



# STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS

**ADSEQUOR - "TO ACHIEVE"**



*CH Wagner and SPC Aragon move furniture into the new Chaplain's Office.*



**It's Moving Day for The "Steel Spike Team" to Their Newly-Built Supply Building!**

## Inside This Issue:

Commander's Observations	2
CSM's View	3
PA/ Chaplain's Corner	3
HSC – "SPARTANS"	4-5
A CO– "GATORS"	6-7
B CO– "BEAST"	8-9
955th -CLYDESDALES"	10-11
"Spotlight on Success"	12
46th ECB "In the News"	12
Messages from Home	14-15





# Commander's Observations



LTC Matthew Zajac  
Battalion Commander  
46th ECB (H)

Hello again from Baghdad,

As October draws to a close and we all prepare for the festivities during Halloween, I ask that you take a moment to reflect upon two opportunities we all share.

First, just after Halloween, on November 4<sup>th</sup>, we all have the opportunity to take part in a fundamental process that defines us as citizens of the United States of America. That process is individualized as the right to vote. Regardless of your political views, I ask each of you to honor the sacrifice of American Families and the service of Soldiers who by their presence protect the right of people around the world to choose their leaders. Those of us here in Iraq recognize just what achieving the right to vote can cost in blood and national resources, and our Nation's success with this process is the basis for what drives millions to seek entry into America.

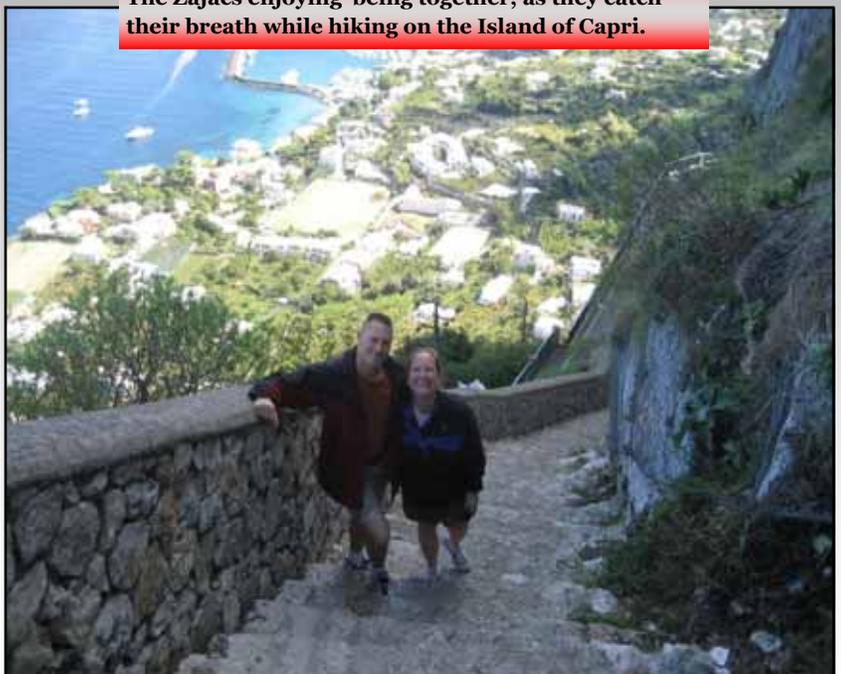
Second, earlier this month I had the opportunity to take my deployment leave. What made this special was that my wife, who is deployed to Afghanistan, was able to join me and that both of our parents flew from the United States to join us in Europe. I'll be the first to admit that the coordination for all this took a great deal of effort, and at times became frustrating. But it was worth every challenge to get the family together in a place where the only focus was on each other and on the new places we found ourselves at. I bring this up in the hopes that each of you are already considering how to make your leave a memorable time for both your returning Soldier and yourselves as deployment leave should be a time for everyone in the family to enjoy the reunion and to renew their spirits.

Until next month!

The Zajacs enjoying being together, as they catch their breath while hiking on the Island of Capri.



Exercising his right as an American - LTC Zajac mails his ballot.





# CSM's View

The past month has proven once again the Soldiers of the "Steel Spike" Battalion can accomplish any mission assigned. The Battalion has been extremely busy with the successful completion of some extremely important missions.

The Companies have been working—in some cases, around the clock to ensure mission success to increase the safety of their fellow Soldiers where they live and the roads they travel. We had several Soldiers promoted and seven Specialists earn their induction into the NCO corps.

I hope everyone at home is enjoying the fall weather, we all have our fingers crossed here that the heat is leaving and cooler days are ahead. Thanks for all the support you give the Battalion, have a Happy Halloween.

Spike 7



CSM Frank Thibodeau  
BN CSM  
46th ECB (H)

# PA's/Chaplain's Corner

## The Flu Vaccine Is Coming Soon!

I always hear people trying to get out of this vaccination because "it makes me sick" or "I get the flu every time." Here's the truth: The injectable vaccine is a killed virus. It is grown in a chicken egg and then killed and made into a vaccine.



CPT Troy Bidez  
BN Physician's Assistant

When injected, the body detects it and is fooled into thinking it is infected. The bodies natural immune response makes you feel a little achy and maybe you may have a slight headache. Taking 2 Tylenol about 4 hours after vaccination will just about eliminate this feeling.

Hebrews 12:1 "...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." The metaphor of an athletic event is used to describe a spiritual pursuit of faith. To endure a race takes training, discipline, and perseverance.



