



THE HUSKY HERALD

1431st Engineer Company

SAPPER

December, 2008



FROM THE COMMANDER: CPT LaFave

First of all I would like to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the Family and Friends of the 1431st Soldiers. We plan on publishing this newsletter monthly to keep everybody up to date with our Soldiers and give you a glimpse of what they are doing.

We have been very busy with training at Camp Shelby. Each Soldier had to participate in the SRP (Soldier Readiness Processing). This included Medical, Dental, Personnel, Finance and Legal screening to ensure the Soldier is deployable and that their dependants are being taken care of.

We also have been training on our war time mission. The days are long and the schedule difficult, but the morale is high and our Soldiers have set the example, as always, to the other Companies we are training along side of. You should be proud of all the Soldiers.... They have done all that has been asked of them and more without complaint.

We are all looking forward to the Christmas break. Hope you all enjoy the break and have fun, but remember, the Soldiers are now active duty and are being held responsible to return on time.

FROM THE FIRST SERGEANT: 1SG Jeannotte

I would just like to say this unit never ceases to amaze me. The Soldiers from the 1431st have been pushed hard and the morale is still off the charts. It seems the harder these Soldiers are pushed the more they excel. We have exceeded the expectations of the Battalion Sergeant Major and the training Brigade Sergeant Major (which doesn't happen very often). CPT LaFave had an OTC (observer trainer controller) go out of his way to track him down and let him know the 1431st Soldiers that went through his lane were the best he has had go through.

Its going to be a long road once we get back to Camp Shelby from the Christmas leave some Soldiers won't get a chance to take mid tour leave so we need to come back ready to train and conduct our mission. We need to keep the level of morale we have and continue to get all we can from our training. I hope all Soldiers and their family and friends enjoy and make the most of Christmas leave. They have worked hard for it and deserve it.

1SG Jeannotte



FROM THE OPERATIONS SERGEANT: SFC Rye

Due to the hard work and dedication of the unit during the past year we have been able to surpass the other units who have been going through the same training. We continue to receive accolades from instructors and evaluators on the knowledge and motivation the 1431st possesses on such a high level. I personally would like to acknowledge the HQ/Ops section on their hard work to take on tasks that allow the line platoons to maintain the high tempo of training without getting distracted with menial tasks. One team one fight, HOOAH!! We must continue to stay focused and online for the rest of our time here at Camp Shelby. The experienced training we receive will benefit all in making sure our mission is successful.

**SFC Rye
Operations Sergeant
1431st EN Co (Sappers)**

Pictures from Camp Shelby







SAPPER ADMIN

DEATH BY PAPERWORK!

FROM THE ADMIN SERGEANT: SSG Houle

I want to thank EVERYBODY for collecting and organizing the mountain of paperwork required to just get started at MOB station. Every Soldier brought in the copies of their birth certificates, marriage license, drivers license, etc..... When I arrived at MOB station and turned in our files and ADVON checklist, it only took 15 minutes to get through the whole process... Some of the other Companies that we are training with took DAYS! We couldn't have done it without each and every Soldier stepping up to the plate and getting their part done. Special thanks to SFC Stevens for setting up the computer files... Camp Shelby hadn't seen anything like that before and they were very impressed.

We have an excellent start on the S1 side, so let's keep it going. Any change in your status or the status of your dependants needs to be brought to my attention through the chain of command. I am in the process of getting a hard copy LES for each Soldier so we can check and make sure everybody's pay is correct before we leave the states, it is a lot easier to fix it now!

SPC Thomas is holding down the fort in Calumet and Baraga with the assistance of SFC Cleary from the 107th BN (Still Company A at heart). SSG Schwanke is at MOB station with us now, but will be working the Baraga Armory once we leave MOB station. If any of the Soldiers families have questions, problems, or just need someone to talk to, they can be reached at 906-337-0812 – Calumet or 906-353-6158 – Baraga.

Hope everybody has a safe and Merry Christmas.

P.S. if your Soldier brings home dirty laundry.... Don't be too upset, the facilities aren't the best!

