

RUGGED REGISTER



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 08

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

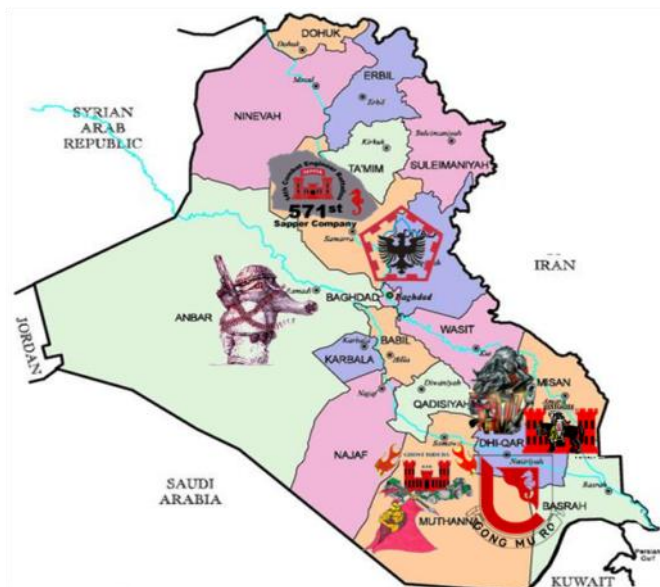
18 OCTOBER 2008

FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER

Dear Family Members, Soldiers, and Friends of the Rugged Battalion,

Greetings from COB Adder! We have completed our first six months of deployment, with nine months remaining until our redeployment in July 2009. The battalion headquarters, HHC, FSC, 570th, and 610th are now based in Tallil in southern Iraq. The 571st Sapper Company and 937th Clearance Company are still superbly conducting operations in northern and western Iraq. The Triple Nickel, our home station brigade from Fort Lewis, has joined us in Multinational Corps Iraq. It is great working with familiar faces again, particularly since the 555th Engineer Brigade has so many former Rugged Soldiers.

Our new mission is to support Multinational Division Center and Multinational Division South East. We are primarily working with the Long Knife Brigade: 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood and are partnering with two Iraqi Army Engineer Regiments and conducting construction and route clearance. Southern Iraq is predominately Shi'a so we are no longer in a mixed religious/ethnic area of Sunnis and Kurds. Our change of mission has brought new challenges but has helped refocus and reenergize the battalion.



Forty-one Rugged Runners completed the Army Ten Miler on 5 OCT. A special "Hooah" goes out to CPT Nemec, LT Rodgers, LT Hawes, PFC Ferrone, PFC Conley, MSG Corner, PFC Chamberlain, LT Mellinger, and SPC Fox for beating Rugged 6.



RIGHT:

New Battalion Headquarters painted by Renegade Soldiers SGT Kharel, SSG Purvis, PFC Rodriguez, SGT Hadley, and SPC Dawson. Not pictured: CPT Warren, 1LT Walker, 1SG Horiel, SFC Brown, SPC Garner, and SPC Louis



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FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

PFC Leonard C. Gulczynski made the ultimate sacrifice serving our country. He died while serving as a vehicle gunner in tragic HMMWV accident south of Baghdad on 17 SEP 08. PFC Gulczynski was a proud, enthusiastic, and hard working engineer who is sorely missed. A memorial service was held in his honor at COB Adder and at Fort Lewis. Please keep him and his parents in your thoughts and prayers during this sorrowful time.

Our Family Readiness Support Assistant, Ms. Jennifer Thuline, is departing the battalion on 1 NOV due to the reassignment of her spouse. She has done a fantastic job and will be greatly missed. Jennifer, thank you for all you've done for the Rugged Families.

The Rear Detachment Fall Fiesta will be held on 1 NOV at the Fort Lewis Family Resource Center (FRC). Families, please join this great event to share camaraderie and enjoy salsa dancing, Spanish food, games and kids crafts.

Taking care of Soldiers and families remains my number one responsibility. I encourage everyone to be involved in the FRG. If you feel you are not getting the support or information you need through the FRG, vFRG website, the rear detachment, or chain of command, contact me at darien.helmmlinger@us.army.mil.