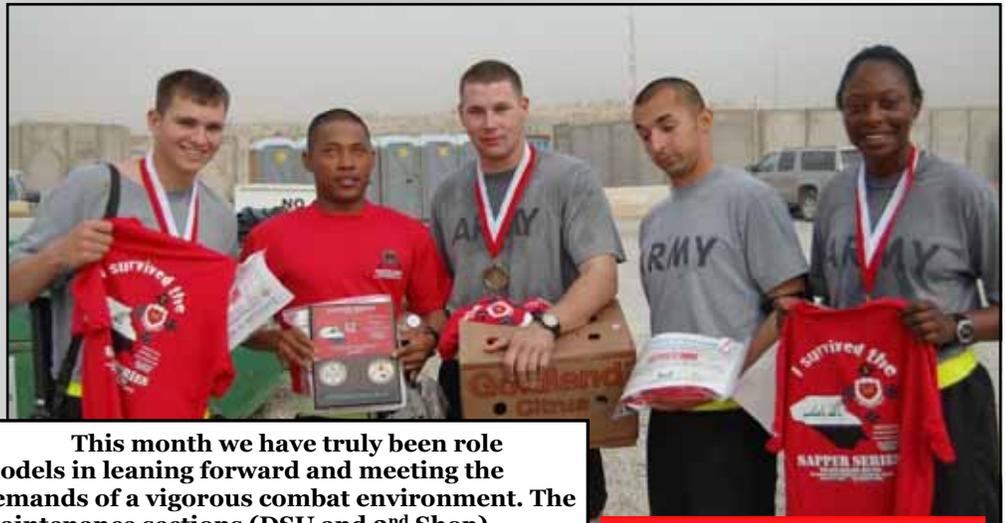
CPT Jerry Wagner  
BN Chaplain

Likewise, this deployment is not a sprint but rather a marathon. My hope is that you get or stay in good spiritual fitness, and also take care of yourselves physically, emotionally to finish the race set before you.

**Steel Spike!**



# Headquarters and Support Company



CPT Smoot takes a picture with her Soldiers after running the final 13.1 mile "Sapper Series" race, October 12.



CPT Angela Smoot  
HSC Commander  
46th ECB (H)

This month we have truly been role models in leaning forward and meeting the demands of a vigorous combat environment. The maintenance sections (DSU and 2<sup>nd</sup> Shop) continue to display impressive dedication to duty, by safely and diligently working in 100 plus tempetures to keep the company's and the battalion's equipment operational. Our Commo section (S6), lead by 2LT Riggio and SFC Coleman not only kept the automations and communications equipment running, but they were key players in the success of three VTCs within the battalion.

Our PSD and CST continue to safeguard the movements of our equipment and Soldiers from point A to point B, throughout Bagdad. The Equipment Platoon's versatility continues to amaze the command team after the completion of a complex mission in the heart of Baghdad. Our S4 shop even with a limited staff seems to work miracles by staying one step ahead. The S1 section works closely with the leaders in the battalion to ensure the Soldiers and their family's administrative needs are met.

The medics of the battalion aid station not only support the day to day medical needs here on camp. They also provide medical support to the Soldiers on missions throughout Baghdad. The S2, S3 and S3C sections are truly making their mark in country. They are responsible for the mission plans, work schematics, Intel updates and the overall operations of the battalion. The contribution of HSC is clearly noted and recognized as essential to the success of the battalion. Always Leaning Forward!

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"!



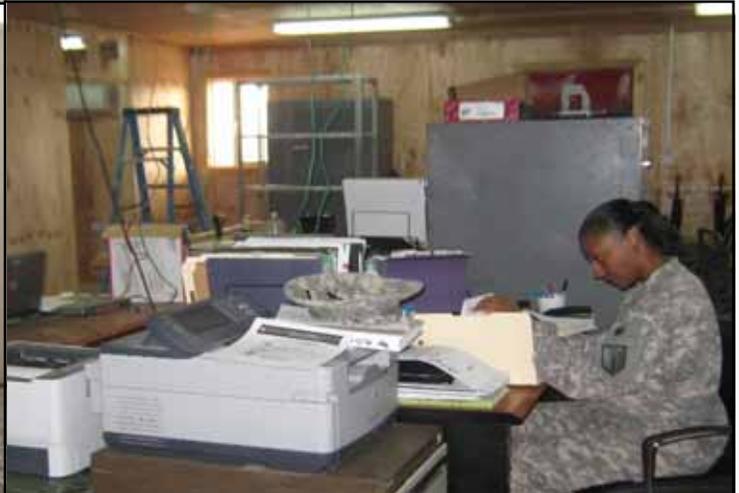
1SG Steven Hall  
HSC First Sergeant  
46th ECB (H)

## Spartans





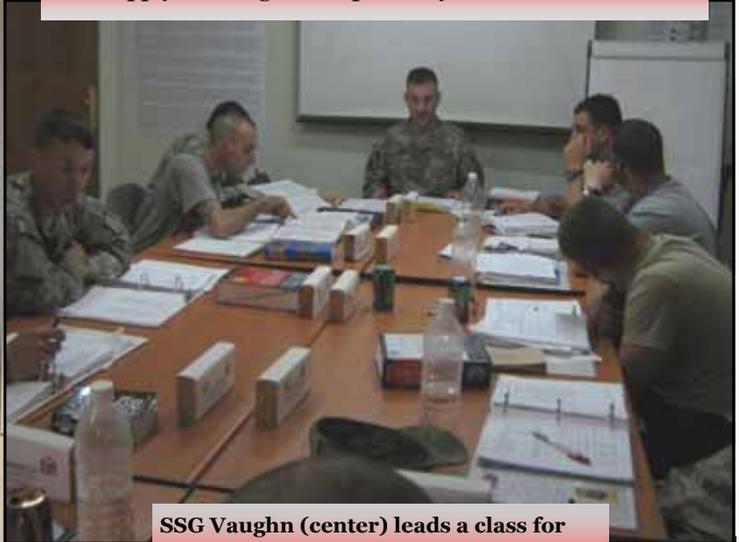
SPC Madden (left) and SGT Daigrepoint (right) move tough boxes into the new supply building.



