



STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS

We're #1!

ADSEQUOR - "TO ACHIEVE"



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The "Steel Spike" football team brings home the trophy after defeating the 890th EN BN Thanksgiving Day. See the highlights inside!



In Iraq, the "Steel Spike" Battalion celebrates 91 years of Service. More photos inside!





Commander's Observations

Happy Holidays to all!

Hello again and welcome to the Thanksgiving Special Edition of the Express! So much has been happening in the last few weeks that rather than create a book I figured we would just publish a Thanksgiving Edition and a Christmas Edition, much to the dismay of my Public Affairs Officer ;-)

It was wonderful to see the success of all the efforts of the Family Readiness Groups to support our Families with special holiday events and to support those in need during the holidays. This Battalion is extremely fortunate to have the team of volunteers we have, and this Thanksgiving I am thankful for their selfless service.

Here in Baghdad, on Thanksgiving morning the Battalion assembled to remember that the first Thanksgiving was a meal shared between two very different cultures recognizing that each had something to contribute to their continued survival. Then, as is happening now in Iraq, each group learned over time to respect one another and thru their joint efforts created a new nation. The strength, resiliency, and continuing success of our United States is firmly based upon the diversity of our people, and our Soldiers are establishing a security situation here in Iraq to allow the Iraqi people the same opportunity.

On December 7th, we also paused to recognize the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy)'s ninety-first year of service to our Nation. It is fitting that recognize our unit's beginning here in combat in Iraq, for our Battalion was born during the "War to End All Wars" – in World War I. It was born during a period when the will of the American people was focused on overthrowing tyranny. Then, as now, that will was transformed into action by the Soldiers of our Battalion.

The Battalion has been called upon many times since World War I – and whether on the assault beaches of Leyte Gulf, in the jungles of Vietnam, the devastation of Haiti, or repeatedly here in the sands of the Persian Gulf, our Battalion's Soldiers have served honorably in the service of our Nation. I am thankful, and humbled, to be the Commander of a unit with such a legacy and am proud to state that your Soldiers today carry out their duty here in the same tradition.



LTC Matthew Zajac
Battalion Commander
46th ECB (H)





CSM's View

Happy Thanksgiving,

Thanksgiving Day in the Steel Spike Battalion could mean only one thing – the annual Turkey Bowl. The competition this year was for bragging rights inside and outside the Battalion. HSC Spartans started the morning with 1SG Hall at the helm and won a hard fought win over the 955 Clydesdales. Alpha Gators with SPC Pratt looking like a possible Heisman candidate, took down the highly favored Bravo Beasts. The Battalion Championship game ended with Alpha under the expert coaching of SGT Woods, defeating the HSC Spartans.

Thanksgiving at the mess hall is just that, it could never replace Thanksgiving at home, but I have to say the mess hall staff put a lot of effort into ensuring we had a good meal.

The big event of the day was the Football game between the Steel Spike Battalion and the 890th Engineer Battalion, and the trophy is in our Headquarters.

I also want to congratulate both my sons Marc and Scott on their outstanding High School football season and regret not getting to see a game.

I hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving,
Spike 7



CSM Frank Thibodeau
BN CSM
46th ECB (H)

PA's/Chaplain's Corner

The Common Cold

The common cold is caused by one of many viruses and causes runny nose, scratchy throat, head ache, stuffy nose, sneezing and tiredness. There is no cure for the cold and the common misconception is that antibiotics help, but they do not.



CPT Troy Bidez
BN Physician's Assistant

Here's what you can do:

Get adequate sleep, plenty of fluids, and take a decongestant for the congestion and Tylenol or Motrin for the head ache. It should resolve in 7 days. Should it persist, it may have developed into a bacterial infection. We have what you need in the aid station, so don't purchase it. Remember to wash your hands frequently and cover your mouth when coughing to prevent spreading the virus.

"Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

We enjoyed great food, competitive football games, and time together on Thanksgiving.



CPT Jerry Wagner
BN Chaplain

I am thankful to perform and provide religious support to Soldiers that serve the greatest country in the world. The 46th will continue to achieve excellence in every mission – from engineering to pummeling the 890th in football.

Steel Spike!



HSC "SPARTANS"

Football, Turkey and lots of Motivation!

The spirit of the holidays was in full bloom. Thanksgiving Day was truly like a family reunion. We were able to delay a few missions in order to bring the entire battalion back together for Thanksgiving Day.

