



STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS



Adsequor - "To Achieve"

March 10, 2009 marked the 6-month mark to our redeployment and the Soldiers of the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) , 955th Engineer Company and 277th Engineer Company continue to do outstanding work in the Baghdad, Iraq area. On March 1, 2009 we held the End of Tour Awards ceremony for the 955th Engineer Company followed by a farewell barbeque and we welcomed the 277th Engineer Company to Iraq. As we move forward with this deployment the Soldiers of the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and 277th Engineer Company will continue to do their part in making Iraq a better place for Coalition Forces and the Iraqi people.



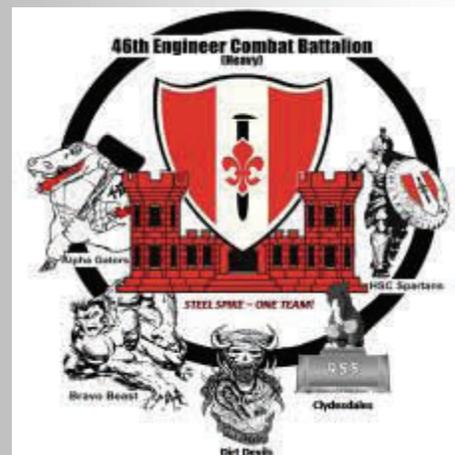
LTC Zajac looks on as CSM Thibodeau assists with concrete placement at Muthana.



LTC Zajac talks to a local shop vendor during a project site visit in east Baghdad

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Commander's Observations



LTC Matthew Zajac
Battalion Commander
46th ECB (H)

Greeting Families and Friends of the Steel Spike Battalion! As at home March marks the changing of the weather from the hibernation of winter to the blooming of spring, here in Baghdad we too are seeing exceptional change. For us, the cooler weather has held on for a while longer than expected, but our biggest change here comes from the almost-complete transfer of mission from the Clydesdales of the 955th Engineer Company to the Dirt Devils of the 277th Engineer Company.

Clydesdale leaders and Soldiers executed some of the most demanding missions across Baghdad including route sanitation, barrier emplacement, building demolition, and life support facility construction. Not content to execute just their military occupation specialty tasks, the Soldiers of the 955th En Co consistently and without prompting applied their civilian skills to expand their scopes of work and take care of their fellow Soldiers. The standards of their leaders and the discipline of their Soldiers resulted in the accomplishment of every mission without casualty or accident. Throughout their deployment, the 955 En Co displayed the extraordinary value of the Citizen-Soldier to the Army and to the Nation. Their Families should be proud, and I thank each of you for the support shown to each other and to your Soldiers here. I know I speak for us all when I state they will be missed!

The Dirt Devils have displayed the same "can-do" attitude as their Clydesdale brethren, and their Soldiers are even now executing missions across Baghdad, serving both their fellow Soldiers and the people of Iraq. To the Families of the 277 En Co, rest assured that your Soldiers are making a difference, and that the recent pain of separation will soon be replaced with pride as you see your Soldiers achievements highlighted in the media back home.

In closing, let me just state that while we have accomplished much over the last nine months, we still have a ways to go before we are all reunited. I ask that all of us continue to support one another and to work together to bring the final months of our deployment to a successful closure. As always, my sincere appreciation for all of our volunteers in the Family Readiness Groups, without whom our mission here would be much more difficult.

STEEL SPIKE – ONE TEAM!



LTC Zajac pictured with BG Monconduit and Soldiers from the 6th Iraqi Army Engineer Regiment



LTC Zajac cutting the King Cake with LTC Dieya of the 6IA Engineer Regiment.



CSM's View

Greetings,

Another month has past and not without a lot of long hours and sweat from the Soldiers of the Steel Spike Battalion. Steel Spike Soldiers are working everywhere in Baghdad, day and night making a difference.



This month we say good bye to the 955 Engineer Company and welcome the 277th Dirt Devils from San Antonio Texas. The 955 hit the ground running and never looked back; they have left their mark on Iraq and quite an impression on everyone in the Battalion. I want to thank Captain Lauver and 1SG Gibbs for their outstanding leadership and willingness to go above and beyond to take care of their Soldiers. I will truly miss all of the Clydesdale Soldiers, and want to thank them for their support of the Battalion and our mission. I would also like to say thank you to the Clydesdale Families for all of your support and hope you all have an outstanding homecoming.