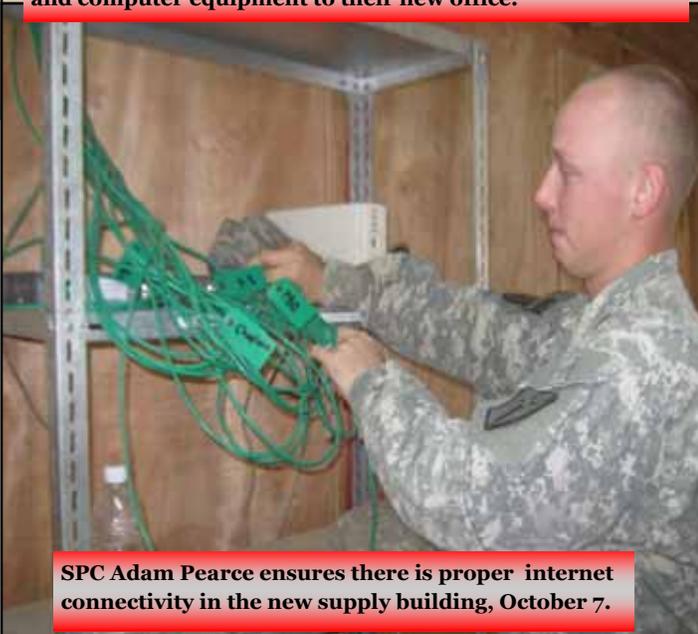
SGT Garner doesn't stop working while moving into the new Supply building at Camp Liberty.



2LT Riggio and PFC John Pearce bring boxes of phones and computer equipment to their new office.



SSG Vaughn (center) leads a class for GT Improvement, October 22.



SPC Adam Pearce ensures there is proper internet connectivity in the new supply building, October 7.



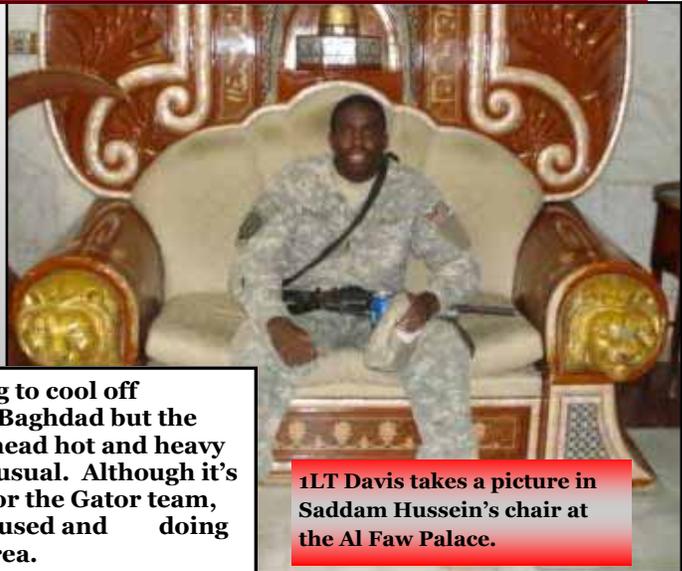
Warrant Officer Jellison makes final adjustments to the electrical panel on the new supply building, October 7.



# Alpha Company



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



1LT Davis takes a picture in Saddam Hussein's chair at the Al Faw Palace.

Things are starting to cool off temperature wise here in Baghdad but the Gators are still pushing ahead hot and heavy and doing great things as usual. Although it's not all work and no play for the Gator team, everyone is remaining focused and doing great things around the area.

1st Platoon has been training very hard recently to take on a new mission providing security for a new task force within the battalion. They are brushing up their skills learned before deploying and will soon be ready for their mission. After a period of refit at Camp Liberty recently, 2nd Platoon is back out at their project site building more living space for both US and Iraqi forces. Their completed building, finished in the end of September is a thing of beauty and the Soldiers on the base enjoy their new gym, dining facility, and living space very much. EM Platoon has been working on a wide variety of missions recently ranging from cleaning up roadside debris, to placing barriers that keep our Soldiers safe, and even trying their hand at placing a concrete pad to fix a road near Camp Liberty. They show their versatility and skills every time they get in a piece of equipment or pick up a tool!

As always, a few of our outstanding Gators have distinguished themselves this month with awards, promotions, and reenlistments. Our Soldiers are doing great things every day and it is in no small part due to the support from friends and family back home. Keep up the well wishes and know that we appreciate every phone call, e-mail, letter, and package that is sent with your love and care from home.

**DRIVE THE SPIKE!**



Gators



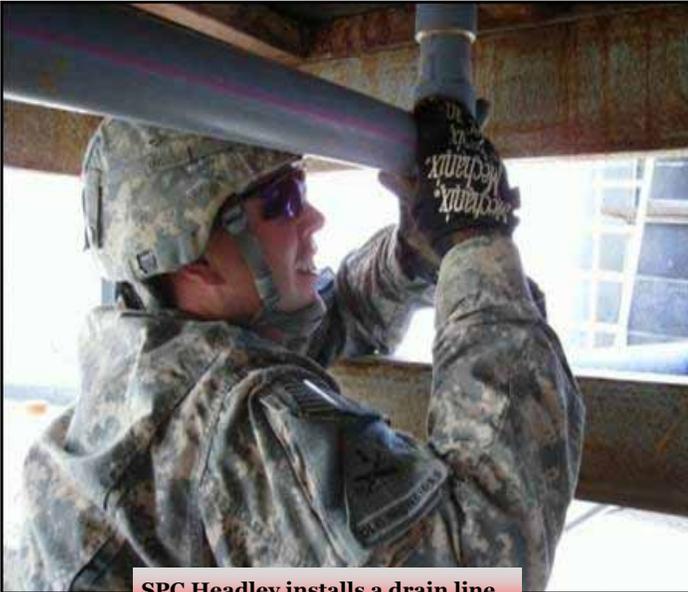
1SG David Roman  
A Co. First Sergeant  
46th ECB (H)



CPT Heenan shows off a newly connected electrical panel at a site in Baghdad.



