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TOGETHER** 10



**225TH
ENGINEER BRIGADE**

JULY 1, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE IX

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

BG Owen W. Monconduit

My fellow Soldiers and family members, have a safe and happy Fourth of July, Independence Day. Family members rest assured that your military engineer service member is PROUDLY serving here in Baghdad, Iraq.

With half of the year 2009 already complete, now is a perfect time to conduct a self assessment of your military and personal goals. Every Soldier can mentally review the first six months of 2009 and analyze your military and personal perform-



ances. How do you rate yourself militarily and personally? What improvements can you make? Everyone can achieve OUTSTANDING results in their respective Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) and personal goals. You have six more months to accomplish your endeavors. Take action now to be OUTSTANDING both militarily and personally. Take time to plan or re-affirm your military and personal goals. Break your goals down into monthly objectives which build incrementally on

your success. Follow your plan and you will realize OUTSTANDING results!

With every passing month, it becomes even more important for Soldiers to operate safely. Taking simple personal care measures like drinking water, applying suntan lotion and thinking through tasks to mitigate risks are essential steps in maintaining a great safety record. Following a routine physical fitness training plan will also help build endurance and stamina.

SAFE DEPLOYMENT ≈ SAFE RETURN

Castle 6

MESSAGE FROM CASTLE 7

CSM Joseph Major

Greetings Engineer Soldiers,

We, the 225th Engineer Brigade Soldiers, have passed the mid-way point of our deployment, and it has been a ride!

As I am sure everyone remembers, we started this part of our journey on 1 Dec 08 at Camp Beauregard and moved to mobilization station at Fort Hood on 2 Dec 08 to begin post mobilization training. It was pretty cold at Fort Hood during the train up, and we had quite a few long and tough days there. We took a short break for Christmas at home with our families then back to Fort Hood for more training and validation.

Next, we departed for Kuwait on 23 Jan and conducted training there for a short period of time. We finally arrived at Camp Liberty and started conducting a right seat ride with the 926th Eng Bde, and around 9 Feb 09 we conducted Transfer of Authority

(TOA).

Since arriving in Iraq, we have had a number of milestones: 890th Eng Bn conducted a TOA with 4th Eng Bn; 4th Eng Bn was redirected to the Afghan theater; and we then picked up the 515th Eng Co. We have provided command and control to the 46th ECB, TFIC academy, JROC, and TF Gold. It has been a lot of hard work by a great team of "Louisiana Engineer" Soldiers.

What does the future hold? First, a TOA between the 46th ECB and 101th Eng Bn will occur in late August. Then, we prepare for the 16th Eng Bde right side ride in late October, and finally our TOA in mid-

November.

Keep up the great work and support to units in MND-B OE. Share your true adventure with family members and friends back home.



"IF YOU WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL, IT'S JUST THIS SIMPLE: KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, LOVE WHAT YOU'RE

DOING AND BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU'RE DOING."

AUTHOR, WILL ROGERS

Safe Deployment = Safe Return

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On the Cover:

1st. Lt. Trimeka Rivers helps unload wheelchairs for disabled Iraqis at a recent distribution drive at JSS Beladiyat.

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*Joke (s) of the Week*

Submitted by MSG Lisa Bates and SSG Richard Hebert

The Funeral Stone

After Sam died, his will provided \$30,000 for an elaborate funeral. As the last guests departed the affair, his wife, Sarah turned to her oldest and dearest friend. "Well, I'm sure Sam would be pleased."

"I'm sure you're right," replied Jody, who lowered her voice and leaned in close. "How much did this really cost?"

"All of it," said Sarah.

"No!" Jody exclaimed. "I mean, it was very nice, but \$30,000?"

Sarah answered, "The funeral cost \$6,500. I donated \$500 to the synagogue. The whiskey, wine and snacks were another \$500. The rest went for the memorial stone.

Jody computed quickly.

"\$22,500 for a memorial stone? My God, how big is it?"

"Two and a half carats."

D.L., Nixa, Mo.

