



STEEL SPIKE EXPRESS

ADSEQUOR - "TO ACHIEVE"

June Marks 1 Year in Iraq...



B CO "Beasts" celebrate a very special promotion at COP Carver.



277th EN CO Soldiers make new friends at JSS Istiqlaal.

...And, We're Still Going Strong!

**Meet this Month's
"Soldier
In
Focus"**



Inside This Issue:

46th ECB (H) Commander's Observations	2
CSM's View	3
PA/ Chaplain's Corner	3
HSC — "SPARTANS"	4-5
A CO— "GATORS"	6-7
B CO— "BEAST"	8-9
277th— "DIRT DEVILS"	10-11
"Spotlight on Success" & "In the News"	12
Happy Birthday & New Additions!	13
FRG Events	14
Soldier in Focus	15



Commander's Observations



LTC Matthew Zajac
Battalion Commander
46th ECB (H)

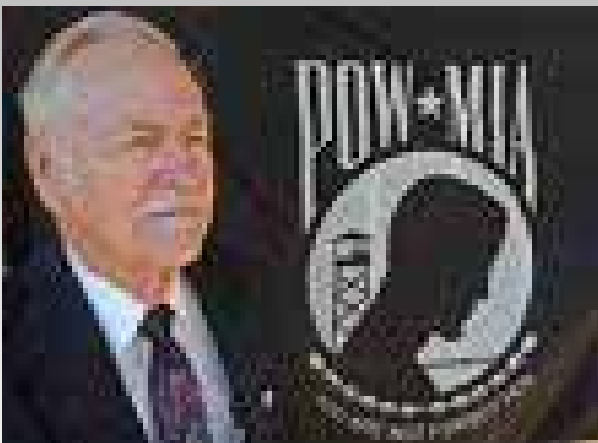
Steel Spike Families and Friends,

June marks Father's Day, and with Mother's Day just recently recognized I want to take a moment to thank not only our parents, but particularly those Soldiers who are themselves parents and yet selflessly serve their Nation. The example these parents are showing their children – that of selfless service in the cause of a greater good – is rare to find in these times. The columnist Ben Stein captured this idea eloquently in his final column in which he wrote "How can a man or woman who makes an eight-figure wage and lives in insane luxury really be a star in today's world, if by a 'star' we mean someone bright and powerful and attractive as a role model?.... They can be interesting, nice people, but they are not heroes to me any longer.... A real star, the kind who haunts my memory night and day, is the U.S. Soldier in Baghdad.."

By the time this edition is published we will be nearing the end of June, and with that the end of 13 months of our tour here! Over the last few weeks the staff has been assembling a yearbook of sorts and as I flip through the draft I am amazed at what our Soldiers and Families have accomplished. The scope of projects and accomplishments has been immense – and the ingenuity displayed and the sweat that has gone into providing for the security and life support of the Iraqi people and our own forces has been unequalled. We can all be proud of what we have achieved here, and it was only possible due to the teamwork of every Soldier, Family member, and volunteer. While we are close to the end, we still have many challenges ahead of us until we step off that plane and rejoin our loved ones. We still face challenges from the heat, complex construction and maintenance operations, the insurgent threat, and soon from the necessity of bringing our replacements into country and preparing them to assume our mission. I ask us all to remain vigilant and supportive of one another thru the coming months, and to deliberately remind each other that each new day is just that – a new day - with new opportunities to excel but also new challenges to overcome.

STEEL SPIKE – ONE TEAM!

SPIKE 6



Newt Heisley, the man who designed the black and white POW/MIA flag flown everywhere from federal buildings to Harley-Davidson fenders died Thursday at his home. He was 88.

The prolific image he sketched in pencil in 1971 has the silhouette of a man under a guard tower and behind barbed wire. It's a symbolic reminder that not every soldier returned from the war in Vietnam.

Newt Heisley was proud of what the flag meant. He was a C-46 transport pilot in World War II in the Pacific.

