

LOUISIANA  
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EXPRESS

225TH  
ENGINEER BRIGADE

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VOLUME II, ISSUE III



**PARTNERSHIP: BY, WITH AND THROUGH**

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

### BG Owen W. Monconduit

Fellow Engineers, our first 60 days of operations have been outstanding! The month of April presents an excellent opportunity to continue making significant engineering contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Brigade's operating rhythm for February and March places the unit in a strong position to accomplish its objectives over the upcoming 30 days.

April will be very busy for the engineers at the tactical level. First, an Engineer "Hooah" to the 515th SAP from Fort Leonard Wood as the unit



begins Route Clearance missions in MND-B. Assured mobility is our daily engineering objective and is only possible through deliberate Route Clearance. The 4th Engr Bn has done a tremendous job providing assured mobility over the past three weeks and departs Camp Liberty under orders redirecting the unit. Second, partnership opportunities with our Iraqi Army Engineers are increasing. April's operational calendar has a number of combined missions and training events in support of

our Iraqi Army Engineers.

Engineers, hydrate yourselves so you can remain combat ready and combat effective. Daytime temperatures are beginning to increase and daylight is lingering a little longer each day. Acclimate yourself to remain physically fit to do your mission in the heat of the day. Encourage your buddy to drink water and also keep watch over you. Too, remember the APFT is in May so continue to train and workout in preparation to achieve a maximum score. Safe Deployment ≈ Safe Return.

## MESSAGE FROM CASTLE 7

### CSM Joseph Major

Greetings Engineer Soldiers, During my Battlefield Circulation (BFC), I have visited with a large number of outstanding Soldiers who are conducting excellent support to Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs).

First, we have Route Clearance Teams (RCT) conducting their daily mission by keeping the routes and streets of Baghdad cleared of potential Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). These teams go out at least 4 times a week at all hours of the day and night. I commend them for their attention to detail and outstanding knowledge of their mission set. Next, we have the Troop Construction Teams providing Dining Facilities (DFAC), Battalion Aid Stations, Moral Welfare Recreation centers, Physical Fitness Facilities, Guard Towers, and power to

Containerized Housing Unit (CHUs). They also provide good to have projects for "Soldier Care."

These construction teams are known for their construction qualities and speed of work. Specialized Search Dog teams provide great support to warriors in the field with finding caches. Let us not forget the unsung heroes: the mechanics, welders, and TAMM clerks who keep our entire fleet running. They do the dirty, nasty, and hard work of repairing, replacing, and fixing our equipment. Next are the Food Service Personnel who provide us quality food daily. Last but not least, the unit support staffs: S-1 teams (who keeps our pay, personnel records, and awards straight), S-2 teams (who keeps us safe outside the wire), S-3 teams (who plan and track missions), S-4 teams (who

provide the bullets, beans, and resources), PAO teams (who tell our stories to the world), Medical teams (who keep us healthily),



JAG teams (who keeps us out of trouble), Unit Ministry teams (who support our spiritual needs), and Command Teams (who keep it all together).

Great job! Keep up the super support to the BCT's. Keep in touch with your

families back home and share your adventure with them daily. Remember, we are writing history.

Safe Deployment = Safe Return

CSM Joe Major



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**On the Cover:**

Sgt. 1st Class Bifredo Barros of Levittown, Puerto Rico, 46th Engineer Battalion poses with his Iraqi Army engineer friend while on site at FOB Constitution. Barros' team taught cut-and-fill operations to their Iraqi counterparts. *Photo by Sgt. Rebekah Malone*



## Chaplain's Corner

By Chap. (MAJ) Jeff Mitchell

### One Thing to Ask for and Seek

There is one thing that David, the man after God's own heart asked for and sought after.

It would be wise for us to look into that one thing. This one thing is described in two ways. Psalms 27:4 says, "One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of



the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple." As a king, warrior, musician, etc. the focal point of David's life was to dwell, to behold and to meditate. David is speaking figuratively of dwelling in the house of the Lord and meditating in His temple all the days of his life.

