

LOUISIANA
NATIONAL GUARD

THE ENGINEER XPRESS

225TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

APRIL 22, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE IV



Engineers US vs IA

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

BG Owen W. Monconduit

Engineers and family members today is truly special. Our Louisiana Adjutant General, Major General Bennett C. Landreneau and the State Senior Enlisted Advisor, CSM Tommy Caillier are here at Camp Liberty, Baghdad, visiting Soldiers of the 225th Eng Bde. MG Landreneau and CSM Caillier received a tour of the Brigade and Company Headquarters buildings, enjoyed lunch with the Soldiers and really spent quality time talking and interacting with Soldiers. Thanks MG Landreneau and CSM Caillier for visiting the Engr Bde!



Soldiers, remain mission focused as we continue through this deployment. As we perform our duties in a continuous operations (CONOP) posture, the unit will experience tactical changes. For example, a number of Soldiers are going on Environmental Morale Leave (EML). Also, a few Soldiers are on short tours supporting Brigade Combat Teams. Daily and weekly tasks may seem repetitive but conduct your weekly Pre-Combat Checks (PCC) thoroughly and professionally by considering the smallest of differences arising

from these tactical changes. Concentrate on performing and improving your military duties as tactical changes progress in our unit.

The health and safety of every Soldier is important to the total success of all Engineers. Remember to consider measures to reduce risk before performing a task, wear/use safety equipment and have a responsive plan if an accident occurs. Be extra cautious in physical fitness training and any intramurals to avoid over exerting yourself.

Safe Deployment ≈ Safe Return.

MESSAGE FROM CASTLE 7

CSM Joseph Major

Greetings Engineer Soldiers, We all know the military has manuals on Preventive Maintenance Checks Services (PMCS) for weapons, vehicles, and every piece of equipment in the army inventory; however, there are no manuals on personal care (personal PMCS). I believe it is important to review my thoughts on personal PMCS. The following list includes items you should work on in order to remain strong and healthy throughout this year long deployment:

- Eat healthy at least 3 times a day (Stay away for fast and junk food).
- Get at least 7-8 hours of sleep/rest in a 24 hour period.

- Set aside personal time each day about 1-2 hours (quiet time to think and reflect).
- Exercise is a must 3-5 times a week. Push yourself, and set a fitness goal.
- Make time for worship each week.
- Stay in touch with your family and friends back home.
- Drink plenty of fluids each and every day.
- Work on kicking bad habits (smoking, dipping, and over eating).

Most of all have fun each day and wake up with a smile. In closing, let's keep pushing

forward, watch out for our "Battle Buddy," and keep the team strong. Remember, stay in touch with your family and friends back home and have fun during this true adventure of a lifetime.

"It is amazing how much you can accomplish when it doesn't matter who gets the credit."

Author Unknown

Safe Deployment = Safe Return,

CSM Joe Major



On the Cover:

Photo by Sgt. Rebekah Malone

6th Iraqi Army Engineer Regiment Soldiers challenged the 46th Eng. Combat Bn. (H) to a game of soccer after losing in a basketball competition last month. The Steel Spike Soldiers lost the competition 11-2, but the continued partnership efforts continue to grow.



Editor: Maj. Pat Simon

Contributing journalists:

Sgt. Rebekah Malone

Scott Flenner

1st Lt. Janeene Yarber

Staff Sgt. Bradley West

1st Lt. Virginia Brickner

Chaplain's Corner

By Chap. (MAJ) Jeff Mitchell

Daily Duties of God

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God of our salvation."

Psalms 68:19
The context of the this Psalms displays God as a Warrior on our behalf. The whole Psalms is a worthy and encouraging read.

Another daily duty of God is He is our burden bearer. In this one verse three names of God are mentioned; the Lord, burden bearer, and the God of our salvation. The Psalms are songs of worship that implore us to bless and worship God for who He is in three persons and all facets of their character. When we bless the Lord as the one who daily bears our burden the inference is that we do not carry those



burdens. When I find others and myself worn out, stressed out, and burdened down, at some point we have all quit blessing the daily burden bearer and we have become the burden bearer. That is why I Peter 5:6, 7 says, "humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, cast all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you." Be good to yourself and others and allow the Lord to daily bear your burden. His shoulders are big and His back is strong. God did not make us strong enough to carry them. It takes humility, worship, casting and reception. If you are up to those four things then you are in for a lighter load.