1SG Roman helps hold plywood for a ceiling at JSS UR, September 17.



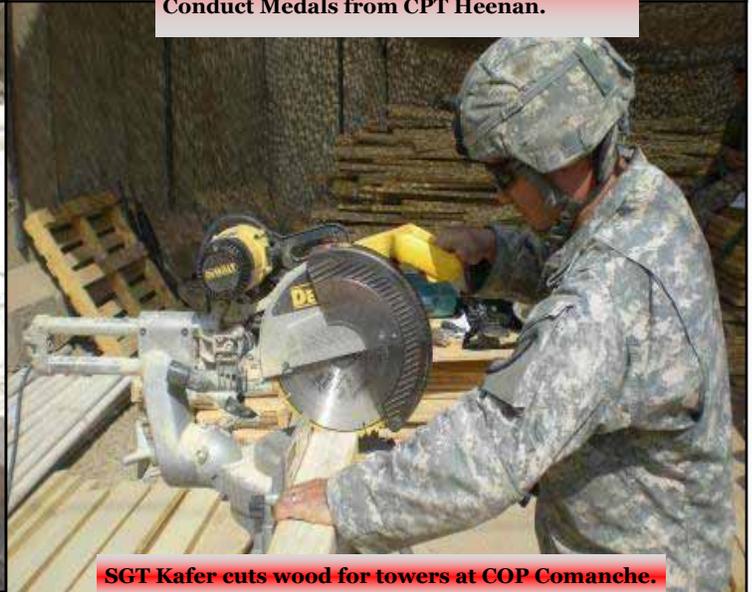
SPC Headley installs a drain line.



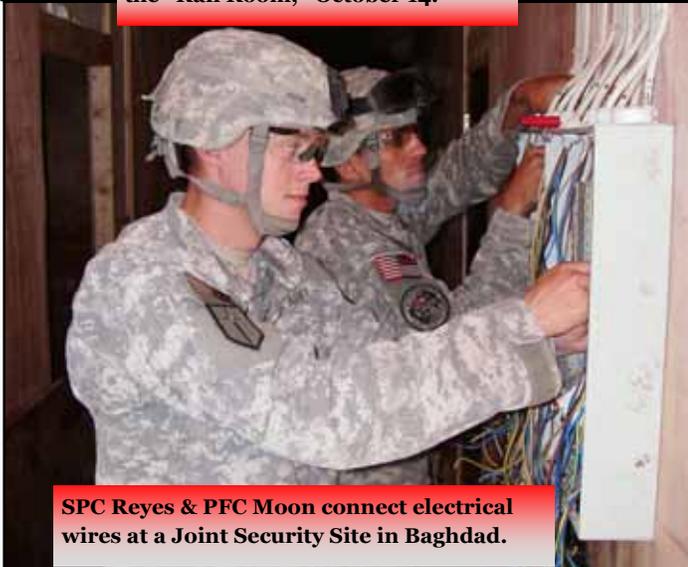
Five A CO Soldiers receive the Army Good Conduct Medals from CPT Heenan.



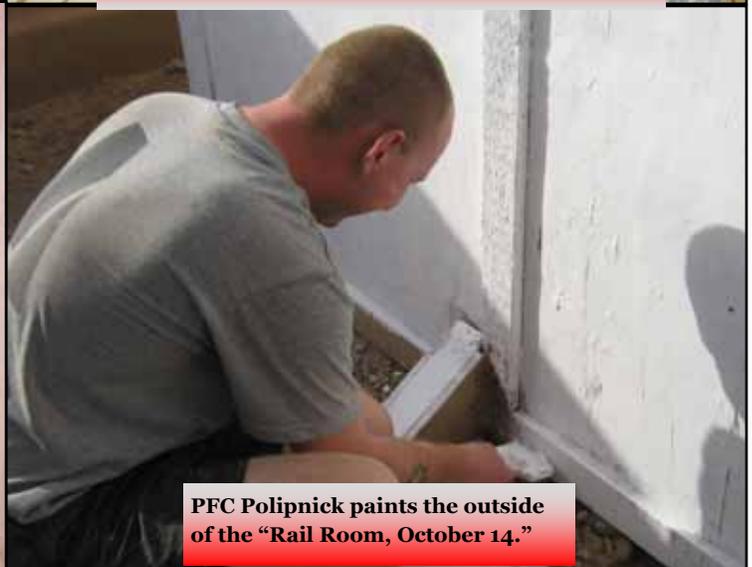
SPC Cawood paints the outside of the "Rail Room," October 14.



SGT Kafer cuts wood for towers at COP Comanche.



SPC Reyes & PFC Moon connect electrical wires at a Joint Security Site in Baghdad.



PFC Polipnick paints the outside of the "Rail Room," October 14.



# Bravo Company



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



1LT Breyman receives a coin for being the fastest female during the 8.90K "Sapper Series" run.

**1SG Williams:**

The "BEASTS" are having a productive month. To all the Families; it is an honor to work with all your Warriors!

