



PACEMAKER PRESS



US ARMY
OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2014

What's Happening?

- 570 Sapper Company Comes Home
- Fully immersed in training for future missions
- Construction Missions
- Command Team Changes
- Battalion Ball Success
- Getting in the Holiday Spirit

NEWSLETTER OF THE 864TH ENGINEER BATTALION
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD



Commander's Corner



Greetings Pacemaker Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

As we look ahead to this Holiday Season and New Year, let us reflect on our accomplishments, growth, and milestones achieved in 2014. We've managed to accomplish so much in this past year that I look back with pride at the hard work of our Leaders and Soldiers while also excitedly looking at all the missions and training ahead.

Most recently, the battalion welcomed 570th Sapper Company home from their successful deployment. Great Job, Fido! HHC, FSC, 617th Engineer Company, 557th Engineer Company, and 585th Engineer Company also successfully re-deployed and reintegrated after their 2013 deployment and are already training again. Springtime brought the Pacemaker Stakes, a culminating assessment of all our training to include a number of ranges. After the Stakes, our team continued working hard throughout the summer with construction projects, more ranges, and other culminating training exercises to include a trip to the National Training Center. Pacemakers also continued to develop relationships outside the battalion

with partnerships in Canada, Malaysia, and New Zealand.

In keeping with the evolution of our battalion, the Pacemaker team gained four companies and inactivated one: Welcome to the team, 570th Sapper Company, 571st Sapper Company, 22nd Engineer Clearance Company, and 610th Engineer Support Company! And to 557th Engineer Company, we bid you adieu.

I would also like to thank all the Soldiers, Leaders, and Families who came out to the battalion ball in November. It is always exciting to celebrate the Army's oldest traditions with friends and families, and the ball turned out to be a great success. Stephanie and I truly enjoyed ourselves. We hope to see more of you at upcoming FRG events within the companies, to include a few Holiday parties before block leave!

And now we look ahead. This next year for our battalion promises to be a busy one. Our staff is currently planning a certification exercise in California, companies continue to pre-

pare for trips to Yakima Training Center, and Soldiers work hard on construction projects while Leaders look ahead and plan the next project. The battalion will continue to transform while 617th and 585th begin the long process of inactivation. And, as with keeping up with the Army's ever changing human terrain, CSM Russell and my command will come to a close toward the end of next year.

And finally, as always, I ask for your continued vigilance on matters of safety, both on and off duty. I will also remind everyone that we, Soldiers, Leaders and Families alike, are all members of the Pacemaker Team and the Army community. With this membership comes countless resources accessible to you; there are many people, organizations, and assets on JBLM to support this team- all one needs to do is ask. I wish you all safe and Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Set the Pace...Pacemakers Rise to the Challenge

LTC Steven M. Sattinger



Command Sergeant Major's Foxhole



Greetings Pacemakers and Families,

The end of Fiscal Year 2014 and the beginning of Fiscal Year 2015 marks the start of some exciting times ahead. The Pacemaker Team looks forward to numerous missions including a major demolition project in our neighboring Olympia community and various construction projects here on JBLM. In addition, the Team is preparing for a number of upcoming training exercises including a certification exercise in California, ongoing range operations, and a trip to Yakima Training Center. It is inspiring to see the hard work and dedication of the Pacemaker Soldiers and how they constantly strive to accomplish more and continuously do the right thing each and every day.

With the end to the Fiscal Year also comes the Holiday Season and a new Calendar Year in January. In addition to gearing up for missions and training exercises, the Pacemaker Team looks forward to this Holiday Season. In the spirit of the Season I would like to touch upon the importance of giving back to the community. Our JBLM community, friends, families, and



neighbors support us in all that we do and it is only right to return the favor. This could be in the form of monetary donations, volunteering your time or simply helping to beautify you community. Here are a few important organizational funds that have had an impact on every Pacemaker Soldier and solicit donations in order to continue their mission of philanthropy:

1. The 555th Able Soldier and Family Fund (<http://www.555soldierfund.com/>)
POC - 1LT Gorham
2. The Combined Federal Campaign (<http://www.cfctoday.org/>)
POC – 2LT Naniot
3. The 864 EN BN Cup and Flower Fund
POC – 1LT Gorham

I ask that as we approach this season of giving that we keep in mind those that help to sustain us throughout the year and remain faithful to the Pacemaker Team. Each of the above organizational funds has, in some way, im-

pacted this Team whether through assisting in the cost of our most recent Battalion Ball or procuring flowers or other arrangements for Pacemaker Families in need. It is vital that we, as Pacemakers, show our thanks to all those that have proven so important regardless of the means by which you choose to give back.

In closing, I remain increasingly proud of all that we have accomplished and confident in the Leaders and Families who will carry us through these busy times. We would not be so effective without the generous support of our families, friends, and neighbors. To them I extend my heartfelt thanks. Thank you for your sacrifices and contributions to our Army and Nation. I wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Set the Pace... Rise to the Challenge

CSM Eugene Russell

Pacemaker 7



PACEMAKERS in Action!