The Battalion had another great month of enlisted and NCO promotions and we will soon have the promotion list for Sergeant First Class. We have very deserving Staff Sergeants we hope will be on this year's list.

I hope everyone had a great "Fat Tuesday" and had some Gumbo and King cake.

Take Care

Spike 7



CSM Frank Thibodeau
BN CSM
46th ECB (H)

PA's Corner

TINEA CRURIS (Jock Itch)

It's an infection of the skin in the groin with one of several fungus germs. These fungi thrive in the groin where darkness, warmth and moisture stimulate their growth. Jock itch is more likely to occur in men than in women. It is contagious from person to person. It appears as scaling patches on the skin of the groin, thighs and buttocks. Patches have well-defined edges. The involved area will itch. It's caused by contact with infected surfaces, such as towels or benches. There is increased risk of infection in hot, humid weather, with excessive sweating, and obesity which fosters sweating.



CPT Troy Bidez
BN Physician's Assistant

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Dry thoroughly after bathing.
- Wear clean, dry underwear for each workout.
- Wear absorbent, loose fitting underwear.
- Use powder.
- And I shouldn't have to say it, but shower at least once daily.



HSC "SPARTANS"



CPT Angela Smoot
HSC Commander
46th ECB (H)



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

Greetings Spartan family,

The month of February is coming to an end and the spring season is rapidly approaching us. We are beyond the half way point but remain mission focus on several fronts. Our Soldiers continue to excel during missions and in areas of self improvement. It has been a delight to see the Spartan Soldiers not only giving 100% in support of the Battalion and company missions, but to see so much involvement and interest in self improvement. Our Soldiers are actively enrolled in Army Correspondence Courses, College Courses, Promotion Boards, Soldier of the Month Boards, NCO of the Month Boards and Physical Fitness Activities. The Soldiers have been focused on many levels and their growth as a person and as Soldiers are evident.

The complexity of HSC starts with its size but doesn't end there. We are well over 200 Soldiers now and the company continues to grow. The Spartan company is charged with supporting the battalion in the areas of logistics, administrations, security, providing Intell analysis and updates, communications, automations, surveying, drafting, equipment maintenance, welding, fueling, dinning facility operations, medical support, material hauls, battle tracking and mission planning. Another unique aspect of the company is our Equipment Platoon commonly referred to as EQ Platoon. The EQ platoon has been acting outside of its traditional support role. They've broaden there scope to include; Route Sanitation, Crater Repair, Road Repair, Sniper Screen Construction and Facility Upgrades. Due to the increasing size and complexity of the company, we do recognize the challenges faced on the home front by our FRG. We understand that it's not always easy to keep abreast of the needs and interest of others. The arrival of new Spartan family members may present a challenge but a welcomed one. The Command Team would like to take the time to thank the FRG for welcoming and integrating our new additions to the Spartan family.

Please take the opportunity to contact Mrs. Shari Baye (337-208-3045), the Spartan FRG leader for any updates or events. And as always, "It's a Family Affair"!



Mural Spartan Artists:

SPC Theodis Jones was born in Grambling, LA. SPC Jones has been practicing art since 6yrs old. He considers it his true passion. SPC Jones is also talented in the area of music and has recorded his own CD. SPC Jones' mural depicting Spartan Soldiers was inspired by the movie "300". A hearty group of warriors that gave their all for their country as HSC does to support the battalion, the Engineer Brigade, BCTs/DIVs, and the entire MND-B.

Some Spartan highlights you may enjoy of our Soldiers.

SPC Velez: Once he discovered he was having a son he went around in the middle of the night knocking on doors and waking Soldiers up to pass out cigars. (Proud Farther!)

SSG Frazier: Currently moonlighting, has taken a second job as a CTC instructor facilitating our Soldiers in some self improvement. (PFC Buntley is the teacher's pet)



SFC Padron show his motivation during the HSC Awards ceremony



1SG Hall enjoys Engineer Call



SPC Cummings and CPL Fulton unload the mail truck.

