

STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS



ADSEQUOR - "TO ACHIEVE"



December 2008 brought lots of presents to the Soldiers of the "Steel Spike" Battalion, including another trophy after winning the "Basket-Brawl" game against the 890th EN BN.

More photos inside the Christmas Edition of the "Steel Spike Express!"



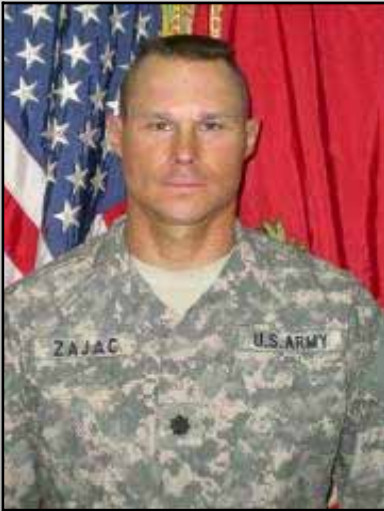
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Commander's Observations



LTC Matthew Zajac
Battalion Commander
46th ECB (H)

The New Year has come and gone and you can see from this issue the Soldiers of the Battalion made the best of being here during the holidays. The New Year brought great recognition to several of our leaders who were promoted to the senior NCO ranks - congratulations to SFC Williams, SFC Thurston, SFC Ledford, SSG Daigrepoint, SSG McIlquham, and SSG McCummings. My thanks to you and your Families for your continued service to our Soldiers and our Nation!

We are gearing up to support the Iraqi Government as they hold elections at the end of the month. As in the United States, campaigning is serious business. All across Baghdad, creative campaign managers have transformed concrete T-Walls into billboards for colorful posters to get their message out. As I watch the process unfold here, I cannot help but be thankful for the fact that we all live in a country that has successfully transitioned power from president to president for over two hundred years without degenerating into violence and chaos. I was here in Iraq for their first elections in 2005, and I can tell you firsthand that your Soldier's and our Families' sacrifices have made a difference here – to the individual Iraqi citizen.

As always we are working hard to show you and the American people how your Soldiers are supporting Coalition operations and the Iraqi people. We have succeeded in highlighting our efforts in national newspapers and magazines, the Armed Forces Network, several local television channels and radio stations, and all across the internet. The Battalion even made the Christmas morning edition of Good Morning America! Let us know where and when you see stories about our Soldiers so that we can spread the word. Send your sightings to the Battalion Public Affairs Officer, 1LT Yarber, whose contact information is in the "In the News" section.

SPIKE 6





CSM's View

Happy Holidays,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the Holiday season and the New Year is off to a great start for you and your Family's. The Battalion represented by the "Bravo Beasts" started Christmas off right with a decisive victory over the 890th Engineer Battalion in the Christmas Basket-Brawl tournament. The "Bravo Beasts" also eliminated the rest of the Company's teams for their prestigious crown as Battalion basketball champions.

I would like to thank all the individuals who assisted in the care packages the FRG sent to every Soldier and the mailroom staff who worked over time to ensure that everyone got their packages for Christmas. Thanks for all the support you give the Battalion, have a Happy New Years.

Spike 7



CSM Frank Thibodeau
BN CSM
46th ECB (H)

PA's/Chaplain's Corner

Deep Venous Thrombosis (DVT)

During your R&R brief you heard about this "DVT" thing. DVT is a condition where blood in large vessels doesn't move as well as it should and forms a blood clot. This can be harmful if it ends up in the lung.

We worry about this occurring in the lower legs during travel, because of the long amount of time spent sitting on the plane.



CPT Troy Bidez
BN Physician's Assistant

You can greatly reduce this risk by taking an aspirin a day in the 5 or so days leading up to your travel. You should remember to stretch and flex the muscles of the lower leg during flight. Not everyone can take aspirin, so stop by and we can make sure that it is OK for you to take it.

Col 3:23 NLT "Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."

I encourage you to complete whatever you do with pride, because someone is always watching.



CPT Jerry Wagner
BN Chaplain

Whether serving as lead gunner, supply clerk, repairing phone lines, cleaning, or organizing for the FRG – achieve in excellence as if for the Lord.

Steel Spike!



HSC "SPARTANS"

Happy New Year!

This month all members of the Company have made significant contributions to the Battalion mission. Starting with our Maintenance sections (DSU & 2nd Shop), they have continued to work long and tedious hours making sure the entire fleet of vehicles are always in a high state of readiness.

