about you as much as you are thinking of us. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

SPC REED and SPC KRATT

"Freedom Isn't Free."

FROM THE FAMILY READINESS GROUP:

COMMUNITY EVENT

June 16, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Marquette Armory
1820 Lincoln Avenue
Marquette, MI**

**Resource providers and
supporters from the local and
surrounding communities are
invited to participate.**

RSVP

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or
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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
on Road to Reintegration:
Systems of Care, please contact
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