Additional Spartan Soldiers highlights

SGT Zuniga: Works so much that his Soldiers complain that he hogs all the work. (Guilty as charged but SFC Anderson will handle that)

CPL Ferguson: was graciously asked to join the Personnel Security Detail and he's becoming a PSD guru.

Major Stinnett and CPT Kelley: They finally had their long anticipated race. (Who won?)



SGT Dusenberry at FOB Constitution



HSC Supply with the MND-B CSM, CSM Malloy on his visit to the 46th ECB (H)



ALPHA "GATORS"



CPT Reyn Landreth
A Co. Commander
46th ECB (H)



"However fine the weapon, however adequate the equipment; neither represents any more strength than the hearts of the men who use them." --Matthew B. Ridgway



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

Hello Gator friends and family! I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. Over the last 30 days, the Gators have continued to improve the lives of deployed Soldiers and Iraqi citizens. Their Herculean efforts reverberated from Sadr City to Southern Baghdad. Quite simply, the Gators continue to set the standard for General Engineering support in theater.

Allow me to spotlight a few of their most notable achievements: renovating facilities for Iraqi and U.S. Special Forces, doubling the living/working space for a Joint Security Station by building four wood-frame buildings in less than 30 days, teaching Iraqi Engineers on the proper techniques to emplace concrete, removing barriers and making the roads safer....I could go on and on. The pace of our missions brings new meaning to the phrase "March Madness."

I know the separation is tough, but take solace in the fact that your deployed Gator is making a difference every day, and be proud of the important role YOU play in our continued success.

Mrs. Lisa Otto has been working hard to line up some fun events including a St. Patrick's Day Party (March 16th), an Easter function in April, and a monthly "Spouses Day Out." For details on any of these events, please email her at: aco46th@gmail.com

Stay safe and take care. Steel Spike!...and GO GATORS!



Mural Gator Artists:

- SGT Mark Verner, Interlachen, FL**
- PFC Stephen Ackermann, Antioch, CA**
- SGT Stacy Kirby, AL**

When asked what their inspiration was for the mural painting, SGT Kirby replied, "living! In all seriousness, my inspiration for the mural is life."

March 2009

Steel Spike Express



SGT Brewer installs piping underneath the shower trailer at JSS Knight



CPL Pratt levels the wooden B-Hut footers at JSS Knight.



SPC Hidgon and SPC Secrest assemble furniture in support of the Task Force Raptor screening facility.



SPC Reyes sheaths the roof of B-HUT #2 at JSS Knight.



SGT Miller ground guides the 5-yard LDR will conducting route sanitation on RTE WILD.



SSG Orange and SGT Miller supervise as SPC Sepulveda installs new battery cables.



BRAVO "BEAST"



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



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

Hello BEAST Families and friends! This was an historic month for Bravo Company, 46th ECB and 1st MEB. On February 10, 2009 we receive news that Bravo Co. won the FORSCOM Engineer nomination for the regimental Itschner Award. The Itschner award, named in honor of Lt. Gen. Emerson C. Itschner, the 39th Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is presented each year to the most outstanding active duty, Reserve and National Guard Engineer units throughout the Army. In order to be eligible for the Itschner Award, a unit must be selected at every level, from their battalion, to their brigade and finally their major command. Once they are approved, they advance to the Department of the Army (DA) level where the branch evaluates the nomination packets and selects a winner. The company leadership team worked countless hours putting together an 85 page write up. It consisted of pictures and write-ups from every construction project and training event, Soldier developmental programs, FRG activities, company safety record, and several other contributions to the Engineer Corp. Needless to say, our Soldiers are honored, as well as humble to receive such a nomination. The overall results should be publicized no later than mid April. We are all thrilled and optimistic of the thought of possibly being recognized as the most outstanding Engineer Company in the United States Army for the year 2009.



Mural Beast Artists:

SGT Angelica Arellanojones, Syimar, CA
SGT Antonio Williams, Winston-Salem, NC

When asked what his inspiration for the mural drawing was, SGT Williams, replied, "I like drawing because it makes your mind imagine different shapes and angles." He also believes that drawing is a stress reliever and a way of keeping him focused and mission ready.



Soldiers greet CSM Thibodeau and CSM Major, the 225th EN BDE CSM.



PFC Buckmeier received a coin from CSM Major, the 225th EN BDE CSM.



