



Pacemaker Bulletin

PACEMAKER 6

SET THE PACE!

PACEMAKERS

86TH ENGINEER BATTALION

Greetings Pacemaker Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

Stephanie and I would like to extend our gratitude to all of you for our warm welcome to the battalion. It is hard to believe four months have already passed since CSM Russell and I assumed our positions, and because of your hard work and dedication it has been among the most rewarding time of my career. I owe a big THANK YOU to all the Soldiers for the amazing accomplishments of the last few months – from re-establishing our basic systems in training, maintenance and personnel readiness, to the long hours our leaders put in to ensure our Soldiers and their Families are cared for and able to support our mission. The Pacemakers have risen to the challenge!



In the upcoming quarter, there will be many changes within the battalion, most notably the reception and integration of three companies that currently belong to our sister battalion, the 14th Engineers. The rear-detachments of the 570th and 571st Sapper Companies, who will be deploying to Afghanistan in April, will be attached to us in April, and in June we'll prepare to receive the redeploying 22nd Clearance Company. As part of the battalion restructuring, we'll continue preparations to inactivate all of our current line companies and detachments over the next eighteen months, starting with the 557th Horizontal Company this October. I understand that there will be many questions about the inactivation process, and what it means to individual Soldiers and their Families, and so I strongly encourage all of you to attend the Brigade Transformation Town Hall meetings on 3 or 4 April, and to continue to engage your commands and FRGs for the latest information.

We plan to publish an updated newsletter each quarter from this point forward, and I'd love your feedback and ideas on how we can make this better. In the meantime, thanks to all of you who continue to dedicate your time in support of this battalion, and its Soldiers and Families.

Set the Pace! Pacemakers Rise to the Challenge!

LTC Steven M. Sattinger
Pacemaker 6

PACEMAKER 7



Tashieka and I are grateful for everyone in the battalion , who gave us such a warm welcome. The Pacemaker Soldiers have hit the ground running after a well deserved post-deployment and holiday leave.

Upon returning, the Pacemakers performed exceptionally in order to get the battalion running again. From re-organizing and straightening the lines of the vehicles in the motorpool, to cleaning up our battalion area, while simultaneously conducting training, your Soldiers accomplished all tasks with immeasurable dedication and motivation. It requires stamina, discipline and ethical values that go beyond the average person.

There's so much more in store for the Pacemakers, ranging from individual tasks training to the restructuring of our battalion. But with the love and support from our families, the Pacemakers will definitely rise to

the challenge! We are excited about being part of such a great team. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for what you do and continue to do for the "Pacemakers."

CSM Eugene Russell
Pacemaker 7

PACEMAKERS IN ACTION!



A LOOK AHEAD

DONSA

18 April

23-26 May: Memorial Day

13 June: Father's Day

BN Events

03-04 April: Transformation Town Hall Meeting

25 April: Stand up to Sexual Assault Sports Tournament

12-16 May: Pacemaker Stakes

MWR Events

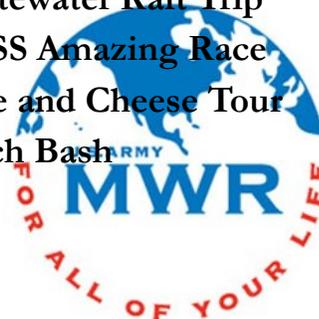
12 April: Ski/Snowboard to Steven Pass

19 April: Whitewater Raft Trip

26 April: BOSS Amazing Race

03 May: Wine and Cheese Tour

24 May: Beach Bash



For more information on MWR sponsored events please visit their Website at: <http://www.jblmmwr.com/>

To get the latest updates from the 864th Engineer Battalion check us out on [Facebook!](https://www.facebook.com/864thPacemakers)

<https://www.facebook.com/864thPacemakers>

**DRUNK and DON'T HAVE A RIDE
BESIDES YOUR CAR AND
YOU DRIVING?**

SAVE A LIFE, CALL BN STAFF DUTY

THE CAB WILL BE ON US, PLEASE.