RUGGED!

LTC Pete Helmmlinger

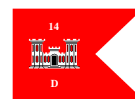
Rugged 6



CPT Corey Warren
Rear D Commander

Email: RearD14thenbn@conus.army.mil
Staff Duty: (253) 966-3090/1546

SFC Tauese Tupua
Rear Detachment 1SG



RUGGED REAR DETACHMENT



Hello Soldiers, Families and friends of the Rugged Battalion!

"VOTING KEEPS THE ARMY STRONG!"



- ⇒ **Not Registered to vote? ITS NOT TOO LATE! Just go to your closest voter registration office before 20 October 2008 and sign up in person. Due to the hour at hand it must be in person, so don't delay!**
- ⇒ **The Service Voting Action Officer strongly advise Service members and Civilians to use FWABs (if applicable): If the troops and civilians are from one of the 18 states with late state primaries, they will have to complete the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) to ensure their vote is counted. They will also need to complete the FWAB if they do not receive their state's ballot by the recommended date.**
- ⇒ **When completing the FPCA, request in the remarks section to have your State ballot and Absentee ballot for the General Election sent separately. Provide a fax number or email address on the FPCA for an electronic delivery of your ballot.**
- ⇒ **Please see your Unit Voting Assistance Officer (UVAO) or CPT Corey Warren, for more information.**



"BE SMART. DO YOUR PART. VOTE!"

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

14TH ENGINEER BATTALION



Commander: CPT James Warren

First Sergeant: 1SG Sherri Horiel

FRG Leader: Susan Sinker

Company Update: The Company was split for almost a month between FOB Warrior and COB Adder, supporting operations on both fronts but we have finally completed our relocation to COB Adder. Our new location brings with it fresh opportunities as well as challenges but everyone remains in good spirits as we press forward with supporting company and battalion operations in all aspects. During the month September, the company conducted several different activities; Soldiers from the company were promoted, re-enlisted and recognized for their accomplishments. We also participated in the safety stand down day with our sister company FCS and continue to make improvement to the company and battalion area.

Achievements: Congratulations to the following Soldiers on their commendable accomplishments and promotions:

Promotions: MSG Stevens, SGT Hadley, SPC McFarlane

Good Conduct Medal: SSG Burns, SPC Raymond and SPC Pierson

Re-enlistments: SSG Burns, SSG Garza and SPC Louis

Hails: SFC Betz and PFC Cisneros

Farewells: PFC Roddenberry



Thanks again for all your support to the company.
Renegades!

**CPT James Warren, 1LT Alexander Walker &
1SG Sherri Horiel**



FORWARD SUPPORT COMPANY - FURY

CPT JOSEE RADZIKOWSKI

1SG JEROME ROBINSON

FRG LEADER: MELLISSA CAMPOS

Greetings from COB Adder! The company is well settled in, and finally living in trailers, so, it is a big boost to a lot of us. We are working hard to get our facilities and systems back up and running and setting everything up better than it was at FOB Warrior. I hope everyone is doing well and not missing the summer months too much as it has probably returned to rain.

This month has been extremely busy for the whole company primarily with the move. Distribution Platoon made a lot of trips back and forth to ensure all the sensitive and vital battalion property made it to COB Adder when it was needed. They worked pretty much without a break and this past week the company took a breath and did a lot of good training on driving various vehicles and getting more Soldiers licensed on them, safety classes and mission training classes. It was a much needed week to refocus and I know Distro Soldiers received a lot of good training from their NCOs.

PSD also has been extremely busy ensuring the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major get well acquainted with the new battle space as well as continuing to provide support and guidance to both 571st Sapper Company and 937th Route Clearance Company.

Maintenance has been extremely busy tearing down all the facilities in FOB Warrior and setting up all the facilities down in the motorpool here in COB Adder but also conducted their own convoy to Adder to ensure their vehicles and personnel arrived safely. They did an impressive job.

Mail is arriving in loads to Adder so that always lifts our morale and it is great to have all of your support !

- CPT Josee Radzikowski

Congratulations to 1SG Robinson on his selection to Sergeant Major! Big congrats to Flo as well!