SSG Lacey download three trailers loaded with building materials with a wrecker crane.



SGT Jones conducts radio checks before the convoy departs.



SSG Calhoun ground guides PFC Hogan in the BOMAG



EM Platoon Soldiers assist with the cleanup of a major fuel spill



955th EN CO "CLYDESDALES"



CPT Crystal Lauver
955th EN Co. Commander



1SG Matthew Gibbs
955th EN Co.
First Sergeant

Farewell 955th EN CO

Hello family and friends! It has been a great deployment and we are finishing strong! We will miss the 46th Engineer Battalion, but we have the utmost confidence that the 277th Engineer Company will be just as successful as our replacements. The time has gone by fast and safe, and most of all we've made life-long friendships in the 46th Engineer Battalion as part of the Steel Spike Team! We look forward to seeing our engineer brethren on other missions in the future, and are anxious to get back to family. Thank you to the leadership and Soldiers of the 46th Engineer Battalion for always supporting the 955th Engineer Company!

CPT Lauver

Hello everyone! First and foremost I want to thank all the families and friends for their great support during the mobilization and deployment! Your efforts kept our spirits high! I also want to thank the Soldiers of the 955th Engineer Company for their professionalism and attention to detail that maintained successful missions and safety throughout the deployment. And last but not least, I want to say thank you to the Soldiers of the 46th Engineer Battalion who have been supportive and our brothers-in-arms – we will miss you!

1SG Gibbs



Clydesdale Mural Artist:

*SGT Angelica Arellanojones, Syimar, CA
SGT Antonio Williams, Winston-Salem, NC*

Farewell 955





277th EN CO Dirt Devils

Welcome 277th EN CO



CPT Gordan Robbins
277th EN Co. Commander



1SG Thomas Fleischhauer
277th EN Co.
First Sergeant

Greetings from Baghdad! Almost all of the Dirt Devils are here now, we have a few Soldiers in Kuwait completing training and soon to arrive, and a few more still on Ft. Bliss being cleared for deployment, and of course our Rear-Detachment Officer (RDO) SSG Randy Lacey is running things in San Antonio for us. Please keep us and all the Dirt Devils still in Rear-detachment on your contact lists and in your prayers. It has been a long process getting here, NTC in May seems like several lifetimes ago, but the Dirt Devils are finally in place and conducting Engineer Missions! It is wonderful to be completing the final transition from training and validation to actually conducting missions.

We are conducting the transition with the 955th EN CO so that we can gain from their experiences here in country and they can go home after completing a job well done. I want to express the most sincere thanks for the professional and considerate transition provided by the 955th. CPT Lauver and all of the Soldiers in the 955th have been wonderful in preparing our company for the mission throughout our training and are continuing to do so as they set the Dirt Devils up for success in every area. We owe them a great deal of thanks and I intend to "Pay It Forward" to the next Company scheduled to replace us. We have officially completely assumed our first mission and are soon to be solo on the four remaining current missions. All things are going smoothly as we begin to settle in to our new area of operations and learn our way around.

I am looking forward to great success on all the future missions for the 277th. Being an Engineer Company is the best job in the Army, in my slightly biased opinion, and we have a great Company. Our missions primarily consist of two types, Force Protection and Facility Improvements, both of which provide vital benefits to the Soldiers who need it the most.

I will close with the reassurance that everyone is training very hard to ensure a safe deployment and return for every single Dirt Devil. Safety is our primary mission at all times. We have an awe inspiring amount of the latest and greatest equipment here to help us operate safely. When we pair the latest equipment with the exceptional leaders and Soldiers in the 277th, I am very pleased with the protection level of our Dirt Devils. Please keep all of our Soldiers in your thoughts and prayers, as we will keep you in ours.

Dirt Devil 6 OUT!

We welcomed 277th, with in-briefs, weapons handling classes and more briefs.