"He didn't expect to get any recognition. If he had a nickel for every time that image appeared, he and I'd be multi-multi millionaires," his son James Heisley said. "Newt always said it was better as public image."

Photo and excerpt taken from an article in the Colorado Springs GAZETTE, May 17, 2009

June 2009

Steel Spike Express



Greetings from Spike 7:

CSM's View

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and is happy school is out. I just returned from my R&R and can't believe how quickly eighteen days of leave can pass. I was able to be at home for my son Marc's high school graduation. I am extremely proud of his accomplishments, in the classroom, and on the football field. I look forward to seeing him play his first college football game this fall when we return. I also had the distinction of catching the fewest and the smallest fish while out with my three sons on Lake Texhoma.

We have marked off a year in Iraq, and the accomplishments of the Soldiers are unbelievable. The Steel Spike Soldiers filled the year with milestone after milestone; most recently we had SFC James Dean, our Spartan Equipment Platoon Sergeant, newly-inducted into the prestigious Audie Murphy Club.

I want to thank 1SG Roman for all he did for the Alpha Gators. The Battalion got the epitome of a professional NCO and an awesome First Sergeant when he came to us. 1SG Roman transitioned with 1SG

Jackson and he has assumed his new role as the Battalion Operations Sergeant Major. He will be leading our Advanced Party to ensure that the Battalion's Soldiers have a seamless transition back to Fort Polk. Likewise, 1SG Jackson hit the ground running as he has since his arrival to the Battalion and the Gators could not be in better hands.

I want to wish a Happy Father's Day to all of the Dads of the Steel Spike Team. You all can be extremely proud of your sons and daughters and the contributions they have made to the Army and the people of Iraq.

The end of the deployment is not far away and we will be very busy right to the end. I ask you all to continue to support your Family Support Groups.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SPIKE 7



CSM Frank Thibodeau
BN CSM
46th ECB (H)



My son with a few of his "keepers."

Chaplain's/ PA's Corner

Idle-wise!

*"Hard work means prosperity; only fools idle away their time."
(Proverbs 12:11 NLT)*

It is significant to point out that General Patton wrote these lines days before his death:

"Anyone in any walk of life who is content with mediocrity is untrue to himself and to American tradition."

We must fight complacency, and continue to stay focused on excellence until our mission is done...



CPT Jerry Wagner
BN Chaplain

Medical Quiz ?

This month's medical education comes in the form of a question:

What is it that causes cancer of the esophagus, pancreas, bladder, mouth, larynx or cervix? What also causes heart and cardiovascular disease including heart attacks and sudden death, coronary artery disease, hypertension, and stroke? This activity's cardiovascular effects are worsened when using oral contraceptives. It also causes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, more prominent skin wrinkling, problems with infertility, numerous risks of complications in pregnancy, and possible threats to the health of a newborn. Not enough? Well it also causes earlier menopause and possible osteoporosis. Need a bigger hint? It is a leading cause of residential fire deaths and cancer of the lung.

Answer: Smoking.

Now do you think that it's time to stop? Come to the Aid Station, we can help.



CPT Troy Bidez
BN Physician's Assistant



HSC "SPARTANS"

Sprinting to the Finish Line

When the Battalion deployed in June of 2008, we did so by fully recognizing that the deployment would be long and present many challenges.

We all made a commitment to take a more deliberate approach towards the deployment. By doing so, we were able to successfully plan, resource and execute missions. This approach eliminated the mistakes often associated with hastiness; as we are all aware mistakes in combat can result in fatalities.

I commend the Soldiers and leaders for their continued commitment to mission accomplishment and maintaining a deliberate approach. Since the first day of arriving in the Middle East we were all reminded that the 15- month deployment wasn't a sprint, but in fact, it would be a marathon. There are many runners within the Spartan family and they can easily make a correlation on how this deployment was to be viewed as a marathon vs. being a sprint.

When running marathons you start off slow and deliberate and by doing so you allow your body time to set a rhythm and an efficient heart rate. The same is true about enduring long deployments. Starting off slow and deliberate allowed us to set a pace which was efficient for mission accomplishment without overlooking force protection.