Congradulations to all our promoties this month for all their hard work and dedication to the U.S. Army: SGT Dean Meruk, SGT Alejandro Fairley, SPC Anthony Rivera, SPC Mark Shults, SPC Nicholas Hintz, SPC David Dobrick, and SPC Wilfredo Perez and their families!



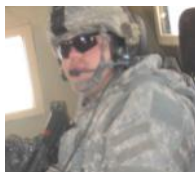
Top Left: SPC Langley has the thankless job of trying to keep the Commander and First Sergeant's computers connected and free of all viruses!

Center Left: Commander promotes PFC Anthony Rivera to Specialist—a well earned promotion and he also receives his Mechanics Badge from the Commander

Below Left: SGT Fairley smokes the whole company in the Motorpool after his promotion



Congratulations to our August and September **HEROs of the WEEK !**





570TH SAPPER COMPANY (FIDO)



COMPANY COMMANDER: CPT JAMES D. DOUGLAS

1ST SERGEANT: 1SG JERRY D. REID

SGT Forkner takes corner advice from his coach SGT Kovac before his sumo fight with a 1/10th Soldier.



September began with a long arduous trip down to the southern region of Iraq to COB Adder. By the end of September our company was back together again and conducting our given mission without skipping a beat. The adaptability of our Soldiers to change without any problems to a new operating environment with a different type of terrain and population never ceases to amaze. The change of scenery from a somewhat vegetated region of Northern Iraq to the now flat desert and marsh area of Southern Iraq is a welcome change of pace for the Soldiers. Since the FIDO Company has been on COB Adder, all the Soldiers have spent their time adjusting to the "harsh" living conditions of Iraq, which now consist of a CHU (Containerized Housing Unit) that they share with a roommate. The CHUs are small trailers split into rooms that two Soldiers share and they come equipped with AC, soft beds and a TV jack. They are a lot like a college dorm room, except with weapons and body armor resting on the floor instead of notebooks and dirty clothes. Rest assured that the Soldiers are performing better than ever and we are now one month closer to coming home.



1SG Reid marvels at the destruction power of a single crow bar and brute force.

SGT Artis checks the engine of a Maxxpro prior to the big move.



1SG Reid attempts to understand 1LT Lary's explanation of what's the best Disney movie of all time.



PFC Ibraimov prepares a vehicle prior to a mission.



SPC Nye taking a break to pose for the camera while working with SGT Artis.

Congratulations!

Promotions:

SPC Martinez, PFC Kendle, PFC Parise, PFC Mills

Re-Enlistments:

PFC Garcia

Births:

CPT James Douglas and Kimberly for the birth of their son David on 05 October 2008.

SSG Sean Dohner and Rebecca for the birth of their girl Riley on 25 September 2008



FRG Leadership

Leader: Mrs. Eileen McWilliams
Co-Leader: Mrs. Kimberly J. Douglas
Secretary: Mrs. Amy Barrett
Treasurer: Mrs. Jamie Kennedy

CPT James D. Douglas

Soldier's Names
570th Sapper Company, 14th EN BN
COB Adder
APO AE 09331



“ROCK REPORT”

571ST SAPPER COMPANY, 14TH ENGINEER BATTALION
COB SPEICHER, APO AE 09393

To our Rock Hard families,

To start the month of September, 5th platoon returned to their home company at COB Adder, taking the company strength down to the original number of platoons. Tragically, PFC Leonard Gulczynski from 5th platoon was killed in a vehicle accident during the move south. A former Rock Soldier, SGT Shannon George was injured in the accident as well. All of us in the 571st Sapper Company mourned Leonard's passing and keep him and his family as well as SGT George and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

First Platoon moved out from under the company guidon, setting up at Joint Base Balad as the company began taking missions from the 5th Engineer Battalion. First quickly settled into life at the well-equipped base, but lets Rock Hard visitors stay with them and use the pool adjacent to their quarters. Second Platoon continues to work hard out of their slightly more rugged (pardon the pun) living conditions at FOB Brassfield-Mora. They have been training their soon to be platoon leader 2LT Fuller on the finer and not-so finer points of route clearance. October will keep them busy with some new interesting operations.

