



NCO of the year
225 ending mission

Commander's Comments
CSM's Comments
225 Soldiers give

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Fellow Engineers, your performance is outstanding.

Take advantage of the remaining days in the month of October to contribute in partnering with our Iraqi Engineers to protect the people and develop civil capacity. Make every day count towards our mission.



Welcome to the 16th Engineer Brigade from Ohio. The 16th Engineers have begun to integrate with key leaders of the 225th and subordinate offi-

cers of the 101st Engineer Battalion. Expect a seamless transfer of operations and outstanding full spectrum engineering to continue.

225th Engineers, remember you are reading this edition from your work, dining or non-duty location here at Camp Liberty.

So, you are still in Baghdad. Continue to be outstanding by remaining strong as a team and Maintaining Military Standards. As an Engineer team,

we have overcome numerous challenges during this deployment.

Engineers remain safe while performing your duties. You have been extremely safe to date during this deployment and it is desirable to follow that trend. Mentally rehearse your next day's activity to ensure you mitigate risks. Too, remember the hours of darkness are long (from 1800 to 0530) so ensure you have a flashlight and reflective belt at night.

Remember a SAFE DEPLOYMENT ≈ SAFE RETURN.

MESSAGE FROM CASTLE 7

Greetings Engineer Warriors,

Well, this is the time we have all been waiting for... our replacements arriving in theater and their advance party on the ground here. What a great feeling! It has been a great deployment and a true adventure of a lifetime.

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 returned back to Fort Hood for more training and validation.

Next, we departed for Kuwait on 23 Jan and conducted training for a short period of time. We finally arrived at Camp Liberty and conducted a right seat ride with the 926th Engr Bde, and around 9

Feb 09, we conducted Transfer of Authority (TOA).

Since arriving in Iraq, we have had a number of milestones: 890th Engr Bn conducted a TOA with 4th Engr Bn; 4th Engr Bn was redirected to Afghan theater; and we then picked up the 515th Engr Co. Next, the 515th Engr Co ripped out with no replacements ending route clearance missions for us. The 101st Engr Bn arrived in late August and conducted a TOA with 46th Engr Bn. We have provided command and control to the Engr Bn, TFIC academy, JROC, and TF Gold. There has been a lot of hard work by a great team of "Louisiana Engineer" Soldiers.

Our next steps include movement to

Kuwait for a few days and then on to Fort Hood, Texas, for de-mob. We should spend about a week there and then on to Louisiana.

Let me thank each and every Soldier for a job well done. We worked long and

hard hours every day to make this a very successful deployment. You are **"True American Heroes"** and **"Guardians of Freedom."** Walk with pride and know you made a difference in the Iraqi citizen's way of life.

I would like to also thank the families for all their great support and prayers. We couldn't have done it without you.

Our next mission is to get home safe to our love ones.

Take Care & Stay Safe

CSM Joe Major





On the Cover:

Soldiers with the 101st Eng Bn. train IA Soldiers on Heavy Equipment during "Train the Trainer" courses

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Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Maj.) Jeff Mitchell

Well Done!

You can take this phrase one of two ways, "I'm cooked/fried" or "I know in my heart I did an excellent job."

I trust you started your tour of duty knowing that as a beloved son or daughter of God that the Father's well

pleased with you and that you lived in the fullness of Spirit. Mt. 3:16, 17 If so, you can know from within and from without, the Father would say to you, "well done my good and faithful servant." Mt. 25:21 The reason this is so im-

portant is that if you know your Father was pleased, then rewards/awards from man are simple a cherry on top. Even if you didn't receive any of the above from

man, how your Father awards/rewards you is preeminent. Colossians 3:23, 24 catches the heart of this matter.



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

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."

SUCCESS ...

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.