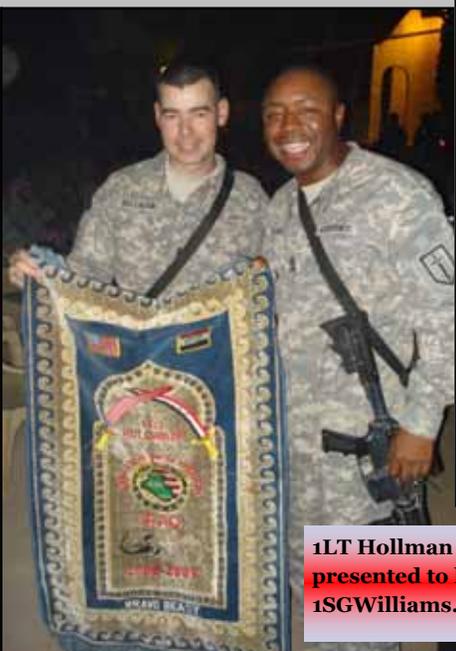
It could probably go without being said, but your Warriors are true heroes and have proven themselves time and time again in the face of continual adversity.

I could easily spend this entire letter describing the many great things your Warriors have accomplished since arriving here in Baghdad, Iraq. However, what I want to do is focus on talking about Families and love ones. Deployment such as this one can truly put a strain on a marriage. The distance apart, the infrequent communication with each other, and in some cases, the unfortunate waiting to hear and ensure that your Warrior brush with danger was not life threatening. All of this can be exhausting and really take a toll on a relationship. In addition to you having to endure the emotional rigors of what a deployment involves, there's also the domestic issue to deal with. I support you all!! I commend all Families and love ones on the greatness you do.

The Commander and I are definitely here to support the Warriors and their Families. Please feel free to contact us via our Rear Detachment or our email addresses (christopher.o.beal@us.army.mil; gregory.d.williams3@us.army.mil ) Thanks to all of you and your active participation with the Family Readiness Group. Bravo Beast is definitely leading the way!!!



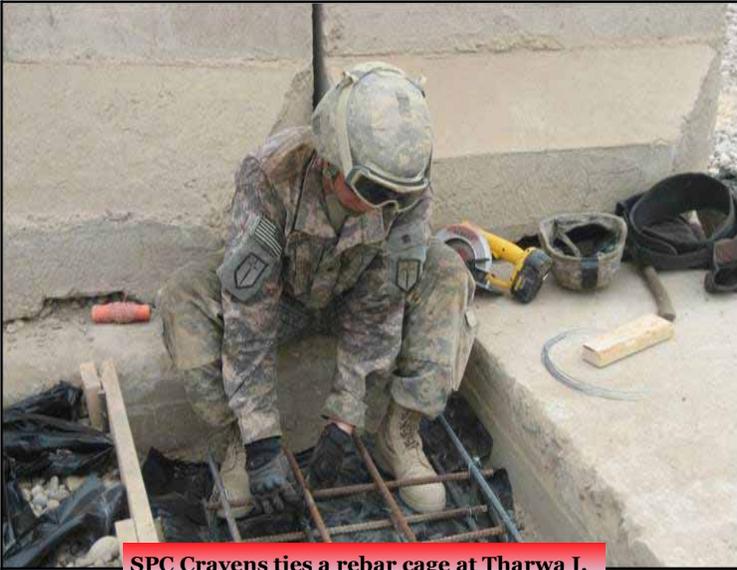
## Beast



1LT Hollman holds up an OIF rug presented to him by Bravo Company & 1SGWilliams.



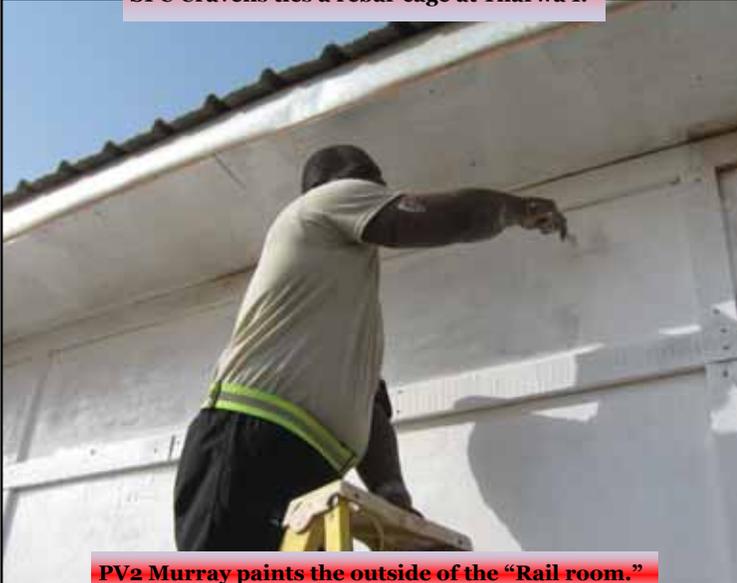
1SG Gregory Williams  
B Co. First Sergeant  
46th ECB (H)



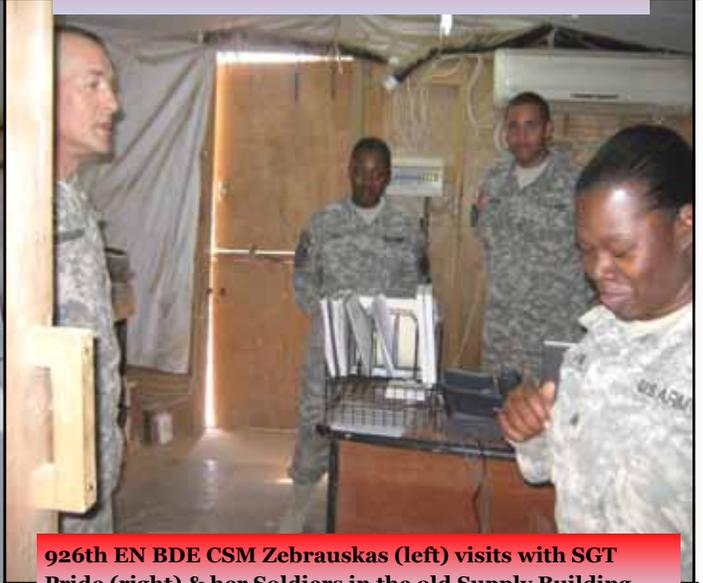
SPC Cravens ties a rebar cage at Tharwa I.



