



THE HUSKY HERALD

1431st Engineer Company

SAPPER

January, 2009



FROM THE COMMANDER: CPT LaFave

Hello Friends and families of the Sappers, here we are again with another news letter; it feels like we just did one. That is a good sign that means that we are keeping busy with all the training and that the time we will be away is going by fast.

I am glad to report that all of our troops made it back here safely after the Christmas break, I know that it was short but at least we were able to get home for some good family time. As for here, we are getting ready for the MRE, Mobilization Readiness Exercise, which is the main event at Camp Shelby. From there we will be doing our final SRC, and then we will be heading over the pond. We don't have a set date as to when we are leaving yet.

So far the training here has gone well, we are well ahead of what I had expected when we left, and I know that we are getting better training than we had the last time we went to Iraq. We have an address for your Soldiers now and I hope that the mail keeps coming in like it has been, your Soldiers love to hear from home. I know that the address will change some but we will get that information out to you as soon as we can and we will make sure that all of the mail sent will be forwarded to them.

Some special notes we had two Soldiers that received awards down here so far, 2LT Matthews and SGT Gates received an AAM (Army Achievement Medal) for creating a data base that will help the company with creating most of the documents as well as most of the reports. The data base was created so well that some of the other companies are using it also. That is just one example of how the Soldiers of the 1431st are performing down here. I hope all of you are just as proud of your Soldiers as I am they have completely impressed me the whole time during this mobilization process.

Good As Done
CO

FROM THE FIRST SERGEANT: 1SG Jeannotte

In this issue of the Husky Herald I would like to give a big THANK YOU to all the family and friends of the 1431st Soldiers for the sacrifice you all have to make while your loved ones are deployed. Sometimes I think the people left at home have the more difficult task dealing with everything on the home front and you don't get enough thanks for what you do.

The 1431st has started the final phase of our training here at Camp Shelby and we are going to have some long days ahead of us but we are up to the challenge and plan to get some great training. Be proud of your loved one's they are working hard and continue to set new standards. I am proud to be a part of this unit and to serve with all the Soldiers of the 1431st!!!

FROM THE OPERATIONS SERGEANT: SFC Rye



HUSKY 3



Well, the hard worked has paid off, due to hard work and vigilance, and not to mention the high level of motivation, we have become 100% trained to First Army's standards. Everyone here and back home should be proud of this accomplishment, it takes not only the individual Soldier's drive and dedication to do this, but it is always a Team effort. The Team being everyone, the Soldier, his battle buddy and his family back home. We have trained hard and long on how to move, shoot, communicate, medical training, and many specialized jobs and tasks related to our mission, and have done it well above the standard. As we continue to move forward in the process to accomplish our mission, we can be sure that we have the tools and knowledge to fight the Global War on Terrorism with determination and courage. I would like to mention a couple Soldiers that have stood out in the effort they put forth to help the unit accomplish this phase of our mobilization. SSG Houle, his dedication and attention to detail to make sure Soldiers get the administrative help they deserve. SPC Racine, a young Soldier who has shown a willingness to take on tasks above his pay grade and always ready to do what it takes to finish what is started. From Camp Shelby, **GOOD AS DONE!!! HOOAH!!!!**

SFC Rye

OPERATIONS

HUSKY 3



SAPPER ADMIN

DEATH BY PAPERWORK!

FROM THE ADMIN SERGEANT: SSG Houle

Hello all from Camp Shelby, All Soldiers are doing a great job here and all are doing well. We haven't had to send anybody back home because of injury or illness. As a matter of fact, we have grown.

I would like to welcome SGT Gates and SPC Fordham from FSC, 276th EN BN. They have been assigned to us for the duration of the deployment and have fit right in with the rest of the gang. As is our custom, we had them in the "front leaning rest" position with our Engineer pin on the ground in front of them while the First Sergeant read them the history of the Unit.

I also want to send congratulations out to SPC Gibson on the birth of his Son, Landon, on 30 Dec. and to SPC Turunen and his new bride Heather who took the plunge and got married while he was home on Christmas leave.

We had two Soldiers receive the Army Achievement Medal last week: SGT Gates and 2LT Matthews for designing a computer database that self populates information required on Convoy Manifest and other documents required to be completed by the Platoons prior to any movement "outside the wire" This program will save countless hours of paperwork and give the Platoons time for more important things. Congratulations to them both.