A Look Ahead..

DONSAs

DEC25-26: Christmas

JAN1-2: New Year's

JAN16-19: Martin Luther King Jr.
Day

FEB13-16: Washington's Birthday

May22-25: Memorial Day

BN Events

Jan6: Olympia Demolition
Groundbreaking

Feb: 555 EN BDE Ball

Mar: 617 EN CO Inactivation

MWR Events:

Dec13: Breakfast with Santa

Jan10: All That Glitters Aerobathon

Jan13: Newcomers Orientation/Bus Tour

Jan24: Operation Care Fair

Feb20: JBLM Brewfest 2015

Mar14: Shamrock 'n Run

Checkout more events at:

<http://www.jblmmwr.com/>

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YOU DRIVING?**

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Or

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To get the latest updates from the
864th Engineer Battalion check us
out on **Facebook!**

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





585 EN CO constructing a gym floor on North Fort



Welcome Home, Fido!



Welcome Home, Fido!



864 EN BN Alumni at a recent reunion in San Diego



585 Roughnecks: The newest owners of the Commander's Cup!



Headquarters & Headquarters Company— “Regulators”

From the Commander's Desk:

The Regulators kicked off the first quarter of fiscal year 2015 by conducting several Tent Exercises and a Tactical Operations Center (TOC) Defense Exercise in preparation for the Company's upcoming National Training Center (NTC) rotation at Fort Irwin, CA this March. Not only have we been busy conducting equipment preparation, we have also conducted range qualification on the M-4, MK-19 and M-203, as well as a Reflexive Fire Training. Soldiers then expanded on their basic range qualification and conducted a dismounted Squad Live Fire Exercise and a vehicle mounted Patrol Live Fire Exercise. While the organic Company was preparing for NTC, the 28th and 84th Engineer Detachments have also been busy. The 28th Engineer Detachment (Concrete) completed its first major Concrete mission in more than a year at the Lewis Army Museum. Meanwhile, the 84th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design) continue to prepare for de-activation while providing support to ongoing BN construction projects. All in all, it has been a busy but productive first quarter for the Regulators.

Regulator 6—CPT Morris

From the First Sergeant's Desk:

The Regulators have been moving at a pretty fast pace lately and show no signs of slowing down. Currently, the Regulators hold the highest physical fitness average of all companies in the battalion and it is due to hard work and dedication. We have had other personnel within the Regulator family excel as well. SGT Harrison was recently inducted into the SGT Audie Murphy club here on JBLM. This is a coveted award that is only attained by the best of the best. Soldiers that exemplify their leadership traits and not only lead, but also take care of the Soldiers assigned within their charge. Additionally, SGT Lobato was recognized as the 555th Engineer Brigade NCO of the Quarter and SGT Schultz attended SAPPER school and earned his SAPPER Tab (Not an easy task). More recently, CPL Ramsey won the Regulator NCO of the month and SPC Squyres edged out the competition to be recognized as the Regulator Soldier of the Month.

Our Family Readiness Group (FRG) has been busy as well, planning and working towards our Regulator Christmas Party at Sprinker Recreation Center in Spanaway. This event promises to be a great event for all families and Soldiers in attendance. We look forward to celebrating the holiday season and I personally challenge you to slap on some ice skates and take a spin around the ice. The FRG also held a meeting and bowling event at the Bowl Arena lanes on main post this past month and plan to do another event similar to this in the future. We look forward to seeing you there! Last but not least, our fearless FRG leader, Mrs. Merrill, braved the cold weather one morning to introduce the Pacemaker Soldiers to “walking tacos” and various Regulators demonstrated their gift wrapping abilities in our most recent fund raising efforts to support our upcoming Christmas party.

The Regulators exhibited their adventurous spirit by hiking to the top of Mount Rainier in blistery conditions. Well actually it was only rain and we didn't go quite to the top. A few that had the desire for something a little over the edge went to Pacific Northwest Bridge and jumped off . . . bungee cord attached of course. Our next adventure for the Regulator Soldiers is currently planned for December 18th with a choice to either go skiing at White Pass Ski Resort or tubing at the Hyatt Ski Park.

Thank you for your support of both the Regulator family and your Soldier over the past quarter.

REGULATORS!

Regulator 7—1SG Ash



Headquarters & Headquarters Company— “Regulators”

The Regulators continued to set the pace and go above and beyond this quarter. SPC Wolphagen and SGT (P) Harrison won the Battalion Soldier and NCO of the Month Board respectively. SPC Wolphagen received a new car from the Keys to Success Foundation, after being nominated by a Vietnam War Veteran and member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. SFC Merrill graduated from the Battle Staff Course at Fort Benning, GA and returned home after a month of hard work. SGT Hilario outperformed his peers at the Warrior Leader Course by graduating on the Commandant's List. In the same week SGT Hilario, along with SGT Barrett were promoted to Sergeant. SSG Bland and SSG Small were also promoted to E-6 this past quarter. SGT Shultz led the way at Sapper School by graduating and earning his tab in November. SGT (P) Harrison was the only NCO on JBLM to be inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. He was also presented with the Steel De Fleury at the Battalion Ball for his hard work and dedication. To cap off this impressive quarter, HHC stood out with the highest attendance at the Battalion Ball.