BN Staff Duty: 253-966-7012



HEADQUARTER AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY “REGULATORS”

The Soldiers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Officers of the 864th Engineer Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company led by CPT Joleen Joles and 1SG Adam Wong have navigated the changes in the Battalion over the last five months after re-deploying from Afghanistan and now prepare for their own changes. Headquarters Company will say goodbye to both CPT Joles and 1SG Wong on April 11th and welcome in CPT Lennox Morris and 1SG William Ash. While it will be hard to say goodbye to CPT Joles whose company Command over the last 16 months included deploying, re-deploying and initiating reset, 1SG Wong’s transition will mark the end of an era.

For the last 31 months, 1SG Wong has had the grueling task of keeping all the Soldiers, NCOs and Officers in the sections disciplined, physically fit and well trained. 1SG Wong has done all of this and more for the last 31 months with a smile on his face and lighthearted but firm leadership style. As difficult as it will be to say goodbye to both CPT Joles and 1SG Wong they have prepared their replacements, CPT Morris and 1SG Ash, with the intent of making the transition as smooth as possible for all the Soldiers and Leaders in Headquarters Company.

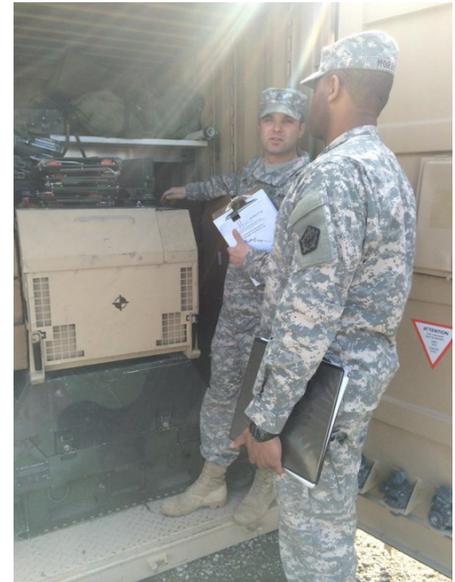
The Company itself for the past five months has focused on re-organizing and setting up systems to support the battalion. Company systems such as Supply, Arms Room, Communications, and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear system personnel as well as the entire company have worked endless hours to ensure all systems meet JBLM’s standards. In addition to Reset, the Company has also been focusing on completing our Campaign On Property Accountability (COPA) inventories, IUID tagging, Change of Command inventories and preparing for the upcoming battalion range week at the end of March.

Although we seem to have hit the ground running since redeploying, HHC has had several Soldiers get promoted and we would like to recognize their accomplishments. The following Soldiers were promoted from Private to Private First Class: David Ray; Private First Class to Specialist: Julio Monarrez, Sue Lao, Dominic Francis, Daniel Burnside, Bartolomeo Formoso, Owen Saizon, and Kayla Squyres; Staff Sergeant to Sergeant First Class: Joshua Freeland; and the following Officers from 1st Lieutenant to Captain: Dwilette Davis.

As well as Soldiers being promoted, HHC would like to bid farewell to the following members of the Regulator Family: SFC Dominic Lowe, SFC Bret Akers, SGT Hayden, SGT Anthony Erb, SGT Robert Frazier, SGT Joseph Easley, and SPC Brock.

At the same time, HHC would like to welcome all new members for the Regulator Family: CPT Lennox Morris, CPT Darrell Jolly, 1LT John Jacobs, 1LT Celeste Winslow, 1LT Kevin Culberg, 1LT Fang Liu, 2LT Joseph Chang, CW2 Shaun Clark, SFC Steven Merrill, SFC Dwaine Randall, SGT Elijah Brock, SGT Chang Lee, SGT Curtis Smithers, SPC Teri Bucio, PFC Humberto Adame, PFC Thomas Armstrong, and PV2 Steven Kwasnick.

As we wrap up the first full working quarter since being back and navigate the numerous changes in leadership and directives, one thing remains constant, and that is our Soldier’s steadfast dedication to their mission and professionalism. Thank you from the Regulator family to you and your families for all you do.



RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!