The house of the Lord and the temple are the intimate presence of the Lord as you go and be and do. Every day of David's life he wanted settle down (dwell) in experiencing God's presence. He wanted to behold the beauty of the Lord. God, open my eyes every day that I may see the beauty of your character, names, in creation, in other people's uniqueness, etc. Finally, to meditate in His temple is to take time to contemplate and think of how His word needs to be active in my environment. If you will ask and seek "one thing"; to dwell in God's presence all his days and behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in God's temple, you will experience God in everything, versus thinking God is in just isolated to environments that we deem; quote "spiritual."

Chaplain Jeff Mitchell



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### Joke of the Week

Submitted by Staff Sgt.  
 Richard Hebert

#### GOOD NIGHT

A sergeant was passing the barracks after lights out, when he heard some voices from inside. He slammed open the door, and shouted: Listen, you guys! A few minutes ago, you all heard me say good night. What you must realize, is that when I say "Good Night," what I really mean is "Shut up!!!"

The room instantly fell silent. But after a few seconds, a small voice could be heard from somewhere in the far back of the dark room: "Good Night, Sergeant"

# School supplies make unique way to Iraq

## Story and photo by Sgt. Scott Flenner

School children made up of 7th and 11th graders in the small town of New Roads La. might not be old enough to join the military, or old enough to vote, but that does not mean they can't make a difference half a world away in countries such as Iraq.

Students from Catholic High of Pointe Coupee began their endeavor to make a difference by collecting school supplies for the children of Iraq. The Louisiana students amassed backpacks, pencils, notepads, soccer balls, stuffed animals and other school supplies that the children of Iraq need.

The English teacher organizing the drive, Brandy Gosserand, has a unique connection to the children of Iraq. Her father, Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Major of Ventress, La., currently serves here with the 225th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

Major helped organize the delivery of the donated items to school children in western Baghdad.

"As a school teacher, my daughter naturally feels the need to help the children of Iraq," explained Major. "Just like I

would expect from my daughter, she crafted a project to teach her students how to share and provide for the needy."

The deployed Louisiana National

A plan to choose a school and distribute the supplies was formed and on April 5 that plan was executed.

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 112 Infantry Regiment, alongside the 225th Eng. Bde., traveled to the Um Araybia School loaded down with the supplies they had just received from Louisiana, and distributed the goods between the more than 450 Iraqi elementary students who attend the school.

"These supplies are very important for the kids and for their future," said Major. "Seeing the smiles on their faces was worth all the effort."

The sight of the excited young Iraqi children spread contagious smiles for everyone involved in

the supply drop, even to the face of their headmaster.

"What happened today brings all of us happiness," said the headmaster.

"Happiness for the kids is my happiness."



Sgt. Natasha Green of Alexandria, La., and Chaplain (Maj.) Jeff Mitchell of Baton Rouge, La., both members of the 225th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad hand out school supplies to the students at Um Araybia School in western Baghdad, April 5. The school supplies were donated by 7th and 11th graders from Catholic High of Pointe Coupee in New Roads, La.



Students from the Um Araybia School in western Baghdad can't hide their excitement while they wait for their newly arrived school supplies to be distributed April 5.



Ventress, La. native, Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Major of the 225th Engineer Brigade, enters a classroom at the Um Araybia School in western Baghdad carrying a box of stuffed animals

Guard Unit, 225th Eng. Bde., from Pineville, La. received the more than 14 boxes of supplies for the children.

## US, Iraqi Engineers Build Operations Center in the Heart of Baghdad

1st Lt. Virginia Brickner, 46th Engineer Battalion

BAGHDAD – The 1st of the year marked a significant change in the role of US military forces in Iraq. Iraqi Security Forces now take the lead on all in-country operations, with the US forces acting in a supporting role.

Before the New Year began, Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), based in

Fort Rucker, Ala., were already operating together with their Iraqi counterparts, planning to build an Operations Center for the Baghdad Operations Command Advisory Team, located in the International Zone. This project gave the 46th ECB (H) Soldiers a unique opportunity to work with their Iraqi counterparts from the 6th Iraqi Army (IA) engineers and the Soldiers worked together on all facets of the project.

Iraqi Engineers are particularly renowned for their furniture making abilities. These talents were on display as they assembled the workstations, desks, and tables that will serve as the Operations Centers primary furniture.

“I was amazed by the skills of the Iraqi Engineers,” remarked Lincoln Park, Mich native Pfc.