Soldiers we don't see often were back and fellowshipping with their battle-buddies. Everyone was just excited to see one another and play the beloved sport of FOOTBALL!

Spartans, young and old signed up for the cause of leading HSC to victory! Unfortunately, we didn't win the tournament, but it was truly a great day! SPARTANS NEVER RETREAT, so we will be back for another game. The finale of the day was the outstanding meal at the dining facility.

The dining facility was all decked out with fruit, handmade centerpieces that you wouldn't believe! Leaders served chow to Soldiers and civilians. At the end of the day, I just reflected on the spirit that I felt from everyone. Most of all, I reflected on the things I am thankful for.

I am thankful for my Soldiers and all the success they have built in Iraq, I am thankful for the families who are hanging tough and keeping everything running, and I am thankful for all those who support our cause; without volunteers and supporters of Soldiers our morale and quality of life here in Iraq could be very different. Happy Holidays!!!!

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"!



CPT Angela Smoot
HSC Commander
46th ECB (H)



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



SFC Dean, 1LT Capra, CPT Smoot & 1SG Hall take a picture in Saddam Hussein's throne @ Al Faw Palace, 6 Dec.

1SG Hall briefs MNF-I CSM Wilson during his tour of the 46th ECB (H), 9 Dec.





HSC's offensive line shreds the competition during the Company Turkey Bowl play-offs.

HSC Soldiers enjoy their Thanksgiving meal at the DFAC, Nov 27.



SPC Cummings takes a picture with John Cena, World Heavyweight Champion, during the WWE Tour, 5 Dec.

PFC Boyle, the Soldier of the Month, recites the "Soldier's Creed" @ the BN Birthday celebration, 7 Dec.

PV2 Sharper shows off his Spartan Spirit at the Turkey Bowl vs. 890th EN BN, 27 Nov.



SGT Daigrepoint holds the US Flag as CSM Thibodeau uncases and 1SG Hall renders honors, 7 Dec.

1LT Brickner, CSM Thibodeau & LTC Zajac roll up their sleeves to serve the Thanksgiving meal, as CPT Lauver waits in line for her helping.



ALPHA "GATORS"

Families and friends of the Gators,

We had the opportunity to bring together the entire Gator team for the Thanksgiving holiday. It was wonderful to have everyone together to share in Thanksgiving cheer and friendship. Over the course of the few days that everyone was together we were able to catch up on some training, relaxation, and of course team building events. Besides a first class lunch and dinner in the dining facility the Gators showed their skills on the football field in two separate events. First the A Co team defeated both B Co and HSC to capture the BN championship, and then supplied the expertise needed for the BN team to defeat the 890th EN BN in the "turkey bowl".

Both 1st and 2nd platoon have resumed the missions they left off before the holiday and are doing well. We have had the opportunity to see them back at work recently and they continue to make us proud. EM Platoon is also doing very well with an assortment of smaller construction and support missions in the local area.

Although we try to fully express to everyone what your support means to us, words cannot describe how thankful we are for everything you do for us on a daily basis. On behalf of the entire team, we would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season.

DRIVE THE SPIKE!

CPT Heenan and 1SG Roman



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



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



SPC Alpentzou and 1LT Davis present a birthday cake to CPT Heenan, 29 Nov.



1SG Roman congratulates SPC Gutowski on his promotion.



SFC English reads the BN History while LT Davis stands ready to read next, 7 Dec.



1LT Cirillo & an interpreter talk to the principal of an All-Girls elementary school while providing security, 18 Nov.



Brig. Gen. Talley, 926th EN BDE, congratulates PFC Deems, the 2008 "Guardian of the Spike," at the BN Birthday celebration, 7 Dec.



COL Jolly, 926th EN BDE, presents the winning "Turkey Bowl" ball, signed by Maj. Gen. Hammond & Brig. Gen. Talley, to SGT Woods (Team Coach).



After winning the Company competition the Alpha Gators Flag Football team poses for a picture, 27 Nov.



A Company Soldiers pose in front of an apache helicopter in Taji, 19 Nov.



BRAVO “BEAST”

Hello Beast Families and friends,

Over the past month, lots of great things have happened. On Thanksgiving, the Battalion Commander brought all Soldiers in from the outposts to enjoy the festivities for about five days. We had a Turkey Bowl (flag football), and it went splendid due to all the excitement and fun. On Thanksgiving Day, the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) took photos. You all will be getting those soon as well.