March 2009

SPOTLIGHT OF SUCCESS

NCO of the Month



**SGT Staples, HSC
"NCO of the Month"**

SGT David L. Staples is a native of Seoul, South Korea. He was adopted at the age of 3 and move with his adoptive parents to the states. He is a graduate of LaSalle High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2006, after 3 years of college. He currently assigned as an medical for the 46th ECB (H). SGT Staples as been a major factor in the welfare of over 600 Soldiers. During his deployment to Iraq, SGT Staples has served as the combat medic on patrolling missions, undertaking over 40 patrols. In his spare time, SGT Staples enjoys a good run from time to time. He boasts himself as one of the battalion's fastest, placing in the top 3 on FOB fun runs. When, SGT Staples isn't attending to patients in the Battalion Aide Station or working out, he spends time studying for the board and assisting his Soldiers with their board preparation as well. He recently won both Company NCO of the month and Battalion NCO of the month. Through hard work and dedication he also helped a fellow medic take third in the Soldier of the month board as well. When asked what does he enjoy most about being a medic SGT Staples replied, "I just enjoy being able to help people. Being a medic in an Engineer Battalion is pretty exciting. I've gotten to do a variety of missions." SGT Staples also passed his Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification which is a really a huge accomplishment at this point in his career. SGT Staples' long-term goal is to be accepted into the Army's PA program.

SGT Staples pictured with
LTC Zajac



SGT Staples with BG Talley and CSM Zebrauskas
after taking 3rd place overall in the 926th Sapper Series

SPC Lawson was raised in the small town of Dixon, located in central Missouri where he graduated from Dixon High School.

Immediately following high school, James Lawson entered the military in October 2006. He attended basic training in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma where he was an honor graduate and scored the highest PT score in his company. SPC Lawson went on to train at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri doing advance individual training (AIT) earning the title of a 21E. After graduation he was assigned to the 955th EN CO.

While at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin training for deployment SPC Lawson not only completed all tasks that were mandated to deploy. He also successfully completed the Combat Lifesaver Course. SPC Lawson has qualified with his individual weapons (M16/M4) while here in theater and trained with the 240B.

SPC Lawson was selected by his superiors to be recommended for a battlefield promotion. His battlefield promotion was approved by the 926th EN BDE Commander (BG Talley) on 31 August 2008 where he was promoted to SPC. Recently, SPC Lawson was selected as the 46th EN BN CBT (H) Soldier of the Month for March 2009.

Soldier of the Month



**SPC Lawson, 955th,
"Soldier of the Month."**



SPC Lawson pictured with
LTC Zajac



SPC Lawson placed 3rd place overall in the
5K Freedom Run.



March 2009

RE-ENLISTMENTS



LTC Zajac re-enlists
SPC Maratita

CPT Kelley re-enlisted
SSG Bartlett



SGT Navayra re-enlists
for 6 more yrs.

1LT Jefferson re-
enlists SPC Utterback



SOLDIER IN FOCUS -SPC BRANDON MCTEER



PFC Brandon McTeer was born on August 07, 1988 in Germany. He joined the Army and attended basic training at Fort Jackson, SC. Following Basic Training, he attended and graduated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Lee, Virginia and was awarded the MOS 92Y. B CO 46TH ECB(H) is PFC McTeer's first duty assignment. He is a supply clerk that efficiently supports the company. In addition he also serves as the company armorer and is currently deployed to Bagdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10.

PFC McTeer has recently received a Division Command Sergeant Major coin from Division CSM Malloy during his visit for maintaining an outstanding supply room and logistic support in the absence of his supply sergeant. He also received a Certificate of Achievement in recognition for meritorious achievement as a supply clerk and unit armorer. PFC McTeer has sustained the Earth Moving Platoon's Task Force Gold PSD and the Bravo Co. Convoy Support Team with weapons, NVG, ammunition, and meals for their mission.

PFC McTeer's future goals are to become a Non-commissioned Officer within the next year and later transition to a Warrant Officer. He also desires to obtain a Master's Degree in Business Management.