FORWARD SUPPORT COMPANY

Upon return from deployment, the Forward Support Company has been very busy getting back into the swing of garrison life. After the happy re-integration with our families and a nice block leave, we hit the ground running starting in January. In addition to the basic tasks such as signing for property, conducting reset and normal every day operations, FSC has been



successful in other areas of concern as well. Two important areas in which we focused on were creating an efficient physical fitness program and conducting the Campaign on Property Accountability (COPA).

Our new physical fitness program is designed to enhance warrior tasks and battle drills and improve combat readiness through progression, precision and integration. Our main focus is on muscular strength and cardiovascular conditioning in which we accomplish through three types of physical training: on ground, off ground, and combatives. So far, all Soldiers have done well and we plan



on continuing to refine the program. COPA, which was conducted in the month of February and part of March, was successful as well. All of our equipment was inventoried completely and we turned in over \$50,000 worth of excess equipment.



The Forward Support Company continues to thrive each and every day with every new mission that comes our way. We couldn't do it without our families who support us. So thank you! We are excited to be home and look forward to the months ahead!

Pacemakers, the Battalion is going GREEN! We are currently part of the semiannual JBLM Net Zero Competition, giving us a chance to win up to \$7,500 for into our unit fund account. This Net Zero competition provides a monetary incentive for personnel on JBLM to exhibit more sustainable behaviors—actions that will help save money, protect training lands, and enhance air and water quality in the JBLM community. In addition, it also ensures that the military of tomorrow has the same access to energy, water, air, land and natural resources as we do today. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Prizes are profits generated from Recycling.

SUSTAINABLE JBLM
NET ZERO ENERGY-WASTE-LAND-AIR-WATER

Help JBLM achieve
NET ZERO
& win up to \$7,500
for your military unit!

Get complete entry details at
www.facebook.com/SustainableJBLM
<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/682248>

Contact SSG Stephen Northrup at 253-966-7124 for more information

JUNIOR LEADERS DEVELOPMENT COURSE

JBLM, WA—The 864th Engineer Battalion conducted a four-day training event, Junior Leader Development Course (JLDC), from March 10 to March 13. Junior Leader Development Course (JLDC) is designed for Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) of the rank Sergeant (E-5). The Sergeant operates in an environment where the sparks fly. Although not the lowest level of rank where command is exercised, this level is the first at which enlisted soldiers are referred to as “Sergeant.” And of all the grades of the NCO, this one, very possibly, has the greatest impact on junior enlisted Soldiers.



Over the course of four days, Sergeants learned an array of subjects from personnel and equipment management to Soldier and family care. The training combined both classroom instruction and practical application. Additionally, the Sergeants were able to conduct daily Physical Training, which incorporated Combat Lifesaver Skills and Combatives. CSM Russell explains JLDC “provides the foundation of leadership and the army values. This course trains junior non-commissioned officers to train, coach and mentor the Soldiers that they are charged to care for.”

“It was a great refresher course and overview of ADPs (Army Doctrine Publications). The class instruction made it easier to study for the promotion board,” explains SGT Christopher Lobato.



JLDC ended on March 14 with an NCO Induction ceremony at McChord Theater in order to recognize the graduates. The program consisted of Soldiers portraying the history of the non-commissioned officer. CSM Russell explains, “the commander and his officers and non-commissioned officers are charged with the sacred responsibility of training our junior leaders. We, the Pacemakers, will always rise to the challenge and accept our responsibility knowing that it will be our legacy to the next generation.”



557TH ENGINEER COMPANY “ANIMALS LEAD THE WAY”

The 557th Engineer Company has had a very successful first quarter in 2014. After the completion of a well-deserved block leave, the Animals have jumped right back into training and maintaining unit readiness. Not to miss a beat, the company has been working diligently to develop soldier skills and conduct property book inventories. The training has been top quality; soldiers have been motivated; and 557th continues to become a better and stronger unit. In this newsletter, the company is excited to share highlights from each platoon, demonstrating how the Animals have continued to *Lead the Way!*

1st Platoon

1st Platoon came off of block leave and hit the ground running! The NCOs and Soldiers began receiving the platoon's property from Rear Detachment during the first week of January. In total the platoon signed for over 40 vehicles, all requiring attention from the platoon in order to get them fully mission capable.