The Bravo Beast will like to welcome all newly forward Soldiers to “Operation Iraqi Freedom” Camp Liberty, Iraq. The latest newly assigned to the Beast is our new Operations Sergeant, SFC Jasper Stallworth coming from Puerto Rico. The platoons have been performing at a rate that is astronomical when it comes to mission accomplishments.

The Headquarters element continues to ensure the other five platoons are operable on a daily basis. 1st Platoon has been instrumental in their element building tiki decks for the 926 Engineer Brigade to building platforms inside of towers to provide a better entrance and exit forum for Soldiers guarding at the entry control points throughout all of Iraq.

2nd Platoon is constantly operational on projects from building new MWRs to dining facility, and gyms built from ground up. Earthmovers Platoon continues to lead the way on the Task Force Gold mission in the lower Sadr City areas. And they are very renown at what they do. And as always, the Maintenance element keep the force rolling by the highly upkeeps of equipment and vehicles that moves on a daily basis. And lastly, the CST (Convoy Support Team) moves all elements throughout the company and the battalion. Beasts Soldiers definitely leads the way!!!

If any Families and friends have questions or problems do not hesitate to contact the Beast through rear detachment (CPT Born/SFC Abercrombie 334-255-3491) or via email at Gregory.d.williams3@us.army.mil or Christopher.o.beal@us.army.mil the Beast new website contact is www.bravo46en.com

Beast 7 out!!



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



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



The "Beasts" after a 5K cancer awareness run in November.



SGT Dixon reads the BN History as 1LT Breyman prepares to read next, 7 Dec.



B CO Soldiers construct a dining facility that will be completed in time for Christmas dinner.



B Company leaders take a photo on Thanksgiving Day, 27 Nov.



1LT Brickner after her PLT throws her in wet concrete.



Donning their red "Beasts" t-shirts, the flag football team faces off against A Company, Nov. 27.



PFC Roach cuts existing window frames out of a building .



955th EN CO “CLYDESDALES”

CPT Lauver:

Greetings to all family and friends of the 955th Engineer Company!

We had a great Thanksgiving holiday here, complete with a holiday meal of turkey and all the trimmings and a football game! Soldiers from 1st Platoon spent the holiday at JSS Ur completing Route Sanitation, and soldiers from 2nd Platoon spent the holiday at COP Callahan on a mission to build a new JSS at Basateen. Fortunately the command team was able to convoy out to see our soldiers at all three locations and bring pumpkin pie!

SFC(P) Gibbs:

Happy Holidays to our 955th Engineer Company family!

The company enjoyed a great holiday weekend and played some football as well! Although our team played great, we did not win the championship for football... but we did win the battalion championship in volleyball! Our families are always in our thoughts, and ever more so during the Holidays. For some the work did not stop soldiers from 1st and 2nd Platoons stayed on mission and when we visited them Thanksgiving night they were in good spirits and doing excellent work as always. Holiday tip: remember to talk to loved ones and to your soldiers, the Holidays are hard at times to deal with being away. Watch for depression and act immediately. We can't wait to get home and spend holidays at home again, God Bless.



CPT Crystal Lauver
955th EN Co.
Commander



1SG Matthew Gibbs
955th EN Co.
First Sergeant



The 955th Engineer Company, “Clydesdales” pose for a picture Thanksgiving morning, 27 Nov.



SSG Lopez before heading out on a convoy mission to several construction sites.



2nd PLT Soldiers pose for a picture while on mission at Callahan, Thanksgiving Day.



Clydesdales sit & fellowship at "Sapper Call," 29 Nov.



955 "Clydesdales" take on HSC during the Turkey Bowl Company play-offs, 27 Nov.



1st PLT takes a picture at Joint Security Site UR on Thanksgiving Day, 27 Nov.



1LT Blanco & SSG Morris direct a bucket loader during a mission in Al-ban, in November.



SGT McDowell, is presented an AAM & a prestigious Engineer Squad Leader Award, 17 Nov.



SGT Scott Daigrepoint, HSC, "NCO of the Year."



SPC McPeak, 955, shows off his BN Coin, earned 25 Nov.



2LT Virginia Brickner, B CO, is promoted to 1LT, 26 Nov.