Third platoon continues to hold down the fort here at COB Speicher. SFC Pedraza recently moved up to HQ to be the operations sergeant and SSG Phillips has been doing a great job filling in as the acting platoon sergeant. They had a great time with the military dog demonstration as evidenced by the pictures on the right. HQ platoon has had some changes with personnel moves, but continues to live the adventurous life with missions to distant bases to keep the company supplied and happy.

Keep the mail coming to the Speicher address and know that we miss you all. Rock Hard!

CPT Lou Nemec
 Commander
 571st Sapper Company



Promotions:

To 1LT: 1LT Morgan Reed
 To SFC: SFC Jeff Waggoner
 To SPC: SPC Daniel Badge
 To SGT: SGT Dustin Morrison
 SGT Desiree Reed

Goodbyes:

SFC Roger Betz
 SGT Desiree Reed
 PFC Aisha Cisneros

PFC Leaks acts tough just seconds before being chased and bitten by a military patrol dog. 3rd Platoon got a great laugh



SFC Pedraza tried a more friendly approach with the patrol dog, with much the same result. Again, 3rd Platoon laughed



SSG Cloutier and LT Huggins discuss their plan prior to an operation while SGT Bernal, SFC Waggoner and SGT "Favra" Martin look on

Command Team

CPT Lou Nemec
1SG Rafael Rodriguez

FRG Leadership: 571frg@gmail.com

Chadryn Pedraza chadryn.pedraza@us.army.mil (360) 400-1425
 Lindsay Nemec lindsay0316@yahoo.com (360) 455-7140

610TH ENGINEER SUPPORT COMPANY



GHOST RIDERS!


CPT ANIBAL COLON
SFC Michael Witten
FRG Leader- Mrs. Frances Colon

Hello to all the Soldiers, families, and friends of the Ghost Riders,

This past month, we sadly lost one of our warriors and brother in arms. We remembered and honored PFC Gulczynski during a memorial ceremony held at COB Adder on 23 September 2008. Although, it is heart wrenching to deal with the reality of not having his company around us anymore, the Soldiers are driving on with missions and continuing to improve our facilities here on COB Adder. Please continue to pray and send your blessings to his family to help them get through this difficult times. We are getting to know our new area of operations and continue to receive equipment and personnel in order to complete the move. R&R leaves are on going without any interruption and in a few weeks we will begin honoring passes to Qatar for selected Soldiers who finished the Army Ten Miler Run held at COB Adder on 5 October with a better run time than the Battalion Commander. Soldiers did not miss the opportunity to take advantage of this incentive, but there were many others who just wanted to participate in such an amazing event. The company 5 man-ruck march/run team led by 1SG Witten also finished the 10 miles ahead of all the other ruck marchers that participated on the event. We have a full load of construction missions to better protect coalition forces and improve the roads along our new area of responsibility. Please continue to support our Soldiers through letters of encouragement, packages, and emails as you have been doing for the past 6 months. Thank You for being part of the **GHOST RIDERS!**



SGT Alves, SGT Miller and PFC Mello being recognized during the October awards and promotion ceremony.

610th ESC Family Readiness Group Corner:

If anyone is interested in providing their time and abilities in scrapbooking to make cards for deployed troops, "Totally for Troops" is looking for volunteers to join their work force. Please contact Dianna at dianna@totally4troops.org, for more information. The FRG will be contacting families in order to make pictures collages for Nov and stockings for Dec, for our Soldiers down-range. More info to follow in the upcoming weeks. We are still looking for volunteers to fill positions in the FRG or help assisting Soldiers and their families through out the deployment. If anyone is interested, please call Mrs. Colon at 253-912-0911 or 610frg@live.com.

Baby Announcements:

Congratulations to the Cambaliza's, Clemmons', Rodriguez's and Hilliard's families on the welcoming of their newest members.

CPT Colon
Ghost Rider 6


1st Plt Soldiers operating their up armored bulldozers during a force protection mission on COB Adder.



HQs ruck/run team during the Army Ten Miler on COB Adder.