The Mighty S6 Shop has continued to be key players in establishing monthly Video Tele-Conferences for Soldiers allowing them to see their family members in the states, in addition to maintaining communication links throughout the battalion.

Our PSD and CST continue to support the battalion by providing safe movement support for our equipment and Soldiers throughout MND-B. The EQ platoon has stayed busy conducting Route Sanitation, bridge repair, and supporting the motor pool upgrade.

S-1 has processed numerous End Of Tour awards, promotion packets, as well as getting Soldiers their mail. The S2, S3, and S3C sections continue to plan missions, manage movements and provide Intel updates.

Finally, congratulations to the Medical section for completing the Advanced Cardiac Life-Support class, while continuing to provide medical support to the battalion.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the Holiday Season and may all your goals be accomplished in the New Year!!

Spartans!



CPT Angela Smoot
HSC Commander
46th ECB (H)



1SG Steven Hall
HSC First Sergeant
46th ECB (H)



CPT Smoot hands out gifts to the Soldiers of HSC on Christmas Day, at Camp Liberty.

1SG Hall (left) meets with SPC Basile (center), before his "Soldier of the Year" board @ 926th EN BDE. Basile later won over 675 other Soldiers in the BDE!





Gen. Casey, Chief of Staff of the Army gives a speech as SPC Basile (left), LTC Zajac & CSM Thibodeau (right) and others listen intently, 22 Dec.



In the spirit of giving, the medics sign up to donate money to charities, with help from CFC Representative 1LT Clements.



SPC Newcomb surveys a parking lot in Muthana, in September.



DSU & Maintenance Soldiers show their excitement after receiving Christmas Presents, 24 Dec.



SPC Ruhling delivers care packages to Soldiers, sent from his father's company.



SPC Thompson is happy with her Christmas gift, Dec. 25.



SPC Jones shows off his artwork at the Supply Building in Nov.



Amazingly enough, Santa Claus makes a visit to HSC Soldiers on Christmas Day!



SPC Gouchenour & SPC Barnes sing & play guitar during a Christmas Service @ EN Chapel.



ALPHA “GATORS”

Greetings once again from “across the pond,”

If you would have told us that 6 months into our deployment we would have accomplished this much to contribute to a more stable Iraq, I would have disagreed. Another great month for team Gator. We are really focusing on training the Iraqi Engineers and conducting quality control to ensure the Iraqi contractors and Iraqi Army are able to execute without us in the future.



CPT Sean Heenan
A Co. Commander
46th ECB (H)

It was great to have the chain of command's blessing to get our Warriors back to our main base camp here in Iraq in order to allow our Warriors to relax and refit on Christmas. They were able eat a great meal from the “big” dining facility, get their Christmas packages from the mail room and our married Soldiers were able to conduct Video Tele Conferences with their Families back on Fort Polk on Christmas day. All thanks to Mrs. Otto, the Gator FRG leader and our commo section here in Iraq.

We have a Soldier whose spouse currently lives in Japan and with the cooperation of the Marine Corp were able to conduct a VTC with her as well. So remember that if you are not near Fort Polk, but are close to another military installation just contact 1SG Roman by email at david.a.roman@us.army.mil and he will be happy to coordinate a VTC with that military installation.

Time is really flying for us over here, all our Warriors still have all their fingers and toes and a busy Soldier is a happy Soldier when away from their Family. We all miss the great United States and our loved ones extremely, but our Warriors continue to do great things for a cause that is greater than ourselves.

We can't thank the Families enough for the support and patience you all have for our great Warriors and our nation. Please stay safe, continue your unyielding support and before you know it we will all be back in your arms.



1SG David Roman
A Co. First Sergeant
46th ECB (H)

CPT Heenan and 1SG Roman



PV2 Esker fixes a light outside of the Battalion Headquarters, Dec. 26.



A CO Soldiers pour concrete at a project site at Thunder Road in Baghdad.



SGT Miller, 1LT Nelson & another Soldier take a quick photo before getting back to their mission.



CPL Morris uses a MWR computer during his refit from TF Gold Spike.



SFC Ritter teaches A CO plumbers carpentry at the clamshell project, in Nov.



An Alpha Company Soldier prepares to make a road upgrade on the Victory Base Complex.



SPC Barber & SPC Antonio conduct maintenance on a bulldozer.



BRAVO "BEAST"

Hello Beast Families and friends,

I would first like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope and wish the New Year brings good fortune and prosperity to everyone.

Our Soldiers have consistently performed extraordinary on their missions and tasks. During the past month 1ST Platoon worked on their largest project since they have been deployed. They have been busy building living spaces, offices, and upgrading the force protection of a Joint Security Station.