Jason Steffes, carpenter, Company B, 46th ECB (H). “Even though we didn’t speak the same language, all I had to do was demonstrate what needed to be done and they would take the lead and complete that piece of the project.”

Sgt. Marques Sweet, a native of Compton, Calif., led his team of carpenters

hanging drywall, a first of its kind undertaking for the 46th engineers during this deployment.

“I never thought that I would be working with drywall on a combat deploy-



Staff Sgt. Ian Jones, carpenter, Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), a native of Newport, N.Y., uses the rescue saw to cut through steel framing during demolition operations at the Baghdad Operations Command Advisory Team building, January 15.



Pfc. Jason Steffes, carpenter, Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), based in Fort Rucker, Ala., a native of Lincoln Park, Mich., assembles work stations with the help of an engineer from the 6th Iraqi Army engineers, Jan. 11.

ment,” quipped

Spc. Brad McMahon, carpenter, Company B, 46th ECB (H), a native of Festus, Mo.



The Baghdad Operations Construction Team consisting of 6th Iraqi Army engineers and Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) Soldiers, take a photo outside the completed building, January 17th.

Soldiers busied themselves laying out the framed, raised seating area. The tiers, each of which sits a foot above the one in front of it, provide functional workspaces as well as access to the other office sections, promoting a free flow of information and ideas.

January 17th marked the completion

of the project and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on January 19th to mark the official opening. Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, Commander 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-

Baghdad and General Abud, Commander Baghdad Division, were in attendance as well as a variety of Distinguished Visitors from around the MND-B area of operations.

This structure now houses three separate office spaces,

one of which serves a joint conference room for both Coalition and Iraqi Army use. By utilizing an open design, the

Operations Center facilitates a cooperative spirit that will allow the IAs to better allocate its resources and more effectively provide security to the citizens of Baghdad.

“I never imagined that I would be involved in a project of this magnitude,” the project manager commented. “Not only have we impacted the operational capabilities of the Baghdad Operations Command Advisory Team, we were able to demonstrate the varied capabilities that a heavy construction unit brings to the fight. Most importantly, we worked with our Iraqi counter-

parts, imparting some of our knowledge to them, but also learning new techniques and approaches that they use.”



Spc. Donald D'Eredita, a Soldier from 1st Platoon, 62nd Engineer Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, prepares his common remotely operated weapon station (CROWS) system March 19, before his platoon's route clearance patrol.

Sgt. Jared Martin, a Soldier from 2nd Platoon, 62nd Engineer Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, prepares to dismount his vehicle following a successful route clearance patrol March 19.

## Engineers clear the way





**FIRE**



**POLICE**



**EMS**

### EMERGENCY CALL

# 485-4070

(VOIP OR DSN)

IRAQNA 0790-194-2960  
SVOIP - 243-4407

NON EMERGENCY 485-2758  
FM 902 - GATEKEEPER



225 EN BDE TOC: 242-4407 / 847-2613  
HHC, 225 EN (GOAT HOUSE): 242-4150 / 847-2382

ARMY HEAT INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM

## Heat Can KILL!

**Prevention Works**

**Drink:**

- Drink enough water to replace your sweat losses.
- Don't wait to feel thirsty, your body may need water before you feel thirsty.
- Remind your buddy to drink. Refill your canteens at every opportunity.
- Look at your urine. If it is dark or if you have not urinated, you need to drink more.

**Eat:**

- Eat meals to replace salts. Drinking too much water and not eating enough salt may be fatal.

- Do not follow low calorie diets while training in a hot environment.
- Do NOT take any dietary supplements containing ephedra (ma-huang) ANY time.

**How to Spot Trouble**

**Notify an instructor if you are:**

- Dizzy.
- Have a headache.
- Nauseated or have vomited.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Confused or your buddy notices you are "acting differently."
- Sick or were sick yesterday.
- On any medication.



# DID YOU KNOW?



**There are a number of special tax code provisions that apply to members of the military serving in combat zones. They include:**

- All military pay earned by enlisted personnel or warrant officers is excluded from gross income;
- Military personnel who miss a tax filing deadline because they are in a combat zone have 180 days after they leave that combat zone to file a tax return, if they have taxable income.
- Ensure if you choose to file that your spouse has the IRS Form 2848- Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative.