During the marathon a runner chooses his or her moments to pick up the pace of the run. During the deployment, there were times when the missions and tasks at hand seemed overwhelming. The Spartans remained poised and overcame these moments always keeping the true purpose of the deployment in mind, "the stability of the Iraqi people."

The way a runner closes out a marathon is normally the most memorable part of the run. We often see runners sprint to the finish line giving their last intense effort, but invisible to the spectators' eyes are the mental and physical preparations taking place prior to the sprint.

Runners visualize the closing of the run during the entire run. They also shift body movements to focus less on a particular muscle. As we sprint to the end of this deployment we do so maintaining our deliberateness. We understand the many preparations required to close out the deployment successfully and safely reunite us with our loved ones.

Our sprint to the finish line is how we will be remembered.

**Some expect more of themselves.
They focus on higher goals.
They aim to achieve.
These people are SPARTANS!**

First Sergeant Hall
SPARTANS
Never Retreat



CPT Kimberly Cowlin
HSC Commander



1SG Steven Hall
HSC First Sergeant



PFC Sharper RE-Ups @ a pool. Sharper is also this month's Soldier in Focus. See page 15 for more info.



1LT Capra RE-Ups SGT Lee & SGT Fuoss.



Equipment PLT shows Iraqi Army Engineers how to use the Concrete Module during joint training.



HSC Soldiers hold up their certificates after completing a Mine Detector Class.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE JUSTICE

The engineers of Equipment Platoon, Headquarters and Support Company, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), 225th Engineer Brigade, wrapped up several crucial upgrades at Forward Operating Base Justice in central Baghdad, May 25.

For three weeks, the engineers worked to reconstruct four firing ranges, build a helicopter landing zone and to rebuild an ammunition holding area (AHA) to provide a separate area for explosives in order to increase mission readiness for U.S. and Iraqi Forces.

"These are critical areas for the FOB," stated Staff Sgt. Eddie Fortenberry, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the reconstruction efforts, from Columbia, Miss. "We need to get them up and running and in good working condition as quickly as possible."

Rebuilding the ranges was very important to ensure that they were safe to use for both Iraqi and Coalition Forces. One range was so badly



damaged it had to be completely removed, while the other three required extensive repairs.

"By building up the ranges, we were able to ensure that no Iraqi civilians would ever be in danger," said Spc. Colby Rees, of Hartford, S.D., NCOIC of the range project, 46th ECB (H).

With a time crunch to have the upgrades completed quickly, the engineers completed the demolition, upgrades and rebuild in under a week. This allowed the Soldiers at the FOB to continue training with very little interruption.

The helicopter landing zone was the largest undertaking, requiring the destruction of an old range, clearing of debris and leveling ground so helicopters could land. The newly-completed area will allow units at FOB Justice the ability to use helicopters for medical evacuations and logistics.

The final stage of the upgrades was the rebuilding of the AHA. The main focus was to separate the area which held ammunition from the explosives to increase safety.

Story & Photos by 2LT Mayerovitch



ALPHA "GATORS"

"America's support for human rights and democracy is our noblest export to the world." William J. Bennett

Gator friends and families,

I hope this edition of the newsletter finds you in excellent spirits. The Gators have been busy supporting a fledgling Iraqi democracy this month by helping the Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) meet the terms and conditions specified by the historical security agreement signed earlier this year. The Gators have busied themselves with building base camps and operations facilities and by removing the remnants of war to turnover bases back to the Iraqi Security Forces. This is a major step in meeting the July 1st suspense to move all American bases outside the Baghdad city limits.

I am simply astounded by how much our Soldiers have accomplished. At Patrol Base Yusifiyah, the "Reapers" of First Platoon have literally taken an abandoned and run-down base and turned it into a first-class living facility for the deserving Soldiers



CPT Reyn Landreth
A CO Commander

of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 50th Cavalry Regiment. At Joint Security Station Ur, the Second Platoon "Dirty Deuces" are weathering the heat to construct nine facilities including dining facilities, food storage areas, and troop stores to support a surge capacity of over 700 Soldiers.