- Colin Powell

ENGINEERS TRAIN IRAQI SOLDIERS ON **HEAVY** EQUIPMENT



(Above) Staff Sgt. Frank Lopez, FSC 101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde., of Webster, Mass., explains to Iraqi Soldiers the importance of proper maintenance during a three day class "Train the Trainer" Oct. 3 for the 11th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment taught on Victory Base Complex. The class is provided to the Iraqi Army as an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to teach Iraqi Soldiers and civilians on how to keep the equipment up and mission capable. Photos by Sgt. April Mota.



225 Engineers give from the heart to Iraqi children

By Sgt. April Mota



(Above) Sgt. Kashawna and Clayton Spc. Charles Chester (Right) hand out toys to Iraqi school children

Sgt. Rokeisha Berymon, 225th Engineer Brigade, a kindergarten teacher from Alexandria, La., knows that a little help with school supplies can go a long way to help properly teach students in the classroom. On Oct. 7, she and fellow Soldiers saw firsthand how a giving hand from back a home is helping Iraqi children thousands of miles away.

Berymon and others helped unload boxes and boxes of pencils, paper, erasers and other much needed supplies for the crowded classrooms in need of repair.

"I was astounded by the classroom conditions," said Berymon. "The floors were falling apart and even for October it was fairly hot in the small rooms."

That's why Berymon felt tremendous satisfaction in giving to the Iraqi children knowing that they will show up every day and put the supplies to good use.

"At least they are in school

learning. That's an advantage." Berymon said with a smile.



Spc. Charles Chester of Alexandria, 225th Eng. Bde., was ecstatic when he found the night before that he would be going on this mission.

"I absolutely love kids, and to be here was amazing," said an excited Chester.

When Chester opened up the box of supplies the young Iraqi students giggled with glee. One of the students, Masma, was the first to stand up to offer her help in distributing the goods. She passed out a bag full of erasers to her classmates.

"We are happy to see you

here, you help us so much. We are very excited for the new things you bring us. I like passing the things out to others in my class," Masma excitedly stated.

The school supply drop off was a partnership effort between the 225th Eng. Bde and the 11th Iraqi Army. The Iraqis provided security for the mission.

Lt. Colonel Greg Parker, 225th Eng. Bde., from Gonzales, La. said the effort was spearheaded by the brigade's involvement with a program called Operation Homefront Louisiana. Parker coordinated the donations with friends and family members back home.

"Operation Homefront Louisiana did a great job of collecting supplies. The children of Iraq will now be given the opportunity to attend schools with the supplies they need."

Pfc. Taylor Crooks, Pineville, La. volunteered to be a part of this humanitarian mission.

"We've been packing boxes for two weeks now. We've gotten a lot of supplies from different places in Louisiana. We've been receiving supplies for months." Crooks said with pride.

As the Soldiers were getting ready to leave, the students sat in their seats and eagerly looked for instruction from their teacher. The teacher counted to three and the children all waved and shouted "thank you" first in English, then in Arabic.

Soldier in Focus

Spend just five minutes with Sgt. Rebekah Malone, 225th Eng. Bde. PAO, and you will immediately pick up on two things: her love of family and her passion for telling great Soldier stories.

In fact, Malone can easily spout off a quick yarn about her own Soldier story; about how a 22 year old woman from Copeland, Kansas found herself in Louisiana joining the National Guard.

"I called my husband after registering for evening classes at LSU so I could work during the day. Five minutes later, he walked into the National Guard armory, ran into the personnel officer and asked if there were any openings," Malone explained. "The response was 'Would your wife be interested in becoming our Unit Public Affairs Representative?'"

Malone's husband Robert will take the credit for relocating her from Kansas to Louisiana, more specifically Kuwait to Louisiana. The two met in Kuwait during their deployment in 2004. Malone was then a financial management technician in the Army Reserves. Instead of crunching numbers, she is now crunching words and story



deadlines.

"Writing is something I discovered by falling into it really," said Malone. "Three to four years ago I would have never imagined this is what I would be doing on a second deployment."

Almost 12 months into her current tour of duty in Iraq, Malone has written dozens of stories and taken hundreds of stories illustrating the historic transition made between Coalition Forces and Iraqi Forces and how engineer Soldiers are literally bridging and building bonds that will last forever.