Chaplain Jeff Mitchell

LOUISIANA
NATIONAL GUARD



—Vol. II, Iss. IV—

- 2 [Comments from Castle 6](#)
- 2 [Message from Castle 7](#)
- 3 [Chaplain's Corner](#)
- 4 [Eng. Defeat tunnel terrorists](#)
- 5 [Johnny 5 helps IA stay alive](#)
- 6 [WarEagle Upgrades](#)
- 7 [Safety](#)
- 8 [Arbil](#)
- 9 [Soldier, NCO of the Month](#)
- 11 [SM, NCO of the Quarter](#)
- 12 [Easter celebration](#)
- 13 [TAG visits](#)

Joke of the Week

Submitted by Staff Sgt.
Richard Hebert

Military Communication

As a member of the organization that installs computer systems for the Army, I am mindful of how important the e-mail capabilities are to Soldiers morale, especially when some are deployed for up to 12 months. One day while shopping at the base commissary, I noticed another crucial aspect of my job. I was behind a frazzled mother with two active children, and as I watched, she stalked over to where her young son had perched himself on the rail of the freezer case. "If you don't get off there right now," she commanded, "I'm going to e-mail your father!"

Defeating tunnel terrorists: Army welders use skills to counter IED emplaces

On a dark night, two terrorists discovered tunnels underneath a heavily traveled road in western Baghdad and used an improvised explosive device to blow a huge hole in the street to disrupt traffic.

To prevent this act of terrorism from happening again, the engineers from Headquarters and Support Company, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), were called in to repair the gaping hole in the road and seal access to the tunnels beneath the road.

"The crater was pretty dangerous and we ended up repairing two holes in that road," stated Staff Sgt. Xavier Bowie, mission noncommissioned officer-in-charge, from West Palm Beach, Fla. "There's an Iraqi Army checkpoint nearby and the [Iraqi Army troops] said it caused a lot of traffic when people would stop to avoid the holes. It was even worse when the drivers didn't see the holes and would just drive into them and damage their cars."

Moving by night, the engineer teams arrived on the damaged overpass. Once the explosives teams of the 731st Explosive Ordnance Detachment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division cleared the area of any possible threats, the tunnel crew of engineers descended into the darkness to cut off terrorist access to the tunnels.

Spc. Stephen Green, of Pensacola, Fla., and Spc. Eduardo Bonilla, of Jacksonville, N.C., welded steel plates over all the points that led

into the tunnel, while, simultaneously Equipment Platoon Soldiers, prepared the holes for repair. The Soldiers repaired the craters by chipping away the damaged asphalt and cleaning up the site.

Once the tunnel was sealed on one side of the overpass, the welding team moved to the other side of the road to seal off access on that side.

After three hours in the tunnels, and an additional two hours fixing the holes, Spc. Christopher Sallas, of Tulsa, Okla., used a forklift to place a very heavy steel plate into the large crater in the overpass. Next, the crater team led by Staff Sgt. Wesley Roach, of Rapid City, S.D., placed a rapid drying asphalt alternative over the plate. After smoothing out the mixture, the team placed road cones around the asphalt to allow it to dry without interruption by traffic.

A follow-up visit to the site a few days later revealed a situation that was not all that surprising given the situation that brought them out there in the first place; the asphalt and steel plate had been completely removed. The engineers then returned to the site with another solution to the problem.

"An attempt was made to reopen access to the tunnel," stated Command Sgt. Maj. Francis Thibodeau, 46th ECB (H), a na-

tive of Detroit. "This is a busy road and someone was going to get hurt if we didn't put a stop to this, so we sent the welders back in to make sure this doesn't happen again."

This time the engineers took measures one step further. With the help of large engineer equipment, they placed several heavy plates of over-sized steel deep into the hole. The welders then sprang into action sealing the plates into place to end access to the tunnels once and for all.

With repairs made to the holes, several massive steel plates welded firmly in place and all the tunnels sealed, the engineers were able to not only defeat IED-emplacing terrorists, but also improved the lives of the Iraqi people living in the area.

"This is great that this hole is fixed," exclaimed Hasan, an Iraqi Soldier that helped to guard the site. "People have so many problems on this road; sewage trucks can't get by, families driving get stuck if they don't see it. Thank you!"

(By 1st Lt. Stephen Clements & 1st Lt. Janeene Yarber)

CENTER: Staff Sgt. Xavier Bowie, from West Palm Beach, Fla., descends into a tunnel beneath a heavily traveled road in western Baghdad to shut off tunnel access to terrorists trying to emplace bombs. LEFT: Spc. Eduardo Bonilla, from Jacksonville, N.C., and Spc. Stephen Green, from Pensacola, Fla., weld a drainage port

shut on a heavily traveled route in western Baghdad. RIGHT: Sgt. Bryan Silver (kneeling), a native of Cerulean, Ky., and Spc. Paul Thraillkill (left standing), a native of Canoga, Calif., weld several over-sized pieces of steel into a gaping hole left by a bomb placed in the underground tunnels.