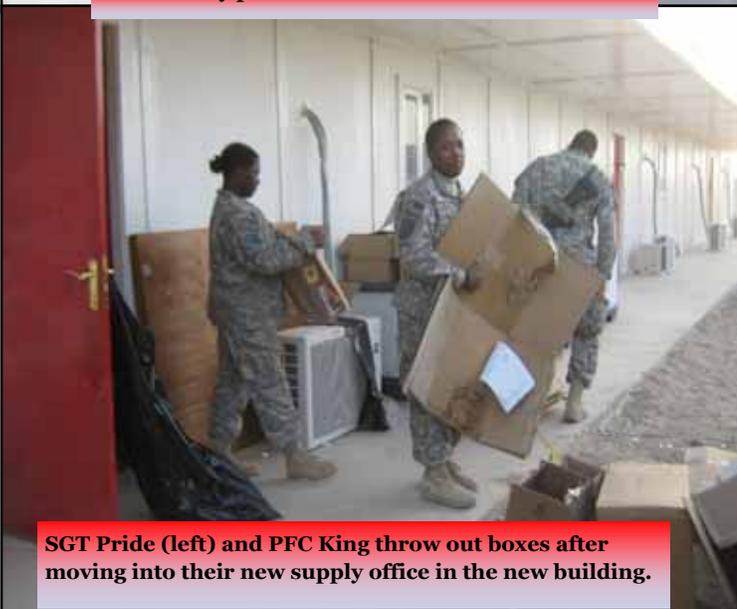
926th EN BDE CDR Gen. Talley congratulates SPC Bones for his great work building a 5-foot Engineer Castle at 926th's Headquarters.



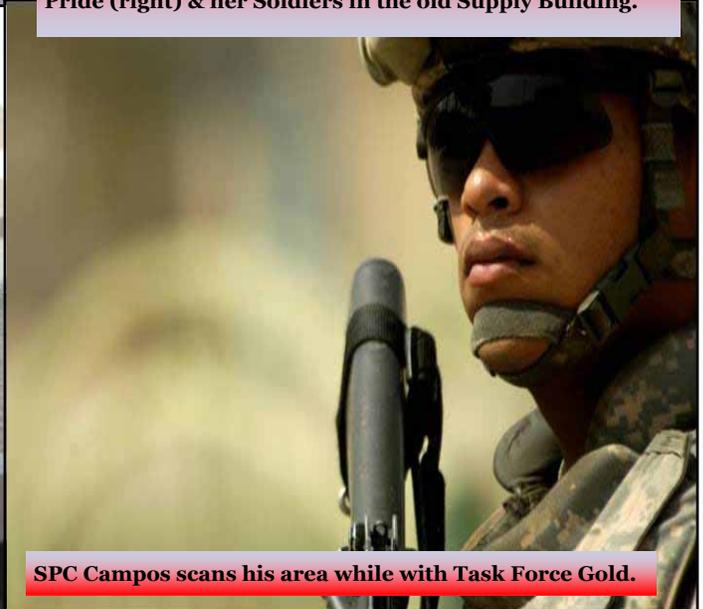
PV2 Murray paints the outside of the "Rail room."



926th EN BDE CSM Zebrauskas (left) visits with SGT Pride (right) & her Soldiers in the old Supply Building.



SGT Pride (left) and PFC King throw out boxes after moving into their new supply office in the new building.



SPC Campos scans his area while with Task Force Gold.



# 955th Engineer Company



CPT Crystal Lauver  
955th EN Co.  
Commander

## Clydesdales



1LT Long (right)  
coordinates with the 3/4  
Brigade Combat Team.

**CPT Lauver:**  
Hello family and friends! The 955th EN CO is doing great things throughout Baghdad! 1st Platoon completed a project to expand living areas on FOB Loyalty, 2nd Platoon helped clean and shape JSS Ur, and 3rd Platoon continues to emplace sniper screen around JSS Ameriyah. Our Headquarters and Maintenance sections work busily to keep day-to-day operations running smoothly. The weather has started to break, which is a nice surprise for so many soldiers who consistently work outside. We appreciate all the mail, email messages, and support our families send our way!

**1SG Gibbs:**  
Hello everyone! Our soldiers are well and missions are keeping the time flying. Our soldiers are staying focused and preparing for new missions, conducting physical fitness, and excitedly chatting about what they will do on leave or what they did do on leave. With the holidays coming up, the company is planning a Halloween Party on Oct. 31st. We wish all of our families a safe and fun Halloween, and as always, we enjoy pictures from home. Pictures are a way for our soldiers to feel like part of the holiday, even from this distance.