PFC Pisor enjoying a day in the motorpool at COB Adder.



WOMBAT FRG NEWSLETTER

**14TH COMBAT
ENGINEER
BATTALION**

FROM THE COMMAND

Greetings again from Iraq for this month's installment of the Wombat FRG Newsletter. The ubiquitous countdown meters floating around the company are showing that we have just over 280 days left in the deployment. September has been another month of changes for the company. A number of the platoons are readying themselves for the upcoming moves next month. This will bring a change in scenery to most and help break up a bit of the monotony. Though a quiet month for the company, our Soldiers constantly amaze me with their ability to stay vigilant despite the grind of daily (or nightly) route clearance patrols. It takes a special kind of discipline to keep this up day in and out.

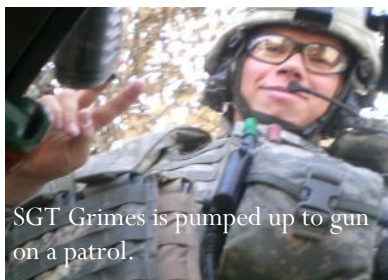
Congratulations to the newly-promoted SPC McSpadden, SPC Hurt, SGT Henkel, SSG Schunemann, and SGT Craig. Thanks for all of the hard work over the past year!

Again, if you have any issues while back at Fort Hood contact our rear detachment NCOIC, SSG Scott or either of our FRG leaders, Joy Schunemann and Nina Henkel. My email here is randy.schultz@cf.mnfw-iraq.usmc.mil don't hesitate to contact me if you're not getting the help you need while we're deployed. If there is any additional information that you would like seen in this newsletter feel free to let me know. I hope this finds all of you in good health. Wombats!

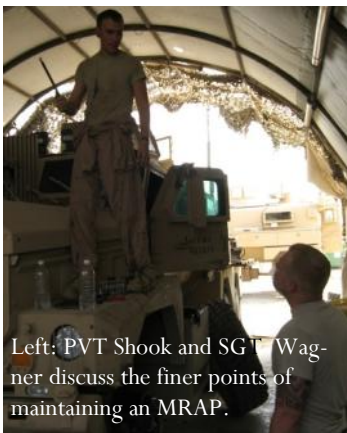
CPT Randy Schultz, Company Commander
1SG Ronnie Lary, Company First Sergeant



One of the company's newest Specialists, SPC McSpadden is promoted by SGT McDowell at Al Asad.



SGT Grimes is pumped up to gun on a patrol.



Left: PVT Shook and SGT Wagner discuss the finer points of maintaining an MRAP.



Members of 5th Platoon sporting the highly-coveted Army Combat Shirt.

HEROES OF THE WEEK



Clockwise from upper left:

PV2 Donnellan, PFC Benjamin, SSG Smith, SPC Muller



Below: Members of 4th Platoon take a moment to eat a flame-broiled meal out at BP TRIPOLI.



A rare formation at Al Asad to recognize promotions.



FAMILY READINESS NOTES



Jennifer Thuline, Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA)

jennifer.thuline@us.army.mil or (253) 966-1429



Welcome Soldiers, families, and friends of 14th Engineer Battalion!



14th Combat Engineer Battalion - Upcoming Family Friendly Rugged Events

1 November from 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Fall Fiesta (Family Resource Center) Everyone is invited! Please come out, bring drinks, side dish, or dessert to share, and have fun with other families from 14th Engineer Battalion!

-21 November from 6:00 - 9:00 pm - BUNCO & Potluck Night (North Fort Chapel) Everyone is invited!

\$5 BUNCO player fee; CASH Prizes; Please come out, bring a food dish to share, and have fun!

-6 December from 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Holiday Party (at the Family Resource Center - FRC) Everyone is invited! Please come out and have fun with other families from 14th Engineer Battalion!

-13 January at 6:30 pm - Battalion FRG Meeting (Battalion Classroom) Everyone is invited! Please come out & join us!

