



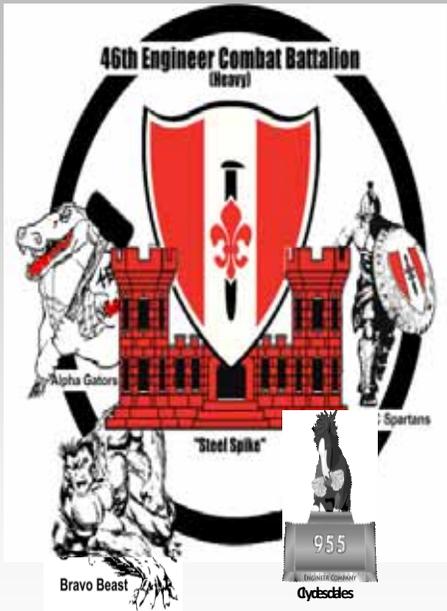
# STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS

*ADSEQUOR - "TO ACHIEVE"*



## Inside This Issue:

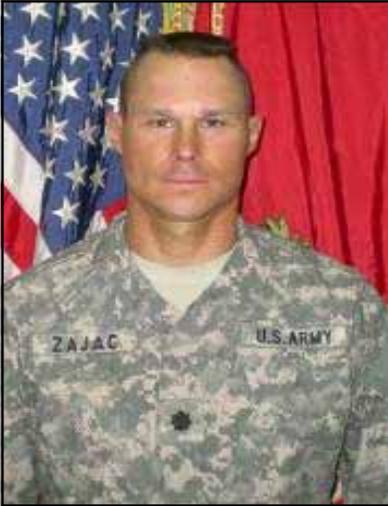
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**"Steel Spike" Soldiers compete in a grueling 9.26 mile race across Camp Liberty, Iraq! Check out the mile by mile photos inside!**



# Commander's Observations



LTC Matthew Zajac  
Battalion Commander  
46th ECB (H)



Greetings again! September aptly demonstrated Issac Assimov's observation that "The only constant is change." Here in Iraq, the Battalion re-organized to better meet the reconstruction needs of the people of Iraq. A new team, Task Force Gold Spike, headed up by the the Battalion's Executive Officer MAJ Fontenot, now directly provides technical construction support to the Iraqi people as they rebuild an area of Old Baghdad, the governmental and economic heart of the city. All across Baghdad, we continue to reorganize small teams of Soldiers, led by our committed squad and platoon sergeants, to accomplish construction missions that make the roads of Baghdad safer for Coalition Forces and the Iraqi people and that improve the living conditions for Soldiers. The backbone of our Army has always been our NCO corps, and their leadership, technical skills, and determination to accomplish every mission is demonstrated every day. Our ability to quickly change our teams to meet the demands of our situation continues to be the foundation of our success.

Change occurred rapidly there at home too as Fort Polk, the Rear Detachment, and the FRGs adjusted to meet the demands of this year's hurricane season. No clearer example of the success of our Rear Detachment and FRG team exists than the preparations and responses to the back-to-back hurricanes that threatened the Gulf Region. This success confirmed why it is so important for each of you to remain connected with your Family Readiness Group teams. The success of the Rear Detachment and FRG's in disseminating installation information and following up after the storms to identify who required assistance demonstrates the effectiveness of the Rear Det and FRG team, but that team can only remain supportive if every Family takes the effort to remain connected. Connectivity also ensures that information about installation and social events is quickly disseminated, and gives each of you the time to plan to support and attend the many events that your FRG and Rear Det teams are working hard to put together. The great turn-out and fun had by all at the Family Day in Deridder is only one example of how successful we can be if we all remain connected and work together as one team.

Lastly, we're making a deliberate effort to reduce the written information within this newsletter and striving to make it more visual – as the saying goes "a picture is worth a thousand words". Let us know what you think of the changes, and if there is something in particular you all want to see coverage on send an email to our Public Affairs Officer, 2LT Janeene Yarber (her contact information is found on page 12) . Our Soldiers' successes continue to be highlighted by local and national media, and I am determined to continue to "tell our story" as your Soldiers excel in this demanding environment.

