

HHC 926th EN BDE



A look into the lives and missions of the Soldiers of

926th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division

Baghdad, Camp Liberty, Iraq



A BI-Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE NO 1 - 15 JUNE 2008

4th ID & the 926th

A brief history of the 4th ID and the 926th EN BDE. What our mission is and what are our goals for the future in Iraq.

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Route Douglas Cleanup

After four years of streets being over run by sewage, Efforts of the 926th and down-trace

units have made great strides to clean up this section of Baghdad, IRAQ.

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The 4th Infantry Division and the 926th EN BDE

The 926th Engineer Brigade is attached to the 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas. The 4th ID website gives this brief history:

The 4th Infantry Division is the Army's First Digitized Division. It is commanded by Major General Jeffery W. Hammond. His Command Sergeant Major is Command Sergeant Major John S. Gioia. The division shares a long and distinguished history that includes combat in four wars: World Wars I and II, the Vietnam War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. It has earned twenty-one campaign streamers with sixteen 4th Infantry Division Soldiers presented the Congressional Medal of Honor.

this and more information can be found at <http://pao.hood.army.mil/4ID/index.html>

Several of the 926th Soldiers are new to our unit. Their families may know little if anything about the

unit that their loved ones are deployed with. We would like to take a moment for a brief history and what our current goals are in Iraq.

926th Engineer Brigade unit lineage

The 926th was constituted on 17 June 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 926th Engineer Aviation Regiment. Activated 20 June 1943, at Richmond, Virginia (organic elements not organized). They were inactivated 2 October 1945, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. The unit was redesignated 19 December 1946 as Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company, 926th Engineer Aviation Group. Activated 31 January 1947, in Hawaii. Inactivated 16 December 1948, in Hawaii. Allotted 10 March 1949, to the Organized Reserve Corps. (Organized Reserve Corps redesignated 9 July 1952, as the Army reserve). Activated 7 April 1949, at Montgomery, Alabama. Reorganized and redesignated 1 October 1951, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 926th Engineer Aviation Group. Reorganized and redesignated 31 January 1957, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 926th Engineer Group. Ordered into active military service 21 November 1990 for Operation Desert Storm, at Montgomery, Alabama; released 23 April 1991, from active military service and reverted to reserve status. Ordered into active military service 3 May 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom, at Montgomery,

Alabama; released 31 January 2004, from active military service and reverted to reserve status. Converted from a Construction Group HQ to a modular Engineer Brigade structure in October of 2006 mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in support of the 4th Infantry Division.

Current Operations

With this strong history behind us, the 926th looks forward into such projects as Task Force Gold, which is responsible for construction efforts from inside Sadr City and Task Force Iron Claw, which is responsible for training US and Iraqi forces on Route Clearance. There are also multiple electrical projects being worked, completed, as well as laying ground work for future missions by our down trace units. Plumbing systems within Baghdad are also constantly being improved. Barrier projects, search dog teams, Surveying, and steady improvements to areas of operations (AO) are a testament to the Soldiers of the 926th, our down trace units, and to our loved ones at home who offer constant support. The impact of the engineer missions throughout Baghdad fall under the umbrella of the 926th Engineer Brigade and are being met with the standards and determination that the 926 is known for. These missions are not just our responsibility to the Iraqi people, but also our duty. Mission Above All.

- SGT Hill



Neighborhoods within Sadr City show a step in the right direction

In the middle of the street the workers are all standing in a circle surrounding a single opening in the road's surface in front of them. A long hose runs from a large cleaning contraption and down into the dark vertical tunnel. They discuss what could be blocking the path and how to remove it when another man appears, this time from within the confines of the sewer's opening.

A stack of debris is growing near the opening as the man inside raises a piece of debris from the blockage below. He asks for a bucket and soon one appears with a rope attached. He grasps the side of the bucket and disappears back into the depths.

What a difference a few days makes.

A few days ago there was no way to get down and dirty inside these sewers. The pipes and manholes connected to them were filled with waste water. The raw sewage, including human waste and garbage, has been a problem for better than four years as the systems designed to remove the sewage have degraded from age and the affects of war.

Not all of these effects are from physical destruction but the results of a lack of basic maintenance and upkeep that, like most of the day to day services of garbage removal, water purification and the production of electricity, ground to a halt as the sectarian violence spread across the area.

Promising Future

With the work that is being done within the neighborhoods by the 926th Engineer Brigade Soldiers to remove the debris, clear the roads of standing sewage and sweep the roads for IEDs and



Streets lined with waste water for the past four years now show little to no signs of water and clean-up efforts are under way.

the ability for the Iraqis to begin the task of infrastructure repair has begun.

Many of our Engineers are planning and assessing repairs while others are steadfastly working to help build a future for the people of Iraq.