Topic: **Mental Health / Behavioral Health Care options (on and off post)**

-February Event - Love yourself! It's all about self care! More details to come but expect relaxation techniques, skin care information, massage therapy, stress management and more. If you want to help, let Chad Pedraza know 571FRG@gmail.com

Mexican Food

Fall Fiesta

Saturday, 1 November 2008, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Where: Family Resource Center (FRC)

RSVP by 27 Oct 08 to Claudia Helminger:
claudia.helminger@us.army.mil
(253) 964-1061 (home)

Mexican food will be provided for this event!
Just bring a non-alcoholic beverage to share!

Please come out to have a great time!

There will be activities for children 4 years of age and older.

*Onsite childcare will be available for FREE for children up to 3 years of age!
Please RSVP no later than 27 Oct. so we know how many childcare providers we will need.
Please be sure to bring all basic childcare necessities (formula, diapers, wipes, snacks, etc) as they will NOT be provided.

POTLUCK and BUNCO Night

Friday, 21 Nov 2008, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Where: North Fort Chapel

\$5 per player

DOOR PRIZES & CASH PRIZES!!

RSVP by 17 Nov 08 to Claudia Helminger:
claudia.helminger@us.army.mil
(253) 964-1061 (home)

What is BUNCO/BUNCO?
bun-co also bun-ko (bung'ko)
1. A parlor game played in teams with three dice.
2. A winning throw in the above game; three of a kind of a specified number.

For more information about Bunco, please go to:
<http://www.buncorules.com/>

Company	What to bring:
HHC	Beverages
FSC	Desserts
570th	Main / Side Dishes
571st	Main / Side Dishes
610th	Main / Side Dishes

*Onsite childcare will be available for FREE!
Please RSVP no later than 17 Nov. so we know how many childcare providers to have.
Please be sure to bring all basic childcare necessities (formula, diapers, wipes, snacks, etc) as they will NOT be provided.

Holiday Party

Saturday, 6 Dec 2008, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Where: Family Resource Center (FRC)

Everyone is welcome!

Family activities and fun
Come out and join us!

RSVP by 1 Dec 08 to Claudia Helminger:
claudia.helminger@us.army.mil
(253) 964-1061 (home)

	Food
Battalion	Main Dish(es)
Company	What to bring:
HHC	Beverages
FSC	Desserts
570th	Side Dishes
571st	Side Dishes
610th	Desserts

*Onsite childcare will be available for children 3 years of age and younger for FREE!
Please RSVP no later than 1 Dec so we know how many childcare providers to have.
Please be sure to bring all basic childcare necessities (formula, diapers, wipes, snacks, etc) as they will NOT be provided.

FRG Special Feature : The Importance of Family Readiness Group Support during Deployment

By CPT Anibal Colon (610th ESC CDR)

When we think about Soldiers deploying, the first thing that comes to our minds is tactical operations, IEDs and the usual stuff you see on the news back home. However, in every military unit, there is a particular team of individuals whose only interest is supporting the men and women in uniforms so that their time away from home is not as worrisome. All the work they do is done without expecting any compensation in return and their sacrifices usually do not make it on the evening news. Yet, when things get rough they step up and lend a helping hand to one another. When we mourn the loss of a fallen comrade in Iraq, back in the States they mourn with us and give the affected family their total attention and care as if it was a member of their own family. I am talking about the families back home and the magnificent work that the Family Readiness Group (FRG) has done for my unit, the 610th Engineer Support Company (ESC), during this deployment.

As a former junior enlisted Soldier who rose through the ranks to a noncommissioned officer (NCO) and then later a commissioned officer, I know first hand the importance of having a strong support group back home. Every Soldier, including myself, needs to have that one thing that helps you get away from the reality of being deployed, even if it is only for five minutes, so that we can recharge our batteries and get back into the fight. To me that one thing is pictures from home, like the one published with this article, to remind me why I am here and the importance of remaining vigilant and ready for anything. We ask families to go through a lot while we are gone by picking up our jobs in the family structure. The Ghost Riders FRG from the 610th ESC, 14th Engineer Battalion under the care and direction of my wife, Frances Colon, made it a priority to make the families feel as an integral part of the unit. It is not unusual for the FRG to receive a phone call, email or letter of appreciation from families for taking the time to make every phone call or email personal in nature and specifically designed to bring that family closer to the unit.