1st Platoon spent the month of January establishing the systems needed to ensure success after returning from block leave. 1st Platoon continued their tireless efforts of property accountability by continuing inventories through February, participating in COPA (Campaign on Property Accountability) in order to identify excess Army property and turn it in to the proper authorities for disposition. COPA consisted of inventorying every piece of equipment the platoon owned in order to identify any excess items. The Soldiers and NCOs performed this task with attention to detail, always ensuring inventories were conducted in a timely manner and to standard.

The month of February also saw 1st Platoon practicing their marksmanship skills at the EST2000 (Electronic Skills Trainer) practicing for the Company's M4 Range on April 1, 2014. With the conclusion of COPA, 1st Platoon began training for Pacemaker Stakes by conducting Warrior Tasks training which focuses on basic Soldier Tasks.

The Soldiers and NCOs of 1st Platoon have been highly motivated and committed to getting the job done to the highest standard!



Practicing Short Range Marksmanship at the EST Range (SPC Foist)



1st Platoon conducting physical training early in the morning!



557TH ENGINEER COMPANY "ANIMALS LEAD THE WAY"

2nd Platoon

2nd Platoon jumped right back into Warrior Training starting with chemical and gas mask instruction and exercises the first week of March. The following week, 2nd Platoon Soldiers learned movement techniques and first aid; ultimately putting their training to the test at the Obstacle Course! The last two weeks of March focused on Mounted Movement, culminating in a Platoon convoy including multiple vehicles.

2nd Platoon also had the privilege of celebrating three promotions to Specialist (Congratulations SPC Roberts, SPC Lewis, and SPC M. Johnson) and two reenlistments (Congratulations also to SPC B. Johnson and SPC Sanchez)!

Finally, 2nd Platoon welcomed a few new members. 2nd Platoon offers a big welcome to SGT Lewis, SPC Rodenbeek, and our newest platoon sergeant, SFC Garcia!

2nd Platoon is looking forward to a busy spring including multiple ranges, field training events and a platoon bowling lunch!



Promotion of SPC Roberts, Johnson, and Lewis! Congratulations!



2nd Platoon enthusiastically attacking the Obstacle Course!

3rd Platoon

3rd Platoon has been in high gear since returning from a well deserved block leave. These first few months have been focused on putting systems in place in order to set the unit up for success.

First, 3rd Platoon spent a month building supply systems in support of the Campaign on Property Accountability (COPA). Countless hours were spent reorganizing the platoon's property while triaging excess items for turn-in valued in excess of \$6.6 million dollars.

In addition, 3rd Platoon has focused on developing its back bone, the Non-Commissioned Officers. Three NCOs were prepared for and sent to the NCO Academy to complete the Warrior Leader Course during the months of January and February; two of these three NCOs graduated on the Commandants List. Finally, 3rd Platoon eased into the "crawl" Phase of the training cycle, while evaluating Warrior Skill Level 1 Task.

3rd Platoon also recently said goodbye to their platoon leader, 1LT Paul Park. Congratulations to 1LT Park for being selected to be the Company XO in the 18th Engineer Company! 1LT Park is greatly respected in the platoon, and he will be sorely missed.



3rd Platoon conducts hand grenade training



Training on the assembly, maintenance, and function of the M4 rifle



SFC Sejersen (left) and 1LT Park (right) bringing the incoming 3rd Platoon Leader up to speed.



557TH ENGINEER COMPANY "ANIMALS LEAD THE WAY"

Maintenance Platoon

Since block leave ended in January, the Maintenance Platoon has been hard at work with the Battalion-wide effort for the Campaign on Property Accountability (COPA), reviewing and learning Warrior Tasks, and continuing the maintenance operations. It has been a very busy but very successful quarter for maintenance platoon!