Johnny 5 helps IA Soldiers 'stay alive'

By Scott Flenner

Just like Johnny 5 in the 1986 movie "Short Circuit," 17th Iraqi Army Engineer Regiment Soldiers had the opportunity to train on a robot designed to help Soldiers 'stay alive' April 16 during a course taught by Soldiers from the 515th Sapper Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, attached to the 225th Eng. Brigade at Joint Security Station Deason, located in southern Baghdad.

"You can replace a robot," said course instructor Staff Sgt. Shaun Williamson of Kansas City, Mo., 515th Sapper Co. "You can't replace a person."

During route clearance operations, combat engineers like San Antonio native, Pfc. Matthew Foote, also of the the 515th Sapper Co., and Williamson rely heavily on advanced technology and specialized training to effectively conduct their dangerous mission: the hunting down of hostile explosive devices.

The Talon Robot, reminiscent of Johnny Five, and the 20-foot ferret arm of the Husky route clearance vehicle are just two of the technological advances that are aiding on today's battlefield.

Foote and Williamson passed on their experience and knowledge to a class of 13 IA students. It is an effort to put the IA in the driver seat to ensure that the roads of Iraq will be safe for years to come.

Foote said the Husky is a vehicle mounted mine detector that is equipped with a ferret arm that extends from the front of the vehicle and is used to examine possible explosive ordinance. The Talon robot is an unmanned remotely controlled robot that is also used to examine possible threats in hard to reach areas.

The students took turns maneuvering the ferret arm of the husky through a pile of rubble trying to uncover previously placed dummy munitions while Foote stood by offering suggestions.

"They did very well and caught on very quickly," said Foote. "They were very receptive, they wanted to learn. They did an outstanding job overall."

After the students finished maneuvering the ferret arm, Williamson taught the complicated operation of the Talon robot. Since it is so difficult to operate, the Iraqi engineer students had many questions, but Williamson did not mind.

"I like questions, the more questions you (Iraqi students) ask, the more fun my day is," said Williamson. "I am here to answer your questions and make sure you understand this piece of equipment."

Understand they did.

Within minutes of taking the helm behind the controller box, the students were able to drive the Talon robot down to a pile of rocks, gently pick up a bottle and return it to Williamson with ease.

"Today's training was very good, and I appreciate this opportunity. I look forward to more training in the future," said one of the Iraqi Army engineer students.



Kansas City, Mo. native, Shaun Williamson, a member of the 515th Sapper Company, 5th Engineer Battalion attached to the 225th Eng. Brigade, gives detailed instructions on how to maneuver the Talon robot via the controller box to Iraqi engineer students from the 17th Iraqi Army Engineer Regiment April 17 at Joint Security Station Deason. The Talon robot is a piece of equipment used by combat engineers during route clearance to examine possible explosive devices where people cannot go.



While being dragged, 225th Engineer Brigade Soldier Sgt. Kasandra Deutsch of Pineville, La., demonstrates the power of the Talon robot April 15 during a training exercise with the 9th Iraqi Army Engineer Regiment. The Talon robot system is used to help clear improvised explosive devices (Photo by Maj. Pat Simon).

Steel Spike Soldiers

upgrade WarEagle

by Scott Flenner

BELOW: Ventress, La. native, Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Major (right), senior enlisted leader, 225th Engineer Brigade, discusses the anchoring and floor support system that is being constructed at Joint Security Station War Eagle by Staff Sgt. Ryan Peltier, from Baton Rouge, La., and his fellow Soldiers from the 46th Engineer Battalion, 225th Eng. Bde., April 13. JSS War Eagle, located in the northeast Adhamiyah district of Baghdad, is one of the various locations that will see an increase in coalition advisory team members in the upcoming months, due to its remote location on the outskirts of Baghdad.



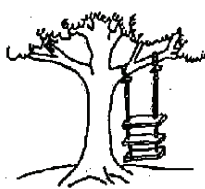
RIGHT: Kanapolis, N.C. native, Spc. Kyle Burris, 46th Engineer Battalion, 225th Eng. Brigade, moves an air conditioning unit into place so he can wire it for use at Joint Security Station War Eagle, April 13. Kyle, along with his fellow Soldiers from the 46th Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde., have been working for the past few weeks at JSS War Eagle expanding their tactical operations center and building additional office space for Department of Defense civilians and civil affairs Soldiers that will be advising and assisting Iraq and its forces to increase its infrastructure capabilities.



Minneapolis native, Spc. Samuel Voss, marks studs while attaching plywood sheathing to a wall section during construction at Joint Security Station War Eagle, April 13. Samuel, along with his fellow Soldiers from the 46th Engineer Battalion, 225th Eng. Brigade, are building additional office space and an expansion to the tactical operations center to provide workspace for additional Department of Defense civilians and civil affairs Soldiers at JSS War Eagle.