The Earthmovers received numerous accolades from 5-73 CAV and from the 3-82nd BCT Engineer in their efforts to remove an astounding 1,600 cubic yards (that's over 150 dump trucks worth!) of dirt fill, debris, and concrete rubble to help close down a base that was designated for turnover. They worked tirelessly for five nights straight to meet the suspense and prove to the Iraqi populace that we intend to honor the security agreement to the fullest extent.

Although U.S. forces as a whole have endeavored to conduct all operations "by, with, and through" Iraqi Security Forces for some time now, the new operating guidelines and timelines publicize the significant shift in the way U.S. Forces have conducted business in theater. It is an honor to be a part of an exit strategy that empowers the Iraqis by putting them out front. The construction missions currently underway are just a few more examples of how the Gators are making their mark in theater and in the annals of history!

Stay healthy, safe, and focused.

GATOR STRONG. GATOR PROUD!
-Gator 6



1SG Tracy Jackson
A CO First Sergeant

Hello Gator Family,

I am happy to be part of the Gator team and am looking forward to meeting all the families of the Gator Soldiers. I would like to thank my predecessor 1SG Roman for doing a great job of taking care of the families and Soldiers of Alpha Company. It has been less than a month since I have taken over as the 1SG of A Co and it already feels like home.

This month has already kicked off with a bang. We have had several Soldiers get promoted: Marcos Lopez was promoted to Sergeant First Class. Ryan Kindhart was promoted to Sergeant. Michelle Martinez was promoted to Private First Class. Kevin Behnke, Christopher Cody, Derek Fay, Ian Hauser, Talib Hodges, Benjamin Livsey, Jacob Moon, Christopher Scroggins, Andrew Seymour, Erik Swanson, Ridge Watson and Donald Welch were all promoted to Specialist.

Awards were given to the following Soldiers for outstanding jobs well done: SFC Marcos Lopez, SGT Bryon Ackerman, SGT John Ortiz, SGT Ryan Kindhart, SPC Joseph Cropprue, SPC Thomas Dodge, SPC Timothy Gilboe, SPC Aquanta Grandberry, SPC Rory Mann, SPC Jeremy Otto, SPC Greg Painter, SPC Joe Pelato, PFC Allen Beck and PFC Jeremy Polipnick. We also had two Soldiers attend the promotion board and were recommended for promotion to Staff Sergeant: SGT Mark Jordan and SGT Antonio Woods, who also reenlisted the same day. Congratulations to all of our promoted Soldiers and awardees.

The Soldiers of Alpha Gators continue to do great construction work to house Soldiers, provide electricity, air conditioning, plumbing, emplacing barriers, building ranges, constructing roads and helicopter landing pads, clearing trash and debris from the sides of the roads and training the Iraqi Engineers on construction efforts.

I want to thank all the families for the support you are giving your Gator Soldier and the rest of the "Steel Spike" battalion family.

1SG Tracy Jackson "Gator 7"

June 2009

Steel Spike Express

SPC Roberson uses a saw to cut ballistic e-glass at JSS Loyalty.

EM PLT Soldiers change a tire on a M870 trailer at JSS Zafraniyah.



SPC Ortiz is congratulated by CSM Major of the 225th EN BDE for winning the Safety Award.



Gators!



SPC Skeels loads construction material for a project at Yusifiyah.



SFC Bennett shows VIPs the work completed at JSS Loyalty.



PFC Adams installs a switch for split ACs on PAD 9.



Past & Present Gator Leadership before a CDR's dinner.





BRAVO "BEAST"

Hello BEAST Families and friends!