Maintenance platoon has had the privilege to recognize some of the great achievers in the Maintenance Platoon: SPC Crank, SPC Terrant, and SSG Sanchez have all reenlisted, each receiving a Battalion Coin for their continuous dedication to duty. In addition to reenlistments, SGT Smith was promoted on 1 March 2014 for his potential at the next rank.

The first quarter has also brought change to the maintenance platoon, with a few of the best soldiers moving on to new horizons. SGT Hernandez has PCS'd to Hawaii, and SPC Jiminez has ended his time in service. Both SGT Hernandez and SPC Jiminez have done great things within the platoon and will be missed. The platoon also welcomes a new motor sergeant to the Animal team, SSG Joshua Bisson, who has already had a tremendous impact on the units maintenance program.

We look forward to the next few months, as we strive to carry on the highest standards and continue to provide the company with the best maintenance possible.



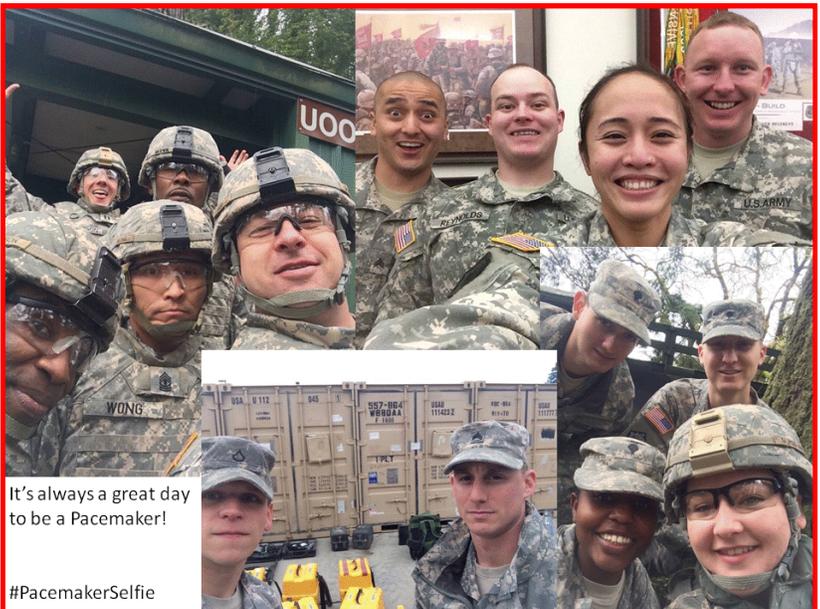
SFC Gregory promotes SGT Smith



CPT Mahn conducts SSG Sanchez's reenlistment

Pacemakers (former and current), remember that it is always "a great day to be a Pacemaker." Whether it is tearing bases down, constructing roads, publishing operation orders, and cleaning up the area, Pacemakers always accomplish any task/mission at hand with a great attitude and smile. To remind ourselves of how great it is to be a Pacemaker, here is a photo challenge. Submit "selfie" photos through a FaceBook message or email to pacemakers864th@gmail.com showcasing everyday tasks/operations with a brief description of who you are and what you do. Pacemaker Alumnus, this is a great way to keep in touch with the unit and show where you are in the Army now.

Always remember the golden rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated. Send in tactful and professional pictures.



RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!

ENGINEER BRIGADE PREPARES FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN COMING YEAR

Story by: CPT Spencer Garrison

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — The 555th Engineer Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, will see substantial changes to its organization during 2014, as the Army adjusts and, in some cases, reduces the size of active duty brigades.

Current plans call for a number of changes within the “Triple Nickel” brigade.

Construction companies within the 864th Engineer Battalion “Pacemakers” will eventually inactivate, although the process will be gradual. The first Pacemaker company to inactivate will be the 557th Horizontal Construction Company, over the course of this summer.



The brigade will inactivate the 506th Fire Fighting Detachment during this same period.

Through 2015, several more units will inactivate, including the Pacemakers’ 617th Horizontal Construction Company and 84th Survey & Design Detachment in the spring, followed by the 531st Explosive Hazards Team, 585th Vertical Construction Company, and 28th Concrete Section in the summer.