Engineering\Military communication at its finest



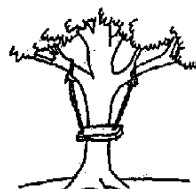
MNC-I



MND



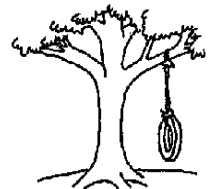
225th CEOC



S-3
adjustments



46th w/
modification
from CoS



What the
user
wanted.

Always a better way; never the 'simple'

**FIRE****POLICE****EMS****EMERGENCY CALL****485-4070**

(VOIP OR DSN)

IRAQNA 0790-194-2960
SVOIP - 243-4407NON EMERGENCY 485-2758
FM 902 - GATEKEEPER225 EN BDE TOC: 242-4407 / 847-2613
HHC, 225 EN (GOAT HOUSE): 242-4150 / 847-2382**DID
YOU
KNOW?****Do you have questions
about the GI Bill?****Q:** Can I transfer benefits to my dependents under the post 9/11 bill?**A:** If you are a member of the Armed Forces on August 1, 2009, the Department of Defense (DOD) may offer you the opportunity to transfer benefits to your spouse or dependent children. DoD and the military services will issue policy on use of transferability in the coming months.

For more questions and answers visit:

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

Brought to you by the friendly S1 section

Heat Can KILL!

ARMY HEAT INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM

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.

**Safety Award**

SPC Ryan Kindhart

On a recent movement to recover Soldiers from a route sanitation mission, Spc. Ryan Kindhart, the company NBC NCO and a member of the company CST, identified that one of the M870 trailers was not rolling correctly. He quickly called for maintenance halt prior to the convoy leaving the entry control point at Joint Security Station Mahmudiyah. The wrecker crew was able to further asses the problem and fix the deficiencies inside the JSS instead of having to make the repairs on Route Jackson.

His efforts to identify a safety hazard and quickly react prevented further mishaps and extensive damage the trailer.

If you see a safety act that deserves recommendation, please refer them to the

Brigade Safety Officer

1st Lt. Jerry Rodriguez

Jerry.rodriguez1@us.army.mil

At Fort Riley, Kan., the Soldiers' wives were asked to bake treats for a party.

My brownies did not turn out well, and I told my husband I would be embarrassed if no one ate them.

As a group of Soldiers filed in however, I noticed they bypassed other goodies in favor of mine.

I was flattered until I heard one Soldier ask my husband, "Hey sergeant, are these the brownies you told us we better eat or else?"

*Audrey L. Murphy
Reader's Digest
Humor in Uniform*

**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

A series of historical places in Iraq: Arbil and the Citadel

By Foy Hartman, engagements coordinator

Arbil is the capital city of Kurdistan. Located 250 miles north of Baghdad and 50 miles east of Mosul it is the center of the Kurdish government and represents what most Middle Eastern planners see as the model for Iraq in the future. The Kurdish area of Iraq is known to be the safest area in the country. No CF soldier or civilian contractor has been killed in Kurdistan since 2003, a tribute to the effectiveness of the Kurdish security forces. Urban life at Arbil can be dated back to at least the twenty-third century BC as an ancient Assyrian city. By the rise of the Assyrians, Arbil was already an old city dating back to 5000 BC. In the city center stands a large walled city referred to as the Citadel.

The Citadel was built on layers of archaeological ruins which represent consecutive historical settlements, since the building of the first village in that place around the 6th millennium BC, *making Arbil the oldest continuously occupied city in the world*. While totally surrounded by the modern city the Citadel covers 102,000 square meters and rises 26 meters from ground level.

This archaeological citadel witnessed the rule of many historical nations, like the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrian, Media, Achaemenid Persians, Greeks, Iranian Parthians, Persian Sassanids and Muslims. Even today with its primarily Kurdish population, Arbil still has large Turkmen, Persian, Jewish and Assyrian populations. Ainkawa, a Northern suburb of Arbil, is the Modern capital of the Christian Assyrians with a population of about 300,000 in Iraq.

The name of Arbil appears to be of non-Semitic origin meaning it is not Aramaic. The name echoes a history of center of trade and means

“Four Gods” (arba’ū ilū). The city was a centre for the worship of the Assyrian goddess Ishtar. The ancient city wall still dominates the center of Arbil.

The Battle of Gaugamela, sometimes referred to as the “Battle of Arbela” in which Alexander the Great defeated Darius III of Persia in 331 BC, took place just outside the Citadel. A hole in the wall of the Citadel is attributed to a follow up Assault by Alexander the great as he pursued Darius III into the Citadel.

The name Hewlêr, pronounced “Howler” is also used for this his-

play a significant role.

