

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 3 - 15 JULY 2008

A Precious Resource

A look at the water on Victory Base Camp and the efforts to bring it to a new level.

Page 1

Meet the Med Ops Section

Each week we will visit the ins and outs a different section of HHC 926th Engineer Brigade.

Page 2

Ralph 2.0

Ralph's second tour in Iraq. No medals, No Awards. Chia pets stand aside. (photos page 3)

Page 2

Awards, promotions, & Ceremonies

Soldiers of the 926th who have met and gone above the call of duty.

Page 3

Birthdays



Recognizing our soldiers on their birthday.

Page 3

MWR

A look into what soldiers do with a little down time.

Page 3

Just a word

A quick word for our family and friends back home.

Page 3

Soldiers Photos

Photos of soldiers and

scenery from around Baghdad.

Page 4

Photo Index

A brief description of the Soldiers Photos on Page 4.

Page 5

Command

Comments from the HHC Company Commander & 1SG

Page 5



A Precious Resource

In a desert water is a critical resource. Over the past few months the water levels on VBC (Victory Base Camp) have decreased significantly. This is partially due to the extremely dry winter that Iraq had during the late months of 2007 and early months of 2008.

It was an unseasonably dry winter that saw very little rain in comparison to previous winters. This did not allow the lakes on VBC to refill to their normal levels as they might have in preparation for summer.

Recently the water levels in the two lakes have stabilized. This is partially due the 926 EN BDE assisting in repairing water pumps at the Jaddriyah Pump Station. The problem with the water levels on VBC belongs to

DPW (Department of Public Works) and USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers), but since the Jaddriyah Pump Station falls within the 4th Infantry Division's Battle Space, the 4th ID tasked repair responsibility to the 926 EN BDE.

The Jaddriyah Pump Station is also responsible for supplying water to the Radwanayah area in Southern Baghdad. The 4th ID and the 926 EN BDE are repairing the Jaddriyah Pump Station to improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people who live in the areas which are fed by the pump station. With the additional pumps working, more water can be supplied to the Iraqis living in the Radwanayah district. Maj. James Daffron of the 926 EN BDE said "They have already seen improvements as more water is flowing through the water treatment units in the area." Once the water flow increases in the lakes to their capacity on VBC the excessive water will flow to the canals and then out to the Iraqi people in the surrounding area. Approximately 1,000 local farms will get the much needed water which will provide a boost to the local agriculture industry and will provide additional food and

employment opportunities to the residents of Radwanayah.

Before the 926 started working with the operators at the pump station only two pumps were in operation out of ten. The station is designed to work with six large pumps working at the same time. There are eight large pumps and two small pumps at the station. The two large pumps that were working prior to 926 EN BDE involvement were not always working at full capacity and due to faulty and outdated equipment they often needed to be shut down for repairs. Since then seven out of eight large pumps are now in operation and work is in progress to improve the overall efficiency of the station.

A DDR (Disarmament Demobilization Reintegration) program has been drawn up to train military age males to work at the station. Maj. Daffron said about the DDR program, "This would give them usable skills that would keep them employed and away from insurgent militias." The twenty-eight week training course will teach them



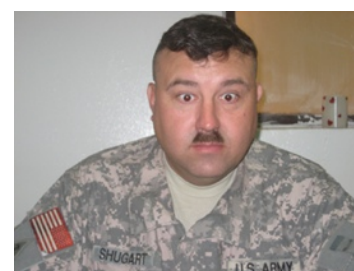


how to operate the plant, do maintenance, and improve the efficiency of operations. In the month and a half that the 926 EN BDE has been engaged in the project better operating techniques have helped improve the amount of water being sent to Radwaniyah and to VBC.

- SPC Anthony Hutchins

also help pull security while in the field. They walk alongside the CST and keep a watchful eye on everything. They also bring with them their civilian experience. SPC Meuli works in an ER as an EMT and is use to the stresses that come from such environments. SPC Osterman says that he wanted to be a medic so that he could help people in need. While here in Iraq he is learning by doing.