Museum Concrete Pad Construction



Squad Live Fire Exercise at night



Climbing Mt. Rainier

REGULATOR OF THE QUARTER



Congratulations to SGT Schultz for earning his Sapper Tab this quarter. We are proud to have an NCO of his caliber in the Regulator Family.



Forward Support Company—Providers “First in Support!”



CPT Edmonds and 1SG Bernal at the BN Ball

From the Commander’s Desk:

Greetings Provider Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

FSC has done an outstanding job on getting the mission done for the battalion and brigade. The outstanding work that our Soldiers put in with maintenance, transportation, supply, ammo and fuel makes the FSC proud to complete all missions for the 864th Engineer Battalion every day. The Soldiers in the maintenance section have established the first ever Communications and Electronics Section (C&E) and Ground Support Equipment Section (GSE) in the Battalion and Brigade. The Maintenance Control Officer has established the new shop offices with the setting up of the SAMS 1-E support system that will let units job order equipment to the FSC to be fixed to FMC. Soldiers in Distribution Platoon have established the new TMR system to help manage all of the logistical support to keep the Battalion rolling with logistics. The Soldiers in the Dining Facility continue to show JBLM who is the best with outstanding cooking and showing great work on the Thanksgiving holiday meal with a short staff on hand. Great job cooks! The Soldiers in Headquarters Platoon continue to show they are the best in admin, operation and training in the battalion by receiving multiple commendable reviews from their Command Inspection. FSC is ready for the next year to continue to lead from the front with all logistics.

Providers!

Provider 6 — CPT Edmonds

From the First Sergeant's Desk:

Greetings Provider Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

FSC 864TH has accomplished numerous tasks this quarter along with performing a multitude of day to day missions. As their First Sergeant I am truly impressed with the Provider team’s effort in accomplishing all that the command and staff has pushed down. The maintenance team has been hard at work in the motor pool performing scheduled and unscheduled maintenance along with our specialty shops performing radio, NVG and weapons maintenance. The 92Gs in the Cannon and Castle Dining Facility have been hard at work preparing for the holiday meals and the Distribution Platoon has been providing fuel and ammunition support. The Headquarters Platoon has been leading from the front taking care of all the Soldiers administrative needs. The Provider Soldiers have truly met the expectations of what a support company is supposed to look like. As Soldiers and family members prepare for a well deserved block leave the command team wishes them the best for the holiday season and look forward to a new year!



Field Feeding preparing for the Thanksgiving meal

Providers!

Provider 7 — 1SG Joe Bernal



Forward Support Company—Providers “First in Support!”

The last 90 days the Providers have kept the pace high executing logistical and maintenance support for the battalion and brigade. The company started the quarter focusing on training and ranges executing EST for the M249/M240B, an M4 qualification range for HHC and FSC, participating in BN Range Density sending personnel to qualify on all weapon systems, all of which led up to a company mounted live fire exercise to certify platoons on convoy operations. To wrap up the month of October on the lighter side, FSC had a Halloween costume run and then a FRG Halloween Bash where Soldiers brought their families and dressed in costume for a trick or treat and Halloween activities. The distribution platoon won the best decorated office for the Halloween party.

The main focal point for November and December has been preparation for the National Training Center in March. Maintenance has developed their field maintenance skill-set to adapt to the rugged terrain of at NTC by implementing training on mechanical proficiency, welding capabilities, Night Vision Device purging, and weapons repair. Distro platoon has continued to refine their

ability to provide the best logistical support possible. Field Feeding continues to work hard both in the DFAC and providing field feeding support to units executing training in the field. They also served a fantastic dinner in the DFAC on Thanksgiving Day with a Jumanji theme. The annual battalion ball was a great way to blow off some steam from all the long days we have been putting in.

As a spotlight for some of our Soldiers who have worked hard this quarter, PVT Breaux, PVT Pardes, and PVT Scott were promoted to PV2, PFC Sam and PFC Hendry were promoted to SPC, and SPC Smithson and SPC Pannell were promoted to SGT. Also, SGT Rackers won the October NCO of the Month board and SGT Lopez won the November NCO of the Month board. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work! As always we wish you and your loved one the best and to always remember that the FSC leadership appreciates everything you do for your loved one and this unit!