The headquarters company and Forward Support Company of 14th Engineer Battalion will transform this summer into a new Brigade Engineer Battalion for 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

The other engineer companies within the 14th Engineer Battalion will become part of the 864th Engineer Battalion.

These changes and reductions to the 555th Engineer Brigade are part of Army-wide plans to reduce and reorganize its active component force structure to support an end-strength of 490,000 personnel, based on 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance and fiscal reductions required by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Brigade leaders will keep soldiers and families informed of the coming changes and throughout the process, according to Col. Timothy Holman, Commander, 555th Engineer Brigade.

“Our priority is helping our soldiers and families fully understand and navigate these changes, and determine the way forward,” Holman said.

To help with this, the brigade will host town hall meetings, with attendance open to all soldiers and families affected by these changes.

Town hall meetings will take place April 3 and 4.

Times and locations of these town halls will be available on the 555th Engineer Brigade Facebook page at www.facebook.com/555enbde and announced through individual units and Family Readiness Groups.



585TH EN CO "ROUGHNECKS"

The last quarter has been a busy time for the Roughneck family as they came off of the block leave. The company has seen the departure of 1SG Washington and 1LT Jacobs (XO) and has welcomed 1SG Johnson and 1LT Freel (XO) to the unit. The focus over the last quarter has been the reset of equipment, Campaign on Property Accountability (COPA), and preparation for weapons ranges. While the company as a whole has accomplished much, the real work and activity has come from the platoons.

This past quarter has been extremely productive for the 1st Platoon Nomads. Upon returning from block leave, the Soldiers hit the ground running in order to accomplish reset tasks from deployment. One major task was getting all of the vehicles up and running after sitting in the motor pool for more than nine months while the unit was in Afghanistan. Additionally, the Soldiers received almost all of their equipment back from down range and did some early spring cleaning to get rid of all of the excess equipment no longer needed to accomplish up and coming missions. And as an ongoing task, the Nomads have ramped up training with a focus on warrior tasks, to include land navigation, first aid, and basic marksmanship to include EST 2000, a digital range simulator. They have also experienced quite a bit of change within the Nomad family, seeing several of the platoon members move on to do bigger and better things and welcoming in 12 new Soldiers to add to the fight.

The Hellhounds (2nd Platoon) have also had new leadership transition into the Hellhound family. SFC Mengistu became the new Platoon Sergeant, succeeding SFC Merrill, a charging leader who deeply cared about his Soldiers. 2LT Condrion became the new Platoon Leader in February, succeeding 1LT Carrillo, always determined to challenge and develop the young leaders in the Platoon. The Platoon also bid farewell to a few Soldiers while gaining over six new faces. In January, the entire motor pool was rearranged as the Soldiers started inventories on all the equipment and did maintenance on all the vehicles. A daunting task, turned into a mission of reestablishing the Platoon's systems, and turning in equipment that impedes the ability to deploy. This mission carried on into March. The Platoon is currently getting ready to conduct a MK-19 range for the entire Battalion, and preparing for the Company level weapons qualification on the M4/M16. With all the new changes, the Platoon is adapting on the fly and they are great at it. The Hellhounds future will be full of new training opportunities, challenging Soldiers to build confidence, trust, and cohesion.

The last quarter has been a busy period of transition for the 3rd Platoon Titans. The platoon arrived in JBLM motivated after a well deserved block leave. SFC Jones quickly stepped in replacing SFC Baltozer as Platoon Sergeant. In late January, the Titans gave a fond farewell to 1LT Winslow- who has done an extraordinary job as Platoon Leader. 1LT Johnson took the reins of Platoon Leader with SSG Robey taking over 2nd Squad and SSG Flournoy taking over 3rd Squad. The Platoon has been working hard on organizing their equipment in the motorpool and turning in excess equipment for redistribution. They have also been working on a Land Navigation course which they will be conducting in April for the Expert Field Medical Badge. Roughneck noteworthy achievements include SPC Hatch winning the Soldier of the Month board as well as SPC Wold, SGT Arocho, SGT Lewis, and SPC Galton all graduating from the Warrior Leaders Course.