2nd Platoon constructed three 30' X 85' buildings consisting of a morale and welfare building, dining facility, and gym. These new buildings were completed well ahead of schedule and just in time for the Christmas holiday.

Earthmoving Platoon continued to conduct quality assurance and quality control patrols on numerous projects within the Baghdad area. Our Headquarters Platoon, Maintenance Platoon and newly established Convoy Support Team have all continued to work behind the scenes supporting the company's administrative, logistical, and mission needs. Needless to say this past month has been extremely busy.

During the Christmas holiday the BEAST Soldiers came together to enjoy a Christmas party, as well as win the 926th EN Brigade Basket Brawl Championship. Soldiers exchanged gifts and were entertained by card games, dominoes, & platoon skits.



CPT Christopher Beal
B Co. Commander
46th ECB (H)



1SG Gregory Williams
B Co. First Sergeant
46th ECB (H)



CPT Beal and 1SG Williams visit Saddam's famous Crossed Sabers Parade Field.



BG Talley issues BDE coins to CPT Beal & 1SG Williams during an awards ceremony, Dec. 26.



SPC Lawson prepares a vehicle to be towed.



B CO enjoys a Christmas Party in the Rail Room on Camp Liberty.



CSM Zebrauskas (far right), 926th Engineer Brigade CSM, visits with B CO Soldiers at the BOCAT mission in Baghdad, in December.



SPC Porrier receives her Christmas gift of high-speed work gloves from LTC Zajac, 24 December. The gloves were a gift from LTC Zajac's brother who owns an auto store.



SFC(P) Rhodes takes a picture with MNF-I CSM Wilson, in December.



SGT Broadwater checks out the gloves he received as a gift on Christmas Eve.



SGT Sullivan holds the "Basket-Brawl" trophy while Brig. Gen. Talley congrats MVP SPC Taylor, Christmas Day.



955th EN CO "CLYDESDALES"

CPT Lauver:

Hello family and friends! Another holiday has come and gone during this deployment, and we want to thank everyone at home for their best wishes, care packages, love, and support sent to us! We had a great Christmas holiday here, complete with a basketball game in participation of the battalion's MWR day. Soldiers also enjoyed a great meal at the dining facility of turkey, stuffing, and all the trimmings! We enjoyed a safe holiday and are continuing our mission success throughout Baghdad.



CPT Crystal Lauver
955th EN Co.
Commander

SFC(P) Gibbs:

The 955th Engineer Company had a successful holiday season, thanks to detail-oriented soldiers and all the support we receive from back home. All your cards, care packages, emails, and support was a great help to keep everyone's spirits up during the holidays. Our soldiers participated in a basket ball game, and also spent some time together playing cards and enjoying all the holiday cookies you send! As always, we can't wait to see you again, but until then we continue mission here.



1SG Matthew Gibbs
955th EN Co.
First Sergeant



CPT Lauver makes a friend with a puppy named "Texas" @ Tharwa, 26 Dec. Looks dangerous!



1SG Gibbs & 1LT Long serve up the Christmas Day meal at the Dining Facility, 25 Dec.



SFC Coleman, 1LT Blanco & 1LT Jefferson (B CO) serve Christmas Chow, 25 December.



955 Soldiers help to expand Ali's Store located on Camp Liberty.



SFC Janca gets a present from Spike 6 on Christmas Eve, while SFC Anderson (HSC) waits his turn.



1LT Smiley stands guard in Baghdad.



955 Soldiers emplace a culvert at the Al-Ban Apartments in Baghdad, in December.



A 955 Soldier looks into the goodie boxes during the Christmas Eve MNT/DSU gift-giving by Spike 6.



CW2 Washington RE-Ups
SPC Hitt, in December.



SSG McCummings, B CO,
"NCO of the Month."



SPC Grandberry RE-UPS for
6 more years!



SPC Verner is promoted to SGT
in December.



SPC Nahl, B CO,
"Soldier of the Month."



MNF-I's CSM Wilson jokes with
SPC Nalls during a coin
ceremony during his visit in Dec.



46th ECB (H) In the News...