PROVIDER OF THE QUARTER

SPC Martinez, Nicolas has shown tremendous efforts this quarter by revitalizing the FSC Armament shop to provide excellent service support to the 555 Nickel Brigade. SPC Martinez serviced and gauged over 150 weapons systems this quarter to include 9MMs, M4s, 240Bs and M2s. His continuous efforts and professionalism to maintain the BDE's combat power enabled units to train and pre-



Distro downloading ammo at YTC



22nd Engineer Clearance Company—Hooligans “So Others May Follow”

From the Commander’s Desk:

I am extremely honored to assume command of the 22nd Engineer Clearance Company. Every day I am impressed by the Soldiers of our company and I’m thankful I get the privilege to lead such an amazing group. Over the past several weeks we have put the systems in place that will ensure we continue to be successful in the future. The main focus for the company will now shift to individual warrior tasks to include shoot, move, communicate, and medical proficiency. For the FRG, we will ensure all of the FRG positions are filled, trained, contact rosters are established and information is readily available and widely disseminated. Our long term goals are to have a successful training exercise at Yakima Training Center in April and the National Training Center (California) in July, so we will use this time now to build the foundation for those events. I’m looking forward to working with you, and ready to get started. Hooligans!

Hooligan 6 — CPT Brian Martin

From the First Sergeant's Desk:

The Change of Command Ceremony between CPT Brady and CPT Martin went very well on 31 October; the company looked great and performed outstandingly. Since then, we have continued to focus on our readiness and prepare for our upcoming Hooligan Stakes and other Training Exercises later in the fiscal year. Despite being under-manned and over-tasked, like many other units, our NCOs and Soldiers continue to work hard and maintain a positive attitude, achieving high standards in all we do.

Three of our Soldiers, SPC Cherry, SPC Mays, and SPC Truett, recently graduated from the Warrior Leaders Course (WLC), of which SPC Cherry and SPC Truett made the Commandant’s List. They received impact awards from the brigade CSM, followed by the Flu Shots from the medics to get our readiness stats up. Job well done and we are all proud of their accomplishments.

Finally, our “Legendary” platoon supported the Puyallup Job Fair with a Husky, demonstrating our Route Clearance capabilities to potential future Soldiers of America.

Though I know it will be challenging, I look forward to what the next quarter has in store for the Hooligans and it is an honor to lead them

Hooligan 7 — 1SG Joseph R. Ingle



22nd Engineer Clearance Company—Hooligans “So Others May Follow”



1st Platoon Visits Totem Middle School in Kent, WA for Veterans Day



Change of Command Ceremony Between CPT Brady and CPT Martin



3rd Platoon Conducts Their Culminating Individual Skills Training

HOOLIGAN OF THE QUARTER



SPC (P) Cherry and SPC Truett both made the Commandant's List at WLC and continue to be outstanding examples in the company



570th Sapper Company— “Fido!”

From the Commander’s Desk:

FIDO completed its mission in Afghanistan this quarter, redeploying from Mazar-i-Sharif in Train, Advise, and Assist Command North and traveling through Romania and Ireland on the way home. It conducted 70 missions, clearing over 7,500 km of routes, including during critical elections periods, as well as several multinational live-fire training exercises to build trust and rapport with our Coalition Partners. Well done! Since the redeployment, the focus has been on reset and reintegration and block leave as the 570th Sapper Company prepares to resume training for the next fight. A special thank you to the FIDO FRG for taking care of our Soldiers and Families while we were downrange. We couldn’t have done it without you.

FIDO 6 — CPT George

From the First Sergeant's Desk:

The focus is on Soldiers and Families. Balancing half days and block leave that allow FIDO Soldiers to reunite with loved ones, we are remaining busy. While turning in equipment and readying for the next fight, FIDO is restructuring from two Route Clearance Platoons to three Sapper Platoons. Company leadership is working to ensure that standing up a new platoon and shuffling Soldiers and Leaders will maintain a strong posture and the bonds of affection and brotherhood developed over long months abroad. FIDO is resting, but he is always alert and ready for the next challenge.

FIDO 7 — 1SG Mallory



3PLT “Wolfpack” poses after an awards ceremony with German Coalition Partners.



FIDO Soldiers salute the flag during the Redeployment Ceremony for the first chalk on 19 October. The remaining Soldiers arrived home three days later.

Congratulations to all the FIDO Soldiers who were promoted this quarter.

FIDO welcomes the newest members of its family: congratulations to 1LT Duncan, SGT Peau, SPC Brown, SPC Flores, and SPC Robinson.



2PLT “Hellhound” Soldiers brace themselves during an explosive breach during FIDO Stakes, near Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan.

FIDO SAPPER OF THE QUARTER

The FIDO Sapper of the Quarter from October through December is SPC Bailey. A Sapper in 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon “Hellhounds,” SPC Bailey performed admirably during Hellhound Stakes by employing the grappling hook during a breach—one of the most difficult tasks.

Whether on mission, conducting training, or on down-time, SPC Bailey set a positive example and was an excellent role model within his squad, platoon, and the company. He is the kind of exemplary Soldier the Army is striving to maintain as the wars draw down.



571st Sapper Company— “Rock Hard!”