In the early first century AD the royal family adopted Christianity, and it spread throughout this region, so that the area became a Christian stronghold. It served as the seat of a Metropolitan of the Church of the East which spread Christianity along the borders of the ancient Assyrian empire to the Far East. It came as a surprise to both Marco Polo and the Catholic Church when Chris-

tian communities were discovered as far away as China. By AD 100 there was a bishop headquartered in the city. The Assyrian population remained significant in size until destruction of the city by the forces of [Timurlane](#) in 1397. Afterward Arbil and Kurdistan increasingly became Muslim-dominated, but has demonstrated more religious and ethnic tolerance than most Middle Eastern areas.



toric town of Mesopotamia by Kurds. This name is derived from Horlêr, meaning "Temple of the Sun" in the Kurdish language. This may have originated from the Yazidi religion practiced by ancient Kurds in which the sun and fire

March NCO, Soldier of the Month by Maj. Pat Simon

He's called everything from "goofy" to the "beat doctor." The last reference is to the master-reo system he installed in his 1989 Chevy Caprice back home. But here in the combat zone, just call him a squared away soldier.

Staff Sgt. Cleveland Gibson is the construction material yard NCOIC for the 225th Eng. Bde. It may be a new job for him, but it is the perfect fit, as he comes to this position with previous experience as a construction engineer supervisor.

"On job sites, I know what materials need to be used to get the job done," said Gibson. "Now I can play more of a role in making sure Soldiers get the proper supplies that they need."

The 27-year old from Simmesport, La., was with the 1021st Engineer Company before linking up with the 225th. He is coming up on his 10th year with the Louisiana National Guard. Gibson actually volunteered for this mission to Iraq, and has received high praise from his peers and supervisors.

Some of the comments we hear about Gibson are that he "reflects a positive image to all the customers that he comes into contact with" and that he "has several positive customer com-

ments directed to the S-4 Sgt. Maj."



Gibson maintains 100 percent accountability for over ten million dollars of class 4 inventory and 100 percent accountability of all junior enlisted assigned to the S-4 section. Gibson simply sees his role in Iraq as a chance to show his stuff,

with humility.

"When someone gives you an opportunity, war is not the greatest thing, but you do the best you can."

Soldier



Like his two grandfathers did during the Vietnam War, Pfc. Joshua Brister

also answered the call to duty for his country and state. Just one week after his 17th birthday, Brister officially became a member of the Louisiana Na-

tional Guard.

"It's something I wanted to do ever since I was a child," said the Dry Prong, La., native. He also liked the thought of working with explosives and demolition as a 21 Bravo, Combat Engineer.

"I thought it would be fun to blow stuff up," Brister said with a coy smile.

That is not exactly what he is doing here in Iraq. In fact, it is far from it. Brister is a gunner / driver – an important member of a close knit team – the PSD – responsible for providing safe and timely transportation for the 225th Eng. Bde.

Brister is described by his leaders as a key to successful operations. They say he is a vital and reliable part of the PSD team, and that he takes initiative by changing equipment on vehicles to suit the TC, drivers and passengers.

Brister said he knows that success comes not only with hard work but also by creating a special bond with his team.

"It is all about trusting guys to watch my back," he said. "They trust me to watch theirs."

His leaders and fellow soldiers say Brister is already conducting himself in a manner that an NCO would and he is a top notch Soldier.

"It's nice to be noticed for even the everyday stuff we do," he said.

It is something his grandfathers – fellow combat Soldiers – would be very proud of.

Castle Engineers named Soldier, NCO of the Quarter

By Scott Flenner

Enlisted and Non-Commissioned officers from the 225th Engineer Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad tested their knowledge, poise, and warrior skills against one another to see who would be the victor and carry the name of enlisted and non-commissioned officer of the quarter, April 11.

With the over watch of senior non-commissioned officers from the 225th Eng. Bde., the Soldiers competing in four primary tasks: nine line medical evacuation, combat stress behavior, dealing with the media, and performing a functions check on an M-4 carbine rifle. Each task presents itself with a different challenge and requires each Soldier to utilize a different set of skills to accomplish the mission at hand.

“These competitions are a little nerve racking trying to prepare for them, but you prepare the best you can and hope all goes well,” said Sgt. Mark Ward, from Baton Rouge, La., who was selected as the overall winner for the NCO of the quarter during the competition.

After the round robin of skills testing the Soldiers then faced their most daunting and nerve racking test: a question and answer portion of the competition where the Soldier sits in front of a board that consisted of Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Major, and four other senior NCO’s from the 225th Eng. Bde. During this portion of the completion the sergeants major ask each Soldier individual questions pertaining to such topics but not limited to land navigation, first aid, physical fitness, customs and courtesies, and leadership.

“You are looking at several different key areas ... how they present themselves, their professionalism, and how much information they know,” said 2004 sergeant major of the year for the Louisiana National Guard, Sgt. Maj. Thomas Brouillette, who was sitting on the board during the competition.