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. The 06th day of June marks an anniversary for several events in our history. On June 06, 1944, 160,000 allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. June 06, 2006 Bravo Company lost two Soldiers (SGT Carlos Pernell and CPL Andy Anderson) in an indirect fire attack at Ramadi, Iraq. Last but not least June 06, 2008 was also the day the BEAST were unleashed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As we recently just passed our 12 month anniversary of deploying, the entire company also had a moment of silence and prayer to remember our fellow fallen Soldiers who have died for our freedoms.

This month our Soldiers tackled two of the Brigade's highest priority missions; as the Iraqi Army and Police are diligently starting to assume more responsibility throughout Iraq the coalition presence is being reduced. Our vertical platoons have been busy constructing ground up construction on numerous buildings in order to allow U.S. Soldiers to move out of the inner city of Baghdad, Iraq. The Earth Moving Platoon finished up an enormous ricochet proof weapons range, helicopter landing zone, and vehicle entry control point. They have also started on their second and third ranges which will keep them busy for the next month.

Last, but definitely not least, our slice elements (Headquarters, Convoy Support Team, and Maintenance Platoons) have led the way in supporting the fight. SGT Sharon Pride, our company supply sergeant, was commended by the Battalion Commander for once again leading the battalion in the command supply and discipline inspection. Our hazardous material NCO SGT Anthony Anderson set the standard in the battalion after passing four surprise visits from hazardous material inspectors. As the light at the end of the tunnel starts to brighten, the entire company has continued to strive for excellence.

This month I would also like to give a special thanks to all the leaders back in the rear and our FRG. They are growing stronger everyday in relationships, activities, and support for the Soldiers who are forward. I encourage each of you to take part in the FRG meetings, fun events, and planning of our redeployment events. Feel free to visit our company website listed below for more pictures and monthly information.

www.bravo46en.com

"Rock Steady and Lean Forward"
BEAST 6 & BEAST 7 ON7!



CPT Christopher Beal
B CO Commander



1SG Gregory Williams
B CO First Sergeant



1LT Jefferson practices inserting an IV into CPT Beal during a B CO Officer Professional Development class.



CPT Beal poses outside the massive doors of Al Faw Palace.

"Soldier Receives Greater Reward Than Promotion"

Story & Photos by SGT Malone
225th EN BDE

His smile says it all. With a sharp salute and the the ripping off of the old rank and a patting on of the new, 37 year old Edward Davis, from New Orleans, La., becomes the Army's latest sergeant first class.

"It's a great privilege and a great honor," said Davis with a smile. "It's been a long time coming and a lot of hard work but it's worth every bit of it."

The only thing better would be for his seven children to witness their father in Iraq getting a battlefield promotion.

"They would be very happy for daddy," said a beaming Davis. "They have not gotten the chance to be at any of my promotions because they took place away from home."

"I may be back here in a year or two and Soldiers will still be able to see their work here. And it just does you good because you know you are doing something for our own," said Davis. "It makes you feel good inside, better than any awards you can receive."



SFC Davis is pinned by CPT Beal (not pictured), BG Monconduit (left) and CSM Major (right) of the 225th Engineer Brigade out of Louisiana. The 225th EN BDE is the higher headquarters of the 46th ECB (H) while deployed.

That being said, Davis' promotion is a great military accomplishment, but there is something far greater that he has received while serving in Iraq—a future career goal and a tremendous sense of pride.

As the platoon sergeant with Bravo Company, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), 225th Engineer Brigade, Davis is busy overseeing his engineer Soldiers working long hours at Combat Outpost Carver, just south of Baghdad, to make sure fellow Soldiers moving "out of the cities" have a comfortable place to stay. And that will mean lots of smiles for the builders and the new tenants.

After serving 16 years on active duty, Davis is beginning to consider his next career step when he retires in a few years. He has already started a construction company back at home in New Orleans. And when he turns in his military uniform for good, he is hoping to give something back to those who have given him more than just engineering experience.

"I will continue doing the work I have done in the Army, take it out to the civilian world and probably put a few more smiles on faces of the Soldiers over the years."

"Beasts!"
"Beasts!"