- See **Chaplain's Corner (with Picture)**, Page 10



14TH COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

LTC Helmlinger, Battalion Commander
CSM Otto, Command Sergeant Major
CPT Warren, HHC Commander
CPT Radzikowski, FSC Commander
CPT Douglas, 570th Commander
CPT Nemec, 571st Commander
CPT Colon, 610th Commander
CPT Schultz, 937th Commander, 8th EN BN

Battalion Staff Duty: 253-966-3090
Brigade Staff Duty: 253-967-5111

Checkout

www.militaryonesource.com for
additional resources available to

RESOURCE NUMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE:

FT. LEWIS, WA

Triage Appointments: 1-800-404-4506
Chaplains: 253-968-1120
Behavioral Health Clinic: 253-968-2700
Emergency Room: 253-968-1390
Social Work Service: 253-968-4159
Family Advocacy Program: 253-968-4160
Alcohol & Substance Abuse (ASAP): 253-967-2202
Family Life Center: 253-967-1723
Stress & Anger Management: 253-967-7906
Adult Specialty Clinic (STDS): 253-968-4444
Suicide Prevention: 253-967-5636
Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-Suicide
Poison Control: 1-800-732-6985
Tobacco Cessation Programs: 253-968-4387
Soldier Readiness Service: 253-968-5140

Religious Support: IRAQ

ADDER: CH (CPT) Peter Aleria, 14th EN BN
SPC Raymond Groves, Chaplain Assistant
SPEICHER: CH (MAJ) Charles Kuhlman
1BCT, 101 ABN DIV, APO AE 09393
DSN:(318)845-6106 / SVOIP: 242-1964
FALLUJAH: CDR Michael Mikstak, CHC, USN, Command Chaplain 1 MHG
FPO AP 96426-2540
DSN: (318) 3404-498 / SVOIP: 696-0670
RAMADI: LTC Gary Califf (AF)
DSN: (318) 344-0834
ALASAD: CDR Paul Shaughnessy
Chaplain, Regimental Combat Team 5
DSN: (318) 4404-494

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9, FRG SPECIAL FEATURE

During the hurricanes that recently affected the southern states, the FRG took it upon themselves to call every family that had residences in the path of the storm to make sure they were alright. I am amazed of how much they have been able to connect with the families and how dedicated the FRG is to keeping the families informed of everything we are doing in Iraq as we continue with our mission.

When the 610th ESC stood up in February 2007 there was no FRG structure, but within 90 days of the unit's activation the volunteers started coming in, ideas formulated and by June 2007 we had a fully functional FRG. Once the word started to spread, the FRG began to prepare not only the families, but also the Soldiers with financial, legal and medical readiness classes prior to our deployment in April 2008. Everyone in the unit became more involve in the monthly FRG meetings and events. The FRG leadership used all the tools provided to them by Fort Lewis agencies to break away from the routine meetings in a conference room. Things like family bowling nights, ice cream socials for spouses, and movie night for kids on Halloween while the company was deployed to the National Training Center are all actions that attracted more families to learn about everything they could accomplish to support each other during a deployment. Today we have one of the strongest, if not the strongest Family Readiness Group in the 14th EN BN. As a commander, to have a FRG that's reliable, willing, and capable to tackle any family issue in a caring yet professional manner, it allows me to fully concentrate on our missions downrange. For the Soldiers conducting daily combat operations the realization of knowing that they have such a great group of spouses, parents and friends watching over their love ones back home provides them with a sense of relief to know that, no matter what, when or where, the Family Readiness Group is ready and more than capable to help.



Call your
chaplain
at: 253-967-
2853 or 253-
861-0638.

If not available,
call 253-967-
0015 or 967-
3831 and ask for
the Staff Duty
Chaplain.

This Family Readiness Group Command Letter is provided to all spouses of Soldiers within the 14th Combat Engineer Battalion, with the sole purpose of providing for the well being of family members of the Battalion, as authorized by DA PAM 608-47 and verified by my signature:

D. PETER HELMLINGER
LTC, EN
Commanding

RUGGED !