From the Commander’s Desk:

Greetings Pacemakers! The Rock has just finished a furiously fast paced quarter—we had a platoon complete a grueling 17-day exercise with the Canadians in Alberta, Canada, building bridges and emplacing obstacles; we had a team led by SSG Larsen support the Kiwis in New Zealand with our Puma Drones; and our entire company executed a highly successful (and frigid) range week at Yakima Training Center, conducting full scale demolitions and launching MICLIC rockets. Here at JBLM, we had a great haunted house / trunk or treat event -- many thanks to all those in the company and FRG who made it possible! We also unwound with a Platoon Ultimate Football Tournament and Laser Tag Competition for our Adventure Day. And although we had to say goodbye to 1SG Young during his Change of Responsibility Ceremony, we are very excited to welcome 1SG Johnson into the company. As always, there is more great training in store in the future—the Canadians will be visiting for an action-packed two weeks in February and we’ll be continuing to conduct individual and squad level sapper training at JBLM well into March. Wishing everyone a great Holiday Season and Rock Hard New Year! - Rock 6 — CPT Shinar



Left: 571st executes road cratering charges at Yakima Training Center on November 19th, 2014 as part of a range week.

Right: Sappers set up an observation point for the Puma Drone on the hills of New Zealand.

Top right corner: Sappers Way in Linton Military Camp, NZ.



From the First Sergeant's Desk:

I have been the First Sergeant in a few companies in the Triple Nickel Brigade for a lot of Soldiers and had the opportunity to see some awesome training here in this brigade. However, in the few weeks I’ve been the First Sergeant of 571st Sapper Company, I’ve seen these great Officers, NCO’s, and Soldiers conduct some of the best Sapper training I’ve seen in my 26 years in the Army. From the demo range where they conducted door breaching or the MICLIC and timber cutting in YTC I am proud to be part of such an awesome Sapper Company. Keep up the outstanding work. Rock 7 — 1SG Johnson



Top Left: PFC Toledo (foreground) and his squad emplace log obstacles.

Top Right: PFC Wagner and PFC Imes help re-center the rollers of the Medium Girder Bridge they constructed to do a far-bank tear down.

Left: Soldiers and Families celebrate Halloween with a Trunk or



Congratulations to two new graduates of Sapper Leader Course! Outstanding job SFC Means (Left) and SGT Powers (Right)! SGT Gregory (Middle) made the Commandant's List at ALC — Job well done!

ROCK SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER



Our Rock Soldier of the Quarter is PFC Justin Tavani from Sicklerville, NJ. PFC Tavani not only excelled during the Platoon Exchange program in Canada, but he also took honors as the Battalion Soldier of the Month for November (he has now won Soldier of the month in two different battalions). Moreover, he was also the undisputed laser tag champion of the company, scoring first in all four of his matches during the Adventure Day Event. Outstanding job and keep it up!



585th Engineer Company— “Roughnecks”

From the Commander’s Desk:

Greetings Roughnecks and Families,

I would like to start off by saying how happy I am to be working with such a great company. I have heard good things about 585th EN CO, while in the BN and so far, I am very impressed. The change of command ceremony went very well and I received a warm welcome into the company.

Recently, 2nd PLT completed two 24’ x 32’ wood floors. This was a last minute project for some Soldiers who entered the voluntary quarantine program; they will be there for 21 days and over Thanksgiving it was the least we could do to ensure that they will have some way to pass the time. I am very happy with the quality of work 2nd did, it was a great vertical engineer project.

Next year should prove to be lots of fun as well. Currently, we are trying to find projects in Yakima that the Platoons can execute independently in March. If those projects do not come to fruition, the platoons will execute a mounted and dismounted platoon live fire exercise. In addition, each platoon will have services to execute in preparation for COPA and inactivation, but there is some fun planned as each platoon will take a day for an adventure activity.

Roughneck 6 — CPT Larsen

From the First Sergeant's Desk:

The past two months have been very exciting for the “Roughneck” family. On the 21 of November we lost a great commander, CPT Porath yet gained another great commander, CPT Larson. During the past months our soldiers have worked hard; conducting change of command inventories and multiple taskings. To highlight we’ve conducted a M203 range qualifying over 20 soldiers in the battalion. We also conducted a M16/M4 weapons qualification range qualifying over 60 soldiers in the company. 585th received a moment’s notice mission to construct a tent pad in support of JBLM Ebola quarantine in which the results turned out impeccable, Great job 2nd PLT! 3rd PLT is currently working hard conducting a building demolition for the city of Olympia, WA. I would like to say congratulations to SPC Avila, SPC Black and SGT Frock who competed with other Soldier’s and NCO’s to win the company Soldier of the month board. As our families prepare for the holidays I would like to say, “Merry Christmas” and, “Happy New Years”! I can’t wait to see everybody back and I hope you enjoy you time off, you all deserve it.

Roughneck 7 — 1SG Brown



3PLT building the Fox Concrete Pad at the JBLM Museum



585th Engineer Company— “Roughnecks”

This past quarter has been another busy one for the Roughnecks. After returning from missions at Yakima Training Center and Keris Strike in Malaysia, the team didn't let up but conducted a wide range of training to include ranges, construction, and equipment training.