Until next month, keep working together!

**STEEL SPIKE – ONE TEAM!**



# CSM's View

The month of September has proven to be a very busy month for the Battalion. The construction missions continue to get done only to find the next one waiting.

The Soldiers of the Battalion continue to accomplish a myriad of missions safely and to Steel Spike standards. I want to thank Mrs. Fontenot and the FRG Leaders for all the work they did to keep the Battalions Families as well as Spike 6 and I informed during the hurricanes.

I want to also thank the families for the support they are providing our Soldiers as they make history in Iraq.



CSM Frank Thibodeau  
BN CSM  
46th ECB (H)

Spike 7

# PA's/Chaplain's Corner

## Alcohol-Based Hand Wipes and Gel Sanitizers Work Too

When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. You can find them in the aid station. It's free stuff!!!



CPT Troy Bidez  
BN Physician's Assistant  
46th ECB (H)

If using gel, rub your hands until the gel is dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol in it kills the germs on your hands.

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 begins "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." It continues with examples like a time for peace a time for war, and etc. Some of you may remember a group called the Byrds singing a song called "Just a Season" in the refrain they sing "turn, turn, turn."



CPT Jerry Wagner  
BN Chaplain  
46th ECB (H)

Our Battalion is now in a season of change. As new taskings have been assigned, I am proud to see the 46th adjust fire, and respond quickly. We will continue to change as required and be successful at every mission assigned.

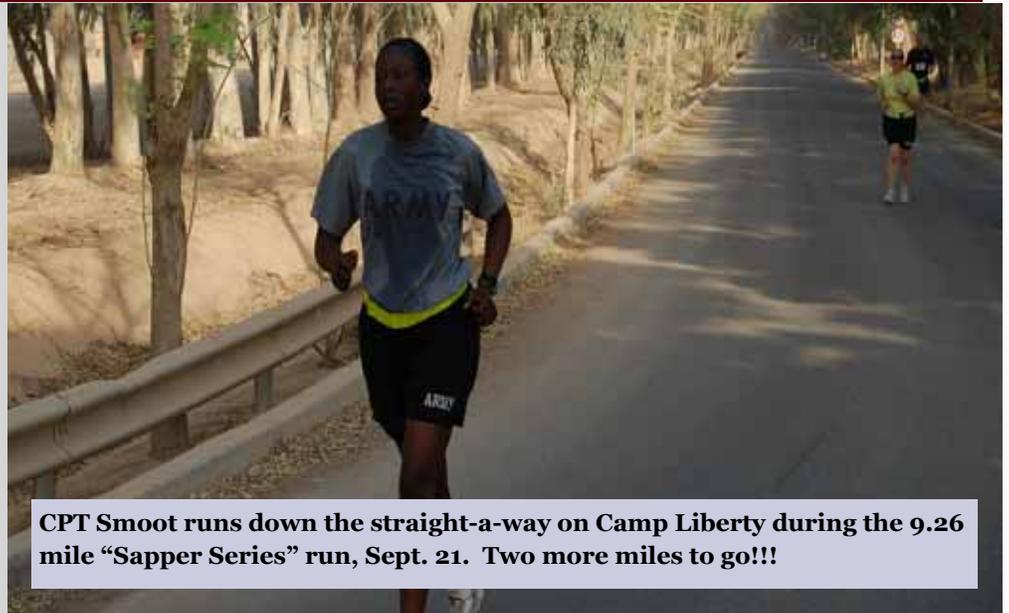
Steel Spike!



# Headquarters and Support Company



CPT Angela Smoot  
HSC Commander  
46th ECB (H)



CPT Smoot runs down the straight-a-way on Camp Liberty during the 9.26 mile "Sapper Series" run, Sept. 21. Two more miles to go!!!