Already markets are bustling with customers and the men and women of these towns and cities are going back to work learning that they can entrust their security to our soldiers. every day the city awakens to new prospects and possibilities of the following day being that much better. The momentum is building and the future looks bright.

- CW3W-

Commander's Recon

What we do here in Iraq is strategically important to promote overall peace in the middle east. From the smallest towns to the largest city each has it's own unique problems that require diplomacy and understanding as well as hard work. General Petreaus

and Brigadier General Talley spent some time getting a first hand look at the problems that are being faced and the progress that has been made.

The two American Generals walked down the street meeting the residents and glimpsing first hand some of the projects that were being done to help shore up the community.

They discussed the shops and businesses that lined the streets and stopped to speak to the men and women who worked there. The Business owners offered samples of their wares and pointed out problems that they were having with water and electricity and the differences that solving those issues would make to the community.

In each case the Leaders listened intently, cataloging the information to bring back to their prospective staff of skilled soldiers to make a plan for further revitalization or just to update the men and women in uniform that have helped plan the on-going missions. The skilled staff I mentioned are members of the, 926 Engineer Brigade.

- CW3W-



Awards and Promotions

The following soldiers have been promoted since arriving in theater. Their efforts are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves, the unit and the United States Army

SPC Lehman is now SGT Lehman
SPC Smith, X. is now SGT Smith
SGT England is now SSG England
PFC Kent is now SPC Kent
PFC Osterman is now SPC Osterman
SPC Tetter is now SGT Tetter
PFC Wright is now SPC Wright
PV2 Waide is now PFC Waide

The following soldiers have completed the Brigade Commander's "Sapper Strong" run, Camp Victory, Iraq have been awarded a certificate of achievement. Their dedication to fitness and self discipline set an

example for fellow soldiers.

This run is a minimum of 5 miles and up to 10 miles.



Chaplain Carlton Fisher 6.6 miles.



CPT Jared Corsi 6.6 miles



MAJ Jeffrey Hopkins 5.01 miles

926th Engineer Brigade Coin for excellence

SSG Brant for excellence
1LT McKinney for excellence
926th PSD for excellence

BDE Patching Ceremony

In keeping with the Army's finest traditions, the 926 EN BDE conducted its patching ceremony on 12 June 2008. The combat patch ceremony is a historical tradition which began during the Revolutionary War under Gen. George Washington. Soldiers who have served in a combat zone during a period of active enemy engagement place their unit patches on their right shoulders to signify their participation in the continued freedom

and protection of the liberties for the people of the United States of America. The ceremony included all of our down trace units.



Birthdays

The following soldiers have birthdays in the month of June

SGT Melvin Bolls	June 10th
SSG James Shoemaker	June 11th
CPT Jared Corsi	June 13th
PFC Chad Schryvers	June 13th
SPC Robert Bryant	June 15th
CPT Darrick Wright	June 27th
SGT Adam Russel	June 29th
MAJ Joe Cox	June 30th
SGT Whitney Stamey	June 30th

MWR

Camp Liberty provides numerous Moral, Welfare and Recreation Activities (MWR)

Our company occupies two different living areas or "PADS". These PADS are on opposite ends of Camp Liberty. Each of these PADS is near a separate MWR facility. The facility offers billiards, ping pong, movie night, Karaoke, internet services, books, magazines, sand volleyball and phone services. Organized team sports opportunities also exist. The 926 currently has a basketball and a softball team. Our basketball team is coached by SFC Caselberry, of Birmingham, AL, SSG Flowers, of Montgomery,



AL, and 1LT Bacote, of Florence, SC. The team already participated in a tournament. Our recently formed softball team is coached by SSG Joyner, of Vicksburg, MS and CW3 Babon, of Missoula, MT. We practice from 0600-0700 Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Our first competition is the Camp Liberty "4th of July"

tournament. We are a little rusty but starting to gel as a team. Other MWR opportunities include, but are not limited to, 24 hour gym access, aerobics, tiabo, salsa dancing and fun runs

"Just a Word" From the soldiers of the 926

We recently asked two questions of random HHC, 926 soldiers and want to share their answers with you. Each issue, we will ask questions of different soldiers until all have been represented. The process will then start all over again.

This issues questions:

- (1) What do you miss most about home?
- (2) How has the 926 affected the people of Iraq?

1LT Clark Neal

"(1) I miss privacy.....(2) Giving them hope and a better life"

CPT Leslie Smith

"(1) I miss my family..... (2) Giving the Iraqi people pride"

CPT Niles Hooper

"(1) I miss my family..... (2) The Iraqis are excited"

MSG Duane Chrismer

"(1) I miss my wife.....(2) Improved quality of life"

LTC Alberto Rosende

"(1) I miss my family..... (2) Positive contributions"

SFC Matthew Scalese

"(1) I miss fishing.....(2) Giving the Iraqi people stability"

SFC Caselberry

"(1) I miss going to the Movies with my kids on Sundays and golf with buddies....(2) rebuilding a country and helping the children of Iraq"

Contact information

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Photos taken by SGT Eric Hill and members of HHC 926th EN BDE

Soldiers Photos

Photos of soldiers and scenery from around Baghdad.

