

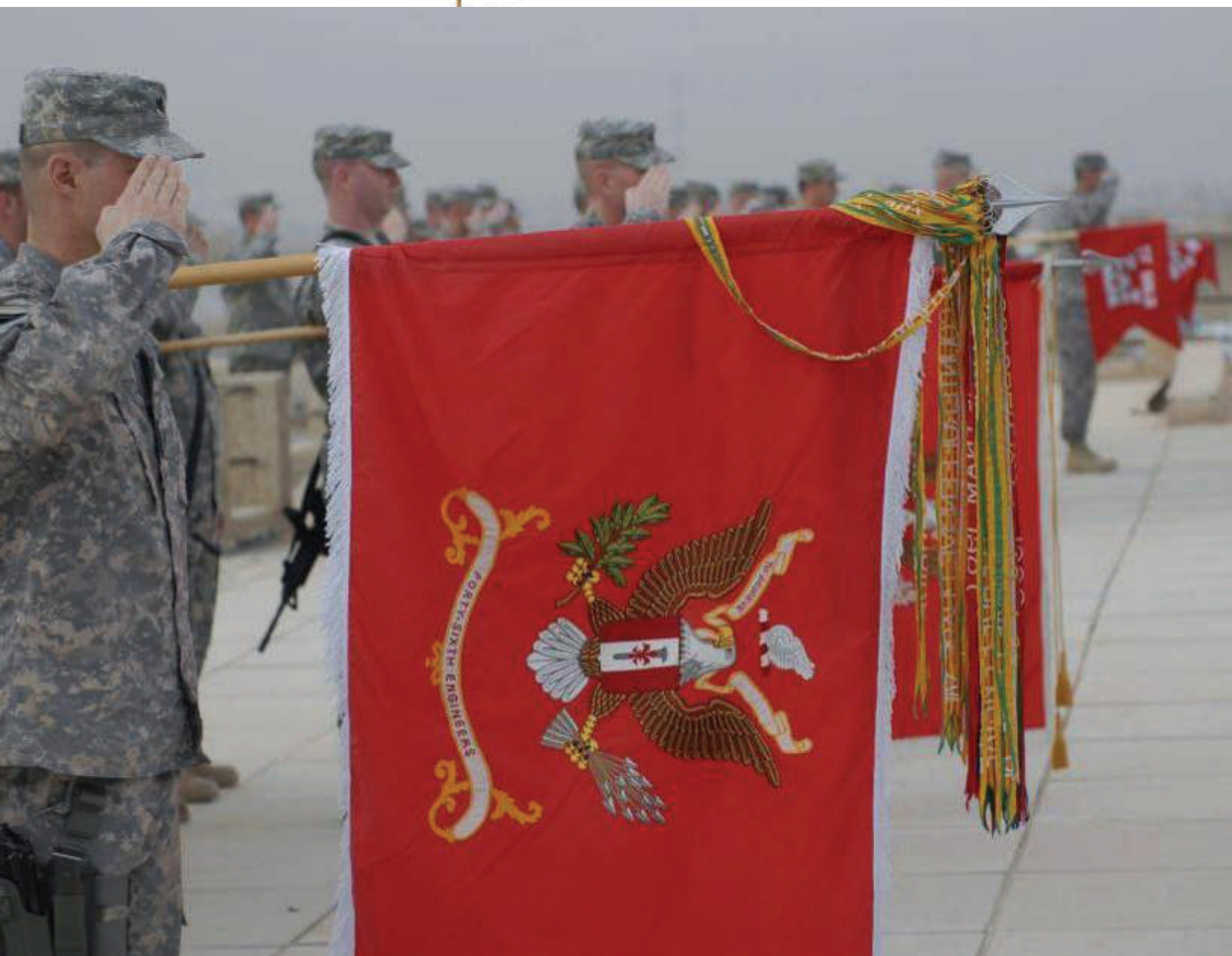
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225TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

COL Owen W. Monconduit

Engineers, what exciting times! The 225th Engineer Brigade proudly accepted the Transfer of Authority by taking operational control of Full Spectrum Engineering missions in support of 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad. The Transfer of Authority included the uncasing of the unit colors for display and posting, and it marks the first day of accomplishments to be set by the



225th here at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

The 225th Soldiers are highly motivated and excited to perform engineering functions. Even on the first full day of responsibility, marked by the Transfer of Authority, the Brigade has projects under design, performing quality assurance for construction work, planning future operations, along with a multitude of other military tasks. This

great start is a tribute to the patriotism and dedication of each Soldier working in unison as a Team, part of "FIRST TEAM" 1st Cavalry Division.

