

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11-12

Task Force Knight

223rd ENGINEER BATTALION



IT GROWS WITH LABOR

Vol. 1 Issue 8



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Task Force Knight



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KNIGHT 6-COMMANDERS CORNER

Good Day Knight Warriors,

Task Force Knight experienced several extremely rough days this past month, but I am exceptionally proud of the way you handled yourself. True professionals! Your ability to get up and take the fight back to the enemy reflects the character and professionalism you would expect in a Knight Warrior. As William B. Sprague stated, “Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot; but make it hot by striking.” We always talk about being strong and having strong leaders, but it is times like these that our true colors are tested....and when tested, you delivered and you are striking back. You are still striking the iron sword forward even in the midst of our fallen heroes. As some of us look ahead to our redeployment we still have a monumental task before us. Every day we take inherit risks. We

mitigate these risks as much as we can, however at the end of the day, the enemy has a voice. So, do not let your iron sword down. Raise it high and be ready to strike it hard. I need you to stay laser sharp and laser focused. Leaders, you must capitalize and use all the tools in your toolkit to maximize your ability to engage the enemy. Knight Warriors you are consistently in my thoughts and prayers. I ask that each of you say a prayer for our fallen heroes’ loved ones back home. Remember, let’s honor and celebrate our Knight Warriors who voluntarily chose a profession to defend freedom.

God Bless and Godspeed,

LTC Michael M. Cleveland



KNIGHT 7—CSM THOUGHTS

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” Ever since our childhood, we have wanted to be someone, yet as we get older we lose sight of our goals. Our biggest excuse for this has always been that life just seems to get in the way of who we dreamed of being. I encourage all Knight Warriors to take the time out for yourself and reach for your dream. Take an online course and get that degree you always wanted. Get a run group together and strive to better yourself, not just for a better score on the PT test, but to know that you have achieved a goal. If you want to write, write! Learn to play a musical instrument if that is where your interest lies. Have the initiative to be a better you.

One of our Army Values is Personal Courage. It could not be any more evident and clear that as Knight Warriors we need to have the Personal Courage and commitment to follow our dreams. As Leaders, it is our Duty to ensure that our Soldiers are taking the time to strive to become better at what they do, and who they want to become. Guide our Knight Warriors to the path of enrichment, provide them the opportunity to schedule a class, and counsel them on the best way to approach a goal. Remember, we only have one life and one chance to do all the things we wish to do.

CSM Charles Donald



22nd Hooligans returning home



*Job Well Done
Hooligans!!!*

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan- Members of the 22nd Engineer Clearance Company “Hooligans” are departing Afghanistan, the place they have called home for the past year.

The return home comes as a welcome event as the Soldiers are ready to get back to their loved ones.

“Everyone in the company is looking forward to reuniting with their family,” stated U.S. Army Capt Evan Wolf, 22nd ECC commander. “The cooler temperatures will also be appreciated,” Wolf joked.

The past 12 months proved to be a challenge for the Soldiers of the 22nd ECC. After the loss of one Soldier in action and the wounding of several others, the unit has overcome daunting obstacles in the battlefield, while holding onto the Hooligan spirit.

“You will be legendary,” exclaimed U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Buck, 14th Engineer

Battalion commander. “You guys have done a remarkable job.”

Ending their time in Afghanistan, the unit closed with an end of tour award ceremony. The ceremony awarded Soldiers for their courage and dedication to the mission of Operation Enduring Freedom.



“The Soldiers of the 22nd should be commended for the things they have accomplished and for their performance during their deployment,” said U.S. Army Capt. Todd Falor, 1433rd ECC commander as he congratulated the 22nd Hooligans on what they achieved during their year-long deployment.

The 22nd ECC is replaced by

the 1433rd ECC, who learned the skills necessary to follow in the 22nd footsteps.

Wolf advised the 1433rd ECC leaders, “It is important to stay tied in with the battle space owners” and to “provide yourself as much planning time as possible” before each mission. The Hooligans’ year in country has passed, and their journey home has just begun. Their contributions to route clearance have helped create a safe passageway for the coalition forces and the Afghan people.



1433rd takes control of route clearance



KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan- Members of the 1433rd Engineer Clearance Company assumed the route clearance mission on the roads outside Forward Operating Base Pasab, officially relieving the 22nd ECC here July 11.

For the members of the 22nd, coordination was instrumental for training of the 1433rd Soldiers relieving them.

“We pushed to have them (1433rd) on the routes first to maximize their exposure to the area,” U.S. Army Capt. Evan Wolf, 22nd ECC commander, explaining how the 22nd pushed the 1433rd out on missions as soon as possible. As soon as Soldiers of the 1433rd

began arriving in country, members of the 22nd improved the incoming Soldiers’ techniques used to survive the roadways and hazards of Kandahar Province.

In order for the transition of authority to take place, the leadership of the 22nd and the 1433rd banded together to ensure all those new to the battle arena were fully prepared for the route clearance mission.

“We deliberately transitioned them to the lead,” said Wolf, speaking about the 1433rd. He emphasized the need to be vigilant with all duties and tasks outside the wire. “This has been a kinetic area with no substantial decrease in activity.”



Even with a mission as critical and dangerous as route clearance, U.S. Army Capt. Todd Falor, 1433rd ECC

commander said he is confident in his men.



“The 1433rd is ready to replace the 22nd. We have been training 18 months for this mission and with the knowledge passed along by the 22nd, I feel confident we are prepared. All the training we conducted has been battle focused with an emphasis placed on the combat skills the 1433rd Soldiers would need.”

*Welcome to the
family, Rock
Hounds!*



182nd Soldiers conduct route clearance



By: U.S. Army SPC Michael G. Demers
182nd Engineer Company (Sapper)

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan- The sound of engines broke the silence of Combat Outpost Makuan in the Zharay District of Kandahar, Afghanistan. It was early morning and the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, 182nd Engineer Company were headed on a convoy. Their mission was simple: clear the route and provide freedom of maneuver to Afghan and Coalition forces tasked with building a new check point.

The Husky Tactical Support Vehicle pushed forward to scan for road-side bombs targeting Coalition and Afghan Security Forces. The crew of the Buffalo interrogation vehicle sat prepared to interrogate and dispose of suspected improvised explosive devices. Meanwhile, everyone else remained ready to defend against a possible ambush. Helicopters and other aerial reconnaissance platforms provided surveillance of the route to ensure no previously placed IEDs could be armed in anticipation of the approaching convoy.

As the patrol pushed forward, they were forced to cross deep irrigation canals unsuitable for fording. The challenges of terrain were quickly met by a Rapidly Emplaced Bridging System. As the lead vehicle began the process of bridging the canal, insurgents on the trail ahead seized the opportunity and attempted to activate previously emplaced IEDs. The Infantry immediately responded and the insurgents fled the scene as close air support was in pursuit.

After the bridge was emplaced, the 182nd Soldiers continued their push forward. They would be clearing an area with a show of their own. Due to the high concentration of known IEDs along the route, the 182nd was given clearance to reduce the explosive obstacles with the Mine-Clearance Line Charge. The MICLIC trailer holds explosives towed behind a rocket that is fired from a launching platform. In route clearance, it is used as a vital tool to prevent risking the lives of U.S. Soldiers when a target area of interest is identified. The 182nd would fire five of them that day. Although it wasn't a conventional fireworks show, the Soldiers witnessing the display will likely never forget how they spent their Independence Day this year.

The rockets screamed from their launchers with the line charge in tow, one after another they detonated. The concussion of the blasts sucked in the air around the route and then quickly shot it back outwards. IEDs emplaced along the route quickly reduced in what the Engineers call "sympathetic" detonations. The route was then double-checked by the Huskies and RG-31's Mine-Protected Vehicle, because in the mission of route clearance there is little room for error.

Once the route was cleared, the engineers took up defensive positions to ensure everything they had cleared remained safe while elements of Afghan National Army and National Police moved forward with support from the U.S. Infantry to construct the outpost on the objective. As the 182nd engineers set up firing positions, the infantry entered a village south of the proposed site of the checkpoint.

"Shots fired," raced across the radio with the sound of machine guns in

the background. The advance had been met with small arms fire from insurgents armed with AK-47's. ANA and ANP pushed forward with the support of the U.S. Forces. There would be no stopping the installation of the checkpoint or the clearing of the village. After the engagers had been suppressed, the construction of the checkpoint once again took center stage as Soldiers of the 182nd worked to build the compound that would slowly take shape as the newest ANA checkpoint.

During the three-day operation, the 182nd platoon remained focused on their task of securing the route. Armed insurgents were seen maneuvering around the grape vineyards by local children. Afghan Soldiers moved the children to a safer area and passed the reports on to U.S. forces all while preparing for an impending ambush that would ultimately never come.

The 182nd Soldiers from Massachusetts maintained security until they were relieved of their positions and cleared their own route back to their home at Forward Operating Base Sarkari Karez.



182nd Paving the Way

223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward

713th remembers two of their own



KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan- Over 200 Soldiers of FOB Frontenac and members of the 713th Engineer Company gathered to attend the memorial ceremony of two of their own, U. S. Army Spc. Sergio Perez and U. S. Army Spc. Nicholas Taylor.

“Their death reminds us of the brutality of war and of the eternal truth that freedom is never free,” 223rd Engineer Battalion Commander, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Cleveland, speaking to those in attendance of Perez and Taylor’s memorial ceremony.

In November 2011, Perez and Taylor deployed to Afghanistan with the 713th Engineer Company, Indiana National Guard. During the memorial their leadership and closest friends shared their experiences with them.

713th Commander, U.S. Army Cpt. Cecil Pendleton said that, “We are fortunate, better men, and Soldiers that our heroes chose to stand and fight beside us.”

Perez and Taylor were close friends, as many of the men of the 713th had noted prior to the start of the Memorial

Ceremony. “We called them the ‘Two Live Crew’, the wild dark side of 1st Platoon,” commented U. S. Army Staff Sgt Alston, 1st Platoon Sergeant, during his eulogy speech, “Spc. Perez, along with his pals Spc. Allard, Spc. Bogacz and Spc. Taylor, exemplified the type of brotherhood that comes with being deployed, and the bond that comes from sharing trying times.”

Alston went on to say about Perez, “I always looked at Sergio as the son I never had. He had an aura about him that showed confidence, and he was proud of who he was and what he stood for.”

U.S. Army Spc. Chad Allard spoke about his friend Taylor. “I met Nick in February of last year. If you knew us, you would have thought we were friends since we were kids.” Allard reflected on a memory of the deployment, providing an example of the close bond of Perez and Taylor. “I remember the huge smile on Taylor’s face when he woke me up to tell me that he and Perez got the house in Fort Wayne, Indiana.”

The close bond of the 713th Engineers was represented as Spc. Allard said “I

know I speak for the rest of the 713th when I say, that you will be missed greatly and never forgotten.”

The memorial ceremony was held in Forward Operating Base Frontenac. Perez is survived by his parents, Sergio E. Perez and Veronica Orzoco. Taylor is survived by his parents, Timothy and Stephania Taylor. They will be missed and never forgotten by their brothers in arms of the 713th Engineer Company, and the men and women of the 223rd Engineer Battalion and the 411th Engineer Brigade.



To our Brothers in Arms, We love you, We miss you.

584th Soldiers mourns their fallen brother

KANDAHAR PROVINCE,

Afghanistan- The indoor memorial ceremony for U.S. Army Pvt. First Class Jeffrey Rice was packed with Soldiers from the 584th Mobility Augmentation Company and guests on Forward Operating Base Walton, Afghanistan. Rice died in a non-combat related incident on 16 July.

This was Rice's second deployment to Afghanistan for route clearance operations within Kandahar Province. He first deployed in January 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

U.S. Army Cpt. Joseph Frederick, 584th Commander spoke about Rice's lifelong wish to become a Soldier.

"I knew about Rice long before I took command, about his strengths, as well as his weakness and I quickly discovered his strong desire to be a Soldier." He added, "As a child, he would politely inform his mother that he would be 'guarding the perimeter', protecting her from whatever danger might be lurking about."

During his speech, Fredrick provided

this message to the leaders and Soldiers of 584th, "Danger is still lurking; we still have a mission to complete. So all I ask is that you honor him by watching over one another and take up his position guarding the perimeter."



U.S. Army Spc. Nicholas Kudla, a good friend of Rice, had this to say about the type of man Rice was, "Jeff was a kind, generous, honest and loyal. He was a man of integrity. I still can't believe anyone could be capable of having such fortitude."

U.S. Army Chaplain, Cpt. Jason Bird took to the podium after Kudla. "Rice was a young man whose life ended far too soon. This is a man who had given much and, in fact; still had much to give

in this life. Today we mourn, not just the loss of life, but all the loss of possibilities unfulfilled."



Rice is survived by his mother Sandy, and his sisters Mary and Wendy Rice. He is preceded in death by his father, Bruce Rice. He will be missed and never forgotten by their brothers in arms of the 584th Mobility Augmentation Company, and the men and women of the 223rd Engineer Battalion and the 411th Engineer Brigade.



FOB Walton, Afghanistan- Lt. Col Michael Cleveland and Sgt. Maj. Charles Donald take a moment to say their final goodbyes to Rice (pictured above) here July 28.



223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward

Re-Enlistment, Investing in the future



SPC REKO DENT



SPC CHRIS FONDREN



SGT JENNY ROGERS

"I enjoy what I do in the Army"

"I hope to advance in my career field"

"I love my job and want to be the best."

Three HHC Soldiers have taken the oath for the second time. On July 9, Sgt. Jenny Rogers, SPC Reko Dent and SPC Chris Fondren, each devoted six more years to the MS National Guard. Congratulations, Knight Warriors!!





CHAPLAIN'S WORDS

Southwest Airlines used to famously ask, “Want to get away?” I don’t know about you, but I sure do! There is a place I am looking forward to going to....our family farm way down in South Mississippi that is so far out in the woods they have to pipe in sunlight. There is no television, no radio and no cell phone coverage there. The only sounds are the birds and the wind in the trees. It is my refuge – a place I like to go for some quiet time to decompress. Most people have some place like that where they run for refuge. But what about a spiritual refuge?

In Mark 6, the Bible tells us that Jesus and His disciples were busy doing the work of the kingdom when Jesus said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31). Jesus understood that we can only be stretched so far without some time to recuperate. He was inviting them to pull aside for some alone time with him.

This deployment has been tough and we have all been stretched thin. I invite you to carve out some alone time soon with Jesus. Turn off your computer, your iPod, and your movies and open your Bible and spend some time in prayer. It just may be the time you need to re-energize your spiritual batteries and give you the strength to make it through this deployment until you get back home to your family.



DOCTOR'S ORDERS with CPT McGrew

Even though we are coming to the end of our deployment, we are not immune to stress. As soldiers in a combat zone, we are more susceptible to the pitfalls of stress than the average person. Being away from home in a foreign country for a prolonged period of time can be very stressful by itself. Then of course, if you are having family issues or concerns, marital problems, financial problems or other personal issues back at home, factors which you have no control over because you are not there to confront them personally, then this will only compound your stress. Now factor in the stress of your work environment, i.e. going out on RCPs, IED blast exposures, the constant threat of possible insurgent attacks, or maybe you're just having a bad day at work. When you combine all of these stressors, it can have a significant effect on your mental and physical well being. High levels of stress can lead to anxiety and depression. With anxiety you may experience symptoms of restlessness or feeling “on edge”, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, irritability, muscle tension, difficulty sleeping, chest pain or shortness of breath. Symptoms of depression may manifest itself with the same symptoms of anxiety as previously listed but are much more profound. Other symptoms of depression are, but not limited to, changes in appetite, social withdrawal, poor self image, loss of interest in pleasurable activities and suicidal ideation. It is our duty as soldiers to watch out for each other. If you or someone you know is exhibiting any of these symptoms, the time to intervene is now. Try talking to the soldier, sometimes just talking about our problems can alleviate some of the stress and it can be therapeutic, and it lets the soldier know that you care about them. If the soldier isn't comfortable talking to you, encourage them to talk to someone they trust, be it their battle buddy, company commander, chaplain, PA or anyone else in their chain of command, so that we can get the soldier the help they need. While we are here, all we have is each other. **NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE BEHIND!**



Hey 223rd, Say Cheese!



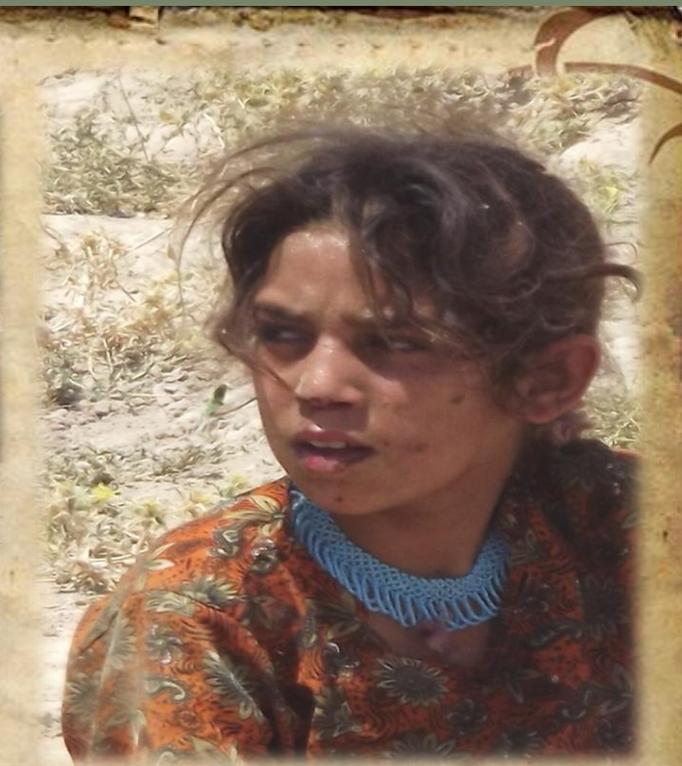
Always Ready

223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward

223rd On Mission



223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward



Partners in Arms



Remembering the Fallen



You are never forgotten

AMERICAN HEROES

FALLEN NEVER FORGOTTEN

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

-Joseph Campbell



SPC Sergio E. Perez Jr. was born to Sergio E. Perez Sr. and Veronica Orozko in Crown Point, IN on May 10, 1991. SPC Perez graduated from Lake Central High School in May, 2010. Later that year SPC Perez enlisted in the Indiana Army National Guard, conducting Basic Training and 12B (Combat Engineer) MOS training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. SPC Perez returned to Ft Leonard Wood in April of 2011 to attend the Route/Reconnaissance Clearance Operations Course in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan with the 713th Engineer Company (Sapper). He was promoted to the rank of Specialist in April 2012, while deployed. SPC Perez is survived by his Parents, Sergio E. Perez Sr. and Veronica Orozko.



AMERICAN HEROES

FALLEN NEVER FORGOTTEN

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

-Joseph Campbell



SPC Nicholas A. Taylor Jr. was born to Timothy Ray and Stephania Dawn Taylor in Decatur, IN on October 10, 1991. SPC Taylor graduated from South Adams High School in May, 2010. Later that year SPC Taylor enlisted in the Indiana Army National Guard, conducting Basic Training and 12B (Combat Engineer) MOS training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. SPC Taylor returned to Ft Leonard Wood in April of 2011 to attend the Route/Reconnaissance Clearance Operations Course in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan with the 713th Engineer Company (Sapper). He was promoted to the rank of Specialist in April 2012, while deployed. SPC Taylor is survived by his Parents, Timothy and Stephania Taylor.



AMERICAN HEROES

FALLEN NEVER FORGOTTEN

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

-Joseph Campbell



Private First Class Jeffrey Rice was born in Troy, Ohio 10 January 1987. Rice and his older sister Wendy were adopted by Bruce and Sandy Rice, three years later. Rice graduated from Troy High School in 2007 and joined the Army in 2008 as a Combat Engineer.

In January of 2010 Rice deployed with the 584th Mobility Augmentation Company, conducting route clearance operations as a gyro camera specialist and a dismount in Afghanistan. In February of 2012, he deployed again with the 584th MAC, also to Afghanistan.

Rice enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing sports.

Rice is survived by his mother Sandy, and his sisters Wendy and Mary. He is preceded in death by his father, Bruce Rice.



**Essays
"let us try"**



**"It Grows With Labor" the
223rd Motto, since 1955**



HISTORY OF THE ARMY ENGINEER



The history of the United States Army Corps of Engineers can be traced back to 16 June 1775, when the Continental Congress organized an army with a chief engineer and two assistants. Colonel Richard Gridley became General George Washington's first chief engineer; however, it was not until 1779 that Congress created a separate Corps of Engineers.

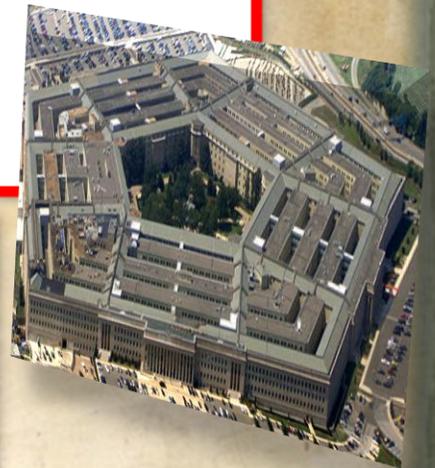
The Corps of Engineers as it is known today came into being on 16 March 1802, when President Thomas Jefferson was authorized to "organize and establish a Corps of Engineers ... that the said Corps ... shall be stationed at West Point in the State of New York and shall constitute a Military Academy." Until 1866, the superintendent of the United States Military Academy was always an engineer officer.

Landmarks built by Engineers

Washington Monument, 1884

Panama Canal, 1914

The Pentagon, 1943



This Month in History AUGUST

AUGUST 4TH, 1944- ANNE FRANK IS CAPTURED

AUGUST 6TH, 1945 - AMERICAN BOMBER DROPS ATOMIC BOMB ON HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

AUGUST 9TH, 1990- OPERATION DESERT STORM BEGINS

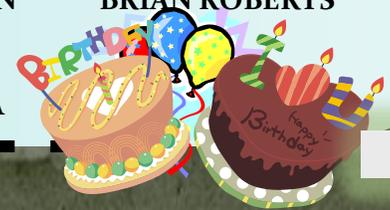
AUGUST 8TH, 1974- PRESIDENT NIXON RESIGNS

AUGUST 21ST, 1959- HAWAII BECOMES 50TH STATE.

AUGUST 29TH, 2005- HURRICANE KATRINA MAKES LANDFALL ON GULF COAST

Happy Birthday

TERRY BERNARD	HAROLD NEHER	TREY SINCLAIR	JERMEY NORTH CUTT
JOHNNIE BROCK	DAYTON NOE	JOSEPH STROUD	STEVEN SHONTZ
JONATHAN CRIDDLE	JOSHUA PALMER	KODY STROUD	JASON MARSH
CHRISTOPHER DOLAN	SHAVAR PAGE	THOMAS WOROSYLZO	ROBERT ESSIC
ANTWANN EVANS	WILLIAM REED	DAVID START	JONATHAN CROSS
DONALD FERGUSON	ALLEN TURNER	JORDY ANTHONY	MATTHEW DENY
JOHN GILLION	SHANE TYSON	LIONEL EVANS	THOMAS PARKER
WALTER HARKINS	ANDREW WALKER	JACOB FRIEDMAN	MATTHEW FLOWERS
THOMAS HOWELL	STEPHON WILLIS	JAVIER GOMEZ	JOSHUA PENDLAND
JACOB HUFFMAN	CHAD ALLARD	MARCUS HANGARIPAI	ANTHONY STOBBE
NATHAN LIGGINS	DALE HAYWOOD	ARNULFO HERNANDEZ	MICHAEL KANE
MITCHELL MAST	JAKE HUPPENTHAL	MICHAEL JACKSON	BRIAN ROBERTS
NICHOLAS MCKNIGHT	BENJAMIN MORRIS	VIRGIL JOHNSON	
SAMMIE MIMS	WILLIAM REESE	NICHOLAS KUDLA	





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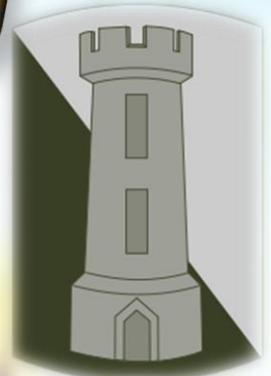
**What's your
favorite part of
summer break?**

**Submit your replies
to the editor and
check back next
month for the best,
funniest and most
common replies.**

**See you then, stay
safe!**

The 223rd Engineer Battalion was mobilized on October 1, 2011 to help the continual efforts of the U.S. Army during Operation Enduring Freedom.

SUMMER FUN



Essayons

Word Bank

AUGUST	SHORTS
FLOWERS	SUNSCREEN
HOT	TSHIRT
JUNE	BEACH
SEASON	GARDENING
SUNNY	JULY
TRAVEL	SANDALS
BBQ	SUMMER
FUN	SWIM
ICECREAM	VACATION
PICNIC	

G L S H A H W H N V Y T S W K
H A O R C U S V A L N R W U M
J T R A E V G C Q X N A I J Z
Q U E D Y W A U V K U V M T L
S B L H E T O F S S S E N U F
U P B Y I N D L I T S L X M X
N P I O R H I B F N L V D W M
S C N E P B I N V T A G V I P
C T R I H S T Z G D D Y A Z S
R J M A E R C E C I N R Z H D
E J U N E I Y I W R A K O V I
E F G M G J K C N R S R L I B
N W M D X S X U N C T F S R B
E U L D C D K B J S I I A V K
S E A S O N L I E O N P N C P