Want more information? Visit <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom>

### From the desk of 'The Angry Jag'

I have somehow wrongly been given the nickname of "The Angry JAG," based solely upon one day at Fort Hood and my propensity to open my mouth at inappropriate times. I vehemently deny that I am an Angry Jag! Major Jarvis Jones doesn't know what he is talking about. I'll show him what an angry JAG looks like...Oops. In any event, the following actions indeed make me an angry JAG:

Soldiers who fail to support family members. AR 609-99 provides that Soldiers shall pay family support (i) as required by a court order, (ii) as provided in a written agreement, or (iii) absent a court order or written agreement, the amount of BAH-II-with rate. Failure to provide support is a violation of the UCMJ and makes me quite angry.

Violations of GO1. GO1 is clear in its prohibitions. Soldiers are reminded that alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, war

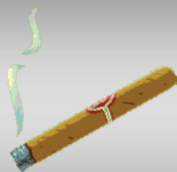
trophies, proselytizing, and visiting quarters of opposite sex are all prohibited. I become angry when a good Soldier engages in prohibited activity which must be punished.

Leaders who do not consult the JAG before taking action. A simple call to the JAG would avoid a health and welfare inspection directed at a particular Soldier or the taking of a sworn statement without reading a Soldier his or her rights. Either situation may result in evidence that cannot be used against the Soldier.

Soldier stupidity. I get angry when good Soldiers engage in thoughtless acts that get themselves in trouble. Soldiers must remember the environment in which we operate and act accordingly. Leaders can do much to intercept Soldiers as they start down the path of inappropriate actions.

Hopefully, I will not have to become angry in the future. In the meantime, I am going to take my Prozac and meditate.

Lt. Col. Connell Archey



## Club Fumee de Cuvee

Anyone interested in joining a cigar of the month club please contact

Staff Sgt. Richard Hebert at:

EMAIL: [Richard.hebert@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:Richard.hebert@mnd-b.army.mil)

# SFC PAUL R. SMITH

## MEMORIAL RUN

APRIL 5, 2009

### VICTORY BASE CAMP, BAGHDAD

11.46KM

**BAGHDAD—At day-break on a warm desert morning in Baghdad, nearly 1,000 Soldiers joined together to remember one of their own in a moving tribute run.**

**Six years after Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith of Tampa, Fla., lost his life defending more than 100 troops, Soldiers of 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), 225th Engineer**





Brigade, held a run in honor of his memory, April 5.

The distance, 11.46km, stood as a tribute to Smith's unit and comrades.

The actual battle site served as the starting and ending point for the racers. Casually listening, one could not help but over hear Soldiers use a powerful word to describe their comrade: hero.

1st Sgt. David Roman of Holland Patent, N.Y., met Smith in 2000 when they served as platoon sergeants of A and B Company, 11th Engineers. He was amazed at the personal interest Smith took in each of his Soldiers.

"If you ever stopped and talked to any of his Soldiers when he was a platoon sergeant, there's nothing but great things [said]," Roman explained. "How they respected him, how he took care in order to sit down with them and talk to them on a personal basis as well as professional."

Roman explained Smith lived the Army Values daily.

"He was an awesome fellow NCO. He really went out of his way and took the extra mile to take care of his Soldiers on and off duty."

Roman arrived at the April 4, 2003 battle, after his friend had been mortally wounded, to assist in securing the area. Roman said Smith manned a .50 caliber machine gun after the

gunner was wounded, effectively killing 25-50 enemy combatants of the estimated 100 attacking the courtyard by the highway between Baghdad International Airport and Baghdad itself.

His actions deescalated the attack and saved reportedly up to 100 Soldiers. What remains are the bullet holes in the watch tower and the memory of a Soldier that stood for other Soldiers, including the more than 4,200 service members that have died during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I was amazed after five years at how much this area has changed with the build up of troops," said Roman. "So I wanted to find the area this engagement took place and see if anyone had done a memorial. To my astonishment, there was nothing there."

Until now.

On the sixth anniversary of his death, Soldiers placed a memorial marker in honor of the fallen Smith on the concrete wall, littered with bullet holes, he defended during the fight.