In October, 3PLT trained the 2-75 Ranger Battalion on how to operate engineer equipment (skid steer loaders and BHLs) in adverse conditions. Later that month 3PLT led in building the Fox concrete pad at the JBLM Museum. While 3PLT was busy with construction and equipment training the other platoons were conducting recovery operations from their previous missions. All platoons spent time doing pre-Change of Command inventories on all their equipment. There was a M249 machine gun range as well and the company welcomed 1SG Brown to the Roughneck family. The FRG was pretty active this month scheduling a bowling pizza party and then doing a joint Trunk or

Treat event for Halloween. At the end of the month the company assisted in post clean up.

November started with 3PLT leading a M203 grenade range. The rest of the month centered around the change of command between CPT Porath and CPT Larson. After finishing inventories the platoons worked on Basic Soldier skills and prepared for follow on missions.

December was a short month due to block leave during the last half of the month. During the first part of the month the company conducted a M16/M4 rifle range. There was also drivers training for both day and night operation. The big mission in December though was 3PLT's work on demolishing an old building in Olympia. The platoon was called on to tear out all the wiring and prepare the building for final destruction.

ROUGHNECK OF THE QUARTER

SSG Hamilton has worked tirelessly over the past quarter as a project NCOIC in Malaysia and back at JBLM. At the start of the quarter, SSG Hamilton finished working as project leader in Malaysia and prepared his team to return to JBLM. After successfully redeploying he quickly prepared for and executed two other major projects: Fox concrete pad at the JBLM museum and the Olympia Building Demolition. SSG Hamilton has been at the front of all the major Roughneck missions this quarter and has helped lead the company to great success.



Roughnecks at the range.



617th Engineer Company—Trailblazers “Clear the Way”

From the Commander’s Desk:

The Trailblazers had a great quarter thanks to the support from all our Soldiers, and Families. I appreciate everyone’s continued motivation through inactivation as we balance equipment transfers and training. We closed out our last major training event this quarter, a squad assault live fire. Both 1SG and I were very happy with how motivated and professional all the Soldiers were as they completed the training. Our goal has been, and continues to be, to send our Soldiers our well-trained and set up for success in their next endeavor, whether that is another Army unit, or transitioning to civilian life. We have said goodbye to some great Soldiers this quarter and will continue to say goodbye until the unit inactivates in March 2015. Thank you for all you do. Trailblazers.

Trailblazer 6 — CPT Baggott



The Trailblazers bid farewell to 1LT Rath and 2nd Platoon. 1LT Rath is currently attending PA School while 2nd dissolved into the other two platoons..

From the First Sergeant's Desk:

The Soldiers of 617th continue to stay highly motivated as selected personnel transfer within the battalion, PCS or ETS. With schools, ranges and lateral transfers, our Soldiers cover down on each other to accomplish tasks and meet deadlines, even through liberal leave. We have condensed down to a HQ PLT, Maintenance PLT, and now with the dissolution of 2nd PLT, we now have two line platoons. As inactivation continues, we will consolidate to one line platoon by the end of January. My priority is to place our Soldiers in Key Development positions in order for them to continue to serve with success.

"Once a Trailblazer, always a Trailblazer."

Trailblazer 7 — 1SG Pelayo

Headquarters Platoon “Chuck Biery”



The hard-working Headquarters Platoon continued to support the company by keeping them well-supplied, ensuring that all administrative paperwork was processed correctly, maintaining the weapons and serving as a conduit to the battalion so that platoons had more time and resources to train. The operations section motto of “Chuck Biery” is a testament to their motivation and dedication toward success. Congratulations to the Lacosse Family who welcomed a newborn in November and CPL Burgerhoff for receiving a well-deserved promotion to SGT.



617th Engineer Company—Trailblazers “Clear the Way”

1ST Platoon “Gladiators”

The Gladiators have continued their streak of excellence this past quarter. 1st PLT began and completed construction of the Gray Army Airfield (GAAF) Rapid Refuel Point Pad, hauling over 1000 cubic yards of materials with dump trucks, clearing with bulldozers, leveling the pad with graders and loaders, and compacting with drum rollers. The two week long project improved the 72' x 84' x 2' gravel pad, to prevent future flooding. The Soldiers of 16th CAB greatly appreciated no longer having to work in standing water during refuel operations. 1st PLT also took the lead in planning and executing the Company's most dangerous live fire range to date in late November. Squads and teams were required to shoot, move, and communicate during a simulated ambush. Soldiers navigated obstacles, shot while moving, and provided covering fire for other maneuvering Soldiers. Due to 1st PLT's hard work, 617th became trained on the dangerous art of fire and maneuver warfare.

As we enter the new year, inactivation continues to demand the transfer of 1st PLT equipment while Soldiers will PCS or move to other units on JBLM. No matter where a Gladiator Soldier is, a legacy of excellence will no doubt follow.