Serious Stuff

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

Major Discovery!

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

Chaplain's Corner

By Chap. (MAJ) Jeff Mitchell

The Theology of Peace-3

The final look at peace in this series brings us to the source of peace. I hope you have gathered thus far, from the other two Chaplain's Corners that ultimate peace cannot be found in loved ones or the peace the world offers. As a matter of fact, nothing in this world, as good as it may seem in the moment cannot bring a ultimate source of peace; earth side. That is a good place to come to; where a person realizes that every-

thing this side of heaven will fall short and never come through for us the way we think it will. People, places, things, can be a cherry on top of the real cream. Let's look at the cream; the source of peace. The source of peace that provides enough peace to press on in this world is found in the Prince of Peace-Jesus Himself. Notice the following Scriptures for your consideration in this matter. **"For He Himself is our peace."** Ephesians

2:14 "You will keep in **perfect peace** him whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." Isaiah 26:3 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**" Isaiah 9:6

A **peace that surpasses all comprehension** is also promised in Philipians 4:6, 7 to those who offer matters in prayer with thanksgiving to God; knowing that He will work all things after the counsel of His will in His timing, for His glory. Enjoy the Prince of Peace as you walk through this world and live in the reality that relationships and this world will only offer a limited amount of it. Mainly, seek the Person of Peace in order to know and experience Him. Some day after this life is over, when we are out of the absence of sin, we will experience ultimate peace; The Prince.

CH (MAJ) Jeff Mitchell



Staff Sgt. Paul Fleming and Chap. (Maj.) Jeff Mitchell at an Iraqi school.

NPs are new grads at TFICA

By Lt. Col. Pat Simon

BAGHDAD – Playing with video game remote controls that power motorized robots may seem like a fun way to start the day.

For ten Iraqi National Police officers, this arcade experience is a critical part of training at a new engineer training academy at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Members of 1st Mechanized Brigade, 2nd National Police wrapped up three days of training on

clearing routes of improvised explosive devices, medical operations, and robotics at the Task Force Iron Claw Academy, 24 June.

The class, sponsored by the 225th Engineer Brigade, is the first time Iraqi National Police learned important engineer tactics at the academy.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Ray, Baton Rouge, La., an instructor at the academy, said the NP officers were very attentive because of what is at stake for Iraq's future— security.

“The National Police conduct route clearance operations now. They see the threats now,” said Ray. “They will be able to take this experience back to their units and run their operations more effectively.”

Ray said the robotics portion of the training may have been a popu-

lar way to end the course, but his students understood the serious

nature of using robots to track down killer IEDs.

“They can stand up on their own and perform independent security missions,” Ray said.

Iraqi Maj. Hussein, commander of the 1st Mech. Bde., 2nd NP agreed. Hussein said the Iraqi National Police appreciate this training because they are a visible force that provides security for the Iraqi people and for themselves.

“Now it gives us a lot of responsibility,” Hussein said. “We

have to prove our capability to protect the Iraqi population.”

Hussein is also very cognizant of the June 30 deadline for Coalition combat forces to leave the major cities. He said engineer training will give his officers added confidence and give the people of Iraq a sense of comfort.

“This is a historic event,” said Hussein. “The Iraqi people are confident in our ability to provide security. We are ready for the transition.”

At the end of the course, each NP officer received a certificate of course completion and congratulations from the commander of the 225th Eng. Bde., Brig. Gen. Owen Monconduit.

“Look to the left and right of you. You see a more capable National Police through a strong partnership,” said Monconduit in his speech to the graduates. “We look forward to more training as you improve your skills ... and strengthen your capabilities to further protect the people of Iraq.”



Construction on course for new JOC at Shields

By 1st. Lt. Kewanda Tate

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from Company A, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), serving with the 225th Engineer Brigade, attached to Multi-National Division Baghdad, are wrapping up construction of a Joint Operations Center that will be the centralized workspace for both Coalition Forces and the 11th Iraqi Army Headquarters. The new JOC is being constructed



for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment who were relocated from Joint Security Station War Eagle so they could be closer to their Iraqi counterparts.