"In my opinion you can't do enough for Sgt. [1st Class] Smith for what's he's done for our country and our warriors here," expressed Roman.

# A series of historical places in Iraq: Babylon

By Foy Hartman, engagements coordinator

The ancient city of Babylon lies buried under millennia of sand about 55 miles south of

Baghdad in the modern city of Hillah. Famous since biblical times for conquering much of the Middle East during many campaigns, Babylon is also

known for the "Tower of Babel" and its most famous

king Nebuchadnezzar II who marched against the invading Egyptians and defeated them at Carchemish.

### Babylonian Society

Much is known of the history and society of Babylon due to precise record keeping on stone and clay tablets and excavated art depicting daily life. A large black stone wall carved with the legal system and laws of the land was uncovered in 1902 which described Law and justice as key concepts in the Babylonian way of life.

### Mathematics and Education

The Babylonians had an advanced number system, in some ways more advanced than our present system. It was a positional system with base 60 rather than the base 10 of our present system. In recording mathematical problems they used the Sumerian system of numbers, which featured a useful device of so-called place-value notation that resembles the present-day decimal system.

Measures of length, area, capacity and weight, standardized earlier by the Sumerians were adopted into Babylonian engineering.

The Babylonians divided the day into 24

hours, each hour into 60 minutes, each minute into 60 seconds. This form of counting time has survived for 4000

1800 BC.

Assyria ruled from the 20th century until the 18th century BC when the

first Babylonian Dynasty began. In the middle of the 16th century the Middle Assyrian period began and lasted until the beginning of the "Iron Age" and a revival of the Neo Assyrian Empire in the 10th century BC. The arrival of Nebuchadnezzar II in the 7th



Mural near the reconstructed Ishtar Gate, depicting the palace quarter of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. The Ishtar Gate is shown in the top left corner of the image.

years.

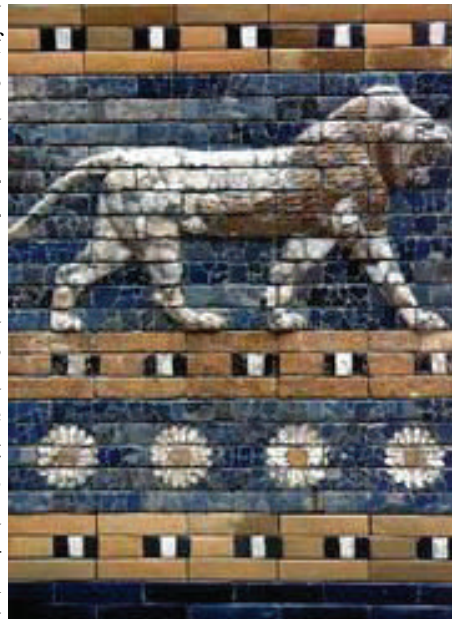
Babylon adopted the Sumerian form of writing. Their symbols were written on wet clay tablets which were baked in the hot sun; many thousands of these tablets have survived to this day.

### A quick Babylonian History:

Copper age: The first record of Babylon is from around 5600BC while the first Sumerian city-states occurred later 2900 BC-2350 BC. In approximately 2350BC the people known

as Akkadian tribes invaded and ruled until the Early Assyrian Kingdom gained prominence in Mesopotamia including Babylon. Babylon is estimated to have had as many as 50,000 inhabitants in

century BC brought new prosperity to Babylon and Mesopotamia and lasted until in the 3rd Century BC when the Persian Empire invaded. In 331 BC, Alexander the Great conquered the Persians and noted the "disrepair" of the already 4000 year old Ziggurat we today call the "Tower of Babel". With the demise of the Greek empire the Romans next invaded in 300AD. Babylon never regained its early prominence and by the time of the Muslim invasion in the 7th century AD there was little resistance when the Babylonian City State was de-



The Ishtar Gate

stroyed along with the "Hanging Gardens" the "Tower of Babel" and all but a few traces of the society which lasted for some 6000 years.

# Soldier Stories

## *Soldier receives Brig. Gen. Giering award*

A soft drink and candy bar are quite the treat for Soldiers in a combat environment. But for one officer, that junk food combination turned out to be a symbol of a top achievement.