The 585th EN CO Maintenance Platoon has focused on several important tasks over the last quarter. Their most significant task has been getting the Company's fleet of vehicles functional following the deployment. The Platoon has worked hard on a daily basis to repair a large variety of problems and have made excellent progress. The Maintenance Platoon has also participated in the Campaign on Property Accountability (COPA) inventorying all their equipment, ensuring it was all accounted for and turning in all the excess. Finally, the platoon has been training hard on basic soldier skills, such as radio communications and combat casualty care, to ensure they are combat ready and to prepare for upcoming company and battalion training events.



617TH ENGINEER COMPANY “TRAILBLAZERS”

Greetings, from the Trailblazers! We are happy to report that although we are not thrilled about the weekly Monday morning rain during command maintenance, the Trailblazers are settling back into the swing of things here at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). In January, we focused on reestablishing a footprint in the motor pool. February was dominated by layouts and inventories as the battalion kicked off its participation in the Campaign on Property Accountability, more commonly referred to as COPA. In March, we began turning in excess property and started focusing on training. In between laying out the basic issue items, BII, belonging to each of our 151 vehicles and identifying the official nomenclature of every extra screwdriver, hammer, and ladder, the Trailblazers found time to execute quality training, help out our Stryker brethren, and have some fun.



Trailblazers have been training on individual tasks in preparation for Pacemaker Stakes in May. The platoons have come up with some creative Sergeants' Time Training. 1ST PLT's SGT Ballard led the Gladiators through the individual tasks of performing safety checks on hand grenades and employing hand grenades. 2nd PLT conducted fun and informative training on individual movement techniques taught by SGT Gable and SGT Williams. During a morning of paintball on post, 3rd PLT trained on moving under direct fire and moving over, through and around obstacles. PFC Hailey and SPC Baker of Headquarters Platoon recently attended a two week class on chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear (CBRN) operations and brought their knowledge back to train the other Soldiers in Headquarters Platoon. During the first week of

March, the Soldiers visited the EST 2000 Range to practice their marksmanship skills before we visit the range to qualify on our weapons at the end of month.

The Maintenance Platoon has been hard at work performing technical inspections and repairs on our fleet of 151 Trailblazer vehicles and pieces of construction equipment that were left at JBLM while we deployed.

We make a lot of jokes about COPA, but the Trailblazers also take it very seriously. As a result, the Trailblazers have already identified and turned-in \$20,000 worth of excess property that will be redistributed throughout the Army to other units. It is a tedious process that relies heavily on our XO, our Supply NCO and clerks, our Maintenance Platoon, and requires cooperation and coordination with all platoons.

7th ID has called upon 3rd Platoon to perform Stryker recovery missions for 2-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) as they convoy to and from Yakima Training Center from February to April. So far, SGT Cools, SGT Berger, SPC Bernosky, and SPC Bouska have performed a total of three Stryker recoveries and a Howitzer M777 recovery. In each situation, they were



presented with the difficult task of placing an oversized load on a trailer and hauling it back to JBLM. Their technical knowledge of machinery allowed for them to overcome several obstacles in placing a damaged, NMC Stryker and a Howitzer on an M870 trailer. 3rd Platoon has represented 617 EN CO, 864th EN BN, and 555th EN BDE well during all recovery missions.



In February, the Trailblazers bid farewell to 1SG Shetland and welcomed 1SG Gatlin to the team. 1SG Gatlin and his family joined us from Fort Bragg, NC. Also in February, Trailblazer Soldiers and Families gathered for a Chili Cook off. SSG Steen took home the grand prize with his tasty traditional chili for the second year in a row.

In March, two Trailblazers from our Maintenance Platoon were promoted, SGT Hendrickson and SPC Olivo. SPC Ables, SPC Assogba, SPC Basham, SPC Devan, SPC Jordan, SPC Webb, and SGT Hendrickson all received Good Conduct Medals.

The Trailblazers are looking forward to relaxing and celebrating with family and friends on our upcoming Company Organization Day – April 11. As the weather gets nicer, and we enter the construction season, we hope to be able to execute a few projects to help improve the post and allow our Soldiers to train.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Blessings to all Pacemaker Soldiers and Families!