Photos listed from left to right top to bottom

Photo 1

SGT Curtis Calhoun of Tuskagee, Alabama Keeps a watchful eye during a tour of Route Kansas.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 2

SPC Anthony Hutchins of Cedar Hill, Texas Takes a look down at his passengers from the MRAP gunners turret.

Photo by 1LT Clark Neal

Photo 3

1LT Clark Neal of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania gives a stuffed bear and candy to a young Iraqi during a tour of Route within Sadr City.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 4

PFC Jonathan Knight provides security during a

tour with MG Patreaus of Route within Sadr City.

Photo 5

CSM Dan Zebrasukas grabs a cup of coffee while waiting outside of Tharwa 1.

Photos by Clark Neal

Photo 6

Photo by TSGT Cohen Young
Combat Camera
USAF Task Force Gold

Photo 7

Chaplain Fisher surveys the damage and clean up efforts along route within Sadr City.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 8

Photo by TSGT Cohen Young
Combat Camera
USAF Task Force Gold

Photo 9

MAJ Jeffrey Hopkins Stands along a street off of Route Kansas during a tour with the 4th Infantry Division Chief of Staff.

Photo By SGT Eric Hill

Photo 10

SFC Jason Lehman watches a roof top along Route within Sadr City.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 11

SPC Joshua Osterman takes a moment of prayer during a convoy brief with the members of the 926th PSD.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 12

1LT Shawn McKinney of Lake Mary, Florida takes a second to pose with some Iraqi children.

Photo by TSGT Cohen Young

Combat Camera
USAF Task Force Gold

Photo 13

SGT Russel of Monroe, Louisiana works at a bridge recon with the Construction Effects Operation Center Team.

Photo by SGM Joe Duncan

Photo 14

BG Jeffrey Talley of South Bend, Indiana gives a Soccer ball to a Iraqi boy along Route within Sadr City.

Photo By SGT Eric Hill

Photo 15

SSG Curtis Conrad of Des Moines, Iowa and SGT Adam Russel of Monroe, Louisiana look over system settings while surveying a parking lot on Camp Victory.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 16

Photo by TSGT Cohen Young
Combat Camera
USAF Task Force Gold

Photo 17

photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 18

Photo by TSGT Cohen Young
Combat Camera
USAF Task Force Gold

Photo 19

LTC James Barte takes a ride in a MRAP along Route inside of Baghdad.

Photo by 1LT Kooyenga
G9 4th Infantry Division



Note from the HHC Commander

CPT Jared Corsi

I am proud of every soldier and their families. HHC, 926 EN BDE is making a huge impact and difference here in Baghdad. During the short amount of time in Iraq, I am amazed at the growth of all of our soldiers and especially impressed with the maturation of our young soldiers. Every parent, spouse, child and loved one should be proud of their soldiers. All of the hard work that we did to get here has paid off and the Brigade Commander informs me our unit is being noticed for the engineering impact we have had in

Baghdad - especially in Sadr City. This is not possible without the love, support and patience of the families of HHC, 926. Special thanks goes to the Family Readiness Group and Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Burnett, the Family Programs Assistant, who efforts have ensured the lines of communication are open and families have a support network during separation. The FRG is a volunteer organization and works mostly at night after their normal work day is complete. I would also like to recognize the efforts of Mrs. Talley, who's toys for Iraqi children have already hit the streets. Soccer is a passionate sport in Iraq and the soccer balls are well received. In a few weeks, I will start to cycle soldiers home for R & R leave. This leave period will continue until January of 2009. I hope you enjoy Issue #1 of our company newsletter. This will be a bi-monthly publication.



Note from the First Sergeant

1SG Dennis Denton



As time passes by quickly, Soldiers have been performing their duties in a professional manner. As we venture into the remainder of our deployment we should not forget those that have made sacrifices before us and strive to be mentally and physically tough so that we can complete our mission and return home safely to our loved ones. With all that is left to accomplish it is important that we not lose sight of what we have left to accomplish and continue with the same determination and positive attitude that we came in country with. Conditions are sometimes tough but with team spirit and team cohesion there is no limit to what we can

accomplish as long as we support each others success. I have never served with a more professional group of Soldiers and I am proud to say I am a senior leader in HHC, 926th Engineer Brigade. Always stay in touch with your families and loved ones and never lose sight of their needs. Be Safe.