“In order to be more hands-on, we must share everything including workspace,” stated Maj. Kevin Wallace, 1-5 CAV, battalion executive officer. “Our workspace will mirror their workspace,

even down to how many desks are in each office.”

Since the Security Agreement calls for closing of smaller Combat Outposts and Joint Security Stations throughout Baghdad, engineers have been diligently working to create work and living spaces outside the city. The JOC is one

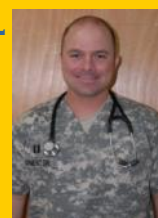
such place and is being constructed in an abandoned warehouse hangar. The JOC will be over 4,300 square feet and will provide ample workspace for both staff sections that are currently existing in two small offices. It will have 10 secured offices, a tiered conference room with computer workstations, and a combined working area for battle tracking.

Once completed, the facility will increase operational capabilities and integration with the Iraqi Army partners.



MEDICAL MOMENT

by Capt. Ryan Armentor



What do all of these things have in common?

- Medial meniscal tear
- Herniated nucleus pulposus
- Vastus medialis strain
- Biceps tendon strain
- Pectoralis major tear
- Supraspinatus tear
- Anterior Cruciate ligament tear
- Semitendinosus strain

Some of these injuries require surgery, some of them require rest and rehabilitation, but all of them are preventable. These are the types of injuries that Soldiers are getting while weight lifting and participating in sports events. I would like to remind all Soldiers who are attending the GYM frequently and participating in sporting events to always implement stretching and a thorough warm up prior to the activity. I applaud the 225th EN BDE Soldiers for all of their hard work on improving their physical conditioning and maintaining the Army Physical Fitness Test Standards. For those Soldiers still trying to achieve this goal, relentless persistence is the key to success.

Funnies from the Front

During hours of low visibility, saluting is not required. On the way back from dinner one evening, Lt. Col. Pat Simon overheard a Soldier from division PAO who made the mistake of misidentifying another Soldier in the dark.

In obvious agony over his mistake, Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell said, “Oh my God, I just saluted a private.”

Wheelchair distribution brings hope to disabled Iraqis

By Sgt. Rebecca Malone



BAGHDAD – Providing wheelchairs for Iraq’s disabled children is a huge undertaking.

Recently, Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids, Iraqi National Police officers from the 8th NP Brigade, 2nd NP Division and U.S. Soldiers from the 225th Engineer Brigade and 2nd Battalion, 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division worked together to provide 30 wheelchairs for disabled children, June 20, at Joint Security Station Beladiyat in the 9 Nissan district of eastern Baghdad.

First Lt. Trimeka Rivers, of Shreveport, La., has spent countless hours picking up wheelchairs shipped in from the U.S. and transporting them to units ready to distribute them.

“It wasn’t hard,” she smiled. “A lot of Soldiers we don’t see [at the distribution site] have put a lot of time into it ... all volunteered to put the chairs together and make the adjustments.”

As a former combat medic and now the brigade medical plans officer, Rivers said the chance for the children to participate in society is in itself an improvement to their mental capacity which will only improve as their physical condition is stabilized.

“The wheelchair will give them a sense of normalcy. They will be able to eat sitting up, instead of lying down,” she explained. “They will be able to move around, play with other kids, instead of being toted around.”



Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids was started by Brad Blauser to help an estimated 500,000 disabled children needing the gift of freedom of movement given to them by the use of a wheelchair; for most, the wheelchair they received was the first they had ever owned.

Rivers said she cannot help but

do what she can for the cause after meeting Blauser.

“Brad is awesome! He is working with all the military branches and he’s really working to get Iraq to make the chairs,” she said. “Because of his passion for it, I do my best to help in any way I can.”

Plans have been made for an existing Iraqi factory to make the wheelchairs that would provide 50,000 to 75,000 chairs over five years; a significant injection of capital into an economy plagued by unemployment, but red tape and lack of funding has the hope of the project seriously in doubt.

