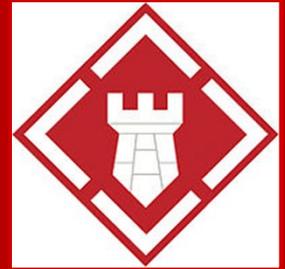


# Castle Chronicle



Prestigious Award pg. 9

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

CASTLE CHRONICLE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CSM Kendrick 2

New Motto 2

Mongrel Rear Det. 3

Tech Section 4

S-I Section 5

Prime Beef 6

Power Academy 7

Promotions 8

Awards 9

Dive Team 10

FET Team 11

## BRIGADE COMMANDER'S CORNER

A (getting) Warm(er) Welcome to Everyone. As hinted, it is starting to get warmer here and the Soldiers can all feel it. I would say the temperatures are about perfect right now, if it could only stay this way! But we know better. We continue to stress physical fitness, proper nutrition, and hydration so Soldiers can execute their jobs during the heat we know is coming. As I write this note – March Madness continues, and the “Final Four” NCAA basketball teams are reaching to the top – hope your favorite team made it!

Life has remained very busy here, as you would expect. CSM Kendrick and I have traveled as far North as Irbil and as far South as Talil, or “Contingency Operating Base Adder” to check on our Soldiers. They are all doing very well, and I would say most are into some sort of a routine. Although they are into a “routine”, no day ever remains routine here. Things change and move very fast - and you should expect that - as we begin preparations for the ultimate “end game” which is the removal of all forces from Iraq.

Not as easy as it sounds – I can assure you. The 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade will have a HUGE role in making this possible, and I am very proud of what your Soldier – our Team – will do here in the very near future. We will: (1) continue to keep the roads clear of dangerous bombs, (2) continue to construct new facilities for military units and other US Government Agencies/ Departments as they begin operations, (3) continue to keep military bridges intact while training Iraqis in this function, (4) continue to provide expert design, quality control,

and assistance for base operations, and (5) keep the power running while training Iraqis to do this critical function. There is so much more that we do to take care of Soldiers – things like getting the mail, re-ordering military clothing to replace damaged/worn items, fixing the trucks we ride in, keeping the communications running, preparing promotion boards for Soldiers, and I could go on. EVERY member of the Team is a critical member of the Brigade – and it is important to recognize that!



By the time you read this, we will have selected a tremendous group of Soldiers for promotion to Sergeant and Staff Sergeant, Sergeant First Class, Captain, and Major! The list is too extensive to put here – but a hearty Congratulations to all!

I want to thank all the Families for what you continue to do. This time of year – as Easter approaches - is a very Holy time of year for many, and I know it is not the same without your Soldier. There still are many venues to “talk” to your loved one – through the MWR phones, SKYPE, or regular email to name a few. Don't forget about good old fashioned letters! They can be read and re-read as often as your Soldier likes and Soldiers can send a letter home for FREE! God Bless!

-Castle 6

“GET THERE!”





“...these Soldiers and Leaders are doing a magnificent job...”

## BRIGADE CSM

Hello again to the Soldiers, Families and friends of the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer BDE. As another month fades away in the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer BDE's history, I am pleased to tell you that I'm extremely proud to be affiliated with this great group of Americans in the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer BDE and the rest of our Task Force, which has some great Airmen working on the team.

Just wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the units, and places we were able to see during Castle 6 (Colonel Kaiser) and my battlefield circulation. First of all, the majority of the movements happen due to the professionalism of the Personal Security Detachment (PSD). These Soldiers from every MOS in the BDE are a rock solid team, and ensure we travel all around Iraq in a secure and expeditious manner. The 391<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company from Idaho showed me the skills and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) they use every day to enhance mobility in Iraq and keep the roads clear of roadside bombs. We conducted some Route Clearance Patrols (RCP) with two different platoons during limited visibility, and I want to let everyone know they are doing very well.

The 617<sup>th</sup> Engineer Support Company (ESC) from Fort Lewis, WA and the Technical Headquarters Section (THS) from Fort Bragg provided us with a site

visit of all the great construction projects they are involved with – most notably the construction ongoing at Irbil and Kirkuk. Our Air Force teammates are also fully engaged in numerous construction projects all over Iraq, and I am continuously impressed by their professionalism and skill. The 380<sup>th</sup> EN CO from the US Army Reserve recently joined us and has really started strong – they have the unique challenge of operating “away from the flagpole” at Adder, which is a bit farther south than the BDE.