You won't see him on our alpha roster and he doesn't receive any mail. The Army will not even



officially recognize him. He is recognized by the 926 though. He has gone everywhere we have. He was on the

plane ride with us and has already flown in a helicopter. He is brave and has gone on combat missions with us to help conduct 5s and 25s. Sometimes he is overzealous on his 5s and 25s and wants to hog window space. Other soldiers in the vehicle can't see out the window because he is always in the way. You can definitely say he leads from the front. Ralph is very sociable and has been in every shower at PAD 18 and has toured many bathrooms in PAD 18. He has eaten at both chow halls and has been seen at the PX. He meets you at the door when you come to the TOC. He is truly a special person, and stands out from the rest. He does it all for the glory and doesn't even get paid. He is a true American hero. Birds especially love him and try to lay eggs on him and raise their young in him. He will soon be leaving us to face the world on his own. Ralph will be missed very, very much. Of course I am talking about SSG Shugart's hair. Ralph and SSG Shugart have one of those symbiotic relationships like the cow and the egret. How will one live without the other?

Ralph Photos on next page.

CPT Jared Corsi

SSG Eric Croley leads them as their NCOIC. He is responsible for the health of all soldiers in the brigade. He tracks the movements of the medics and helps MAJ Victor Estes with Task Force Gold by giving regular briefings to Brigadier General Jeffrey Talley or Colonel Philip Jolly. MAJ Estes is currently stationed at Tharwa 1 with the Task Force Gold personnel. It is here where he had to identify all of the Ministry of Health Facilities in the Task Force Gold area and coordinate with the local Iraqi doctors. The Physicians' Assistant, 1LT Deon Ridgell, works at the 890th BAS where he performs treatment. Throughout the tour the section rotates brigade surgeons. The first surgeon for the brigade, Capt. Steven Delia, works over 20 hours a week supervising 2 BAS's and reviewing LOD (Line of Duty) documentation. He also assists in treating brigade personnel. For these soldiers they live the motto, "To Conserve Fighting Strength."

SPC Anthony Hutchins
SGT Samantha Summers

Chances are that you will see them at some point during your deployment, even if it is just to get a band-aid or a Tylenol, more than likely you've just seen them around.

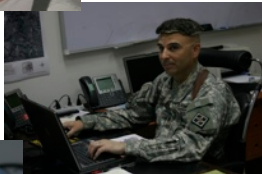
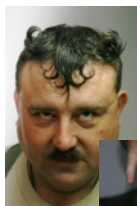
They are always in high spirits even when they go outside the wire. They not only work outside the wire, but also at the BAS (Battalion Aid Station), where they spend most of their work time. While in the aid station they screen patients, which entails finding out what is wrong with them, getting their vitals, and present that information and the patient to the Physician's Assistant or the doctor. On Fridays SGT Samantha Summers, the Treatment NCOIC (Non-commissioned officer in Charge), makes sure that everyone is up to date on their immunizations. She also makes sure that everyone is registered in Express Scripts, which allows soldiers to get their long term prescriptions refilled.

In the field, the medics work alongside the CST (Combat Support Team). It is their job to keep a watchful eye on the soldiers in the field. SPC Joshua Osterman and SPC Todd Meuli rotate between working in the BAS and going outside the wire with CST. The mere presence of the field medic gives the soldier a sense that they are taken care of no matter what may happen. The medics

Ralph 2.0

We have a special member of our team who will be leaving us soon. Before we say goodbye to him, I want to introduce you to Ralph. Most of you don't know him but he has been with us for a long time.





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

No awards at this time

SGT Shonda Wright of Montgomery, Alabama is promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Wright.

COL Phillip Jolly made a 6.6 Sapper strong run with BG Jeffrey Talley.

SGT Curtis Calhoun, SGT Franklin Ball, and SSG Michael England reenlisted with 1212 other Soldiers, Marines, Seaman, and Airman on the 4th of July at Aw Faw Palace on Camp Victory.