**Proactive vs. Reactive is always a topic of leadership discussion. We are continuously striving to lean forward and project our next move, the next issues, and the next mission. However, there are just some things that are difficult to prepare for...such as Hurricane Gustav! I am proud to say that there was nonstop informative updates and various other support during the wake of what could have been a devastating event. I observed the FRG and Rear Detachment pull together to take care of Families.**

**Meanwhile here in Iraq, I was able to push information to the Soldiers on the status of the Hurricane. Fortunately, Gustav didn't cause tremendous damage to our area. Hopefully, we all can put together lessons learned in order to continue out proactive stance to better prepare for the next mission or event. We, as in the FRG, HSC Forward deployed, and Rear Detachment, need immediate feedback on any telephone/cell phone changes, if you leave the area, and emails/address updates. This will ensure we are able to contact all Families in HSC to provide information on upcoming events. Please take the opportunity to contact Mrs. Shari Baye (337-208-3045), the Spartan FRG leader for any updates/events or issues/concerns. And as always, "It's a Family Affair"!**



1SG Steven Hall  
HSC First Sergeant  
46th ECB (H)



1SG Hall takes a picture outside of the Palace at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

## Spartans





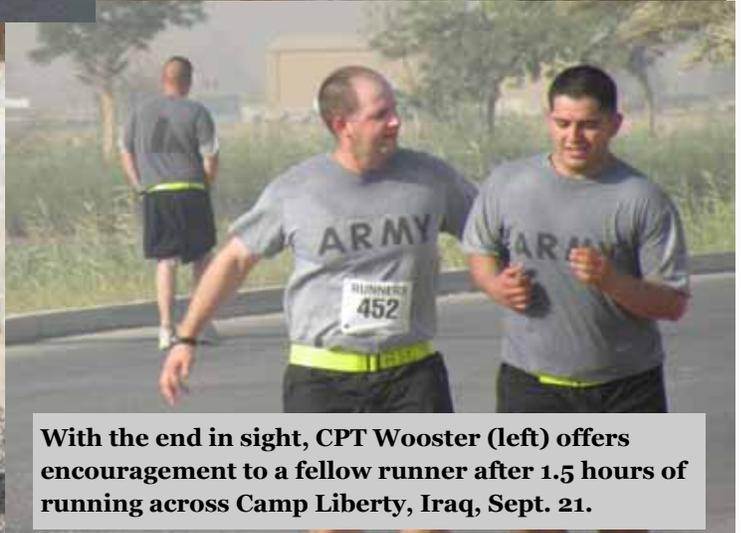
SGT Arriola (2nd from left), PFC Madden (center), and PVT Sharper (2nd from right), race down a tree-lined road during the "Sapper Series" run, Sept. 21.



CPL Ferguson sorts mail in the Mail Room.



SPC Miller is re-enlisted Sept 13 at Camp Liberty, Iraq, by CPT Boone.



With the end in sight, CPT Wooster (left) offers encouragement to a fellow runner after 1.5 hours of running across Camp Liberty, Iraq, Sept. 21.



SFC Taft (left) and CPT Landreth (center) participate in the "Sapper Series" run at Camp Liberty, Sept. 21.



CPT Bidez (far right) and Soldiers from another unit pose with Milo Vintimiglia from the TV Show "Heroes" and the movie "Rocky Balboa," during a meet & greet at Camp Liberty, Iraq.