Finally, if your loved one works anywhere in or on the BDE staff or supporting staff, then I'm here to tell you these Soldiers and Leaders are doing a magnificent job taking care of and tracking Engineers across the whole country of Iraq. The team quickly established a positive stance and sure footing in Iraq and is executing their mission well above standard. We remain ready to provide Engineer support to Operation New Dawn by being committed, establishing partnerships, ensuring stability and most importantly remaining busy and focusing on our objectives and the end state – which is to finish the mission with “Honor and Success!” Thanks to all the families for your untiring support, because without your involvement our Soldiers are even more vulnerable to the added stress and burdens that go with a combat deployment – Thank You! **“GET THERE!”**

## New Brigade “Greeting of the Day” – GET THERE!

Last month, I informed all about the cessation of jump pay, and it was a bit much to keep our greeting of the day as “Airborne!” with the response of “All the Way!” With some great work by the 20<sup>th</sup> BDE PROV, we found an historical document to use as the base for our new greeting. In April of 1971, as the 20<sup>th</sup> EN BDE was preparing to leave Vietnam after many long years of superb accomplishments – Lieutenant General (3 Star) McCaffrey addressed the group and remarked how special they were – that the engineers, and only engineers help us “Get There!” And that is exactly what we do, whether it is through our Sappers, Bridgers, Builders, Divers, Geo-spatial teams, and I could go on. After careful consideration – this greeting applies to every specialty in the Brigade. The response remains the one we have been using, to keep us tied to our Airborne heritage – “All the Way!” It is also a nice descriptive of where exactly we will “Get to”. This does not change our motto, which is “Building Combat Power.” That remains, but it does not roll off the tongue very well during a salute. So,..... for everyone back at Fort Bragg serving in the Brigade – “GET THERE!” And have an awesome experience while doing so.



CPT EDWARD PARRY

Greetings to all from Fort Bragg! As the Rear Detachment; First Sergeant Hayes and I are fully committed to supporting the mission of our Soldiers downrange, providing for the care and updating of our Families back here, and ensuring that the Soldiers on the Rear Detachment receive the training and support necessary to continue our mission. We are working closely with the FRG to get out as much information as possible about what is happening in Iraq, and what great opportunities are available to family members in and around Fort Bragg. One of these opportunities is called Camp Corral-it offers the chance for an all expenses paid summer camp to the children of wounded or deployed Soldiers (<http://www.goldencorral.net/campcorral> for more information).

It has already been a busy three months, and it will no doubt be a busy summer. All of our staff sections are doing a great job of keeping the Brigade running smoothly, as well as continuing to develop our basic Soldier Skills: weapons familiarization, radio communications, medical and driving training and much more. Please remember to update your families contact information so that the FRG can provide the information and support necessary. If you or your family has any questions and concerns, please feel free to contact me at [edward.parry@us.army.mil](mailto:edward.parry@us.army.mil) or 910-303-0406 Building Combat Power!

- CPT Edward Parry and 1SG Daryl Hayes

## Above & Beyond



SGT Keisha Hendrix, BDE S-6 Helpdesk NCOIC, is awarded a Certificate of Achievement by 326th Battalion CSM Henry Hart for winning the Battalion NCO of the Month Board



PFC Jesse Matthews, BDE Combat Medic, receives a Certificate of Achievement from CSM Hart for winning the March Battalion Soldier of the Month Board



SGT Robert Taylor is awarded a check for \$100 as the winner of the Joint Base Balad (JBB) Push-up Contest winner by the president of the JBB 1SG Program. SGT Taylor was able to do 252 Push-ups in 5 minutes!

# Technical Section/Survey and Design



CLASS IV YARD PROJECT



SPC Mason and PFC Gibay of HHC 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade emplace cut and fill grade stakes as part of the Class Four Yard Flooding Mitigation Project

Greetings from Joint Base Balad, hard to believe that we have been hard at work here in Iraq for almost two months now. The Technical Section composed of LTC Haupt, CPT Polashenski, SFC Narvaez, and SPC Leslie immediately took over the arduous responsibility of planning, managing, and inspecting all current and proposed construction projects in Iraq. Furthermore the Technical Section has been busy prioritizing and assigning all new construction requests ensuring that the Brigades mission of responsible draw down is accomplished while not allowing quality of life and force protection of all American Soldiers serving in Iraq to be put on the back burner.