Working jointly on a mission can be difficult with language barriers between the Iraqi National Police and the U.S. Soldiers, but the desire to give relief to the disabled children provided the common thread needed to make the mission a success.

“I love children. Children make me smile, period,” Rivers explained with a smile. “The NP I was working with was really excited about it. He was making sure the chairs were adjusted properly. It was a good feeling working with somebody who is excited and passionate about children as me.”



Safety Spotlight

Pfc. George Deems facilitated the transportation and turn in of over 500 gallons of hazardous and corrosive materials left over from previous units. The estimated worth of the materials was \$300 thousand dollars. Deems enabled Alpha Company's maintenance team to define problems, recognize dangerous and

physical conditions, and take appropriate defensive measures. His ini-



tiative allowed the company commander to work with the VBC garrison and environmental officials to ensure compliance with EPA standards and mitigate hazardous health conditions in the Alpha Company, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy Maintenance) facility.



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

Point to ponder ...

When in England, at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush.

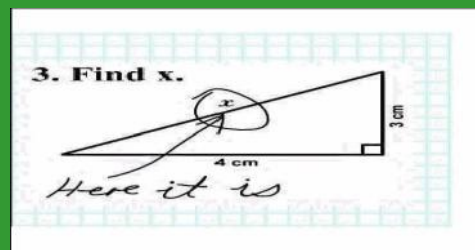
He answered by saying, 'Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.'

You could have heard a pin drop.

Actual answers given on tests ...

... We're not making this up!

Really!



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Transparency Worksheet 23
Hard and Soft Water

1. Briefly explain what hard water is.

ice

2. Note that calcium is one of the solids dissolved in ocean water. Describe two ways by which calcium and up to soft water.

(d) Explain why phosphorus trichloride (PCl_3) is polar.

God made it that way.

□ □ □

July's Soldier, NCO of the Month

By Lt. Col. Pat Simon



SFC Haden Hobbs

He humorously calls himself the "TOC roach". That's because he's the night battle NCO.

But joking aside, 29 year old Sgt. First Class Haden Hobbs, NCO of the month, takes his job seriously.

"I'm responsible for helping track the missions of the 225th. As the Battle NCO, situational awareness and mission tracking is key," said Hobbs. "I'm here to track information, roll it up and have it available for the boss and staff. Personally, I think it's important because this provides the staff with a clear site picture of the brigade's operational status."

At home in Calhoun, La. is Hobb's wife Michelle and two year old son Cane. Hobbs says he misses Michelle's cooking and taking Cane to the zoo. He calls his family "the Hobbs team" because they are so close and look out for one another.

This is Hobbs' second tour of duty having served in

Afghanistan in support of OEF from 2004-2005.

Hobbs said going outside the wire for a few weeks was one of the highlights of this deployment in Iraq.

"I was able to go out and spend a month with the soldiers of the 225th Eng Bde at

COP Carver conducting construction operations," said Hobbs. "That was great!"

SPC Jessica Brooks



It's not difficult to spot one of the most enthusiastic Soldiers around Camp Liberty. She just so happens to be the Soldier of the Month for June.

22 year old Spc. Jessica Brooks of Alexandria, La. is attached to the 1st Cav. Div. G9 section. She works in the essential services department which helps track civil affairs operations across MND-B. Brooks said her job is vital to our situational awareness here in Baghdad.

"It helps our fellow Soldiers be more aware of what role the coalition forces have in rehabilitating the country of Iraq," said Brooks. "It also enlightens the leadership of the 225th Eng. Bde. on what is taking place around Baghdad."

That is life on the job for Spc. Brooks, but in her spare time, she is an energetic athlete who remains very active.

"I am a proud player of the Bayou Bombers softball team. I love it," she said.

"I have not played since high school and I see I still have it in me. YOU GO GIRL!"

Brooks also spends time working out at the gym and the MWR facility playing ping pong and Wii.

Her daughter, Kyesia, appears to be following in mom's footsteps.