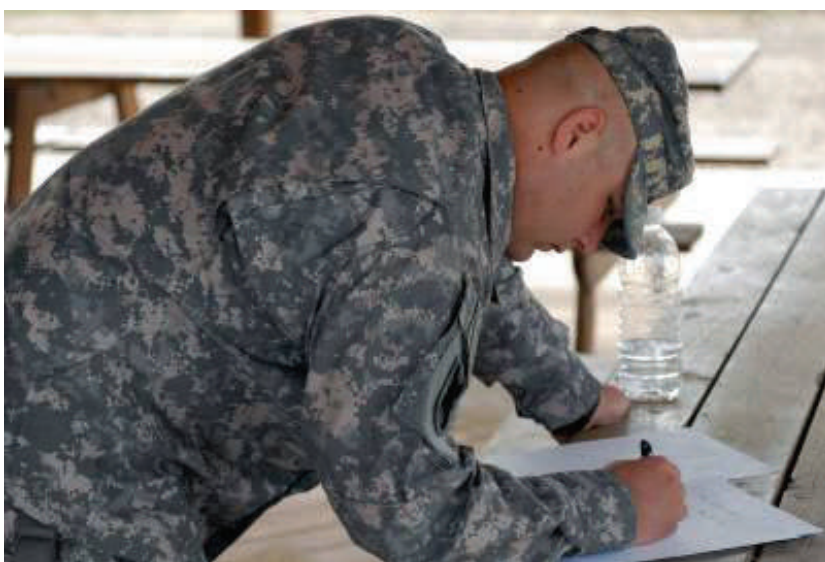
“You are seeing the best of the best and they all did extremely well. I was really impressed with all the Soldiers,” continued Brouillette, a Camp Beauregard, La. native.

Ward, along with his fellow comrade Spc. Kyle Clark, a native of Greenburg, La., received the most points throughout the competition to

win the title of enlisted and NCO of the quarter for the 225th Eng. Bde.

“It was an overall great experience. I recommend it to fellow Soldiers if given the opportunity,” said Clark.

Sgt. Mark Ward, from Baton Rouge, La. jots down key information from a letter to call up a simulated nine line medical evacuation request during the Enlisted/NCO Soldier of the quarter competition, April 12. Sending up a nine line medevac is a key task that every Soldier trains on to ensure that he can call for medical support quickly and without error.



Spc. Kyle Clark, from Greensburg, La. responds to questions from Pineville, La. resident Sgt. Rebekah Malone to test the Soldier on how he deals the media during the Enlisted/NCO Soldier of the quarter competition, April 12. Training Soldiers in dealing with the media has been stressed more in recent times due to the increasing amount of civilian journalist embedding with units throughout Iraq.

Medal of Honor: Castle Soldiers meet the men behind the medal

By Sgt. Rebekah Malone

With only 97 Medal of Honor holders living, meeting a recipient of the nation's highest military decoration is not something that happens every day.

Recently, Soldiers from the 225th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, got the chance to meet two living heroes, retired Col. Robert Howard and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Littrell, April 15 during their visit to Camp Liberty. The veterans received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and fearlessness in action while risking their lives during the Vietnam War.

Howard and Littrell retired with 36 and 24 years of service respectfully, but their Army service didn't stop there. Now on their sixth visit to Iraq, the best friend duo said they feel "called" to visit troops and show their support for what they call the most professional Soldiers in the history of the American Armed Forces.

"I have a great appreciation for Americans serving this great country. It's our privilege to be here with you," said Howard. "You are very privileged to have the greatest lead-

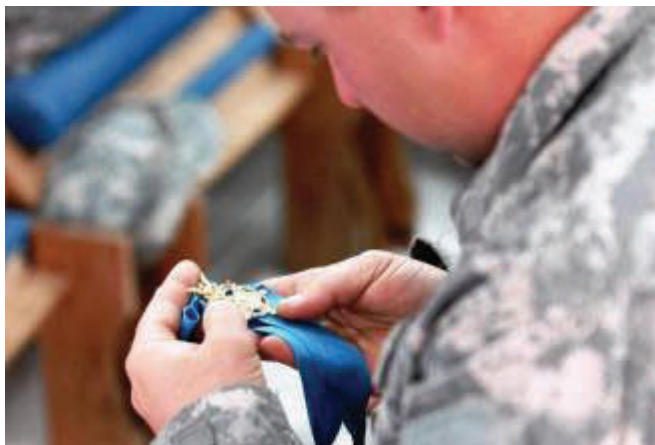
ers that we've had in our services, especially in the United States Army in the past 235 years, because of your level of professionalism."

"But it's more than professionalism," he continued, "its dedication and love of your country or you wouldn't be here. I ap-

served in Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and now Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It is always an honor to be able to visit with any retired veteran and a distinguished Medal of Honor recipient; few people ever get to do this because most that have received this medal have died for their heroic actions and their family received the medal in their honor," Quebedeaux explained. "Any time you have an opportunity to talk to veterans of foreign

LEFT: Medal of Honor recipients retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Littrell (center) and retired Col. Robert Howard (right) watch as Spc. Mikah Appleman of Detriot, operates a gyro-cam inside a Buffalo.