# Alpha Company



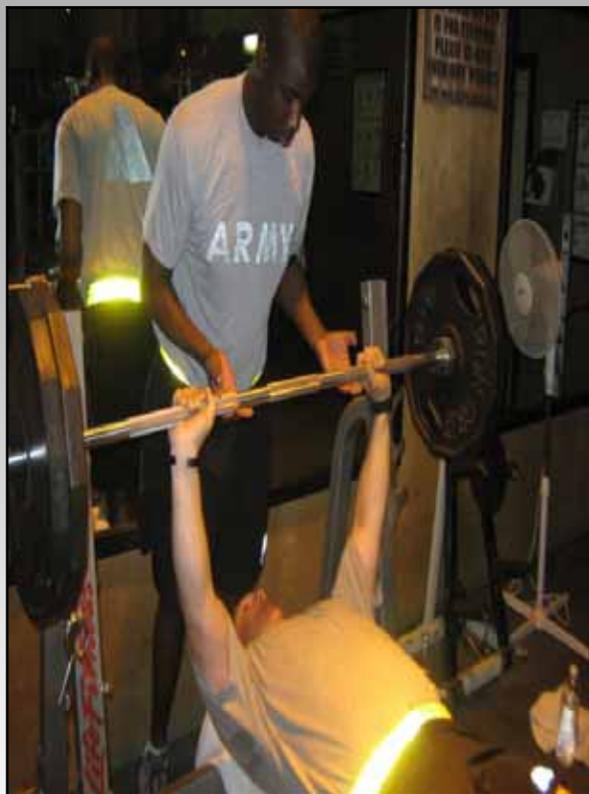
CPT Sean Heenan  
A Co. Commander  
46th ECB (H)

Yet another month has passed successfully for the Gators! We continue to stay very busy with supporting and executing our construction operations here in the Baghdad area. Your Soldiers never cease to amaze those we work with and support. The efforts over the last month by all the members of the Gator team have been nothing short of amazing!

Both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon have continued construction in support of coalition forces building as fast as we can supply them with material. EM platoon has kept up their efforts making roads in our area safer with less debris and garbage. As usual, headquarters and maintenance has supported the company with everything from supplies to repair parts and everything in between.

We are pleased to report that the Gators continue to be recognized for their hard work as well. Numerous awards and promotions happened in the month of September as well as a few reenlistments. All in all, the company is doing well and as always we appreciate all the support and well wishes from everyone on the home front!

1SG Roman: "You know you're getting old when your daughter is in the college football marching band. Go Wolfpack!"



1SG Roman and 1LT Davis (Alpha Co. XO) workout at the Scorpion Gym on Camp Liberty, Iraq.



1SG David Roman  
A Co. First Sergeant  
46th ECB (H)

## Gators





2LT Tate re-enlists SSG Butler at the Motor Pool at Camp Liberty, Iraq.



PV2 Hawkins of EM PLT gives 2nd PLT a hand as they demo an exterior wall at JSS Hurriyah.



SFC English (center front) and MNT PLT Soldiers pose outside their office at the Motor Pool.



CPL Keller cuts plywood at Hurriya II in Baghdad.



SSG Willeford is re-enlisted on Sept. 19 by 1LT Nelson at the Alpha Company motor pool.



SFC Ritter takes a self-portrait inside a MRAP vehicle during a convoy.



# Bravo Company



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

Hello Beast Families and Friends. During the month of September 2008 Bravo Company planned and executed 14 construction missions throughout the MND-B area. This month 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was tasked with building four Barracks Huts and a 1700 square foot Joint Operations cell for one of our maneuver elements. They completed the project five days ahead of schedule. Several of the Soldiers were commended by COL McCaffare for their outstanding performance while executing this mission. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon received over ten missions this month upgrading some of the existing Combat Outposts. These missions have resulted in the improvement of living and working conditions for our fellow Soldiers in our AO. Because of their attention to detail and technical skill level several electrical issues have been identified and corrected that could have been detrimental to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's mission. The Earth Moving Platoon completed over 30 convoy missions this month to validate Iraqi construction. Their tactical skills have set the standard within the Battalion. The Maintenance and Headquarter Platoon although always behind the scenes have flawlessly continued to keep the company moving forward. As the commander of this elite team of Soldiers I am very proud of their accomplishments and dedication to excellence. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for their support. Our dedicated FRG, sponsors, and friends have allowed us to focus on our missions Your actions never go unnoticed and we appreciate your unwavering support.



## Beast



1SG Williams throws up peace signs during the "Sapper Series" run Sept 21, on Camp Liberty.