"She has started gymnastics and just finished a summer day camp program," said Brooks. "I just close my eyes and imagine I am there with her enjoying some of the most important days of her childhood."

Brooks said she not only considers it an honor to be named Soldier of the Month, but also an honor to serve with the 225.

"As long as I know that I have made my mark in the 225th Engineer Brigade's history then I am satisfied," she said.

Sapper Call

Photos by Lt. Col. Pat Simon

Iraqi Style!!!



(Top left) Sgt. Maj.

Reppond bobs for marbles through a thick cloud of flour as he competes with an Iraqi engineer Soldier at the first Iraqi Engineer Sapper Call, June 17, at the 6th Iraqi Army engineer headquarters at al-Muthana in central Baghdad.

(Top right) LTC's Crooks and Zajac competed over who can put more Iraqi food on their plates.

(Lower left) Maj. Magee looks like he is enjoying himself with his new Iraqi buddies. Soldiers enjoyed this and other games, food, music and dancing at the partnership event.

Two families bond during deployment

Story and photos by Sgt. Rebekah Malone

BAGHDAD – For two fathers in the 225th Engineer Brigade in Iraq, Father's Day was spent with their sons. They all deployed together.

Lt. Col. Jerry Scott Crooks, deputy commander for brigade and his son, Pfc. Taylor Crooks, 18, have embarked on a journey most will only read about.



Less than a year ago, Taylor was involved in a serious car accident. After battling back from a head injury and broken jaw, he joined the Louisiana National Guard and deployed with his father to Iraq in January. Now, the two spend time, three times a week, running together to improve Taylor's run time. Afterward, they'll BBQ steaks and pick on each other in good fun. It is a simple life, but one that has brought a closeness that neither expected as they experience deployment together as men, not just father - son.

"As a father, keeping in mind he

just turned 18, it's just amazing in the last 12 months seeing him develop and mature into a young man," Jerry said. "In a lot of ways our relationship is better than it was a year and a half ago. We've had chances to talk, to spend some time together that has been good for both of us."

Taylor's appreciation for having his father around has grown over the past few months.

"It's been awesome [deploying together]," Taylor said. "I think it would have been a lot different if we didn't deploy together. We still have the father-son relationship, but now we have the boss - I'm one of his trooper's relationships."

Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Nordby of Pineville, La., never imagined his son would follow in his footsteps and join the Louisiana National Guard. At the age of 18, Curtis surprised everyone in his family when he said he was enlisting.

Curtis joined the headquarters company of the brigade Rodney was in. Less than three years later, it was Curtis that got the notice to deploy and Rodney who immediately volunteered to go with him.

"It's been enjoyable to watch him mature and has brought us much closer because we are sharing something we never expected to share," Rodney said.

Rodney said he has had many Father's Days with his three children, but this one was definitely different.

"Father's Day was pretty special," Rodney reflected. "It was pretty cool. He came by last night and we spent time together and had a good talk."

One night a week, the two meet up on the softball field. It is there everyone sees their magic. Curtis can be seen on 3rd base, his dad as pitcher. Quietly the father gives his son advice. And his son listens.

"Ever since t-ball, he's been my coach," said Curtis. "He's always trying to help and knows what I'm doing wrong."

"Being together on this deployment has made everything easier, I can talk to him about things," he continued. "We are a lot closer now because it is just me and him."



Father's Day!

A series of historical places in Iraq: *Saladin the Great*

Article by Foy Hartman, engagement coordinator

Saladin the Great

In 2007 a movie was released in the United States called "The Kingdom Of Heaven". It is the story of the capture of Jerusalem by Saladin and his army. Saladin, actually named Salah al-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub, was born in Tikrīt, Iraq. He was not an



Saladin the Great

Arab, he was a Kurd. At the age of 14 he joined other members of his family (the Ayyubids) fighting in the army of the Muslim ruler of Syria. Between 1164 and 1169 he distinguished himself in three expeditions sent by Nur ad-Din to aid the decadent Fatimid rulers of Egypt against attacks by the Christian Crusaders based in the Middle East. In 1169 he was made commander in chief of the Syrian army and vizier of Egypt. Although nominally subject to the authority of the Fatimid caliph in Cairo, Saladin treated

Egypt as an Ayyubid power base, relying mainly on his Kurdish family and supporters for positions of leadership and his personal security.