Cpt. Jackie M. Manton received a Diet Coke and Snickers bar as this year's recipient of the prestigious Brig. Gen. Edmund J. Giering III Award.

The award is in honor of retired Brig. Gen. Giering who served as Group Commander of 225th Engineer Group from January 1987 to June 1992. The award is presented to the 225th Engineer Brigade's most outstanding company commander who exemplifies the Army Values and displays exceptional leadership and soldiering skills.

So why the soda and candy as part of the official award? Fellow engineers will tell you that Giering would show up on drill weekends loaded with the sweet treats.

"Many times he (Gen. Giering) would stay up the entire weekend," said Lt. Col. Jerry Crooks, 225th Eng. Bde. deputy brigade commander.

That is apparently where Giering got all of his energy. Crooks said the joke back then was to try to keep the candy away from him. Manton, of Ponchatoula, La., joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1995, just four years before Giering retired. He never met



Cpt. Jackie Manton received Snickers and a Diet Coke in honor of the BG Giering Award.

the man whose name is attached to the high honor, but he appreciates Giering's legacy.

"I just heard that he was a great man, a great leader and he had a lot of energy," Manton said.

Manton is currently serving in Baghdad, Iraq as the 225th Engineer Brigade's officer in charge for Task Force Iron Paxton. He oversees numerous engineer projects in the Abu Ghraib with a total cost of about \$22 million.

It is a critical mission that Manton is pulling off with major success, according to 225th Engineer Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. Owen Monconduit.

"Cpt. Manton's doing exceptional work supporting the 2/1 Inf. Div. executing their projects," he said. "Abu Ghraib is a

significant area as far as establishing stability for Iraq."

That is one reason why Monconduit is not at all surprised about Manton's selection for the Giering Award.

"It's outstanding to have him as the recipient," Monconduit said.

As for the "treat" he received in lieu of his authentic Giering Award that he will receive when he returns home from Iraq, Manton, unlike Giering, plans to hold off the urge to rip the wrapper and pop the top.

"I'm going to keep it as long as I can," he said laughing. "Hopefully I don't miss a meal here where I break down and eat

it because it's a great reminder until I get back home."

## *Soldier baptized at Engineer Chapel*



Cpt. Jackie Manton is pictured at the site of the Nasir Wa Salam Fire station. Manton was

ment member in as many years. He returned in July from deployment with the 769th before deploying in December with the 225th Eng. Bde.

Blake recalled the day he asked Christ into his life during his first deployment.

"We came under a complex attack. My friend Sgt. Gilmore was in a HEMIT in the third truck," Blake explained. "We had just made a turn when the RPG flew in front of my truck and exploded on the right side. Then an EFP went through



The personal security detachment prays before heading out on mission. Members of the team attended Sgt. Roger Blake's baptism in support of his faith.

Sgt. Gilmore's driver side door. As we started our evacuation, we took small arms fire."

"That day I lost a friend and another Soldier, Sgt. George was injured," Blake continued. "After it was all over and we were in the combat operating post, I prayed for the first time in a long time."

Blake said it was then he accepted Christ into his life. His baptism was another step in his journey that he was able to share with his PSD team members.

"I was very happy to have PSD with me; we are not just friends, we are like family," Blake said. "Here in this war zone, we are all each other has. They are



Sgt. Roger Blake was recently baptized at the Engineer Chapel on Camp Liberty. Chap. Jeff Mitchell baptizes Sgt. Roger Blake at the Engineer Chapel on Camp Liberty.

This is the second deployment to Iraq for the personal security detach-

my family and they were all very proud of me just as a family and a team would be."

# IA, US Army get hands dirty

By 1st Lt. Janeene Yarber, 46th ECB (H)

CAMP LIBERTY – While a Lebanese, Iraqi, and Egyptian mix CD played in the background, four 6th Iraqi Army (IA) engineer mechanics sprawled on the floor of a maintenance bay intently fixing their battered military vehicle. The IAs were participating in the second joint vehicle maintenance training conducted by the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), which is attached to the 225th Engineer Brigade, serving with Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

The first training session took place in early January when two IA Soldiers linked up with the US Army mechanics to fix their badly damaged vehicle.