The weather has been a little bit crazy around here, with the rain which isn't too unusual, but I tend to get my hopes up that maybe it will all clear when we have one day, or part of a day with the sun coming out. What a tease! Life is like that sometimes when we get busy and sometimes if we are lucky we will get a bit of reprieve, and be able to enjoy the sun. However, life certainly doesn't wait for us, nor does it hope that we will stop and smell the roses, or wait for us to take a break; It keeps going. The challenge is for us to recognize when enough is enough, to ask for help when it all becomes overwhelming, when we cannot step back, or away in a healthy manner.

Of course for many of us who are religious, or not; Easter is on its way. New life, celebration of all things new is coming. I have noticed many of the dogwood trees coming into full bloom, and am amazed at the beauty of this area. I am also amazed that the world we live in is so beautiful, which reminds me that even when life is difficult, challenging, or even at times seems a bit overwhelming, that I do at times need to stop and smell the roses.

I hope that many of you will take the time to enjoy the Spring, make plans to go out and do something outside, even if it is raining! Look for the new growth, look for the beauty, and be astounded at what you find. Life will keep going, but we need to make sure that we keep going as well, as healthy as we can be, resilient Spiritually, Physically, Mentally, and in all our relationships.

One last reminder as I close. If life becomes difficult, if discussions become too heated, and if the direction of your life becomes unclear or lost, I am always here for you to talk to. All conversations are confidential and though I may be a religious man and hold myself to a different standard than some, no judgments are made as I listen and try to help you navigate life's journeys and hardships. May God Bless you all! Pacemakers! CH (CPT) Jamie B Freeland, Office:253-966-7000.

PACEMAKER SPOUSE ORIENTATION

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA—Military spouses experience a wide variety of unique challenges and adventures, making it difficult for them to be involved with their Soldier's job. To begin with, what's up with all the jargon and acronyms? Why are there so many different ranks?

LTC Sattinger and CSM Russell, the 864th Engineer Battalion (Pacemaker) Commander and Command Sergeant Major, hosted a Pacemaker Spouse Orientation on March 25 in order to welcome all spouses into the Pacemaker family. LTC Sattinger kicked off his introduction by expressing his love of his family and all sports. Additionally, CSM Russell spoke about his family members in addition to his love for horses and wearing "Chaps."

The orientation was geared toward introducing the spouses to different avenues of support. There are many different resources and agencies available to military families. In addition to the obvious – health insurance, Basic Allowance Housing (BAH), and tax-free shopping at commissary and exchange – Spouses had the opportunity to speak with eight different agencies – Army Community Services, New Parent Support Program, Red Cross, FOCUS Program, USO Northwest, Military One Source, Military Family Life Consultant, and Madigan Behavioral Health.

"I enjoyed the different resources especially knowing that there are ways to support me when I want to go back to college," said Kendall Kwasnick, a Pacemaker spouse on her first Permanent Change of Station (PCS).

"The Pacemakers can be expected at anytime to deploy within a moment's notice" LTC Sattinger explained the overall mission of the unit as he went over the short term and long range events within the battalion, informing spouses of when to expect long work nights. However, it's not always work within the Pacemaker Battalion; CSM Russell exclaimed "don't let the rain stop you from having fun!" After serving as a Pacemaker for over five years, the CSM shared his knowledge of the wide array of activities and events offered within the Seattle-Tacoma area.

The Orientation ended with lunch at the Cannon and Castle Dining Facility, as Spouses experienced where our Soldiers eat. Despite the famous cadence of a "chicken jumping off of the table and started marching time," all went well. At \$4.65 per individual, Spouses experienced a full course menu, to include a Mongolian Grill Bar.

"Families are the backbone of our Soldiers," LTC Sattinger stated, as it is part of the Pacemaker mission. Future Pacemaker Spouse Orientations will be held every three to four months. Please contact your Family Readiness Group (FRG) Leaders or email pacemakers864th@gmail.com if you have any questions.