1SG Gregory Williams  
B Co. First Sergeant  
46th ECB (H)



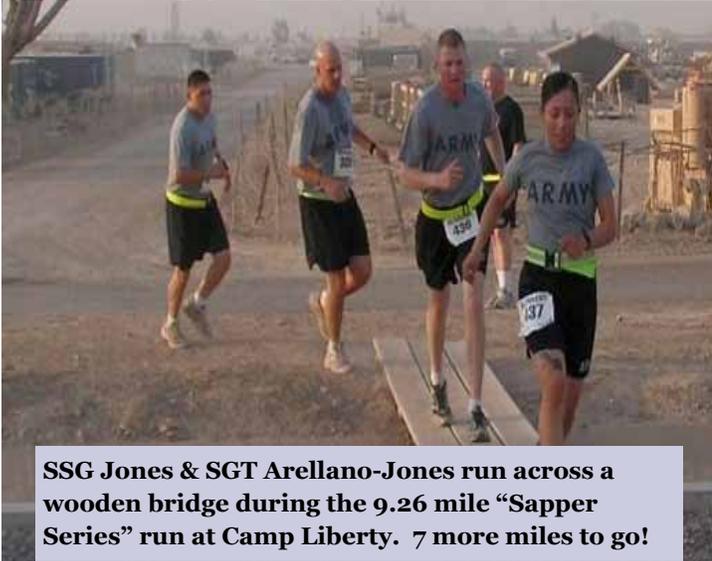
SPC Morraquin, SPC Leon-Guerrero, and PFC Utterback place T-wall barriers.



SGT Navayra shows it's "no sweat" to run 9.26 miles Sept 21st. 5.5 miles left to run SGT!



SSG Jones & SGT Arellano-Jones run across a wooden bridge during the 9.26 mile "Sapper Series" run at Camp Liberty. 7 more miles to go!



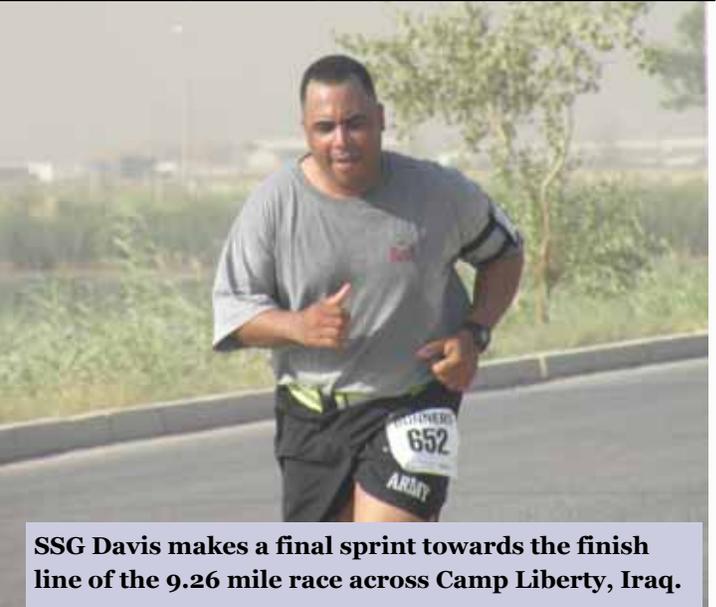
PV2 Roach places a receptacle box at JSS SUJ.



SSG Portes (left) & PFC Carrington (right) conduct a dismounted patrol in Baghdad, Iraq.



SSG Davis makes a final sprint towards the finish line of the 9.26 mile race across Camp Liberty, Iraq.