A 225th Engineer Brigade Soldier gingerly holds the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

ABOVE: Waco, Texas native, Pfc. Andrew Lundy, 515th Engineer Company, demonstrates the common remotely operated weapons system to the Medal of Honor recipients. Howard told the Soldiers, "We're not heroes; we're Soldiers just like you."

war it always brings back memories when you were there as well."

More than 200 Soldiers filled the small Engineer Chapel at Camp Liberty here to listen to the living legends give advice, encouragement and more than anything, just to be in the presence of two Americans having displayed acts of the highest caliber of courage in defense of their nation and fellow Soldiers.

"I was humbled and honored to meet true American heroes," said Master Sgt. Lisa Bates, of Mena, Ark. "It was a privilege to get to meet them and something I will always remember. It's not every day you get to meet Soldiers like that."

plaud you."

Among the Soldiers meeting the American heroes was a fellow Soldier drafted during Vietnam, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Wilson Quebedeaux of Marksville, La., 225th Engineer Brigade. Quebedeaux has

Louisiana Soldiers 'pock' eggs in Baghdad for Easter

By Sgt. Rebekah Malone

For the deployed Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard's 225th Engineer Brigade, headquartered in Pineville, La., a popular Easter tradition held in Louisiana made a debut at Camp Liberty, Iraq, on April 12.

LEFT: The cool water from a broken water balloon quickly cooled off Baton Rouge, La. native Sgt. 1st Class Karla Allen (left), during an Easter celebration April 12 at Camp Liberty, Iraq. The 225th Soldiers didn't let a deployment to Iraq keep them from celebrating the popular holiday. Decorations, candy, prizes and plastic eggs were donated by the unit's Family Readiness Group.



ABOVE: An egg pocking or 'fighting' competition brought lots of smiles for the deployed Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard's 225th Engineer Brigade from Pineville, La., April 12 at Camp Liberty, Iraq. Sgt. Maj. Tommy Brouillette of Pineville, La., was declared the winner of the popular French tradition.

The tradition known as 'egg pocking' has its roots when some of the first French settlers brought it to Louisiana more than 200 years ago, and the 225th Soldiers jumped at the chance to carry on that favorite holiday pastime, which is essentially an egg-tapping competition.

Contestants in the competition held hard boiled eggs in their hand and, through a variety of techniques, used their

egg to tap the top of another contestant's egg until the egg cracked. Whomever's egg did not crack was declared the winner and proceeded in the tournament.

In some Louisiana communities, the winner of an egg pocking competition might re-

petition, the Louisiana Soldiers didn't seem to mind.

"I've fought eggs my whole life," said the winner of the competition, Sgt. Maj. Tommy Brouillette, of Pineville, La. "Pocking eggs really brought the Cajun culture (to Baghdad), which brought me back home. It was like being at home with my real family, instead of here with my 225th family. I had a blast."



Sgt. Tommy Allen of Baton Rouge, La., crosses the finish line ahead of Sgt. Maj. Tommy Brouillette of Pineville, La., during an Easter celebration egg race at Camp Liberty, Iraq. The 225th hasn't forsaken its Cajun culture and holiday fun with an egg hunt, games, candy and lots of smiles

Louisiana's adjutant general visit's Soldiers in Iraq

By Sgt. Rebekah Malone

An unexpected phone call gave Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard an opportunity he couldn't pass up when a flight to Iraq was canceled by the intended passenger.

"Last Friday we got a call and it took all of 30 seconds for CSM Caillier and myself to decide to come," said Landreneau.

Landreneau and Senior Enlisted Advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier arrived in Baghdad Tuesday evening. Immediately, they began to receive briefings on the Louisiana's engineer brigade.

"225 Engineer Brigade is making a mark and you have a lot to be proud of," said Landreneau. "Your responsibilities are great, the work you are doing is tough, you are doing it professionally, in the way you were trained and doing it successfully."

The former group commander of the 225th Eng. Bde., Landreneau has spent many years working with the individuals currently serving in Iraq.

"It's very humbling to come

and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with these great Soldiers because they are so dedicated and

committed to doing a great job," Landreneau stated. "I'm proud to be associated with them."



LEFT: Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard (right), talks to Soldiers from the 225th Engineer Brigade. Landreneau is visiting from Louisiana.



Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Louisiana National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier talks to personal security detachment, 225th Eng. Bde.



Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau (top left), talks to 225th Engineer Brigade Soldiers on Camp Liberty, April 22. He said, "CSM Caillier and I are humbled to be here visiting with you."