The Survey and Design Team wasted no time getting to work, immediately going out and conducting survey work in the Brigades Class yard and designed and staked out a retention pond so that the flooded yard could get some drainage relief and missions could continue. At the same time Team 3 was assigned to the COS Irbil road improvement mission which is a joint mission working side by side with our Air Force counterparts to conduct road design and T-wall emplacement for the Enduring mission here in Iraq. We are all proud of our mission to support the overall brigade's mission as part of Operation New Dawn. We would like to congratulate the following Soldiers on their promotions to Specialist, SPC Wilson, SPC Ridgell, SPC Guevara, and SPC Gibay.  
**-SSG Donald Bick**





# 20 EN BDE S1 Section



SGT Robinson

The Theater Engineer Brigade S1 section stands ready to support the entire engineer force throughout the Iraq Joint Operations Area by providing the core services of Man the Force, Provide HR Services, Coordinate Personnel Support, and Conduct HR Planning and Operations. Our deployed priorities are casualty operations, personnel accountability, essential personnel services and postal operations.

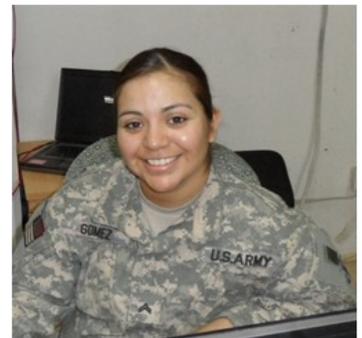


SGT Peoples



SPC Sanders

In conjunction with the Army Transformation to a Brigade Centric Force, the US Army Human Resources Branch executed the Personnel Services Delivery Redesign (PSDR). This action moved all HR functions down to the brigade and battalion level. Many may not be aware that the Brigade S1 can access a host of systems that enable us to serve you better. Come on by and we'll get your records straight!



CPL Gomez

We all join in giving a heartfelt farewell to 1LT Johanna Johnson. She did an outstanding job carrying the load of the shop during pre-deployment planning and prep as well as RIP/TOA, laying the foundation for our successful operations this tour. We wish you luck in all your future endeavors!



MAJ May



1LT Johnson



WO1 Savage



SSG Everett



TSgt De Los Reyes, site lead, shows BG Handy the Construction Team's handiwork.

## 467 EPBS Construction Team

Recently the engineers of the 467th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron (EPBS) mounted a tremendous effort at FOB Warhorse. Their efforts resulted in projects affecting each and every individual on the base. From relocating sensors to completely restructuring the drainage system, these engineers have made amazing strides in improving the safety and quality of life for all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines on the FOB.

Looking at FOB Warhorse, Engineers saw an opportunity for improvement. The area suffered from extensive drainage problems. Ditches were eroding to the point that it was becoming dangerous. Having a road collapse beneath a moving MRAP or even a stationary t-wall was a very real threat. Also insufficient grading caused excessive ponding in the DFAC parking lot. Through an innovative use of material and skillful application of labor, the 467th was able to provide a unique solution for this problem. Much of the material utilized to create the new system of ditches was recycled directly from unused portions of the base. A large concrete pad was broken up to provide enough rip rap to cover the ditch and culvert areas. In addition, an excess of concrete blocks around the base made perfect material for catch ponds and check dams. These methods, paired with precision surveying and experienced hands operating heavy equipment significantly improved the drainage situation for the area.

In addition to improving the grading and drainage on the ground, these engineers also looked to the sky. Two sensor platforms for the FOB needed to be relocated. C-RAM assets were re-sited to improve sensor functionality. The engineers were able to erect a platform for its placement and also installed a climate controlled container with all electrical hook ups within a matter of days. A more substantial undertaking to move the base's Sentinel radar was a two-fold improvement. It allowed a brand new Sentinel radar system to be installed while also moving the old system off of a set of connex boxes which needed to be turned in for base drawdown purposes.