Contact information

Rear Detachment

926th Engineer Brigade
Bldg 1511, 745 McDonald St.
Gunter Annex, AL 36144

Commander - LTC Robert Johnson
robert.dale.johnson1@usar.army.mil

334-416-2905(W)
601-529-4875(M)
John Trice (SOTS) - 334-416-5532(W)
Lasharn Holloway (SAA) - 334-416-5611(W)
Sandra Mannhard - 334-416-5530(W)

Family Readiness Group

FRG Leader
Stephanie Johnson koko1534@aol.com
334-361-0241(H)
334-318-4574(M)

Family Programs Assistant

Jamie Burnett jamie.burnett@us.army.mil

Iraq Contact information

Soldier name
HHC, 926th Engineer Brigade
APO, AE 09344 - 3472

DSN: 318-847-2382

CPT Jared Corsi jared.Corsi@mnd-b.army.mil

Birthdays



The following soldiers have birthdays in the month of July

SGT Michael England	July 1st
SPC Todd Meuli	July 7th
SPC Amos Kent	July 10th
SPC Tiffany Snow	July 11th
SGT Curtis Calhoun	July 17th
CSM Daniel Zebrauskas	July 18th
1LT Stephen Gress	July 20th
LTC Alberto Rosende	July 20th
SPC Kimberly Tyus	July 21st
MSG Jody Roberts	July 24th
MAJ William Reeves	July 26th
SFC Roy Holmes	July 28th
SGT Terence Barron	July 29th
PFC Thomas Odeneal	July 29th

MWR



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

There are many ways in which soldiers stay active while deployed in Iraq. Soldiers of the 926 Engineer Brigade have

created a softball team to encourage the idea of friendly competition with other units. It gives these soldiers a way to relax and have some fun in an already very stressful environment. Softball also gives the soldiers a sense of home, since baseball and softball are American classics. The field they play on isn't exactly the "House that Ruth built," it is more like the sandlot behind the corner drugstore, but even that is as American as apple pie.

The Engineer Express, as they are called, brings a new dimension to America's Pastime. Though Victory eludes them (at the time this article was written) they remain confident that she shall grace them with her presence. The scorching desert heat and the lack of hotdog vendors at the games do not bring them down. They play on. They are bringing a little fun to a place where hard work is life, literally. For a few hours on the weekend they dismiss their worries and relax by competing with

other teams to be the best softball team/unit on post.

-SPC Anthony Hutchins



"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?

SGT Barron

"(1) Playing ball, eating real food, family, friends, and playing with my jazz band. (2) Having a better way of life and a stronger community."

SSG Greer

"(1) Playing with my kids. (2) Helping to better their lives by giving them some of the privileges we share, like running water and infrastructure."

CPT Waddell

"(1) The wife, family and the farm (2) The 926 is providing a means for the Iraqi people to improve their situation here in the MND-B / Baghdad area."

MAJ Liles

"(1) I miss my wife and children. I look forward to making the most of our time together upon my return. (2) I truly believe that most Iraqi people know that our cause here is a noble and worthy one. I believe most appreciate our services."

MSG Deroune

"(1) My wife, dog and boat. (2) We have cleaned up a lot of trash."

PFC Odeneal

- 1) Chillin with my friends....(2) We supply power, water, etc."



SPC Anthony Hutchins of Cedar Hill, Texas displays his climbing skills at the presentation of a camel spider by 1LT Stephen Gress of Montgomery, Alabama.



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

1215 Soldiers reenlisted at Al Fawa Palace on the 4th of July. To Include SSG England, SGT Ball, and SGT Calhoun of the 926th.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 2

SGT Timothy Saksa of Shreveport Louisiana, practices his pitching skills during practice with the 926 Engineer Express.

Photo by SGT Samantha Summers

Photo 3

SPC Joshua Osterman of Columbus, Georgia catches a quick nap while waiting on fellow soldiers to arrive for a convoy.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 4

SPC Christopher Wright of Wetumpka, Alabama takes a swing and a hit at the 926 Engineer Express practice.

Photo by SGT Samantha Summers

Photo 5

LTC Tito Martinez of Columbus Georgia listens to Iraqi leaders comments during a meeting inside Sadr City.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 6

SGT Rusty Tetter of Georgiana, Alabama stands ready in his gunners turret during a convoy to Tharwa 1.

Photo by PFC Jonathan Knight

Photo 7

SGT Shonda Wright of Montgomery, Alabama is promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant by MAJ William Reeves of Montgomery, Alabama.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 8

PFC Jonathan Knight of Columbus, Georgia stands at his vehicle before a convoy to Sadr City.

Photo by PFC Jonathan Knight

Photo 9

1LT Shawn McKinney of Lake Mary, Florida steals a photo

op during a convoy inside Sadr City.