3RD Platoon “Outcasts”

In October, 3rd and 2nd PLT had the unique opportunity to construct the Solo Point Running Trail. The Outcasts worked with the USAF, Range Operations, and Brigade Construction in the six-week long project. Even while utilizing substandard materials, Soldiers were able to achieve a nearly impossible compaction of the trail just before the harsh and wet winter arrived. They worked through adverse conditions and took initiative with little guidance to complete the mission, benefiting units across JBLM for years to come. In early November, the company participated in an Advanced Rifle Marksmanship range planned and executed by 3rd PLT.

It was a squad competition to measure the rifle qualification of Soldiers with a raised heart rate. Some Soldiers actually improved their qualification score after completing a modified APFT while wearing body armor and helmet. SSG Lee O'Connor had the highest overall qualification and APFT scores. SSG O'Connor's squad, 2nd Squad of 3rd PLT, placed first within the Company.



Gladiators Laying Gravel at GAAF

Maintenance Platoon “The Hornet’s Bomb”

After an outstanding performance working with the Maintenance Section of the Department of Labor and assisting with the technical inspection of all 137 vehicles, the maintenance platoon is now focused on repairing the issues. As parts constantly stream in to the supply distribution center, Trailblazer mechanics are prime to the challenge of installation, troubleshooting and preparing the paperwork for the multitude of vehicles that must be transitioned out of the company. This quarter, their maintenance PL, 1LT Diaz left 617th to assume the challenge of a route clearance platoon leader in 22nd ECC.

TRAILBLAZER OF THE QUARTER



SGT Joseph Aguon and SPC Christopher Dill were named as the Trailblazers NCO and Soldier of the Quarter for their expertise, maturity and work ethic.



610th Engineer Support Company “Ghostriders”

From the Commander’s Desk:

Pacemakers, it has been an outstanding quarter for the Ghostriders. The company successfully redeployed from the National Training Center (NTC), an exercise in which we constructed over five kilometers of anti-tank ditch obstacles and earned the respect and admiration from fellow units and NTC staff alike. The last few months have been spent wisely, establishing systems that will ensure long-term success. Going forward, we will get back to the basics, training hard on Warrior Tasks and Drills and individual construction tasks. We will also deconstruct a building in downtown Olympia, allowing the city to revitalize their downtown with a park. Our FRG has changed leadership, and we are fortunate to have Mrs. Sabrina Eubanks as our new Leader, and Mrs. Stephanie Sejersen as Co-Leader and Treasurer. This energetic new leadership team has hit the ground running, and we are looking forward to a gift-wrapping event at McChord Exchange and a Company Holiday Party on 15 December. Finally, we are excited to be a fully integrated member of the Pacemaker team, and we look forward to serving with the Pacemaker team going forward.

Ghostrider 6 - CPT Michael B. Yuengert

“Dig Deep!”

From the First Sergeant's Desk:

Ghostrider Family,

This quarter provided many challenges, in the form of redeployment from the National Training Center, putting together a detailed training plan, holiday planning, and I have been very impressed with the Ghostrider Soldiers for meeting the challenging schedules and demands of higher commands.

Yet with all these challenging schedules, leadership changes, and demands, our level of effort and the pace of training have continued to accelerate, with such events as machine gun ranges, ruck marches and detailed Sergeant’s Time Training.

Our Soldiers continually raise the bar and set the standard. The 610th Engineer Support Company has been working tirelessly with our community on multiple events such as the Puyallup Job Fair, Roy Tree Cutting Ceremony, and several construction projects on post. Several Soldiers have attended the 864th Engineer Battalion Soldier of the Month Board as well as our NCO’s attending the NCO of the Month Board. Taking the extra step to set themselves up for success in this competitive world today!

I like to take this time to tell the Families and Soldiers of 610th ESC, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Wishing all of you the very best during these holidays and thank you for your support to the team; see you next year!!

Ghostrider 7 - 1SG Crittendon

“Dig Deep!”



610th Engineer Support Company “Ghostriders”



SPC Ali takes a break from the desert heat during the September National Training Center Rotation at Fort Irwin, CA.



Ghostriders from 1st and 3rd Platoons begin the epic 3km anti-tank ditch in the shadow of Tiefert Mountain at Fort Irwin, CA.



SPC Kurz of 2nd Platoon shows a student how to operate the Skid Steer at the Puyallup Job Fair.

GHOSTRIDER OF THE QUARTER



SGT Harris (L) and SPC Jandro (R) are recognized for their outstanding leadership and dedication to the mission during the 1st QTR National Training Center Rotation. Keep up the good work!

GhostRiders!