Safety is ever more important now that the entire unit is located at Camp Liberty. Paying attention to the small and routine tasks is just as essential in the deliberate planning of larger missions. Do your part in achieving a **SAFE DEPLOYMENT = SAFE RETURN.**

Castle 6

MESSAGE FROM CASTLE 7

CSM Joseph Major

Hello Engineer Soldiers,

We have just completed our second week in Baghdad. Soldiers' involvement and teamwork have been great. Keep up the good effort and support.

I would like to touch on safety this week. Remember the **SAFETY** theme: **SAFE DEPLOYMENT = SAFE RETURN.**

First, I would like to cover muzzle awareness, clearing barrel procedures, and negligent discharges. Always keep your weapon pointed down and away from other Soldiers. Treat the weapon like it is loaded at all times. Most neg-



ligent discharges occur while clearing weapons at the Forward Operation Base (FOB) or Combat Operation Post (COP). Here are the proper procedures in clearing your weapon to prevent a negligent discharge: Ensure the weapon is on safe. Remove your magazine and hand it to the Truck Commander (TC) or Squad Leader (SQ).

Pull the charging handle to the rear and watch the round extract. Watch the round as it falls to the ground. Look into the chamber twice. Have the TC or SQ also look into the chamber.

Acknowledge by you and TC/SQ that the weapon is clear by saying "CLEAR."

When both of you call out "CLEAR," let the bolt move forward.

Recharge the weapon and place on safe. Double check to make sure it is on safe.

Following these procedures could save someone's life or save you from receiving an Article 15 for a negligent discharge.

In closing, watch out for your teammates and battle buddy during this deployment. My pledge to your families was to bring **EVERYONE** home safe and sound. So help me live up to my promise.

Take Care & Be Safe
CSM Joe Major

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On the Cover:

During the Transfer of Authority Ceremony, Soldiers and guide-on bearers present arms, Feb. 9.

The 225th Engineer Brigade replaced the 926th Engineer Brigade. They will serve 10 months in Iraq before returning home.

Photo taken by Scott Flenner.

Chaplain's Corner

By Chap. (MAJ) Jeff Mitchell

What type of person do you want to be?

At the outset of Proverbs 1:20-22, four types of people are described; the naïve, the scoffer, the fool, and the wise. The question to the naïve is, "how long, O naïve ones, will you love being simple-minded?" The naïve want to stay safe and keep things on the level of simplicity. To the scoffer the question is, "how long scoffers will you delight yourselves in scoffing?" The scoffer keeps things on the level of it's everybody else's fault and never takes responsibility for the only thing in life



they can control, which is themselves. To the fool the question is "how long fools will you hate knowledge?" Solomon in Proverbs 1:7 states, "the beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord." The starting place of knowledge is fear; that is, reverencing and honoring God for who He is. The fool says in his heart, there is no God. Do you see the progression? It goes from naïve to scoffing and on to being a fool. Proverbs 1:23 is wisdom's invitation; "turn to my reproof." In other words, turn around from which ever one

of the three you are and become wise. If you do, wisdom's offer is "and I will pour my spirit out on you and I will make my words known to you." In other words, I will pour the heart or spirit of wisdom out on you and I (wisdom) will reveal myself and my words of wisdom to you.

If you choose to be a person of wisdom, then the 30 other chapters of Proverbs which contain 100's of proverbs will be food to your heart. Other invitations to wisdom are Proverbs 2:4-5 and 3:13-18. Turn around and jump into wisdom!

CH (MAJ) Jeff Mitchell

225th Takes Command



TOP Left: Staff Sgt. Cleveland Gibson and Staff Sgt. Adam Sanchez raise the engineer flag during the transfer of authority ceremony. TOP Right: (from left to right) Pvt. Chip Normand, Sgt. Squire Ford, 926th Staff Sgt., Spc. Chester, and Pvt. Curtis Norbdy perform as the color guard. MIDDLE Left: Sgt. Rokeisher Berymon laughs with a friend before the ceremony, COL (P) Owen Monconduit and CSM Joe Major uncase the brigade colors for the first time at Camp Victory, Iraq. BOTTOM Right: 225th Soldiers bow their head to pray during the ceremony.

Louisiana Engineers take the reigns

BAGHDAD— After 12 months of preparation, the 225th Engineer Brigade from Pineville, La., finally uncased their brigade colors on the headquarters building roof-top overlooking Z Lake at Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 9.

The act signified the transfer of authority from the 926th Eng. Bde. to the 225th. The 926th, from Gulfport, Miss., has served

the past ten months in Iraq.

“225th Engineer Brigade, you are the pride of Louisiana and you are fortunate to have such a great

command team in that of COL (P) Monconduit and CSM Major,” said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Talley, commander of the 926th Eng. Bde. “I wish you all the best as you bring the engineering support to Multi-

National Division—Baghdad to even higher levels of success.”

COL Monconduit told the Soldiers that partnership with Iraq is our destiny.