Photo By PFC Jonathan Knight

Photo 10

SGT Whitney Stamey of Vicksburg, Mississippi is the high point of several children's day, but leaving her with the biggest smile.

Photo by LTC James Barte

Photo 11

SGT Amy Lehman of Albany, New York laughs with fellow soldiers during a Sapper Call dinner.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 12

Brigadier General Jeffrey Talley of South Bend, Indiana speaks to a young Iraqi child outside a school reconstruction inside Sadr City.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 13

SGT Whitney Stamey of Vicksburg, Mississippi gets a pie in the face from SGT Samantha Summers during a birthday party for Stamey and

fellow soldier SGT Adam Russell of Monroe, Louisiana.

Photo by SGT Eric Sessums

Photo 14

Chaplain Carlton Fisher of Wetumpka, Alabama spends time blowing bubbles with some Iraqi children outside a school reconstruction inside Sadr City.

Photo By SGT Eric Hill

Photo 15

A young Iraqi girl hugs a stuffed Sylvester gift from CPT Matthew Slyder of Simpsonville, south Carolina.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 16

SSG Jeffery Flowers of Montgomery, Alabama pauses for a photo while working on the Brigade S1 section.

photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 17

SGT Terence Barron of Troy, Alabama smiles from his computer while working in the Brigade S1 section.

photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 18

SPC Jarrod Allen of Montgomery, Alabama enjoys a little down time with a banjo and cookout with the 926th Medical section.

photo by SGT Samantha Summers

Photo 19

CPT Albert Lehmann Fredricksburg, Virginia listens intently during a electrical meeting with Sadr City officials.

Photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 20

PFC Brandon Petersen Enterprise, Alabama receives a Coin from Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen.

photo by SGT Eric Hill

Photo 21

1LT Angel Richardson of Memphis, tennessee poses for a photo outside newly opening shops inside Jamilla Market of Sadr City.

photo by SGT Eric Hill

Note from the HHC Commander

CPT Jared Corsi



Unlike most foreign countries, the United States Army continues to be an all-volunteer Army. I wanted to pay tribute to our soldiers who recently reenlisted while in theatre. Soldiers like SGT Calhoun, SGT Ball, and SSG England continue to volunteer their commitment to protecting our constitution and families back home. I am proud of the three of you for your continued commitment. Uncle Sam is very proud of you too! SGT Sessums has been named the NCO of the Quarter. Congratulations go to him and

Construction Effects Operations Center (CEOC) for leading the way. The 1SG has pass slot available for August. I encourage section leaders to utilize the passes that we have available for August to give your soldiers a much needed stress relief. Communication with the rear detachment remains strong. We are lucky to have the team that we do in Montgomery. LTC Johnson is moving on to be a Battalion Commander in West Virginia. I congratulate him on his selection. CW3 Pike is the new rear detachment commander. He is very engaged and will be working to ensure we have a reserve center to come home to.

Note from the First Sergeant

1SG Dennis Denton



Sacrifices are made by all during deployments of Soldiers during times of conflict when our great nation calls. We all need to remind ourselves that the loss of life is the ultimate sacrifice and never forget those and their families that have given so much in that way. Sacrifices are also made by our loved ones at home as well. As we all work hard to meet the goals set out daily by our Commander and CSM, we must not lose sight of our mission at hand and move swiftly in unison to accomplish our objectives. Our efforts are paying for the sacrifices that we make as well as the sacrifices made by our families and loved ones. At some point in the future we can all look back and say to one another, job well done. We must continue to support, praise and thank those around us for their

efforts, the sacrifices they have made and their families have made to accomplish our tasks. It has taken everyone's efforts up to this point for us to remain in the success column and it will be required to continue those efforts throughout this deployment. As we lean forward and gain momentum, lets all communicate at a higher level, pick up the pace, move a little quicker, lend another hand, work a little harder and smarter and do all the things we can to make our team stronger and stronger and stronger. We all have an obligation to always do the right thing, always do our very best and never hesitate to make a decision. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to come together as one and to perform as well as we have up to this point in order to leave here a better place. Continue all of your efforts and lets all stayed focused on our mission that we have so diligently set out to accomplish. Be safe.