SGT Kalaluka Nyumbu, HSC, "Soldier of the Year."



SPC Ortiz, A CO, reenlists in front of an Apache Longbow, in Taji.



46th ECB (H) In the News...

Read news articles about "Steel Spike" Soldiers:

http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=24852
(HSC EQ PLT's Vernon North road repairs)

http://myguidon.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9484&Itemid=39
(COP Comanche Upgrades)

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20081012103457zmil.nb/topstory.html>
(Engineers build gym, morale for Soldiers at JSS UR)

http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=25208
(955 Army Engineers conceal American Soldiers, block sniper attempts)

<http://www.leesvilledailyleader.com/news/x1720635681/Engineers-keep-Soldiers-safe>
(46th ECB (H) electricians keep Soldiers Safe)



1LT Janeene Yarber
"Scoop Spike"
Public Affairs Officer

Watch Holiday video shout-outs at www.dvidshub.net. Click on "Holiday Greetings" & then your state. To get your photos into next month's newsletter, email me: janeene.yarber@mnd-b.army.mil.



Steel Spike Birthdays & Fun

January

- 1— PV2 HAWKINS, SPC RHODES
- 5—SPC FALCONMOLINA
- 6— PFC NEWCOMB
- 7—SFC WRIGHT
- 8— SGT NAVAYRA
- 10—SGT MCDOWELL
- 11- SSG PRINCE, SGT JACKSON
- 12—SPC MADDEN
- 13—SPC ACKERMAN
- 15—SFC TAFT, SPC CAMPBELL, CPL THIELEN
- 16— PV2 TAALA, 1LT CIRILLO
- 18— PFC CARRINGTON, SPC SWEENEY
- 19—PV2 FISHER, SPC MANN, PFC RIDGLEY
- 21—PFC ADOLPH
- 22—SPC BELCHER, D.
- 23—PFC CAMPBELL
- 24— SPC BELCHER, J., 1LT BRICKNER, SPC THOMPSON, SGT BALLANTINE
- 25— SPC KINDHART, SGT BREWER
- 26— SPC TYRE, SPC WEST
- 27— 2LT TATE, SSG SCHWENKLER, PV2 MURRAY, PV2 MEADOWS
- 28—SGT KNIGHTWELCH, SSG WHITE, SPC WILKERSON, SPC THOMPSON
- 29— SSG SMITH, SPC BUCHANNON
- 30— 1LT TRAWEEK
- 31—SPC LEE, PFC MCWHORTER



The 2008 "Turkey Bowl" champions pose for a photo, 30 Nov.



SPC Skeens (B CO)

A crowd of thousands gather at Al Faw Palace to watch the WWE wrestlers, 5 Dec. The event will be televised on NBC in the US, 20 Dec.



1LT Jefferson, SFC Martin & others chow down on pizza "Movie Night," 21 Nov.

Welcome the Newest Member of the "Steel Spike" Family:

Allison Nicole Hitt
1 December

A Word from the FRG



SSG Russell receives goodies & Shari Baye gets a gift at the Fort Polk FRG Volunteer luncheon, 18 Nov.



Lisa, Jennifer, Shannon & Kelly have a good time at the FRG Volunteer luncheon.



Shelly Shoemaker sits & talks with others spouses at the FRG Volunteer luncheon, 18 Nov.



Mrs. Gina Fontenot, BN Advisor, & Sharise. Mrs. Fontenot organized the luncheon as a 'thank you' to all the FRG volunteers.



Christy Nelson is recognized at the volunteer luncheon.



Felecia Coleman is recognized at the volunteer luncheon, 18 Nov.



Jocelyn McIlquham is also recognized at the volunteer luncheon.



The Fort Polk FRG Thanksgiving luncheon was a hit!
Everyone got to eat all the great food! MSG Hammond heads for seconds!



Mrs. Taft heads for the dessert table!



CPT Harris says: "My Josey Bear just keeps growing!"



The 46th ECB (H) is having a Blanket Drive for Iraqi citizens.

Send new or slightly used blankets to:

**CH Wagner, CPT Landreth
or 1LT Yarber
HSC, 46th ECB (H)
APO AE 09344**

**(Also accepting: stuffed animals, soccer balls
& children's clothing/shoes).**



"Steel Spike Ike" Nelson says: "Hey Daddy!"



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	teksha.wall@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@usar.army.mil