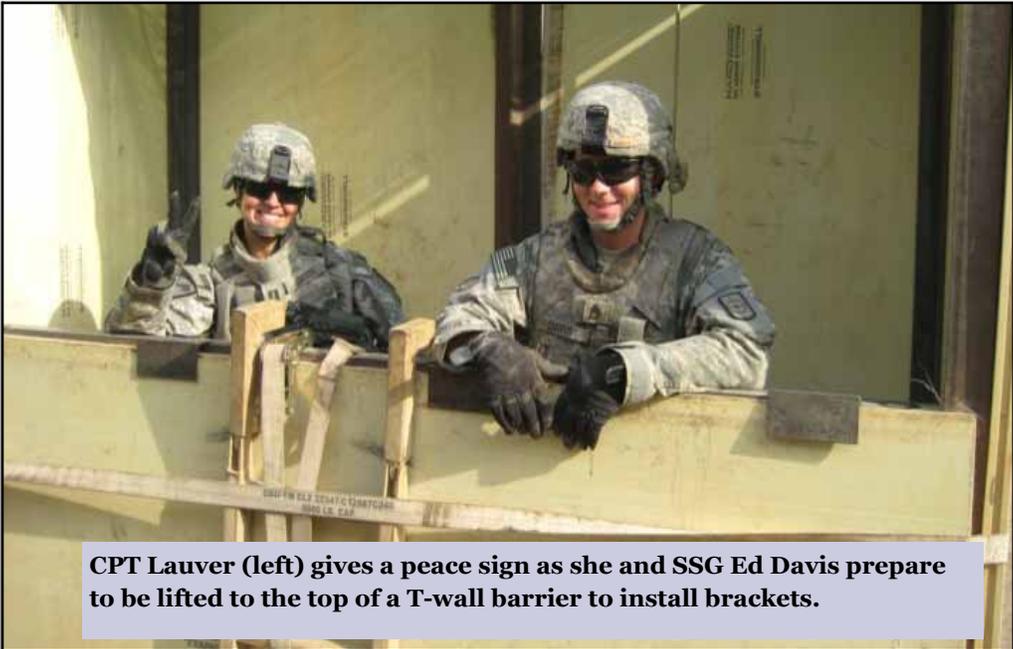




# 955th Engineer Company



CPT Crystal Lauver  
955th EN Co.  
Commander



CPT Lauver (left) gives a peace sign as she and SSG Ed Davis prepare to be lifted to the top of a T-wall barrier to install brackets.

## Clydesdales



Hello again from the stables of the 955th Clydesdales,

More missions have been completed and more have been started, the life improvement at the JSS and COP continue to get better, as the Soldiers continue to grow in their MOSs.

This deployment has brought out the best in a lot of my Soldiers and I continue to be amazed by them.

The 955th continues to grow as a unit in all aspects, however we all must stay alert so no one becomes complacent and adopts a routine that will bypass any safety issue.



1SG Matthew Gibbs  
955th EN Co.  
First Sergeant



CPT Lauver (left) and 1SG Gibbs enjoy a homemade meal (complete with non-alcoholic drinks) during a Ramadan luncheon, Aug. 31.

Thank you for your support and we'll update you next month!



**SPC Ridgeway prepares to record his greeting home at the Media Operations Center at Camp Liberty, Sept. 12.**



**SSG Rockamore (seated), SGT Mallory, and SFC Fraine (right) take a break for a quick picture during CMD MNT.**



**SGT Underwood secures brackets on T-wall barriers.**



**SGT Luttrell gets a strong start for the 9.26 mile "Sapper Series" race, Sept. 21.**



**PFC Eskew uses a clam shell to pick up debris in a median.**



**SPC Emory (left) and SPC Andriano (center), check their manuals to do a proper maintenance check on their heavy equipment.**



SFC Jackson is promoted to MSG by LTC Zajac on Sept. 1st at the Palace.



926th EN BDE CSM Zebrauskas awards coins to Bravo Co. Soldiers.



PFC Routh is awarded an ARCOM medal by LTC Zajac on Sept 1.



PV2 Farris receives an AAM at JSS UR from LTC Zajac.



SPC Kleinheider is awarded an ARCOM medal from LTC Zajac, Sept. 1.



SGT Lopez is congratulated by the former MNC-I CDR General Petraeus during her re-enlistment, July 4.