“Their vehicle had rocket-propelled grenade blast damage to the windshields, the tires were worn out, we had to rewire the engine, both side mirrors had to be replaced, two doors and combat locks also had to be replaced,” remarked Spc. Travis Richardson, mechanic, Company B, 46th ECB (H), and a native of San Diego, Calif. “The biggest issue was the transmission. We had to do a complete transmission drop because their HMMWV wouldn’t shift to the right gears.”

After taking on such a giant task of rebuilding their HMMWV, the two previously trained IA Soldiers were able to jump right in and show their new comrades how to repair their latest vehicle.

The team went to work a few short minutes after arriving at the motor pool, making

quick introductions, and receiving their Arabic language maintenance manuals. The first task was to remove a dead battery while Army mechanics stood by to give guidance and pointers.

Spc. Zydoun, mechanic, 6th IA, a return trainee mechanic, took the lead in helping out his counterparts with the minor repairs. He holds the lead mechanic position with the 6th IA Division at Muthana Airfield in Baghdad.

“The Iraqi Soldiers needed our support and Bravo Company led the battalion’s training effort last time. We had a great time. So when they said they had another vehicle needing work we decided to help them out again,” stated Sgt. 1st Class Cornelius Nalls, Motor Sergeant, Company B, 46th ECB (H), and a native of Fayette, Ala. “We did our initial checks and were prepared for minor services, but after doing a complete and thorough 360, we saw there were major issues that needed to be fixed.”

place with the right lubricant,” stated Spc. Melvin Lawson, an all-wheel mechanic, and native of Fredricksburg, Va., Company B, 46th ECB (H). “I guess they used what they had.”

“Kevin,” an Iraqi interpreter was on-hand to help with any complex communications, but it only took a few minutes for the group of mechanics to ask each other for the right tools or explain something through simple hand gestures.

46th



*Fredricksburg, Va. native Spc. Melvin Lawson (top of photo), all-wheel vehicle mechanic, Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) shows Spc. Malik, 6th Iraqi Army Division, mechanic, how to install a new radiator hose while underneath the military vehicle, 26 March.*



*Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) leadership and mechanics pose with Iraqi Army mechanics during a week-long joint training event, 26 March. This is the second vehicle maintenance joint training event for Company B.*

The HMMWVs are vehicles supplied by Coalition Forces and the IA mechanics aren’t very familiar with repairs to this type of vehicle. Finding the right parts and completing basic preventive maintenance has also been a challenge for the new mechanics.

“Draining those gear hubs took the longest. They used a really heavy oil so we had to drain, remove and clean the parts, and re-

“It’s been fun trying to learn what they are saying,” stated Spc. Wanda Porrier, mechanic, Company B, 46th ECB (H), and a native of Pearl, Miss. “I don’t get to interact with many Iraqi people because I’m in the shop all the time. This has been really fun.”

After a week the team cleaned up the remaining oil-soaked rags, washed off their grease-caked hands, posed for photos, shared a few laughs, a final smoke break, and wrapped up another successful training mission. With their vehicle now returned to ‘mission-ready’ status, the IA mechanics leave Camp Liberty with more experience and knowledge that will be passed on to future IA mechanics.

“The IAs are very enthusiastic and have bonded with my mechanics. They all had a great battle rhythm going,” added Sgt. 1st Class Nalls. “They have been a pleasure to work with.”

# 2009: Year of the NCO

## Brigade Contact Info

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DSN: 847-2547

I finally made it to Iraq, and I am happy to be a part of the 225th Engineer Brigade. For years, I have provided public affairs coverage for Soldiers, and now I am proud to lead a group of journalists dedicated to telling the many stories about your historic efforts here.

I have one request. Please send us story ideas about the people and events around you and how you are helping the Iraqis during this transition phase. We have only one chance to do this, so I am asking you to help us do the best we can do to describe your outstanding accomplishments. Tell your leaders to get the word to us, or if you have the opportunity, email me at: [patrick.a.simon@us.army.mil](mailto:patrick.a.simon@us.army.mil). I look forward to hearing from you and telling some great stories!

**Sgt. Rebekah Malone**

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**Mailing Address**

225 EN BDE  
APO AE 09344

## United States Army Non-Commissioned Officer Creed

**No** one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

**Competence** is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind -- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

**Officers** of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!