[http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20081127/NEWS01/811270322/-1/](http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20081127/NEWS01/811270322/-1/Category=ENT)
[Category=ENT](#)

(955 Engineers help beautify neighborhoods - TF Gimlet)

[http://www.fortpolkguardian.com/articles/2008/11/07/](http://www.fortpolkguardian.com/articles/2008/11/07/fort_polkguardian/020weight.txt)
[fort_polkguardian/020weight.txt](#)

(46th ECB (H) Spouses continue "Biggest Loser Club" meetings)

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/2136944/posts>

(Female Soldiers hand out school supplies, backpacks to all-girl's school in Iraq)

http://www.dvidshub.net/index.php?script=news/news_show.php&id=26705

(HSC MNT makes PLS truck upgrades)

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20081125102927zmil.nb/topstory.html>

(B CO Soldiers turn on lights, add showers for Soldiers)

http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news_main.php&zone=7&which=Qatar

(B CO JSS Istiqlaal upgrades)



1LT Janeene Yarber
"Scoop Spike"
Public Affairs Officer

For photo submissions contact your FRG leader or email me: janeene.yarber@mnd-army.mil.



Steel Spike Birthdays & Fun

February

- 2/1 SGT WILLIAMS
- 2/2 SPC BENDZAK, PFC POE, PVT ACKERMAN
- 2/3 SFC NALLS
- 2/4 SGT KENDALL
- 2/5 SSG FRAZIER, PFC PRIETORUIZ, PV2 ROACH
- 2/7 SPC ORTIZ
- 2/9 SFC ENGLISH, SPC MCDANIEL,
PFC GUTOWSKI
- 2/10 SPC KLEINHEIDER
- 2/11 SPC SUTTON, PFC GREEN
- 2/12 SSG SHANDS, 1LT MURRAY
- 2/13 PFC STYCZYNSKI
- 2/14 PFC LIVSEY, SGT LEYBA
- 2/16 SGT KAHER, SPC CAIN
- 2/17 PV2 PURLER
- 2/18 1LT NELSON, SGT SHANE
- 2/19 SPC MYERS
- 2/20 PFC WILLIAMSON
- 2/22 PV2 EVANGELISTA, SGT HAUER
- 2/23 PV2 PARKER, SPC AVILES
- 2/25 PFC HUNT, PFC MCFARLAND
- 2/26 PV1 EMERSON, SGT CORTEZTOVAR
- 2/27 PFC SLAYBAUGH, CPL BELL, SGT THOMAS,
SGT CLARK, SPC MATSON
- 2/28 1LT BLANCO, SPC HEPPERMAN



B Co, the 2008 "Basket-Brawl" champions pose w/ the 890th EN BN basketball team, Brig. Gen. Talley & CSM Zebrauskas, 25 Dec.



SGT Barnhorst, PFC Wilkes, SPC Matson & PFC Slaybaugh, all from HSC, receive an OIF "Dagger Brigade" coin from COL Martin, for their route sanitation work.



Santa Claus is able to visit HSC Soldiers thanks to this "Desert Sleigh."

**Congratulations to
SFC Coleman (S6), winner of
the "Spartan Fantasy
Football
League!"**



A Word from the FRG



Tekesha Wall, SFC Miller & SPC Joseph enjoy the FRG Christmas party @ Polk.



Mrs. Taft is happy with her Christmas gift!



Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Rhodes enjoy the Thanksgiving FRG party @ Fort Rucker



Mrs. Fontenot & SSG Matthews enjoy the Christmas Party @ Fort Polk.



CPT Dickerson stops for a photo at the Fort Polk Christmas Party.



Mrs. Woods holds Jaylyn Woods @ the Thanksgiving FRG party held on Fort Rucker.



Bravo "Beast" kids make presents for their deployed parents.



Shannon Wagner smiles as she hold up her gift.



"Happy Holidays" from the Rear Detachment at Fort Polk!



Christmas Special Edition

Steel Spike Express



Mrs. Kelsey holds little Kelsey as they depart from the FRG event.



Mrs. Williams & the Portez Family enjoy the FRG function @ Rucker.



SFC Miller gets a basket of goodies at the Polk Christmas party.



Jennifer Williams decorates her head with raffle tickets!

The 46th ECB (H) is having a Blanket Drive for Iraqi citizens.
Send new or slightly used blankets to:
CH Wagner, CPT Landreth or 1LT Yarber
HSC, 46th ECB (H)
APO AE 09344
(Also accepting: stuffed animals, soccer balls & children's clothing/shoes).



Christy Nelson is happy with her Christmas present!



Connor McIlquham is super excited about the FRG party.



Mrs. Peltier and Mrs. Thomas take care of Baby Falcon @ the FRG party.



Shari Baye & others line up for grub @ Polk's FRG shindig!

FRG LEADERS

NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT #	E-MAIL
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GINGER SALTZ	955TH EN CO	573-433-6460	ginger.e.saltz@us.army.mil

KEY FRSA POC

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