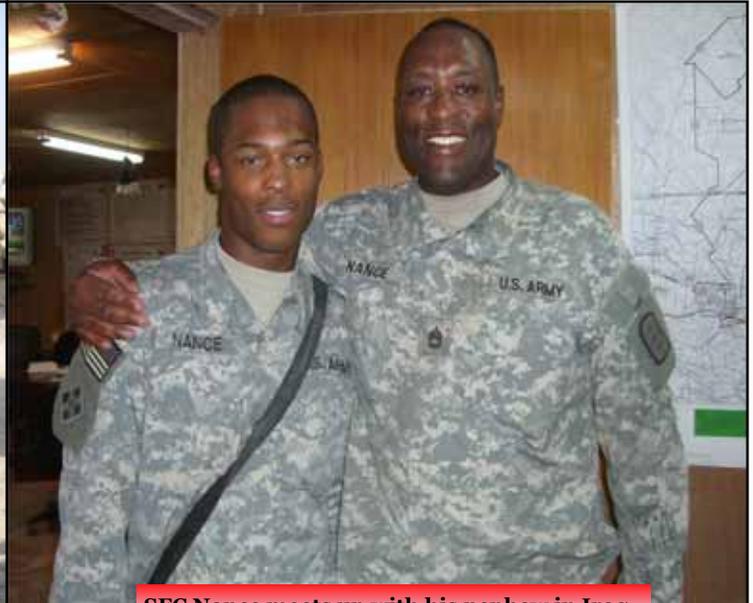
1SG Matthew Gibbs  
955th EN Co.  
First Sergeant



CPT Lauver runs the loader.



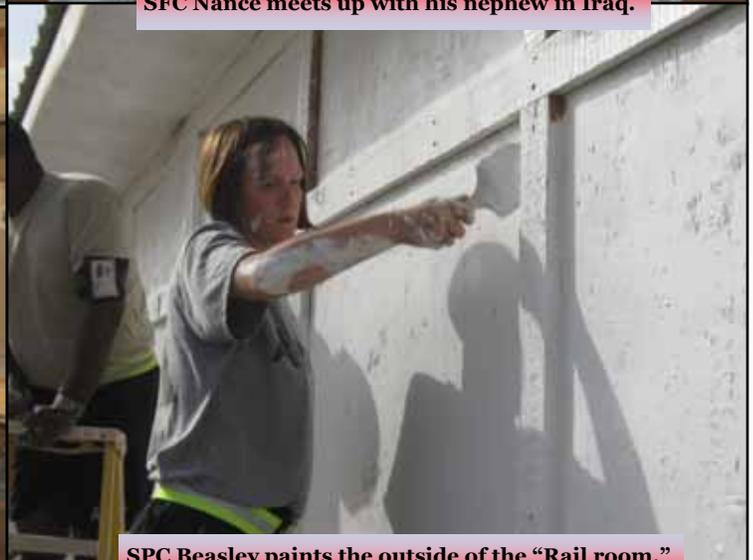
SGT Milne (left), SGT West (2nd from right) and other 955 Soldiers conduct Command Maintenance at the motor pool.



SFC Nance meets up with his nephew in Iraq.



SPC Saltz organizes shelves in the new 955 Supply Office, October 7.



SPC Beasley paints the outside of the "Rail room."



SPC Adams and SPC Cantu check tires.



SPC Perdue cleans his weapon while waiting to zero and then qualify at the weapons range.

October 2008

# SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS



**SGT Griffin and SPC Kyle from the 955th Engineer Company re-enlist in the Army.**



**The 2LTs Cirillo and 2LT Clements are promoted to 1LT, October 13 at Al Faw Palace.**



**PV2 Eukepe is promoted to PFC by CPT Heenan, October 1st.**



**SPC Staples (left) receives a plaque for 3rd overall fastest male runner, Oct 12, from Gen. Talley.**



**SPC Cummings is re-enlisted by 2LT Clements at the Palace, October 10.**



**CPT Landreth receives a BN Coin from MAJ Fontenot for the fastest female run time during the 4.6K race, October 12.**

## In the News...

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

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=51143>

**(Bravo Company EM PLT helps to rebuild Sadr City—Task Force Gold)**

[http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news\\_show.php&id=23714](http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=23714)

**(955th Engineer Company Rebuilds Weapons Range for Coalition Forces)**

[http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news\\_show.php&id=23811](http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=23811)

**(Bravo Company Maximizes Materials, Make 2 Projects from 1)**

[http://www.agreaterfreedom.com/Positive%20Perspectives/239/Soldiers\\_Relax\\_Enjoy\\_Breaks\\_From\\_Missions\\_in\\_Iraq/1/article.aspx](http://www.agreaterfreedom.com/Positive%20Perspectives/239/Soldiers_Relax_Enjoy_Breaks_From_Missions_in_Iraq/1/article.aspx)