Our new addresses are listed below. If you are uncertain which Platoon or section your Soldier is attached to, you will need to get that information from them. We can't publish that information. My apologizes. Thank you all..... SSG Houle

Company HQ, 1st and 3rd Platoons

Rank/Name

1431st EN CO (SAPPER)

(Webmaster's note: Please contact the 1431st FRG or one of the armories for the correct mailing addresses. We do not want to publish that information here, because it will violate Operational Security (OPSEC) requirements. This is being done to safe guard our Soldiers overseas.)

2nd Platoon

Rank/Name

1431st EN CO (SAPPER)

FROM 1st PLATOON: 2LT Harrington and SFC Stevens
GAAAAAAAHHHH!!!! That is all.

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

As has been the case all along, 2LT Van Eerden and I are impressed with the motivation, professionalism, and dedication of 2nd Platoon Soldiers. Training is continuing to go well and we are consistently being told by evaluators that the Soldiers of the 1431st are among the best that have trained at Camp Shelby.

As I write this update SGT Kerry and I are preparing to travel ahead of the platoon into Afghanistan. Soon thereafter the rest of the platoon will finish their training and follow on into country. Due to security reasons I cannot say exactly where we are headed, but we expect to be staying at a major Forward Operating Base (FOB) for a period of time to receive our equipment and final training before we move to our ultimate destination as a separately operating platoon. The unit we are replacing has done an exceptional job of preparing final training and hand-off, including sending some of their leaders home from Afghanistan to assist with the final training here at Camp Shelby.

2LT Van Eerden and I hope all is going well at home and we would like to re-iterate that if there are ANY issues or problems that families can contact my wife and the Family Readiness Group (Editor's note: contact the armories for FRG contact info) and/or Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647 for assistance. SFC Battsifore & 2LT Van Eerden

FROM 3rd PLATOON: 2LT Matthews and SFC Yaniskivis

Hello family and friends. My name is Sergeant First Class Yaniskivis and I am the Platoon Sergeant for 3rd platoon. The Platoon Sergeant is often referred to as the "Platoon Daddy", mostly because I act as a dad for these young troops and make sure they are safe and have everything they need. I hope that the holidays treated every one well and the Soldiers were able to get some quality time with all of their loved ones. It was a nice break but we are back to training now at full throttle.

Days are long here at Shelby but we are receiving great training that will help everyone return home safe. There is one bright spot to being down here and that is the weather. It is usually in the 60's or higher and no sight of snow. There doesn't seem to be any complaining about the conditions here.

This is a very good Platoon and you can be assured that every Soldier is taken care of as if they were our own family. Leadership is strong and the Soldiers are eager to start the campaign and get back home to their family and friends.

Hope that all is going well back home and keep the letters and packages coming because there's nothing like the sight of a Soldier receiving mail. The last day to send mail to Shelby is January 15 so send it out soon. Keep us in your prayers as you are in ours.

Sincerely,
SFC YANISKIVIS

FROM THE FAMILY READINESS GROUP:

Happy New Year to you all! Yes, 2009 will be a long year, however the FRG is going to be very busy and it will be over before we know it! Our next meeting will be January 17th at the Baraga Armory at 1300 hours. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

We have been receiving so much support from our local communities. Several of our family members attended a Christmas party hosted by the Calumet VFW. We all had a very nice time and are very appreciative of the invitation from the VFW. Michigan Tech University is putting together a Military Appreciation Night during the MTU vs. North Dakota hockey game on the evening of January 17th. They have offered numerous free and discounted tickets. And there is so much more to come!

At our next meeting we'll be working on getting a few family events on our calendar and planning to send some packages to our soldiers, as well as, talking about some attire so we can all show how very proud we are of our 1431st soldiers!!

Mail to Camp Shelby

It is recommended that you cease mailing items to your Soldiers here at Camp Shelby, Use the new address listed in this newsletter starting now.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITE:

Some of the Featured Links on this site include: [Military One Source](#), [National Guard](#), [Army Reserve](#), [Go Army](#), [Defense Link](#), [Military Homefront](#), [My Army Life Too](#), [BOSS](#)

Child Care Assistance: *(Editor's note: I have deleted a lot of information from this paragraph because this is a public website. I don't want to publish family member information such as names, e-mail addresses or phone numbers. You can obtain the FRG information by contacting any of the armories.)*

The Department of Defense wants to help military families pay for child care. Call toll free: 1-888-642-2799 OR Go To: www.naccrra.org Scroll down to the Blue DOD Logo labeled "Click here for Military Child Care Help". Further information and a "PDF" file Fact Sheet on this child care assistance will be e-mailed soon to the Families of the 1431st EN CO.

As we've mentioned before, please feel free to contact any of our officers at any time, for ANYTHING. That's what we are here for.

President:

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Communications: