



ADSEQUOR

"TO ACHIEVE"

STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS

Spike Battalion Completes Final Training

Following a week of final preparation and training in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the Steel Spike Battalion boarded planes and flew into Iraq on June 22, 2008. It was a significant moment for the battalion, which spent the past six months enduring long hours of intense but necessary training at Fort Polk. The week in Kuwait served as a final validation of the battalion's proficiency and combat readiness.

During the week, Soldiers trained in various areas including medical procedures, advanced weapons techniques, convoy operations and cultural awareness. The Soldiers maintained discipline and motivation despite the austere conditions of 108 degree temperatures and strong, gusting winds that limited visibility. On numerous occasions, the various weapons ranges were cancelled due to unpredictable and dangerous wind conditions. However,



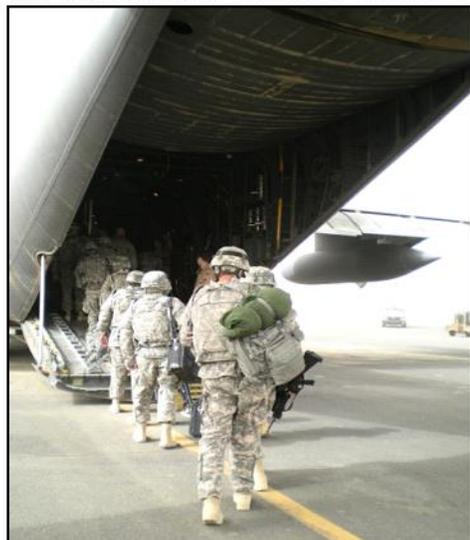
Soldiers practice weapons clearing procedures in Kuwait

the Soldiers of the Steel Spike Battalion persevered and completed the final validation measures.

When asked about the training, SGT Dill of Bravo Company responded, "The conditions are miserable, but training must go on. We have been preparing for a long time and are ready to take on any challenge." Many Soldiers expressed the same sentiments and would not be discouraged by the conditions.

On the day of the flight, there was no hesitation. Everyone was ready. Many Soldiers expressed relief that the mission was finally going to begin. CPL Hoover of A CO expressed his outlook, "It has been a long road to get to this point. I am glad to finally be here. There is no doubt in my mind that we are ready."

The final training in Kuwait solidified what the battalion already knew, that its Soldiers are fully prepared to fight in Iraq as part of the Global War on Terror.



Soldiers load a C-130 before flying into Baghdad International Airport (BIAP)

46th ECB (H)
Camp Liberty, Iraq
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Special points of interest:

- Steel Spike Battalion Deploys
- Kuwait Training
- Reenlistments
- Iraq Construction Missions
- Steel Spike B-Days



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Commander's Observations



LTC Matthew Zajac
Battalion Commander
46th ECB (H)



Hello from Iraq! In each issue of the STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS I'll take this space to provide you with my observations – what we're doing well and perhaps where we can improve our support to each other. I am fully committed to ensuring that we maintain communication between our Soldiers and their Families – wherever those family members are. In today's digital age, information is simply a mouse click or phone call away and I have dedicated one of our staff officers, 2LT Yarber, to the sole function of capturing the successes of our Soldiers and Families and publishing their accomplishments. The Battalion's successes are already in print, and the section "In the News" provides the locations where you can access these stories.

July marks the month of the birth of our Nation, and it is fitting that we began our tour during this period. Our efforts will continue to enable the Iraqi people to see through the birth of their own Nation – a process that took well over 11 years for America to complete from our Declaration of Independence in 1776 to the adoption of our Constitution in 1787. Since our transition of authority 25 days ago, your Soldiers have been continuously carrying out engineer operations and have already lived up to their motto – they have achieved more than asked for on every mission. They have constructed billets, showers, and helicopter landing pads; emplaced concrete barriers; demolished buildings; built a range; repaired and installed electrical systems including some very large generators; provided security and quality control for local Iraqi projects; and cleared roads of debris to list but a few of our accomplishments. All this while executing maintenance on some very well-used construction equipment and conducting all the life-support functions required to keep 650 Soldiers going. Our operations cover an area of some 2000 square kilometers of terrain with Baghdad right in the middle - we have dense urban areas, wide-open farmland, and everything in between in every state of repair and upkeep. The population is just as varied - in many areas people openly wave and smile at us, in others, well, let's just say they're not as welcoming. Overall, there is a huge difference in the population since I was here last in 2005 and a significant difference in the Iraqi police and Iraqi Army forces. In many areas they are solely in charge of security - and the population seems to be finally tired of the ongoing violence, willing to take responsibility for their communities, and fully committed to the economic expansion occurring on every street corner. So, while we're not there yet, we're closer to getting the Iraqis capable of protecting themselves, exercising a representative government, and generating a sustainable economy. For our part, we are teamed up with an Iraqi engineer battalion and we will soon execute our first construction mission together – with many more planned. Our long term success is defined not by how well we conduct engineer operations, but how well we train our Iraqi partners to plan, resource, and execute their own engineer operations in support of their Nation and their people.

I am tremendously proud of how our team of Families and Soldiers has overcome the anxiety and the challenges of separation during these initial weeks of our deployment. While we went through this period of separation, the same period was marked by the addition of new elements to the STEEL SPIKE team. While in Kuwait, the Battalion was joined by the 955 Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit from Missouri composed of Soldiers highly skilled in construction and equipment operation. I am also thrilled to welcome the Battalion's new rear detachment team led by CPT Dickerson and SFC Kuzmik, and I am confident that they will provide responsive support to our Families.

In closing, I ask all of you to ensure that you maintain accurate contact information with your company family readiness group leaders and, as often as possible, attend the information sharing functions these leaders host for your benefit. As well, recognize that each member of the family readiness group leadership is a volunteer, not paid nor compensated for their time and effort, but selflessly serving in their roles for the benefit of all of us. Take the time to thank them, and whenever possible find ways to contribute your skills, time, and assistance. We are linked together by this deployment, and I've changed our salutation here to reflect that reality – we are "STEEL SPIKE – ONE TEAM!"



CSM's View

Greetings from Baghdad, the Battalion has arrived safely and has assumed the mission from the 769th Engineer Battalion. One thing for sure is that everyone was happy to leave Kuwait and the unseasonal sandstorms we endured daily. This deployment, our battalion has been rounded out with the 955th Engineer Company from Missouri. The 955th has made a seamless transition into the Battalion and we are extremely lucky to have them with us.

All of the companies have been extremely busy at numerous locations around Baghdad and have already made an impact on the units we are supporting.

I want to thank the FRGs and their leaders for the first class send off the battalion received when we departed Fort Polk. The care packages were all put to good use during the long flight to Kuwait.

We will be conducting our first NCO promotion board in August and we promoted twenty one Soldiers on the first of July. The battalion had eleven Soldiers reenlist on the fourth of July at the largest ever Army reenlistment ceremony.

Once again thanks for all the support you are providing the Battalion and you can be proud of your Soldier and what they are doing for the Army and the future of Iraq.

SPIKE 7



CSM Frank Thibodeau
BN CSM
46th ECB (H)

Chaplain's Corner

"Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17 NASB).

This is what I think about when I see the tip of a Steel Spike. I remember sharing this Proverb at my first Command and Staff Meeting with our Battalion. I challenged our staff as well as myself to not only be willing to sharpen others, but to let ourselves be sharpened by our leaders, peers, and subordinates.

Now, these words seem more applicable, perhaps more real as we serve in a foreign country deployed together in combat. I am encouraged as I see Soldiers with more experience bring others alongside. I hope that they too are continuing to be molded and grow as they train and pour into others.

Leaders at all levels have the ability to make decisions and give recommendations that may impact construction and refurbishment projects that will last for many generations. They regularly make decisions to care for their Soldiers and influence Soldier morale.

The good news is that our Battalion is doing very well. I see junior NCOs stepping up to the plate, supporting the mission, taking care of Soldiers and thriving in this environment while learning at the same time. In other words, iron sharpening iron...



CPT Jerry Wagner
BN Chaplain
46th ECB (H)



Headquarters and Support Company



CPT Angela Smoot
HSC Commander
46th ECB (H)



From left to right: SSG Rogers, SGT Daigrepoint, SFC Taft and SPC Jones at the July 4th Re-Enlistment

Spartans



Greetings Spartan Families!!!

This is an exciting and demanding time for the Spartans! We have just hit a little over 30 days on ground now. 30 days, can you imagine that! In just a short amount of time our Soldiers have been challenged with learning the mission here in Iraq, training up on the mission, procedures of operation, and unique equipment. I've had the time to interact with all HSC Soldiers and I am impressed at the professionalism that they have displayed. I am pleased to report Soldiers are trained and ready! HSC has several missions that support the battalion and units across our area of responsibility. Currently, under HSC we have the Personal Security Detachment (PSD) charged with the duty of escorting the Battalion Commander to missions where our troops are working. We have just recently stood up a Convoy Security Team (CST) that will ensure the safe transporting of equipment and Soldiers to their respective missions throughout the region. The Equipment Platoon (EQ) has the critical mission of crater repair of the roadways throughout areas of Baghdad. 2nd Shop, DSU, and Battalion Motorpool Operations are diligently repairing equipment for the next mission. The maintenance load is huge and a crucial part to the success of the company and battalion. The Staff sections have been working to emplace systems and provide support to all the companies across the battalion. The Spartan team has been working hard and long with great success. There has been so much work done in the period of 30 days it's hard to believe. Your Soldiers are truly doing their part and making a huge impact on Soldiers conducting combat operations and the local Iraqi community as well. In closing, as commander of HSC my ultimate goal is to ensure that the soldiers and family members are prepared for the next mission. We will continue to grow and strengthen as a team. Please take the opportunity to contact Mrs. Shari Baye (337-208-3045), the Spartan FRG leader for any updates or events. And as always, "It's a Family Affair"!



HSC Maintenance Soldiers enjoying an afternoon BBQ



EQ Platoon getting dirty and placing concrete

SPARTANS!!

Spartan 6



First Sergeant's SITREP

"Teamwork is the ability to work together towards a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." Those attributes are the building blocks for all Leaders and Soldiers to be successful with any given task or mission. Teamwork has been the approach of the Spartans since our arrival into country. By no means has the transition been easy. Our tasks have been great and demanding, but with resolve we continue to achieve our goals with above standard results. Often, to many times when the word team is uttered, many forget to recognize a very important element of the Spartans' team," our FRG and spouses". The spouses left behind are charged with an enormous task of raising our families. We salute you on a daily basis and we recognize your task as being challenging and demanding as well. Your support is key to the morale and well-being of us all. On behalf of the Spartan Soldiers, I would like to Thank You for all you do. The 4th of July was an eventful and memorable day with seven of our Soldiers becoming a part of history. SFC Patron, SFC Taft, SSG Fountain, SSG Rogers, SGT Lopez, SGT Dairepont, and SPC Jones all participated in the largest re-enlistment in US history with over 1200 Soldiers extending their commitment. Congratulations on the following Promotions: CPT Boone, CPT Wooster, CPT Kelley, SFC Taft, SPC Reavis, SPC Barns, SPC Bortell, PFC Parker, PFC Kingsby, PFC Brown, PFC Hattenbauch and PFC Cole.

Spartans!!

Spartan 7



1SG Steven Hall—HSC 1SG



SGT Gregory Graham Re-Enlists Proudly

Personal Security Detail Team Rolls

Only a few short weeks ago the Soldiers of the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) began to replace the 769th Engineer Battalion. History has shown that unit transitions are always dangerous and demanding periods. A great deal must be accomplished in a very little time. Successfully assuming the yoke of combat responsibilities is even more challenging for those Soldiers who must face the duality of confronting Iraq's most significant threats in the shortest time. That is exactly the situation the Personal Security Detail (PSD) of Headquarters and Support Company found itself in.

Charged with the mission

of moving Soldiers, equipment, and material safely across the narrow, congested, and winding streets of Baghdad the Soldiers of the PSD had a formidable challenge ahead of them. After only a handful of cooperative missions with the 769th EN BN though, the PSD rolled out the gates on its own.

From its first solo mission, the PSD began transporting the Soldiers, equipment, and material of the 46th ECB (H) to and from multiple Combat Out Posts (COPs) and Joint Security Sites (JSS) safely. Thanks to the support the members of the PSD have provided our fellow Soldiers the Battalion has already been able to complete several

construction projects in just weeks, tangibly improving the infrastructure and security of Iraq already. The role of the PSD in our success and its Soldiers' professionalism, valor, and determination deserves to be recognized and this article is hereby dedicated to them.

Article by: CPT Kevin Wooster

"History has shown that unit transitions are always dangerous and demanding periods"



SSG Jeffrey Smith, the PSD Team Leader, conducts a convoy briefing.



Alpha Company

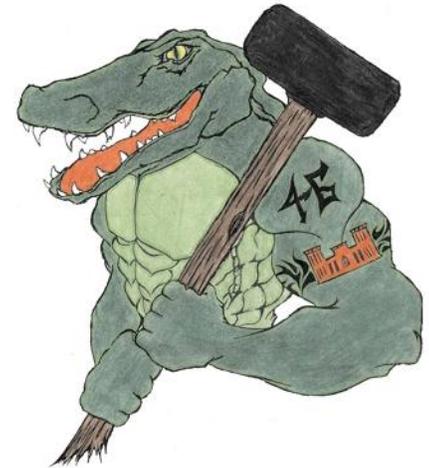


CPT Sean Heenan
A Co. Commander
46th ECB (H)



Specialist Leobardo Antonio, a heavy equipment operator, prepares himself and his Scoop Loader for his upcoming mission on the streets of Baghdad.

Gators



Commander's Corner

Greetings to all the friends and Families of the A Co Gators. Operations in Iraq are now in full swing and everyone in the company has been very busy. We are settled in at our permanent base and have sent various groups of Soldiers to conduct construction projects throughout the Baghdad area for a few days up to a week. Even in the short time that we've been here, our Soldiers have made their mark by supporting both our American and Coalition Soldiers, as well as the Iraqi people.

Morale is very high and all of the training we conducted prior to the deployment is helping us to be successful. I'm amazed on a daily basis with what our great Soldiers are accomplishing. And of course, a big thank you for all the support from home in the form of e-mails, letters, and care packages. It gives our Soldiers great strength knowing that we have you standing behind us every step of the way. Drive the Spike!

The Earth Movers of Iraq

In any given evening, the thunderous sounds of cranes, dozers, forklifts, loaders, and tractor trailers can be heard throughout parts of Baghdad, working from the late dawn into the late hours of the morning. Dozers and loaders quickly work to clear debris off the roadways denying insurgent groups the opportunity to hide improvised explosive devices and explosively formed projectiles among the rubble and trash. The loaders also work on clearing key routes so that Texas T-Walls, also known as Texas T's, can be placed alongside each other to form a wall. At the same time, cranes lift the large six foot eight inch, six-ton Texas T's from tractor trailers as Soldiers on the ground perform the last arduous task of physically maneuvering and positioning the airborne Texas T's on the ground. The Texas T's are placed side by side to form concrete walls miles in length.

This mission, executed the majority of the time in complete darkness, was the first mission performed by Soldiers of the Earth Moving (EM) Platoon, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and challenged the Soldiers both physically and mentally. Many of the Soldiers had very little experience performing this type of mission, especially in darkness, but after a week of on-the-job training, the Soldiers of EM were performing as if they had been doing this type of work for years. EM Platoon went from emplacing 48 walls the first night to being able to emplace 80 in half the amount of time. The concrete walls are a force protection measure being taken by American and Coalition Forces to impede the ability of insurgents to freely move throughout Baghdad and has proven effective in sustaining the fragile security that Baghdad has been experiencing lately. It is the mission of the Engineers to emplace the walls to enhance security throughout Iraq; however we will truly be able to call the work being conducted here today "mission complete" when the last wall has been removed, and a secure democratic Iraq stands in its place.



Engineer Soldiers Hit the Ground Running

Once the Soldiers of Alpha Company 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) arrived at Camp Liberty, Iraq, Soldiers of 1st platoon had mere days before they were sent out to begin the relief in place (RIP) with 851st Vertical Engineer Company. Projects at two different sites in the Multinational National Division-Bagdad (MDN-B) are giving the Soldiers a chance to see what construction is like in the theater of operation. 12 soldiers of the "Strike First" Platoon were sent to Al Muthana Airfield to help upgrade an existing building for a Military Transition Team (MTT). The project includes all aspects of vertical construction including plumbing, electrical, and carpentry work. The Soldiers are getting a chance to try their hands at everything including building beds, wiring Heating Ventilation and Air Condition (HVAC) systems and replacing eastern style commodes with western style toilets. The work is hard but rewarding and in just a few days significant progress has been made. SSG Juan Zavala from Las Cruces, New Mexico, 1st Platoon Squad Leader, is in charge of the project, and very well understands the mission at hand. "We have a lot to do here; the building needs a lot of work," says Zavala, "but it will be nice when it is finished."

Soldiers at the Al Muthana Airfield Project are also getting trained on convoy operations on a daily basis. The Soldiers are staying on Forward Operating Base (FOB) Prosperity and are commuting back and forth to the job site. SFC Dunte Bennett a Baton Rouge, LA. native and the Platoon Sergeant for 1st Platoon stated, "Soldiers can't stay at the airfield right now, the facility isn't ready to house troops yet." Once plumbing and electrical work is completed the Soldiers will be able to move to the project site. Plans call for the project to be finished before the end of July 2008.

On the 25 Jun 08, 1st Platoon also sent Soldiers to the Joint Security Site "ADL" to provide quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) for local contractors tasked with remodeling and upgrading a three story shopping mall into a living and working place for 4-10 Calvary 101st Airborne Division. SGT Richard



SFC Dunte Bennett and SGT Richard Dusenberry prepare for an upcoming mission.

Dusenberry of Orion, IL, is a Squad Leader in 1st Platoon and is the project Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC). "The contractors started out pretty slow and seemed lost, but with a little guidance they are on track and making great progress," said Dusenberry. The project is expected to take at least three weeks; currently has 7 Soldiers assigned with various areas of expertise including carpentry/masonry, electrical, and plumbing. They are tasked with overseeing that the local contractors are doing the work to standard. If a corner gets cut a member of 1st Platoon will be there to make sure it gets fixed and stay on the right track. "The right way is the only way," said Dusenberry.

Article by: 2LT Michael Cirillo



A CO Soldiers download equipment for an upcoming mission at a Joint Security Site in Baghdad



A CO Soldiers fight the strong winds and dust storms while in Kuwait



Bravo Company



CPT Christopher Beal
B Co. Commander
46th ECB (H)



B Co Soldier inspects construction quality on the battalion's consolidated supply building

Beast



CDRs/1SG's SITREP

Greeting from Camp Liberty, Iraq.....hard to believe a month plus has already passed. First, I would like to say hello to the FRG members, Families, Friends, and all the Beast comrades!! Secondly, I would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers and support as we prepare for our mission on a daily battle rhythm until this deployment is at a completion. I do realize the separation from Family and friends can be tough and difficult for many. I ask the Family members and children to hang in there until their favorite Warrior returns home. Even though you may be enjoying the extra dollars each month, I know you'd rather have your loved one back with you. We all know your jobs are tougher being left home alone, to be mom, dad, nursemaid, and Mr. Fix-it rolled up into one! Hang tough!!!

The Beast Company is doing quite well as we conduct daily missions in Baghdad, Iraq. I am very proud of their accomplishments in theater already. The Headquarters Platoon, led by SSG Davis and 1LT Breyman, the Executive Officer, has performed splendidly. 1st Platoon which is driven by Platoon Sergeant, SFC Martin, and 1LT Jefferson has been great as well. They have conducted several electrical missions as well as placed over 56 cubic yards of concrete during support missions in Sadr City, Iraq. 2nd Platoon which has led the way with the very first mission has done quite well. This platoon which is lead by SFC Alcorn, the platoon sergeant, and the platoon leader 1LT Hollman is doing great things for the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy). They are in the midst and have nearly completed a mission of constructing a 1800 square-foot consolidated supply building. This supply building is looking greater everyday and is earning much praise from the battalion leadership. The Earthmovers Platoon which is led by SFC Rhodes and platoon leader 1LT Atkinson is a very unique platoon. This platoon is conducting great work in Iraq by providing quality assurance and quality control of engineering aspects such as quality of schools, churches, and war-torn buildings. Their work is highly regarded and essential in rebuilding Iraq. And lastly, the mighty maintenance platoon, which is guided by the Motor Sergeant, SFC Nalls and 2LT Yarber. The maintenance platoon is truly the backbone of the company. They are the ones who ensure that our vehicles are operable and fully mission capable for the roads of Iraq.

I would like to once again say thanks for all you do and "Bravo Beast" to you all!! I do ask one thing of our Warriors and Family members. Over the next year or so, not all information will be put out. This is not because we are trying to hide anything; it is due to mission security. The FRG will be connected to the company commander as well as me, as the company first sergeant. We will pass on all important and necessary information as operational security dictates. Bravo Beast!!!!



Sadr City Construction Mission

By: 1LT Sam Jefferson

1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) forward deployed from Camp Liberty, Iraq to a Joint Security Station (JSS) in Sadr City in early July to provide construction assets for the completion of a new TOC and to improve the quality of life on the JSS. The platoon deployed with a wide range of tools to complete mason, carpentry, plumbing, electrical and minor earth work operations. Upon arriving to the JSS we quickly assessed the area and determined that much could be done to improve the quality of life. Our initial mission was to construct footers to support large concrete T barriers and pre-detonation layers that provided blast and fragment protection from indirect and small arms fire.

During the earth moving operations the platoon's bobcat operators quickly discovered what the site recon couldn't. In the middle of the project was a road with concrete curbs that ran perpendicular to where the footers would be placed. The road had a 4" concrete wear surface with an asphalt sub base. To tackle the task 1st Platoon contacted a fellow Engineer unit in the area, the 955th Horizontal Construction Company, which is attached to the 46th Engineer Battalion for the deployment. Their unit was currently working on the Entry Control Point (ECP) and had horizontal assets available to support us. An up-armored D7 dozer with rippers made quick work of removing the road to allow for construction of the footers.

To place concrete in our forms, we relied on the 46th's HSC to bring their concrete mobiles to Sadr city. Each PLS module can hold 8 cubic yards of concrete but can only produce about 7 quality yards. This plays large into the planning portion since the footers had to be placed in 3 pours. Planning the location of the cold joints on this load bearing footer was crucial, and each day the team had to be prepared to make additional cold joints if a concrete module was not able to perform. During the concrete placements 1st Platoon developed many new tactics techniques and procedures (TTPs) for using concrete modules and placing concrete in arid environments. To aid in the placement we had a 2.5 cubic yard gas mixers on site to conserve materials when the PLS did not mix concrete correctly. To remedy the 5' chute that was provided we charged the concrete right into the bobcat bucket to move it to the placement site. It was impossible to use wheel barrels because of the amount of gravel on the surface of the JSS.

After finishing the concrete 1st Platoon Soldiers acquired some burlap sandbags from the JSS and soaked them with water to place on the concrete. In the arid environment with temperatures reaching 115 degrees or more it is crucial to keep the concrete moist while it cures to prevent cracking. To combat this we placed a moisture barrier in the bottom of the forms, wet sandbags on top of the finished concrete, and then visqueen on top to trap the moisture. With a water buffalo onsite to provide water we continued to wet the sandbags every 2 hours. To improve the quality of life and utilize the additional concrete 1st Platoon constructed a sidewalk to the porta-john latrines on the JSS. The current situation left Soldiers walking through dirt and a sludge of leaking sewage to utilize the facilities. When 1st Platoon was finished the porta-johns were sitting raised on a bed of gravel with a 3' sidewalk. The gravel allowed any leakage and residue from cleaning to have ample surface area to quickly dry.

1st Platoon will spend the rest of the month constructing a gym for the JSS, moving a shower trailer, rewiring most of the electricity, building furniture, and doing anything possible to improve the quality of life. Due to the hard work of 1st Platoon Soldiers, Bravo Company has built a strong relationship with the maneuver units that live and operate out of Sadr City, and have proven to be a valuable asset in this area.



SFC Alcorn, 1LT Jefferson and CPT Beal enjoying the moment



B Co Soldier uses a nail gun to create roof trusses



955th Engineer Company



CPT Crystal Lauver
955th EN Co. Commander
46th ECB (H)



955th CDR and 1SG during the TOA Ceremony

Clydesdales



Commander's Corner

Hello friends and family! The soldiers of the 955th Engineer Company are doing great things all over Baghdad! Most of our projects directly affect other soldiers, improving their quality of life by adding shower facilities, creating more helicopter landing pads, or improving electrical conditions. Other missions directly affect Iraqi civilians by cleaning up the streets from debris and placing barriers to keep streets safer. During “down time,” our soldiers have access to a large gym, several Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities, and internet and phone lines. The dining facilities here are excellent; tonight the

soldiers had a treat of t-bone steaks and shrimp. There’s also ice cream for dessert each night.

Our missions change often to keep up with all the positive influences our Army Engineers have in Baghdad. If you haven’t heard from your soldier recently, please feel free to drop Ms. Saltz an email at ginger.e.saltz@us.army.mil with the address and/or phone number you can be reached at. Ms. Saltz and I would be more than happy to assist your soldier to call home and say hello!



SPC Roller helps chain down a vehicle prior to a convoy movement.



Six Soldiers Ready for More

The 4th of July is known as Our Independence Day. To six soldiers of the 955th Eng. Co. it will be also remembered as the day that they reenlisted at the Al-Faw Palace Rotunda , On Victory Base Camp, Iraq.

The event actually started on the 3rd of July with multiple rehearsals and a chance to tour and photograph the palace that Saddam Hussain once called his home. Many Soldiers got the chance to meet and have a photo taken with MNF-I CSM Marvin Hill. Then later in the day MNF-I Commander, Gen. David Petraeus.

The Ceremony took place early afternoon on the 4th. Beginning with the Color Guard and entrance of the VIP's which included CSM Hill, GEN. Petraeus and MNF-I Chaplain SGM Chaplin. Each US military Component was recognized . A Salute to the Nation was also done. It was a record breaking day of over 1,200 service members reenlisting. The day concluded with cake and pizza shipped in from Chicago.

Article by: SGT Timothy Zornes



From left to right: SGT Lopez May; SPC Murphy Daniel; SPC Vanover Jeremy; SPC Marler Timothy; SPC Harms David and SGT Vernon Kyle

“This was an excellent opportunity for leaders to assess the capabilities of their Soldiers.”

Second Platoon Starts Out Strong

FORWARD OPERATING BASE (FOB) RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq; 2nd Platoon, 955th EN CO, 46th ECB (H), executed its first mission in theatre by constructing an Entry Control Point (ECP) for Karb De Gla II. They also constructed an interior wall separating two halves of the combat out post (COP) in order to turn the base into a Joint Service Station for both Iraqi and Coalition forces to work side by side.

It was an excellent first mission for the 955th. The unit had been realigned to a heavy equipment company from a petroleum pipeline unit less than two years ago. We now operate Excavators, Bulldozers, Front Loaders, etc. This was the first time many Soldiers had been able to operate

this equipment since their 2-week MOS reclass course or AIT. Regardless of these obstacles, the 955th accomplished the mission on time and with higher quality than the maneuver unit expected, receiving multiple awards and certificates. “This was an excellent opportunity for leaders to assess the capabilities of their soldiers. Now we have an understanding of our soldiers’ strengths and weaknesses.”

SGT Andrew Lanpher Advance, MO.



Soldiers of the 955th work with local contractors to setup concrete barriers



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS



(L-R) 1LT Kelley, 1LT Wooster & 1LT Boone are promoted to Captain on 1 July.



July 13, PV2 Brierly of the PSD Team is promoted to PFC. LTC Zajac pins on his new rank.



955th Soldiers stand proud and ready to re-enlist on the 4 July ceremony



Brig. General Talley of the 926th EN BDE congratulates gunners from the 955 Eng. Company for their dedication and self-less service on July 23.



(L-R) LTC Zajac, CPL Tan, PV2 Seymour, PFC Azure, CSM Thibedeau, & (kneeling) SPC Hayter. The Soldiers received special recognition for repairing damaged facilities



LTC Zajac shakes hands & gives a BN coin to PVT Lincoln of Alpha Company for his work repairing a broken water main.

In the News...

To read up-to-the-minute articles about "Steel Spike" Soldiers, check out the following link:

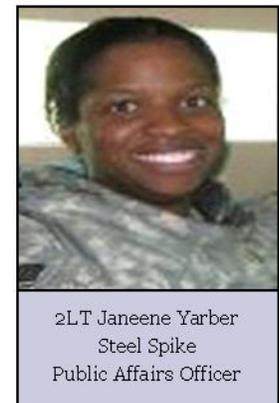
www.dividshub.net (Type "46th Eng. Combat BN" in the search box)

Recently published articles can be viewed at the following links:

http://www.armyengineer.com/news_info.html
(Engineers Build a Better Future for Baghdad)

http://www.dividshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=21536
(Engineer Soldiers Hit the Ground Running)

http://www.dividshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=21854
(Engineers Rebuild Joint Security Site)



2LT Janeene Yarber
Steel Spike
Public Affairs Officer

If you have a success to share, contact 2LT Yarber at email: janeene.yarber@mnd-b.army.mil. If you include a photo please add a caption explaining the picture and the date it was taken.



Steel Spike Birthdays

July/ August Birthdays

July

- 1 July – SGT John Wilt, CPL Nathan Hoover, SPC Michael Smale
- 3 July – PV2 Asteroids Lomotey
- 4 July – PFC George Reavy
- 5 July – PFC Maurio Anderson, PV2 Jacob Wade
- 7 July – SGT Tiffany Dixon, PFC John Graves
- 8 July – PV2 Curtis Proby
- 9 July – SPC Daniel Murphy
- 10 July – SGT Andrew Lauver, SPC Daniel Serviss
- 11 July – SPC Denale Moore, PV2 Derek Fay
- 14 July – SFC Matthew Gibbs, SPC Christopher Bahr
- 15 July – PFC Paul Cadogan, SGT Gregory Graham, SGT Alan Christian, SGT Brian Williams, PFC Charles Hall, SGT Ross Maki
- 16 July – SGT Leonel Arriola, PFC Evan Utterback, PV2 Chance Bailey
- 17 July – PV2 Julian Chadwick
- 18 July – SPC Andrew Mahurin
- 19 July – CPT Crystal Lauver, PVT Marion Church, SGT Ervina Miller, PFC Roberto Ramirez
- 20 July – SGT Mark Jordan
- 21 July – SPC Paul Perry, SPC Colby Rees, SPC Laura Saltz
- 22 July – SPC Nicholas Emory, CPL Scott Carter, SPC Niko Otero
- 23 July – PFC Jeremy Otto, SPC Leobardo Antonio, SSG Kevin Knight
- 24 July – PFC Brittany McClure, PFC Duane Yates, PFC Christopher Balcom, PFC Aaron Armstrong, SGT Kevin Griffin
- 26 July – CPT Angela Smoot, SSG Jason Jones
- 27 July – SGT Scott Daigrepoint, PV2 Ryan Smith
- 28 July – 2LT Janeene Yarber, SPC Melanie Martin
- 29 July – PFC John Pearce, PFC Cole York
- 30 July – SPC Yvette Rovig, SPC Isaiah White
- 31 July – PV2 Casey Wilkes



August

- 1 August – CPT Kelly Boone, 1SG Steven Hall
- 3 August – SPC Xavier Garcia, PV2 Sarah Gerke, SPC Eric Bones
- 4 August – SSG Richmond Branch, PFC Markus Williams
- 5 August – CPL Roberto Ferguson, PV2 Andrew Layton
- 6 August – SGT Steven Thomas, SGT Jason Peura, PFC Christopher Cody
- 7 August – SPC Christopher Rollings
- 9 August – SGT Kyle Vernon, PV2 Tiffany King
- 10 August – SPC Charles Adair
- 11 August – SGT Thavone Nakhonexay, PV2 Talib Hodges
- 12 August – SGT Aaron Baye, PFC Jacob Moon
- 13 August – SGT Robert Rodgers, SPC Francis Hickey
- 14 August – SFC Antwann Rhodes
- 15 August – WO1 Anthony Jellison, SPC David Rhoden, PFC Curtis Dittmer, PFC Nathan Miller
- 16 August – SPC Isaiah Franklin
- 17 August – SGT Coty Mallory, PFC Dustin Bone, PV2 Daniel McCorkendale
- 19 August – 2LT Stephen Clements, SPC Joseph Underwood, PFC Adam Pearce
- 20 August – SPC Seth Willson
- 21 August – SPC Aaron Gray, SPC Kyle Thornton, PV2 Jonathan Cole
- 22 August – SPC Timothy Marler
- 23 August – SSG Dario Edwards, SPC Jonathan Campos, PFC Joshua Howard, PFC James Lawson, PFC Jacob Hester, PV2 Kenneth Eskew
- 24 August – SGT Marcus Jones, SPC Thomas Anderson, SPC Cory Pratt
- 25 August – SFC Rosa Fraine
- 26 August – SPC Gary Kyle, PFC Patrick Murray
- 27 August – PV2 Cassandra Dutkiewicz
- 28 August – SSG Dedrick Davis, SGT Jeremy Casserly
- 29 August – PFC Jacoba Vermeulen
- 31 August – SSG Gary Rice, SPC Jeremy Vanover



Transfer of Authority Ceremony

On July 3rd, 2008 the 46th ECB (H) conducted a transfer of authority (TOA) ceremony with the 769th Engineer Battalion. The TOA represents a command change between an incoming and outgoing unit. The 769th, a National Guard Unit from Baton Rouge, completed a 9 month deployment in Baghdad and officially passed the torch to the 46th ECB (H).

The command team overseeing the ceremony were the outgoing commander, LTC Damian Waddell, the incoming commander, LTC Matthew Zajac and the brigade commander, Brigadier General Jeffery Talley. The ceremony consisted of the two battalions facing each other in formation to show respect for the other's history and accomplishments. The command team then marched between the two units and led their respective battalions in officially transferring the authority of operations by casing and uncasing their unit's colors respectively.

With the TOA ceremony complete, the 46th ECB (H) officially took the reigns and now controls the full spectrum of construction operations across Baghdad.

"It was a proud moment for two outstanding battalions," the 46th ECB (H) S-3, MAJ Michael Stinnett remarked.



46th ECB (H) and 769th EN BN in formation



LTC Zajac and CSM Thibodeau uncasing the 46th ECB (H) colors

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