## In the News...

Read up-to-the-minute articles about "Steel Spike" Soldiers, by checking out the following links:

[http://www.armyengineer.com/news\\_info.html](http://www.armyengineer.com/news_info.html)

(HSC EQ PLT makes road upgrades in Taji)

[http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news\\_show.php&id=22563](http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=22563)

(In Iraq, 46th ECB Soldiers help home base Fort Polk 4BCT Soldiers)

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20080828195051zml.nb/topstory.html>

(46th Engineer Soldiers earn Combat Patch)

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20080831143946zml.nb/topstory.html>

(955th Soldiers help erase Violence)



2LT Janeene Yarber  
"Scoop Spike"  
Public Affairs Officer

Watch Soldier video greetings on <http://www.dvidshub.net> website. Just click on "Videos," then "Greetings" to see if your Soldier recorded a message to you! Send your photos and captions to [Janeene.yarber@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:Janeene.yarber@mnd-b.army.mil) for next month.



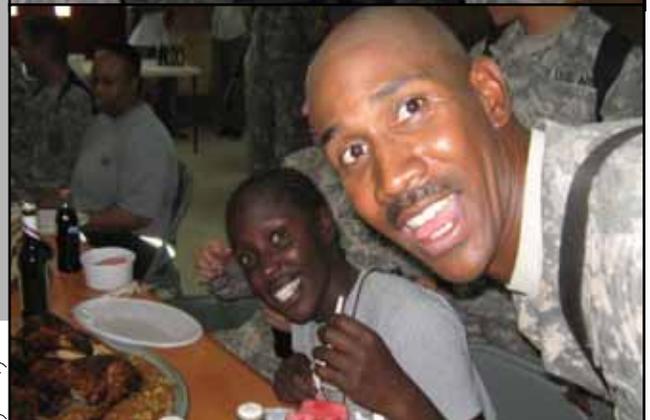
# Steel Spike Birthdays & Fun

## October

- 10/1 SPC ROHMAN
- 10/2 SSG DAVIS, SPC CRUM, PVT SCROGGINS
- 10/3 SPC BASILE, PFC SOLWAY, SPC TAYLOR
- 10/4 SSG BARTLETT,
- 10/5 PFC CHAPMAN, PV2 SHELL, SPC RIESENBERG
- 10/6 CW4 PINKERTON
- 10/7 CPT HARRIS
- 10/11 SPC CLAY
- 10/13 SPC BARUELA
- 10/14 SGT HOWARD
- 10/15 SSG GREGORY
- 10/16 PFC CROPPRUE
- 10/17 PV2 SEYMOUR
- 10/18 SPC GREEN, PV2 KINGSBY, CPT WAGNER
- 10/19 SGT KERR, SSG ROBERTS, PFC HECHT
- 10/21 PV2 HATCHER, PFC AZURE
- 10/22 SPC LEONGUERRERO, PFC ROUTH
- 10/23 SPC ARAGON
- 10/24 SGT LANE, CPT BEAL
- 10/26 CW2 JARVIS, SPC JONES, PV2 EKUKPE,  
PFC ESKER, SPC RUDOLPH
- 10/28 SGT DONELSON, SFC RITTER,  
SPC CAWOOD, SPC BAXTER
- 10/30 PFC KIRKLAND, SFC ENGLISH,  
SGT COBURN, PFC EDMONDS
- 10/31 SGT RIDINGS, SGT SULLIVAN, SGT LUTTRELL



MAJ Stinnett, CPT Kelley, 1LT Traweek and others surprise 2LT Riggio (HSC) with a card and sing "Happy Birthday," Sept 11.



Alpha Co's SFC English and 1LT Nelson cheese it up at a Ramadan luncheon, Aug. 31.



1LT Breyman (Bravo Co.) sings "Sweet Home Alabama" at a Sapper Call, Aug. 30.