1st PLT poses for a photo after SPC Wright's RE-UP.



EM Soldiers setup HESCO barriers on a range. The Soldiers will next fill the barriers with sand.



SPC Ammari drills a hole in a door frame so electrical cable can be run through.



SPC White builds a B-Hut floor. Infantry Soldiers will eventually live in this building.



277th EN CO "DIRT DEVILS"

Hello to the extensive Dirt Devil Family at home and abroad,

We have been exceptionally busy here in Iraq the last 30 days and of course it is a mixed blessing. Many of the Soldiers have been too busy for as much down time as they deserve, but at the same time it makes the time fly by over here. I can honestly say that the last month has been a blur for me personally. We can all take pride in the high quantity and quality of work we have completed as a team, and there is always a minor celebration at being one month closer to coming home.

We have promoted four highly deserving Soldiers, and they are quickly assuming the duties of their newly acquired leadership roles. I am certain that SGT Ryan Lewis, SGT Brian Noble, SGT David Ramirez, and SGT Cruz Vasquez will be valuable additions to the Dirt Devil leadership team. I am proud of all the Dirt Devils serving their country here in theater, and it is always a good day when we get the opportunity to recognize their efforts with well deserved awards and promotions.



CPT Gordon Robbins
277th EN CO Commander

One of the exciting benefits of the missions the 277th family are completing here is a large amount of media attention. We have had several soldiers interviewed and covered individually in addition to coverage of construction projects and unit events. The Dirt Devils have been in newspaper, magazine, and television media in the last month. If you have not seen all the coverage, we are actively gathering as many of them as we can and will make them available to all.

Well, as I said in the beginning, the time is flying by in a blur for me. I must close as I have a mission tonight and the link up is in thirty minutes. Please keep all the Dirt Devil family in your prayers, and of course, give my kids a hug for me if you see them. I am honored to serve with the 277th and I am grateful for the support we receive from home. Until we see each other again, know that you are in my thoughts and my prayers.



1SG Antwann Rhodes
277th EN CO First
Sergeant

Dirt Devil 6 OUT!!



CPT Robbins takes a photo outside "Dirt Devil"
headquarters.



SFC Rhodes is promoted to MSG 22 May. He was then
laterally promoted to 1SG.

June 2009

Steel Spike Express



Support PLT takes a photo during a sniper screen mission.



Support PLT Soldiers emplace sniper screen.

"Dirt Devils!"



Checking the "Rhino Snot" placement at JSS Istiqlaal.

"277th Engineers Make New Friends During Construction of Access Road at JSS Istiqlaal"

The engineers of the 277th Engineer Company, serving with the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), are wrapping up an expansion project at Joint Security Station Istiqlaal. The expansion project that will wrap up 13 June calls for extending the perimeter walls so a new Helicopter Landing Zone and motor pool can be built. An access road along the south side of the JSS was also constructed.

The construction of the access road proved to be quite the entertainment as local Iraqi children lined the streets to watch the engineer Soldiers in action. The Soldiers quickly became friends with the children and provided food and snacks for the children.

"I have a soft heart for the children so I feel compelled to provide something," stated Spc. Gabriel Garza, heavy equipment operator, 277th Eng. Co., a native of Houston. Garza even went a step further and bought the local children mini footballs to play with while watching the Soldiers work in the hot desert sun..

Sgt. Rueben Aleman, heavy equipment operator, 277th Engineer Company, a native of San Antonio, gave food to local Iraqi children who were watching the Soldiers in action. - Photos & story by 1LT Bauman



June 2009

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS



SPC James of the PSD is promoted to CPL by SGT Lopez.



1LTs Atkinson, Davis, Hollman, & Breyman are promoted to CPT on 1 June 2009.



COL Light presents Soldiers of the 46th ECB (H) coins for assisting the Corps of Engineers with a Memorial Ceremony.



46th Engineers In the News...