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



Steel Spike Birthdays & Fun

APRIL 2009

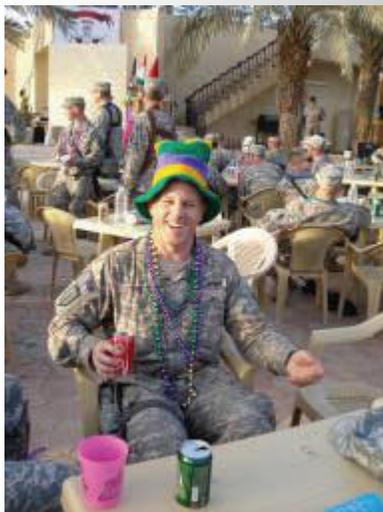
4/1	SPC Hayter	4/17	SPC Smith, M.
4/1	SGT Sanders	4/19	SPC Ramsey
4/4	SGT Staples	4/19	SPC Ruhling
4/6	SGT Kirby	4/19	PFC Murphy
4/6	SGT Silver	4/19	SGT Rogers
4/9	SGT Anderson	4/20	SPC Burris
4/9	SGT Simoneaux	4/20	SFC Stallworth
4/10	SGT Cherry	4/20	SSG Zavala
4/10	SGT Sturm	4/21	SPC Osborne
4/11	PV2 Blue	4/21	PFC Wigle
4/11	SPC Grandberry	4/23	SPC Zavala
4/11	SGT Bowman	4/24	SPC Birgen
4/14	PFC Bush	4/25	SPC Broadbent
4/14	MSG Jackson	4/25	SPC Gilboe
4/15	SPC McMahon	4/26	PV2 Wright
4/15	SPC Alpentzou	4/27	CSM Thibodeau
4/16	CPT Rushin	4/29	SGT Broadwater
4/16	CPT Landreth	4/30	PFC Moore, N.
4/17	1LT Cirillo, J.	4/30	SGT Dill
4/17	PV2 Dozier		



SGT Clark celebrated his birthday.



SFC Gibbs and SFC Coleman at Engineer Call



MAJ Stinnett looks festive in his Mardi Gras hat.



SFC Padron enjoys the Mardi Gras Engineer Call.



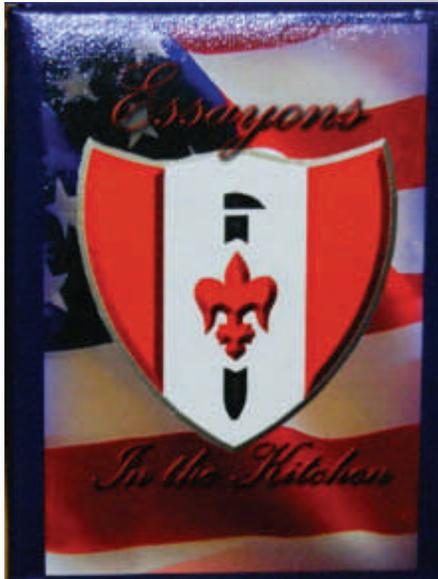
This Edition of the Steel Spike Express brought to you by SPIKE 1, 2LT Taylor



A Word From FRG

We want to take this time to say farewell to all of the 955th family members who have supported us during their deployment. Our time with your Soldiers is one that we will not soon forget. And we would also like to welcome the 277th family members into our 46th ECB (H) family. We look forward to serving with your Soldiers as we know our time together will be filled with great memories.

ESSAYONS COOKBOOK



NEW AND NOW AVAILABLE

A Collection of Recipes by
 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy)
 Family Readiness Group
 8113 Mississippi Avenue
 Fort Polk, Louisiana 71459

In Honor of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2008-2009

**Cookbooks are available through HSC and
 Alpha Co FRG Leaders for \$15 each.**

HSC: Shari Baye (337) 208-3045 / email: 46hsc.family@live.com

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ENGINEER CALL

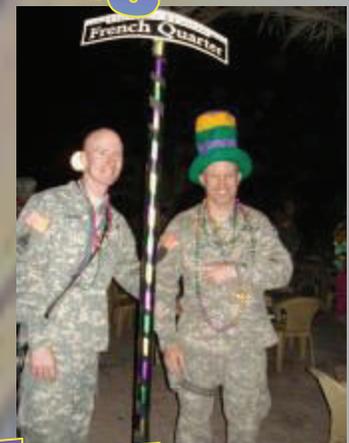
7 Mar 09 the Soldiers of 46th ECB (H) attended Engineer Call with the 225th BDE. It was a festive event. The theme—Mardi Gras. Being stationed in Louisiana the Soldiers of the 46th ECB (H) know how to enjoy a Mardi Gras party.



There was a parade



There was socializing



and There was dancing