Junior Leader Development Course—December 2014

Congratulations to the following graduates of the Pacemaker Junior Leader Development Course:

SPC Alhoussein Alimamaadousouna



SPC Gavin Bingham

SPC Jackson Bostwick

SPC Albert Brown

SGT Patricalan Burt



SPC Cole Cetinich

SPC Joshua Chavez

SPC Nathan Faas

SPC Stephen Fontaine



SPC Charles Gabb

SPC Danny Gonzales

SPC Edward Henry

PFC Noey Hernandez



SGT Jonathan Hough

SPC Lucas Imes

SPC Tiffany Johnson

SPC Joshua Brown

SGT Nicholas Lawson

PFC Brandon Lopez

SPC Ruben Lopez

SPC Sandra Montgomery

PFC Starvinsky Motley

SPC Bradley Newman

SPC Matthew Olivo

SPC Courtney Olow

SPC Daniel Orozco

SGT Aracely Pannell

PFC Raymone Portis

SPC Dimitry Prsyazhnyuk

CPL Joshua Ramsey

SPC Kendall Reeves

SPC Gregory Smith

PFC Justin Tavanni

SPC Latasha Thompson

PFC Lucas Tucker

SPC Francisco Villareal

SPC Asa Wolphagen





1LT Promotions—November 2014

Congratulations to the following newly promoted First Lieutenants!

1LT Aaron Becker

1LT Paul Winfield

1LT John Bradley

1LT Kristian Schott

1LT Joseph Chang

1LT Paul Winfield

1LT Alejandro Diaz

1LT Anthony Frisone

1LT Brian Elliott

1LT Ariana Mankus

1LT Kelsey Eargle

1LT Nathan Nguyen

1LT Kristian Schott

1LT Lorraine Palesky



Some of the Battalion's new First Lieutenants at their promotion



Thoughts for the Pacemakers—Chaplain's Corner

Greetings Pacemakers! A while back before our last deployment I used to call us the Peace Makers, a slight pun of our Pacemaker name. In honor of Jesus Christ's birth, whether you believe in His claims or just think he was a historical figure, he can still be claimed as one of the most influential man who has ever lived on the earth. He said this in what we now call a part of the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Mat 5:9 ESV)" This was one of many things that he calls people to become, better than what they are now. Those who make peace with others, with God, and even themselves, become equated or in a real sense, "sons" or in other translations, "children" of God. Making peace with others is such a high quality to have, such a Character trait to possess, that if you are able to, you have come to a level of godliness.

During the holidays and especially with the New Year coming many will be with their families. It's like the old saying, "you love when they come to visit, and you love it when they leave." Making peace with others is hard to do, especially if you have been offended. But I will tell you from experience that, forgiving others, especially with yourself, you give a gift that cannot be bought. It might be the easiest way I could help you save money. Wrap a letter up, or write on a card, "I forgive you for..." It wouldn't erase the pain of what they did immediately, but it will begin the healing, and the pain will subside over time.

One last thing, I would like to recommend a good suggestion in the realm of peace-making when you are considering your New Year resolution. Focus on what you say. Reign in your tongue. It's like a rudder on a ship, no matter how big the ship is, the rudder always steers it in the way you may not want to go. Words said either in person or on FB, tend to come back and haunt us. So pray, or make a promise to try to say things that lead to life, hope, peace, and joy. ^{ESV} Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

God Bless, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years, be safe, and be peace makers!

- CH (CPT) Jamie Freeland, aka Chappie



Questions or comments? Email
1LT Sarah Gorham
Public Affairs Officer
pacemakers864th@gmail.com



555th Engineer Brigade

Mission

The 555th Engineer Brigade provides technical and tactical expertise and Mission Command to modular formations. The brigade plans, supervises and coordinates combat, general, and geospatial engineering in support of unified land operations.

Vision

A Disciplined unit, built on Trust, Committed to team, Family and Fun.
Ready, Willing and Able.

'Willing and Able'

Values

Trust – I will always display impeccable character and tell the truth regardless of the outcome.

Discipline – I consistently do the right, necessary, and sometimes painful tasks in order to accomplish the mission.

Family – I will always be available for my Family to meet their relational, spiritual, and emotional needs.

Commitment – I am committed to doing my mission to the highest possible standards; I will never quit on myself, my family, or my unit

Fun – I will frequently laugh and always make my job and home enjoyable places to work and live.

Imperatives

Leader Development – Utilize engaged leaders to Teach, Coach, and Mentor in order to develop the next generation of adaptive leaders that possess creative and critical thinking skills; Develop leaders, enabled by Mission Command, that are capable of operating in any Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous environments.

Training – Plan tough, realistic, and well resourced training; focus from the "Basics" to Mission Essential Tasks to develop individuals, teams, and leaders to provide World-Class Engineer Support to Unified Land Operations.

Maintenance and Logistics – Treat maintenance and logistics as training by assigning ownership and enforcing accountability of our resources and readiness.

Health of the Force – Provide our Soldiers and their Families the BEST (Medical, Sponsorship, Resources, Protection, Resiliency) the Army has to offer.

Readiness – Resilient Soldiers and Families, Disciplined Soldiers and systems, Superior Training, Personnel Readiness, and Disciplined Supply and Maintenance Programs.



Happy Holidays!



From the Pacemaker Family