Iraqi, Army engineers find common ground during joint construction

<http://www.fortpolkguardian.com/news/x529243541/Iraqi-Army-engineers-construct-common-ground-on-mission>

COP Carver: "Just doing my job"

<http://waronterrornews.typepad.com/home/2009/05/just-doing-my-job-photos.html>

Troops spruce up bases before departure

<http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=62764>

Soldier in Focus - SPC Barber (A CO)

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20090519/NEWS01/90519040>

Soldier in Focus - Sgt. Richard Dusenberry

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2009/05/30/21914-soldier-in-focus--sgt-richard-dusenberry/>

Engineers conduct joint concrete training

<http://www.leesvilledailyleader.com/news/x2085736900/Engineers-conduct-joint-concrete-training>



1LT Janeene Yarber
"Scoop Spike"
Public Affairs Officer

**For photo & news submissions to the "Steel Spike Express" contact your FRG or email me:
janeene.yarber@mnd-b.army.mil**



Steel Spike Birthdays & Fun

July



1-Jul CPL HOOVER, NATHAN
 1-Jul SPC SMALE, MICHAEL
 3-Jul PFC LOMOTYAKUETTEH, ASTEROIDS
 4-Jul PFC REAVY, GEORGE
 4-Jul SPC MOULTRIE, LAMAR JAMES
 5-Jul PVC WADE, JACOB
 5-Jul PFC ANDERSON, MAURIO
 7-Jul SGT DIXON, TIKKORA
 7-Jul PFC GRAVES, JOHN
 8-Jul PFC PROBY, CURTIS
 9-Jul SPC MURPHY, DANIEL
 10-Jul SGT LANPHER, ANDREW
 10-Jul SPC SERVISS, DANIEL
 11-Jul SPC MOORE, DENALE
 11-Jul PFC FAY, DEREK
 14-Jul SPC BAHR, CHRISTOPHER
 15-Jul SGT MAKI, ROSS
 15-Jul PFC HALL, CHARLES
 16-Jul SPC UTTERBACK, EVAN
 16-Jul PFC BAILEY, CHANCE
 18-Jul SPC MAHURIN, ANDREW
 19-Jul PV2 CHURCH, MARION
 22-Jul CPL CARTER, SCOTT
 22-Jul SPC EMORY, NICHOLAS
 23-Jul SPC ANTONIO, LEOBARDO
 23-Jul SSG KNIGHT, KEVIN
 24-Jul PFC YATES, DUANE
 24-Jul PFC BALCOM, CHRISTOPHER
 24-Jul PFC ARMSTRONG, AARON
 24-Jul SGT GRIFFIN, KEVIN
 26-Jul SSG JONES, JASON
 28-Jul 1LT YARBER, JANEENE
 28-Jul SPC MARTIN, MELANIE
 29-Jul PFC YORK, COLE
 30-Jul SPC ROVIG, YVETTE
 30-Jul SPC WHITE, ISAIAH



SPC Demarchi & SPC Jones paint the HSC mural outside the Company TOC.



CPT Landreth cuts into her birthday cake, a gift from the Soldiers of Alpha Company.



CPT Rushin shares a fist bump with an Iraqi boy while LT "Scoop Spike" videotapes in the background.

Family Readiness Groups of the 46th ECB (H)



TO: SGT Pollom



TO: SPC Shoemaker



To: MAJ Stinnett & SSG Daigrepont



To: MSG Roman



Happy Father's Day from the FRG!

To: CPT Harris



To: 1LT Nelson



SOLDIER IN FOCUS

Pvt. Brandon Sharper currently serves as a communications specialist for Headquarters and Support Company, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) on Camp Liberty. The "Steel Spike Battalion" Commo section has been a driving force in keeping the battalion's lines open while conducting numerous missions across Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

Sharper, a 21 year-old Camden, S.C. native immediately joined the military after graduating high school stating, "I was looking for a challenge and a place that I could advance my career goals."

Sharper's drive to constantly become a better Soldier and to excel in his job are the reasons his section nominated him for "Soldier in Focus."

What do you enjoy most about being in the Commo Section?