SSG Houle
1431st En Co (SAPPER)



FROM 1st PLATOON: 2LT Harrington and SFC Stevens

Hello Family and Friends,

I thought I'd take a minute and write on behalf of 1st Platoon. I guess the first thing is we've been really busy. We're getting some very extensive training on our mission in Afghanistan and our mission within the Company. Morale is high and everyone is looking to seeing their families over the holidays. I'd like to thank all of you for your support and patience while we are deployed and wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a blessed New Year. We'll see you soon.

SGT Allen – 1st Platoon HQ

FROM 2nd PLATOON: 2LT Van Eerden and SFC Battsfore

Families and Friends,

I am happy to say that 2nd PLT is doing very great. We are getting ready to come home on Christmas Leave and the Soldiers are very excited. The past 18 days of training have been an exhausting but beneficial time. We have completed multiple days of convoy training, weapons training, Urban Training, Vehicle Roll Over Training, and whenever we can fit it in physical training. The Soldiers have high morale and are completing every task given beyond many individuals expectations.

Both SFC Battsfore and I would like to remind all of the families that the FRG is set up to help any family member who needs something while their Soldier is deployed. Please use them whenever you can, even if it is just to chat. Also, as difficult as it is going to be to say goodbye again to your Soldier please ensure he is packed up at the end of Christmas break and ready to train again.

I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,



**2nd PLT Leader
2LT Van Eerden**

**2nd PLT Sergeant
SFC Battsfore**



2nd PLATOON
SECOND TO NONE!

FROM 3rd PLATOON: 2LT Matthews and SPC Seageren



SGT DeRoche Mission Ready!



SPC Seageren and 2LT Matthews



Night missions for 3rd platoon

Hello and Merry Christmas to the families and friends of the 1431st!

I haven't had the chance to meet very many of you, so here is a small bit of information about myself. I am Second Lieutenant Matthews and I am the platoon leader for 3rd Platoon. I live in lower MI with my wife and 4 kids. While not in the military, I work at Gordon Food Service.

I have been with the 1431st since August 2008 and can say that in a very short time I have gotten to know the soldiers well enough to see that they are one of the best units around. The men in this unit understand what it means to get the job done and take care of each other. Since taking over 3rd Platoon, I have seen an immense amount of training to get us all ready for our mission overseas. The soldiers frequently spend long days of repetitive training and meet the challenges with solid motivation and positive frames of mind. The result has been a steady improvement in how the platoon operates together. I am very proud of their efforts to date.

Yet we still have a lot of challenges ahead of us. I will do my part gladly to assist these fine men and give them the tools they need and help them develop any additional skills required to overcome our challenges. For your part, I would ask the families and friends of these soldiers to not burden them with too many issues and problems during the holidays. I understand that these are all strong men that many people tend to lean on, but keep in mind that this is a time to relax with and love your soldier.

Lastly, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

2LT Matthews
1431st EN CO (SAPPER), 3rd PLT LDR

Families of 3rd platoon. Seasons greetings! Days are long and morale is high here at Camp Shelby. Your soldiers have been training hard on numerous tasks and skills. Your constant support and words of encouragement keep them ready for the job at hand. We think of home often, and when there is a small break in the day conversations invariably turn to memories and times spent with loved ones. We ask that you remember these times, and not worry about us as the training here is preparing us extremely well for our mission. Keep us in your prayers and thoughts and we'll be home before you know it.

SPC Seageren
1431st EN CO (SAPPER)

FROM THE FAMILY READINESS GROUP:

Hello everyone! We hope you enjoy every moment of Christmas Break. The FRG has been busy gathering contact information for anyone and everyone. The officers of the group have been elected and are as follows:

(Webmaster's comments: The personal contact information for the Family Readiness Group(FRG) has been deleted, because this is a public website. To get in contact with the FRG, please contact the armories in Calumet, Baraga, or Ishpeming. The armory phone numbers and names of the NCO's in-charge are listed above in this newsletter.)