Her favorites include feature stories about how Soldiers help the Iraqi population.

"The wheel chair distribution story was probably one that had the most impact on me," recalled Malone. "It was such a bigger cause so I was honored to write that story. I really loved writing about Taji

bridge project which was such a significant event – the partnership and what it was going to allow U.S. Forces and Iraqis to be able to do."

When Malone returns home, she plans to finish her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and work toward her Master's degree.

But telling stories is something that is now in her blood. Who knows? We may see her as an author one day.

"I think it's something that I will pursue even if it's on the side. And besides, I have a

great byline; R. Lee Malone so I have to write a book," Malone said chuckling. **Story and photo (left) by Lt. Col. Pat Simon**

Safety Spotlight



By: 1st Lt. Jerry Rodriguez

During the past several weeks, I had the opportunity to work with the Karkh TOC construction team at Muthana Air Field. These soldiers are in the 1434 Eng. Co. 101st Eng. Bn. 225th Eng. Bde.

When the project first began, I wondered how prepared and productive the new unit would perform in this theater of operation. As the project progressed, so did my confidence in the 1434th Soldiers. The NCOs on site demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and technical excellence.

All members of the team worked well together and set the example for how a vertical construction site should run. Safety was and continues to be reinforced to all team members through safety meetings. Risks were identified and annotated using a composite risk management work sheet. Huddles were held to discuss best practices and determine the safest way to accomplish necessary tasks.

The Soldiers of the Karkh TOC construction team are highly regarded as professional engineers. They bring great credit to the 1434 EN CO, the 101 EN BN, and the 225 Eng. Bde. It has been a pleasure to work with this true engineer team. "ESSAYONS"





FIRE POLICE EMS

EMERGENCY CALL

485-4070
(VOIP OR DSN)

IRAQNA 0790-194-2960 NON EMERGENCY 485-2758
SVOIP - 243-4407 FM 902 - GATEKEEPER



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

Medical Moment

by Capt. Ryan
Armentor

Soon we will be experiencing desynchronization or jet lag which is a temporary disorder among air travelers who rapidly travel across three or more time zones. It results from the slow adjustment of the body clock to the destination time so that daily rhythms and the internal drive for sleep and wakefulness are out of synchrony with the new environment.

Here are some helpful traveling hints to decrease the affects of jet lag:

Prior to travel: stay healthy by continuing to exercise, eat a nutritious diet and get plenty of rest.

During travel: avoid large meals and caffeine, drink water, move around on the plane particularly your lower extremities allowing large muscles in your legs to compress the veins in your legs preventing "stasis" which is a contributing factor of causing deep vein thrombosis (blood clots). If you want to be smarter about this, research Virchow's triad on the internet.

On arrival at your destination: Adapt to local schedule as soon as possible. If the travel period is two days or less, travelers should remain on home time. Optimize exposure to sunlight following arrival. Eat meals appropriate to the local time.

Finally, smile because we are going home and we have completed a successful deployment.

Engineers honored for providing aid to wounded Soldiers

Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles



Five Soldiers from the 621st Engineer Detachment Survey and Design Team, 101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde., receive applause after accepting Army Achievement Medals, Oct. 4, for their quick action in aiding injured U.S. Soldiers, here, following a recent attack. From left to right: Sgt. Benjamin Brawley, of Wingate, N.C., Spc. Ezekiel Earle, of Morganton, N.C., Spc. Jeremy Hughes, of Thomasville, N.C., Spc. Timothy Killough, of New Salem, N.C., and Spc. Micah Mahadeo, of Stanley, N.C.

You've got jokes

FROM THE "INNOCENCE OF KIDS" DEPARTMENT:

STEVEN (age 3) hugged and kissed his Mom good night. 'I love you so much that when you die I'm going to bury you outside my bedroom window.'

BRITTANY (age 4) had an ear ache and wanted a pain killer.. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'It makes my teeth cough.'