"I love to troubleshoot and figure out equipment. It's fun to get issued a high speed piece of equipment, learn it and then teach others. I like dealing with technology in general.

I also like being around motivated Soldiers like myself. Spc. Godhigh, Pfc. Campbell, Spc. Miller and Pfc. Geradts are a great group to work with. We've become so much closer since deploying out here. We go everywhere together."

So what is your favorite piece of equipment to work with?

"I like working with the video teleconferencing equipment, the new Commo radios, and the new TACSAT radios. The TACSATs connect with satellites. It's been interesting learning the CREW systems and the Electronic Warfare equipment. My favorite power tool is the power drill! It's very easy to use and you can use it to multi-task."

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

"I like working out at the gym and doing the fun runs. I love to challenge my mind and my body. Last October, during the 13-mile Sapper run, right about mile eight I started to tell myself I can keep going and kept pushing myself. I love the feeling of accomplishment. I like the t-shirts too."



Do you do any special training for your fun runs?

"I've started a personal training that I like to call, 'The Campaign' and my theme is, 'I am the dedication.' This means I am trying to better myself and become a better Soldier in all aspects. I scored a 280 on my last APFT, but I've been conditioning my body so I can reach 300 points. I've gained 20 pounds of muscle since getting out here. You should see my before pictures. 'The Campaign' also focuses on me knowing my job and becoming better at it. With help from my NCOs I won the company Soldier of the Month board and I'm going to the battalion one next. I just want to be an all-around better Soldier."

Tell me something about this deployment that you won't miss?

"The flies out here are vicious; they're ruthless. The sun looks very angry on this side of the world. The dust has a distinct smell to it and the rocks and sand...the guys see me trip on the rocks every day."

Is there anything people would find shocking about you?

"Yes. I would like to be a politician; the mayor or governor of South Carolina. I would bring the state's record up to extraordinary numbers and hold lots of fun runs. We'd have runs for breast cancer, Alzheimer's, veterans, etc., and I'd be leading all of them. And, I'd bring the Panthers to South Carolina. I'd bring them home! I also am interested in getting my degree in sports medicine, but I guess that's not really shocking."

FRG LEADERS

NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT #	E-MAIL
SHARI BAYE	HSC	Cell: 337-208-3045, Hm: 985-414-2926	46hsc.family@live.com
LISA OTTO	ALPHA COMPANY	Cell: 337-208-3189, Hm: 870-405-3579	aco46th@gmail.com
JENNIFER HENRY	814TH	Cell: 563-663-2770	henrys2000@bellsouth.net
TREVA WILLIAMS	BRAVO COMPANY	334-390-0331	fund46theng@yahoo.com
BRENDA LEACH	277TH EN CO	Cell: 210-289-2277, Hm: 210-767-8980	brenda.a.leach@us.army.mil

KEY FRSA

NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT #	E-MAIL
CINDY DRISCOLL	Family Programs Assistant, G1	Wk: 337-531-6047, Cell: 337-353-8371	cindy.driscoll@conus.army.mil
KATHERINE BROWN	1st MEB FRSA	Wk: 337-531-1675, Hm: 337-353-7634	katherine.brown@conus.army.mil
TEKESHA SAINT-VAL	46th ECB (H) FRSA	Wk: 337-531-4682, Cell: 337-353-7919	tekeshawall@us.army.mil
DEBORRAH CISNEROS	TRADOC FRSA	Wk: 334-255-0679	deborrah.cisneros@us.army.mil
VIRGINIA BAUGHN	277TH EN CO	Wk: 979-822-9063 x 358	virginia.baughn@usar.army.mil

REAR DETACHMENT CDRs

NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT #	E-MAIL
CPT HARVEY DICKERSON	HSC / A CO	337-718-3785	harvey.dickerson@us.army.mil
CPT MARK BORN	B CO	360-402-6137	mark.born1@us.army.mil
SSG RANDALL LACEY	277TH EN CO		randall.lacey@usar.army.mil