One of the biggest factors which made these projects such a success was the immense support provided by the FOB Warhorse mayor cell. These individuals made sure every need for the construction team was met. This not only included equipment and logistics support, but also housing and a general concern for the well being of the team. This is a model which all mayor cells should strive to follow. Showing support for the individuals who take care of the base can pay dividends for both parties. - **Capt Travis Vazansky**

### [Air Force Construction Team Making the Grade at FOB Warhorse](#)



Old and new tower side-by-side. The radar will be removed from the containers and structure demolished so containers can be turned in.



Rip-Rapping around new culverts to help prevent against future erosion.



The USF-I and the Government of Iraq

# POWER ACADEMY



USF- I in partnership with the Government of Iraq introduces the Power Academy at the Ali Air Base Power Training Facility. The Power Academy will provide instruction from the military's Subject Matter Experts in the field of power production. The course is designed to foster a culture of safety and sustainment that will allow the Government of Iraq to be self sufficient in its most vital utility of electricity.



The 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) is a versatile power generation battalion assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that provides commercial-level power to military units and federal relief organizations during full-spectrum operations.

Their mission is to provide advice and technical assistance in all aspects of electrical power and distribution systems and to generate and distribute prime electrical power in support of Army operations worldwide.

**-CW2 Michael Carlson**

Students will train on state of the art equipment at the brand new 12MW CSC power plant, the associated switchgear and electrical distribution system. All students will be instructed in one of three areas, operations, maintenance or electrical distribution.



The graduates of this course will be armed with the knowledge needed to safely produce and distribute reliable electrical power protecting the future of the GoI through sustainment and technical knowledge.

- } OPERATIONS
- } MAINTENANCE
- } ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION

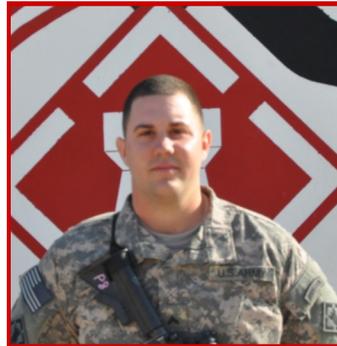


# Promotions for March



## BIRTHDAYS

SSG Bryan	08 Mar
SSG Boens	12 Mar
Mr. Lockwood	28 Mar
SSG Everett	29 Mar



**\*\*CONGRATULATIONS\*\***

**\*\*CONGRATULATIONS\*\***

**\*\*CONGRATULATIONS\*\***

**SFC CABRERA**

**CPL PRIGGE**

**SPC RIDGELL**



## Hails

MAJ May - S-1 OIC  
 SGT Ross -Tech Section  
 NCO

## Farewells

CPT Money - S-3  
 1LT Johnson - S-1



**\*\*CONGRATULATIONS\*\***

**\*\*CONGRATULATIONS\*\***

**\*\*CONGRATULATIONS\*\***

**SPC PHILLIPS**

**SPC PENNINGTON**

**SPC LOPEZ**



# Chaplains' Corner



**CH (MAJ) Dino Besinga**

The famous marathon runner Bill Rodgers said that a mentally challenged person, named Joe, was the source of a great spiritual blessing in his life. The smallest act of kindness shown Joe or the smallest object given him made Joe brim over with gratitude and joy. This impressed Bill greatly. He admired Joe's ability to focus on the things in life, no mat-

ter how small, and overlook the bad things, no matter how big. "Taking Joe as my example," said Rodgers, I began to downplay the discouraging parts of my life and focus on the good things." Joe was to Bill what the Lord has to us: the source of great spiritual blessings. We can preach a good sermon with our lives than with our lips.