**(Soldiers Relax and Enjoy Breaks from Missions in Iraq)**



**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.**



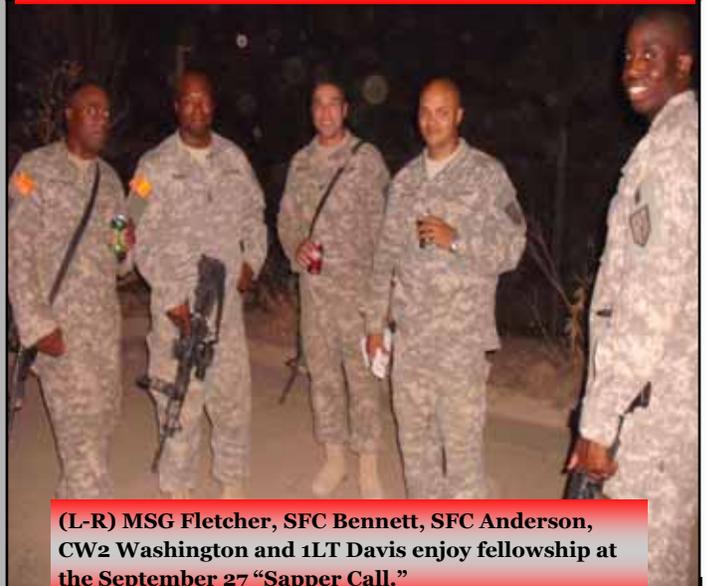
# Steel Spike Birthdays & Fun

## November

- 1 - PVT DYER & PFC SHOEMAKER
- 2 - SPC FELTROP & SGT SMILEY
- 3 - SPC LAGRONE
- 4 - SPC CANTU
- 5 - SGT SAVADYGA, PFC SEMENIUKHAUSER & SGT ARELLANOJONES
- 6 - PFC HARTONEIL & SPC BELLAMY
- 7 - SPC SHARPER
- 9 - PV2 HATTENBACH & PFC TUCKER
- 10 - PV2 BLOUGH & 1LT ATKINSON
- 11 - PFC BOYLE, PFC BRIERLY & PFC TROVILLION
- 12 - PFC AMMARI & SGT ELLIS
- 13 - CPL TAN
- 14 - SGT HAYWOOD, SSG HENSLEY, SFC MARTIN & SGT CASTILLOCHOA
- 15 - 1LT DAVIS., SGT BRADSHAW, PFC BYNUM & 1LT LONG
- 16 - SGT STEPHENSON, PFC BARBER
- 17 - SGT BENNETT
- 18 - CPT KELLEY, PFC BEHNKE, SPC KUMP & SPC MICHNO
- 19 - PV2 LERSCH & SPC PERDUE
- 21 - SGT ROBERTS, PFC LAUDENSLAGER, 1LT BREYMAN & SPC SANDUSKY
- 22 - SFC BENNETT, SGT MARSHAL, SPC THOMAS & SPC MILNE
- 23 - MSG FLETCHER, PV2 VANSTRANDER, PFC BEVANS, PFC FARNES, SPC MCPEAK & PFC ROBINSON
- 25 - PFC KROMER & SFC NANCE
- 26 - SGT INGRAM
- 27 - PFC RAUSCH
- 28 - CPT HEENAN, SPC EADY, PFC BUTTERWORTH
- 29 - PV2 RAZO, SSG COUNTER & SPC SEINER
- 30 - MAJ STINNETT, PFC HITT, SPC RICHARDSON & PV2 FARRIS



The HSC CST poses with LTC Zajac after SPC Fritz receives an AAM for shooting 40 out of 40 at the weapons range.



(L-R) MSG Fletcher, SFC Bennett, SFC Anderson, CW2 Washington and 1LT Davis enjoy fellowship at the September 27 "Sapper Call."



CSM Thibodeau, LTC Zajac, BN Staff, Company CDRs/1SGs pose with MSG Jackson after his promotion at the Al Faw Palace, in September.

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

**Alejandro Fabrizio Bonilla**

**11 September**

**Vanessa Anniemarie Mitchell Lawson**

**1 Oct 08**



# A Word from the FRG



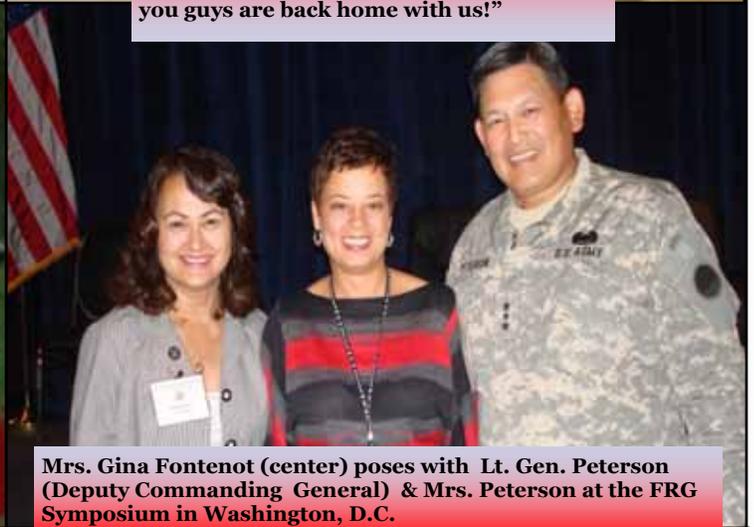
**Keoni Pollom: Born August 2, 2008.**



**Vivian Garcia: Born 25 September 08. Mrs. Elena Garcia says: "Can't wait until you guys are back home with us!"**



**Mrs. Daigrepoint with daughter and Mrs. Shoemaker during Family Day at the park, September 20.**



**Mrs. Gina Fontenot (center) poses with Lt. Gen. Peterson (Deputy Commanding General) & Mrs. Peterson at the FRG Symposium in Washington, D.C.**



**Connor McIlquham: "Wait till you see me dad! I'm getting stronger every day!"**



**SSG Hensley: "Dad! We love you!"**

October 2008

Steel Spike Express

"Steel Spike" kids pose for a picture during Organizational Day, Sept 20.



CPT Harris says: "My Josey Bear is getting so big!"



SSG Russell would like to introduce his grandson Aidan born: 22 October 08.

Chase Secrest with dad during his R&R leave in October.

SPC Broadbent: "Hello Daddy! We miss you!"



Natalia Carter: "I'm on my way to get my papa!"



Rear D / FRG Contact Info

FRG LEADERS

NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT #	E-MAIL
GINA FONTENOT	BATTALION ADVISOR	337-208-3711	gina.fontenot@us.army.mil
SHARI BAYE	HSC	337-208-3045	46HSC.Family@Live.com
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

NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT #	E-MAIL
CINDY DRISCOLL	Family Programs Assistant, G1	337-353-8371	cindy.driscoll@conus.army.mil
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

NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT #	E-MAIL
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