After establishing himself in Egypt, Saladin launched a campaign against the Crusaders in North Africa besieging Darum in 1170. Saladin evaded the Christian force sent to attack him and attacked Gaza instead. He destroyed the town built outside the city's castle and killed most of its inhabitants after he was refused entry into the castle.

In the "Holy Land" it was the organized pirating of caravans by Christian Armies that brought Saladin to Jerusalem. The catalyst in the Middle East was a leader named "Reynald of Chatillon" who was the regional King or Prince in Southern Jordan at a fortress called Kerak. Reynald, under the guise of stopping bandits, began raiding caravans on the religious Pilgrimage to Mecca. Religious Pilgrims carried with them most of their riches and these caravans while financially motivated were easy targets. It was these raids which were direct violations of the agreement between Saladin and the Christian king in Jerusalem which prompted Saladin to declare a Jihad on the Christians re-

sulting in the loss of Jerusalem

Following campaigns against Damascus, Halab and Mosul Saladin invaded the Christian kingdom of Jerusalem, defeated the Christians at Hittin in Galilee (July 4, 1187), and captured Jerusalem the following October.

The loss of Jerusalem was demoralizing to European Christians. In 1189 the nations of Western Europe under Richard I of England launched the Third Crusade to win back the holy city. In 1191 Saladin's army was defeated by the army of King Richard I at Acre, now called Akko. King Richard and Saladin developed a great respect for each other and in 1192 Saladin and Richard I negotiated an armistice which left the Christian Kingdom along the coast of Syria and Judea. It also made Jerusalem an open city, while under Muslim control Christians and Jews were allowed to travel freely to the holy city.

In March 1193 Saladin became ill and died in Damascus, Syria. He was respected by Europeans and Middle Easterners for the respect and compassion he demonstrated as well as his victories.

225 PSD member receives battlefield promotion

By Lt. Col. Pat Simon

A broad grin filled his face the moment the announcement was made. 28 year old Kyle Clark was about to join the ranks of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.



On June 25, Clark received a battlefield promotion to sergeant.

Clark, Greensburg, La., is a former Marine turned Louisiana National Guardsman. As a specialist, Clark held the position of Survey Design Sergeant, but soon after he volunteered to

join the 225th Eng. Bde for a year long deployment to Iraq, Clark became a MRAP Crew Sergeant.

He is responsible for assigning and training classes for the PSD.

It's a position of higher rank where Clark has made his mark as a great leader.



In a battlefield promotion recommendation letter, Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Major described Clark as a Soldier who excels at everything he does.

"Spc. Clark not only fulfills the leadership role, duties, and responsibilities of a sergeant but thrives daily to teach others," said Major. "Clark takes on leadership with the glass is 'half full' approach and has the natural ability to motivate and lead others."

This is not the first time Clark has been honored during this tour of duty in Iraq. He was also named Soldier of the Quarter for the 225th Eng. Bde.



Baton Rouge Law firm recognized for supporting Louisiana National Guard

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Connelly Archey's employer for being recognized by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in April.

The Baton Rouge law firm of Kantrow, Spaht, Weaver & Blitzer (APLC) received the



Patriotic Employer Award recognizing the firm's contributions to national security, liberty, and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard.

Carlos Spaht, one of KSWB's founding members, retired as a Colonel from the Army Reserve and served as the first president of Louisiana's chapter of the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. That tradition continues.

2009: Year of the NCO

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Want to be a ghost writer for the Express? Can you draw, do you have an amazing photo you want to share? Please share your ideas, talents and thoughts with us. The Engineer Express is about you! Get published today!

-PAO Team

"Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."

- Napoleon Bonaparte

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!



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