**"Nothing is more despicable than respect based on fear."  
-Albert Camus**

# Order of Samuel Sharp Award Recipients



CW4 Madrigal is presented with the Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharp by COL Kaiser



MSG Rice is presented with the Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharp by COL Kaiser

CW4 Tomas Madrigal and MSG Kevin Rice, both of the BDE Maintenance Section, were awarded the prestigious Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharpe. The purpose of the Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharpe is to recognize those individuals who have served the United States Army Ordnance Corps with demonstrated integrity, moral charac-



ter and professional competence over a sustained period of time, and whose selfless contributions to the Corps stand out in the eyes of their seniors, peers and subordinates alike. CW4 Madrigal and MSG Rice have dedicated over 52 years of combined service to the Army. **-1LT Lamarico Thomas**

# 7th Engineer Dive Team Detachment

The 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team's first month in theater can be summed up by no other word than success. As boots hit the ground, missions were immediately being conducted in conjunction with the 299<sup>th</sup> Multi-Role Bridge Company (MRBC). Operations were conducted throughout our unit's area of operation, in the vicinities of Camp Taji and Kalsu. During these cooperative assignments, units worked together seamlessly to perform inspections on 10 bridge sites. 7<sup>th</sup> Dive's skills were put to good use during the cleaning and inspections of several anchor lines, as well as clearing dirt and debris from bridge locks for the purpose of detachment. Dead cows along with murky water did nothing to subdue making sure the above tasks were completed to the highest safety and work performance standards.

Spare time was filled with hours of quality dive training. Soldiers of the 7<sup>th</sup> had the opportunity to do familiarization dives with seldom used super masks; with the intent to identify whether or not these would be suitable for swift water diving operations. Much time was also dedicated to the Hyperlite Portable Chamber System. Divers worked hand in hand with MEDEVAC crews to ensure safe transport was possible, in the rare case of a diving related injury. Time was also dedicated to the repetitive setup and breakdown of this chamber to ensure it could be performed in timely manner in the case of a real world diving casualty. Classes were prepared and presented as well by several of the troops on subjects to include: dangerous marine life, gas laws and diving, commonly used block explosives in military operations and set up/operation of the Hyperlite Chamber System.



SPC Bullington clears debris from anchor line just outside of Kalsu, Iraq.



Diver's of the 7<sup>th</sup> prepare to enter the water.



2<sup>nd</sup> squad prepares to roll out for bridge inspection operations.

# COB Adder

What the Adder Field Engineer Team (FET) is doing to support the drawdown of Iraq



**Left:** LT Williamson and CAPT Forney after completing the first clamshell

**Right:** CAPT Forney trying to pull the two panels back together

**Top:** LT Williamson using the ratchet strap in order to pull the separated panels back together

**Bottom:** CAPT Forney and LT Williamson completing the final repairs.

Combat Operational Base (COB) Adder, like all U.S. bases in Iraq, is busy preparing and planning for the drawdown of U.S. Forces in Iraq. However this comes with one important caveat, COB Adder must first improve its infrastructure for troops and transfer to Government of Iraq (GOI). COB Adder will act as a convoy support stop in Iraq for many units. Recently the Adder FET provided support to the 77th Theater Aviation Brigade and the 1-229 Aviation Battalion as they bedded themselves down at COB Adder. Most of the assistance provided was facility assessments and space utilization/routine allocation for the units that is normal work for the 467 EPBS. That was until the issue with several Aviation Large Area Maintenance (ALAM) or clamshells was found during the assessment. In the changeover from a Military maintenance force to a contractor maintenance force several buildings did not make the transition. This left several degrading clamshells with no maintenance force dedicated to them. This provided ample opportunity for two FET engineers to provide some out of the norm assistance.

Due to a recent sandstorm, two clamshell hangars had fabric panels that came apart at the lacing near the peak of the clamshells. One issue with this is, in order for the 1—229 to perform maintenance on their AH-64s, they needed fully enclosed hangars. The other issue being the now loose fabric was waving in the wind and would eventually be damaged beyond repair. The repairs would be little to no issue if you were lacing the panels together on the ground without any tension in them. The task is a little more challenging when you have to use a lift and perform the repairs 25 feet above the ground with the panels pulling away from each other. The first clamshell which still had half of the laces attached took approximately 3 hours of time in the lift to repair. The FET was also able to take down a damaged snatch block and mount from the pulley system to prevent further damage to the clamshell. The second clamshell which had come entirely apart proved a little more challenging. Using some ingenuity with ratchet straps, D-rings, 550 cord, and zip ties we were able to lace the two panels back together over the course of 2 days. Although not completely by the directions in the technical manuals, the engineers on the FET were able to expediently repair two hangars for aviation operations here at COB Adder and fill the gap that was left between the transition from a “green suit” maintenance force and a contractor maintenance force. **-Capt Matthew Forney (FET Adder)**