DJ (age 4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked: 'How much do I cost?'

MARC (age 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: 'Why is he whispering in her mouth?'

CLINTON (age 5) was in his bedroom looking worried. When his Mom asked what was troubling him, he replied, 'I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in it?'

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read : 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

NCO and SM of the Month of October

SSG Tommy Allen is October's NCO of the month.

SSG Tommy Allen, 29, Baton Rouge, is the Command Security team Non-commissioned officer who not only has been a critical team member, but he is also in charge of handling vehicle maintenance to keep the MRAPs rolling.

"Whenever a vehicle goes down if I have the tools for the job I fix it," said Allen. "If not, I get with SSG Theriot and we job-order it."

When on mission, Allen means business helping to get passengers downrange.

"I believe that we ensure the safety of the General and CSM when they need to travel the streets of Iraq. In doing this, we are ensuring that the soldiers they are visiting are receiving the acknowledgement that is well deserved, said Allen. "I also believe that by getting the General to the places that he is needed, is helping put a piece of the pie together, to hopefully end this war."

When not on missions, Allen says he enjoys spending time with his wife SFC Karla Allen and working out.

He looks forward to his bed, his dog, and his commission to become an officer when he returns home.

"I feel honored that I got to create many new friendships and got to work with a group of people that take their job so seriously. It's a great feeling of accomplishment to know that I was able to spend a year here helping to fight the war on terror."



(Above) SSG Tommy Allen shares a fun moment with wife SFC Karla Allen during his promotion ceremony.

He also provides daily updates of engineering tasks to the Brigade Commander, Brigade CSM, and Brigade Staff.

His main focus of this deployment was to work hard to make the brigade successful, but he also focused on keeping the morale of his fellow Soldiers high.

"Keeping a smile on soldier's faces and making soldiers laugh when times get hard is important to me along with having the ability of being a flexible soldier and being a team player," said Anderson.

Anderson said just knowing he played an integral role in the brigade's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom is rewarding to him.



Spc. Harry Anderson (left) enjoys a laugh with fellow Soldiers of the 225 Eng. Bde. during a ceremony honoring Women's Equality Day.

Spec. Harry Anderson is October's SM of the month

Hailing from Alexandria, La, 26 year old Spc. Harry Anderson provides assistance to the brigade's Future Operations Officer and it is a very challenging job.

"Just being over here in Iraq during the transitional stage is something that I can hold my head up with pride knowing that my unit played an important part in the transition," said Anderson.

Anderson said there is a lot of humor when it comes to the things he misses most about home.

"Simple things such as good internet service, not walking on loose rocks, not having to walk a mile to the latrine, and civilian clothes," he joked.

But his most special gift that awaits him at home is his newborn son Kieren Gabriel Anderson.

Iraq: The way forward

By Foy Hartman

In past articles I have written of the complicated history of Iraq, the accomplishments, inventions and steps taken toward social development that affected the whole world. With the end of mission for the 225th Engineer Brigade, I thought it appropriate to take a look at the current Iraq and the direction it is headed.

It is over-simplistic to blame the current situation on a single cause but lasting stability in the region will not be accomplished until one social issue is resolved, Tribalism. Tribalism was a major factor in reducing risk to small communities in the region while offering the catalyst for evolutionary changes in advancement of early social development. It is ironic because after the spread of these developments it became the major hindrance to social development in the modern world. As long as the small communities were separated and contact between tribes were infrequent, tribalism remained a productive social model with support from agricultural advances and use of tools, pottery and specialists producing the first artist, metal workers, builders and the ability to record history.