Soldiers had the opportunity to visit with adjutant general during a bar-be-que.



2009: Year of the NCO

Brigade Contact Info

Maj. Patrick Simon

patrick.a.simon@
mnd-b.army.mil
DSN: 847-2547

Sgt. Rebekah Malone

rebekah.malone@
mnd-b.army.mil

Scott Flenner

scott.flenner@
mnd-b.army.mil

Mailing Address

225 EN BDE
APO AE 09344

**WE NEED YOUR
LETTERS !**

Great news! The editor of Guard Experience magazine wants Soldiers of the 225th Eng. Bde. to be featured in a new section of the magazine called "Letters from the Front." Basically, GX wanted to give Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan a chance to describe their mission, feelings, etc. Of course, they will leave out OP-SEC details. Please send us your letters! The deadline for submission to 225 PAO is May 8 at 1600.

Please see example or talk to your PAO team today.

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!

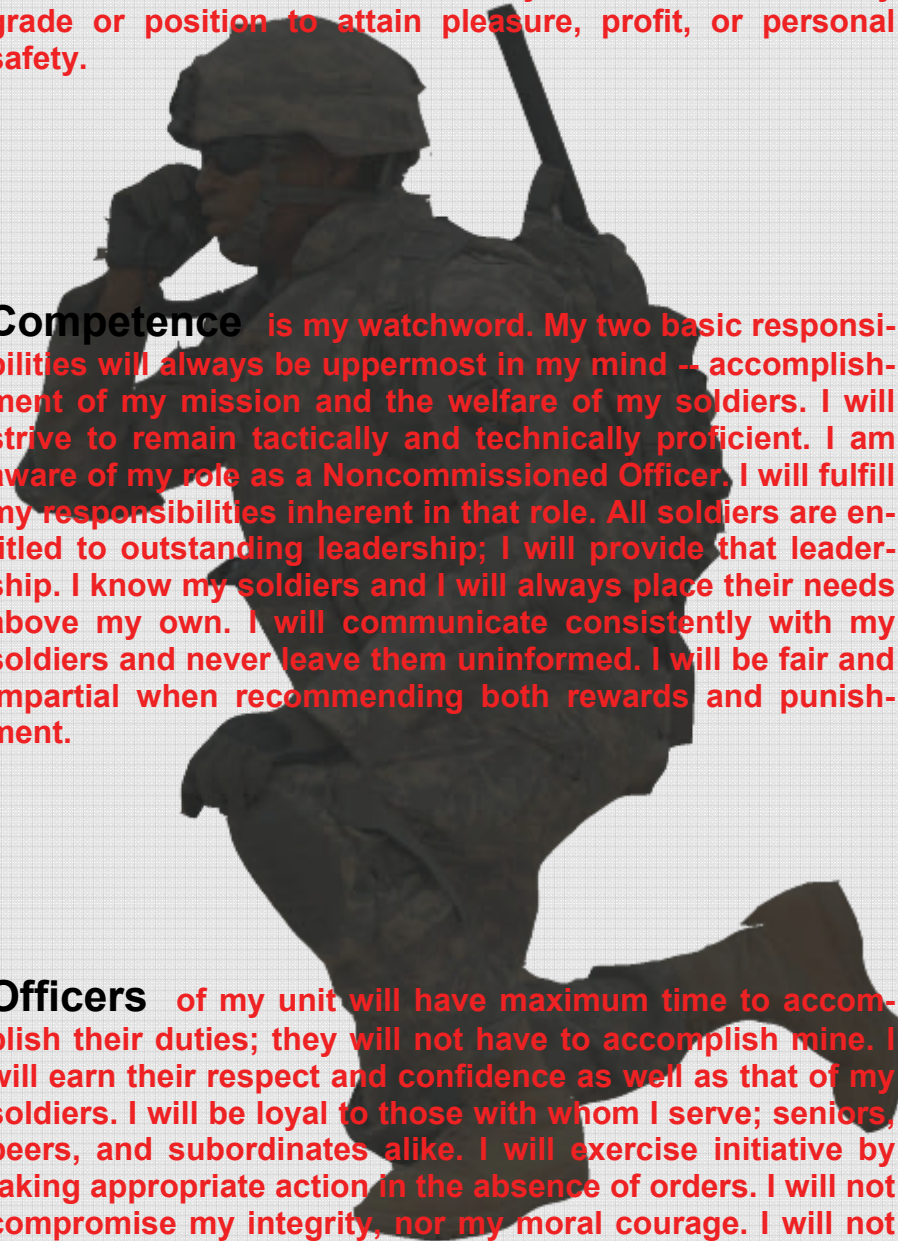


Image of Sgt. Marion Weston of Ball, La., 225th En. Bde.

Know a high-speed Soldier that should be featured in the Express? Recommend them today!