**Welcome the Newest Members of the  
"Steel Spike" Family:**

**Nathanel Aden Auguste**

**22 August**

**Jason Lee Eskew**

**3 September**

**Xavier Michael Semeniuk-Hauser**

**10 September**

**Vivian Marie Garcia**

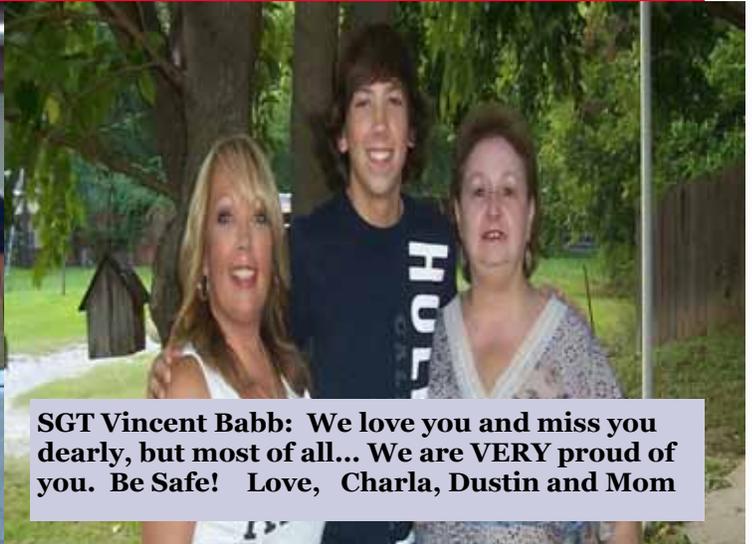
**25 September**



# A Word from the FRG



Mrs. Jen Henry receiving the "Volunteer of the Month" award from COL Sage at Fort Polk, La.



SGT Vincent Babb: We love you and miss you dearly, but most of all... We are VERY proud of you. Be Safe! Love, Charla, Dustin and Mom



Babes,  
I carry you with me through my days. You're all that I need . Nothing could replace the happiness you bring when your around. I missed you so much. Be safe always .. Advanced Happy Birthday I LOVE YOU! Always, Janice



Having fun at family day! We wish you were here. Love Ya, Team Fletcher



Mrs. Shari Baye the HSC FRG Leader and Mrs. Lisa Otto, Alpha Company FRG Leader.



The Anderson Family: The kids & I at the house after Aiden's surgery. We love you James !!

## FRG News & Notes



The FRG stuck together this month in preparation and the struggles during the visit of Hurricane Gustav. They were very helpful in assisting the 46 EN Rear Det. as they kept accountability of all the families of the 46 EN BN's HSC & A Companies. Their reaction to the storm was outstanding and proves that they can react to emergencies.

One special event that BN sponsored was the Family Day picnic on 20 September. The picnic was held in the West Park in Deridder. The families enjoyed the BBQ cooked by SSG Russell and SGT Smith. Games and snow cones were provided for the children but their main interest was the tank. The FRG has worked hard to reach out to all Families in the 46<sup>th</sup> and they have a strong desire to help our Families make it through this deployment with a positive outcome.



## Rear D / FRG Contact Info

### FRG LEADERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>CONTACT #</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
GINA FONTENOT	BATTALION ADVISOR	337-208-3711	gina.fontenot@us.army.mil
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LISA OTTO	ALPHA COMPANY	337-208-3189	aco46th@gmail.com
JENNIFER HENRY	814TH	563-663-2770	henrys2000@bellsouth.net
MEGYN JEFFERSON	BRAVO COMPANY	334-598-1141	megyn24@hotmail.com
GINGER SALTZ	955TH EN CO	573-433-6460	ginger.e.saltz@us.army.mil

### KEY FRSA POC

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JEREMY BROWN	1st MEB FRSA	337-353-7634	jeremy.david.brown@conus.army.mil
TEKESHA WALL	46th ECB (H) FRSA	337-378-5044	tekeshawall@us.army.mil

### REAR DETACHMENT CDR POC

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>CONTACT #</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
CPT HARVEY DICKERSON	HSC / A CO	337-718-3785	harvey.d.dickerson@us.army.mil
CPT MARK BORN	B CO	360-402-6137	mark.born1@us.army.mil
2LT ROHMAN, JOSEPH	955TH EN CO	417-894-9998	joseph.rohman@us.army.mil