Tribes are conservative by definition. Various cultures tend to oppose any outside forces that may result in loss of their traditions. When one unique cultural variation comes into contact with another, cultural sharing may weaken the existing belief system and the associated economically appropriate rituals, leading eventually to the demise of the tribal power structure. Tribal or sectarian differences may be the biggest obstacles to unification in Iraq. Few Iraqi leaders seem to possess the foresight to attempt the transition away from Tribalism so the "Us versus Them" mentality continues to reign. Nationalistic pride and the responsibilities that come with it are developing but change is never easy. Europe, America and the rest of the world are falling into globalization with increasing speed whether we as individuals like it or not. The Middle East and Africa continue to struggle with their Feudalistic Societies as Europe did a thousand years ago which led to the evolution of Industrial and Scientific Revolution and ultimately wars on a scale never imagined. The transition is neither easy nor assured. Generations of tribalism,

warfare, corruption and religious differences must be dealt with before persons of vision can make the needed changes away from the past into the future. That said we have given Iraq the opportunity to move forward and with the natural resources and vision, they have the ability to accomplish the transition into the future for history has shown us those cultures that accept diversity, in the most universal sense of the word, will survive. Those that do not will continue be engaged in conflict and will not survive, or ultimately, if humanity does not have that capacity, none of us may survive.

The big question we should be asking is not can we save Iraq, but can we save ourselves. Sooner or later all countries will gain nuclear capacities; the genie cannot go back into the bottle and even more devastating weapons are already known to be possible. So the answer must be in saving ourselves.

Iraq must not fail, we must not fail.

225 Engineers ending mission, prepare for home

By Lt. Col. Pat Simon

“We Build the World” is not just some catchy phrase by the 225th Engineer Brigade, it’s a way of life. Add Baghdad to their worldly resume’, as these engineer Soldiers from Louisiana spent the last 10 months in theater racking up a long list of milestones in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, not only helping improve the lives of Iraqi people, but also building a strong and lasting partnership.

The mission of the 225th was clear: protect the people of Baghdad, provide mobility, stability, partnership and civil capacity.

The 225th Engineers cleared routes of improvised explosive devices, assisted in protecting Soldiers and enhancing their quality of life with general engineering, worked with local leaders on water, sewer, and electrical projects which are essential services to the people of Baghdad, and partnered closely with and trained our Iraqi Army engineer counterparts.

225 Soldiers accomplished their mission during a time of historic change; the U.S.— Iraq Security

Agreement deadline of June 30th for U.S. combat troops to withdraw from the cities.

“Our diligent and persistent efforts through partnership have greatly contributed towards a more vibrant and independent Iraq,” said Brig. Gen. Owen Monconduit, commander of the 225th Eng. Bde. “Our efforts will create lasting stability, peace and continued development of the Iraqi civil capacity.”

Solar lights were added to once darkened streets. Playgrounds and soccer fields were developed out of land that was covered with heaps of trash and debris. 225th Soldiers built sniper screens and guard towers on Base Camps, built B-huts, dining and morale, welfare, and recreation facilities, firing ranges and force protection for Soldier housing units. They surveyed, upgraded and resurfaced roads. They held over 100 successful meetings with government officials which led the way to dozens of public works projects including one that provided potable water to 500,000 people in the Sadr City area. And, they trained legions of Iraqi engineers

at all levels on a variety of route clearance skills to protect the streets of Baghdad.

“The success of the 225th Engineer Brigade during this deployment is because of our great Soldiers,” noted Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Major. “They are outstanding Soldiers who have accomplished all of the missions assigned.”

The work did not stop there. Soldiers with the 225th also gave from their hearts by helping drop off school supplies to Iraqi children and schools in need. They also transported wheelchairs donated by American companies to disabled Iraqi citizens, mostly children. One of their surgeons, Maj. Frederick Hall, an ophthalmologist, even made a critical, life-saving diagnosis on a seven month old Iraqi boy.

In just a few days, the 225th’s engineering mission will end in Baghdad, Iraq. Each member can proudly say they not only helped continue to “Build the World”, but they will also leave behind a strong foundation of partnership and friendship that will last for years to come.

2009: Year of the NCO



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!



NCO of the Deployment

Sgt. Jordan Jones receives the Army Commendation Medal and a plaque displaying the Engineer Colors as he accepts the distinguished honor of Non-Commissioned Officer of the Deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-11.