“Our diligent and persistent efforts through partnership will greatly contribute towards a vibrant and independent Iraq,” said COL Monconduit, “that will create lasting stability, peace and continued development of the Iraqi civil capacity,”

He continued, “Our mission begins with assured mobility and everything that we do will be laced and intertwined with security, stability and

partnership.”

The engineers began battle field circulations once arriving in theater to tour ongoing projects, meet with

“Our diligent and persistent efforts, through partnership, will greatly contribute towards a vibrant and independent Iraq” subordinate battalions and Soldiers.

Both subordinate battalion commands, attended the ceremony. The 46th Engineer Battalion (Heavy) is an active duty unit from Fort Polk, La., and is commanded by Lt. Col. Matthew Zajack and Command Sgt. Maj. Francis Thibodeau. The 890th Engineer Battalion is a National Guard unit from Gulfport, Miss., and is commanded by Lt. Col. Joe Hargett and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Mergenchroer.

The Multi-National Division—Baghdad, higher headquarters for the 225th, transferred authority the following day, Feb. 10 from the 4th Infantry Division to the 1st Cavalry Division. This is the third tour in Iraq for the 1st Cav. Div.

COL Monconduit challenged the 225th Eng. Bde. by saying, “Engineers, strap in tighter and get ready for the spurs of First Team!”



Lt. Col. Joe Hargett, with the 890th Eng. Bn. presents Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Zebrauskas and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Talley with a commemorate plaque.



Lt. Col. Matthew Zajack (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Francis Thibodeau (right) present Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Zebrauskas and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Talley with a commemorate plaque representing the ‘Steel Spike’ battalion, the 46th Eng. Bn.

Safety

by 1Lt. Jerry Rodriguez, safety officer

- 1) Even with the daily high temperatures in the low 70s, the UV exposure remains intense. Soldiers are reminded to hydrate and take appropriate action to safeguard against sun burns.
- 2) The fact is, we are now operating in a desert environment. With the daily vehicle traffic on unimproved dirt roads, dirt, dust and sand can cloud the area and impede the vision of drivers and pedestrians alike. Drivers are encouraged to clean vehicle windows prior to operation as needed. Pedestrians are encouraged to stay off roadways and utilize sidewalks and crosswalks.

Faces of Iraq next page

TOP LEFT: Staff Sgt. Darrell Brossette (left) of Alexandria, La., member of the quality control team, speaks with A Co., 46th Eng. Bn., about the wash racks project at Al Muthana Airfield in the Karkh District of Baghdad. Pfc. Benjamin Lynske of Stillwater, Okla., Pfc. Behnke of Ill., and Sgt. Patrick Pollum of Honolulu, Hawaii all received coins

from CSM Joe Major for their excellence in instructing and assisting the Iraqi Engineers with the project.

TOP RIGHT: Sgt. Jordan Jones talks with Iraqi children out playing in the streets of Baghdad.

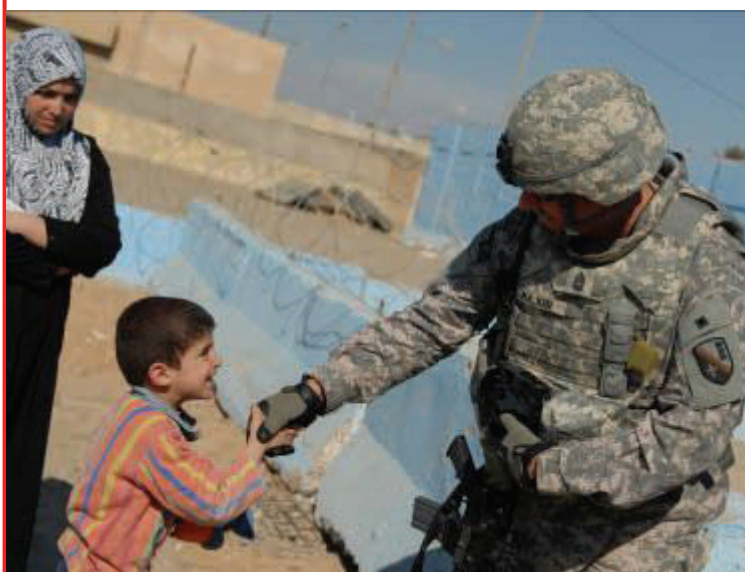
MIDDLE LEFT: CSM Joe Major gives an Iraqi child a stuffed animal and shakes his hand in Nasr Wa Salam District of Baghdad.

MIDDLE RIGHT: COL Owen Monconduit (middle) and Lt. Col. Dave Dancer view 6th Iraqi Army Engineer Commander, Col. Ahmed-Alswedy's explosive-clearing robot.

BOTTOM LEFT: Soldiers dismount from a mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle in Baghdad.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Iraqi children having fun.





Faces of Iraq

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