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PHOTO BY SGT TRACY KNOWLES PAO

NOVEMBER 2009 BAGHDAD

Nations Oldest

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



The Soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion continue to work hard and strive for excellence in all things each day. The level of motivation and pride in their work is outstanding. We remain constantly vigilant and place safety first in all that we do in order to protect our most valuable resource: Soldiers. The operating environment presents many challenges but the men and women of the 101st Engineer Battalion continue to adapt and overcome. It is the constant learning and attention to detail that will allow us to successfully accomplish our important mission within MND-B.

MESSAGE FROM THE CSM

The month of October was a busy one for our Engineers. With temperatures starting to fall and work picking up, it looks to be an excellent deployment if this keeps up. We have become very proficient in what we are doing, and the focus of our soldiers is unsurpassable. Whether building a range, filling Hesco barriers, building B-huts or designing future projects, there is no task too tough for these Engineers! I am proud to serve with every one of them.



Brigade Soldier of the Quarter

Congratulations Spc. Bruce Nicely

Spc. Bruce Nicely III, hands down, won the HSC Company-level Soldier of the Quarter Competition and, later on, won the 101st Engineer Battalion's Soldier of the Quarter. From there, Nicely then went on to win the 225th Engineer Brigades Soldier of the Quarter.

Read More about Spc. Nicely in the HSC Section under the feature story.



Spc. Owen McMillan
101st Eng. Bn.
October Soldier of the Month



Sgt. Derek Maxon
101st Eng. Bn.
October NCO of the Month



Greetings from the land of Ancient Mesopotamia.

I welcome this opportunity to say a very heartfelt “thank you” to those back home that are picking up the slack while we are here. It cannot be said enough that without your support, this mission would not be possible. More importantly, the Soldiers of Headquarters Support Company are able to focus on their missions, execute, and know that home is taken care of. Thank you.

On November 1, 2009, I assumed command of the Headquarters Support Company, 101st Engineer Battalion following CPT Kevin Callahan. I would like to thank CPT Callahan for all the hard work that he and his staff have done to ensure that the Soldiers were trained and equipped to support any mission that has presented itself thus far.

It is an honor to be selected for this position and I look forward to providing all the support, guidance, and leadership that the soldiers of Headquarters Support Company deserve. With this strong team that has been mobilized; I am confident of mission success.

Take this moment right now and smile. I know your loved ones do every time they think of home.

Capt. Michael McDevitt

Commander’s Quote:

Lao Tzu said “To lead the people, walk behind them.”

I cannot think a truer statement as I reflect on leadership. Soldiers deserve the best training and leadership that we can provide. Anything less is unacceptable. However, as a leader we must set the example, and allow them the opportunity to execute.

MEET HSC’S NEW COMMANDER
CPT MICHAEL MCDEVITT



Soldier in Focus- Spc. Bruce Nicely III

By Spc. Elizabeth Boles

101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde.

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Consistently exceeding Army standards and always striving for excellence, Spc. Bruce Nicely III, 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, bested the competition to win the title of 225th Engineer Brigade Soldier of the Quarter on Oct 3.

Nicely, from the town of New Bedford, Mass., joined the Massachusetts Army National Guard in Dec. 2004. In upholding his family's tradition, he became the third generation to join the military.

Having previously served in Kosovo from 2006 to 2007, Nicely served as a UP (unit police) officer. He did constant missions and patrols in order to maintain the peace in Kosovo. As of today, Nicely comes to Iraq for his second tour overseas.

In Iraq, Nicely serves as the radio telephone operator (RTO) for the command vehicle as well as working on mission intelligence and plans on Convoy Security Team (CST), which prepare him to be a future team leader. Just recently he was chosen to compete in the Soldier of the Quarter Competition for displaying leadership potential.

Nicely has had past experience competing in Soldier of the Quarter Boards, which is a formal competition between Soldiers that finds the best of the best in all areas of soldiering. The winner is determined by a board of senior noncommissioned officers. These past experiences prepared him for the Soldier of the Quarter Board held at Camp Liberty, Iraq in Oct.

"I was nervous then, and I am nervous now," explained Nicely.

After winning the Headquarters Support Company and 101st Engineer Battalion levels of the Soldier of the Quarter, Nicely said he felt confident in his knowledge and skill to be successful at the Brigade Soldier of the Quarter competition.

He completed three phases, which included a physical

fitness test, warrior tasks, and the Sergeant Major board, where he was asked a series of questions ranging from first aide to regulations. In the end, Nicely came out on top to win the 225th Eng. Bde. Soldier of the Quarter.

Nicely modestly stated, "Even though there was stiff competition, maintaining my positive attitude in my own ability to win was a big key to my success."

"I'm proud of him," said Nicely's former team leader, Spc. Sean Thibedeau, of Headquarters Support Company, 101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde., from Raymond, N.H.

"He's the epitome of an American Soldier, any task that is given to him, he accomplishes with the highest of standards."

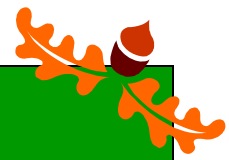
As Nicely's sponsor, Thibedeau said he was with him every step of the way to make sure Nicely kept confidence in himself.

"I selected him knowing he was going to go all the way." boasted Thibedeau.

With confidence in his voice, Nicely highlighted the significance of maintaining military bearing and confidence in everything that is done.

"He who fears being conquered is sure of defeat," Nicely proclaimed, quoting Napoleon.





Receiving Combat Action Badge

By Sgt. Tracy Knowles

101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde, MND-B PAO



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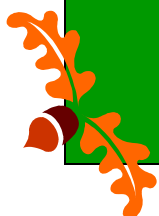
BAGHDAD -Standing at attention, two Soldiers from the Headquarters Support Company, 101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde., receive Combat Action Badges at Camp Liberty on Oct. 11. Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Kelly (center-right) of Natick, Mass., and Staff Sgt. Jason Lacerda (center-left) of Tiverton, R.I., were awarded the badge for having come under indirect enemy fire.



091025-A-1797K-168

BAGHDAD – LIVESTRONG 10K Shadow run proved to be a run fast and strong race for Spc. Sandrae Band of Lynn, Mass., honoring those affected by cancer here on Victory Base Complex Band of the 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade finished strong in 6th place on during the Oct. 25 race. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles, MND-B PAO)

CHECK OUT OUR SOLDIERS...



Greetings from beautiful Baghdad! I hope this letter finds everyone at home happy and well. We have been very busy over the past few weeks. Our CST is going full speed moving equipment and materials around to different job sites. Maintenance has been doing an outstanding job making sure all our equipment is running and DISTRO keeps hauling anything that isn't nailed down. All in all I would say time is going by relatively quick and our mission thus far has been a success.

Everyone is starting to develop routines and feeling somewhat "at home". This place will never really feel like home but we make do with what we have. We work on continuing to improve our living conditions as well as different events to keep the monotony from taking place. There are softball leagues, a few beach volleyball courts, some basketball courts and we even have our own gym. It's not much but it's better than nothing.

~
We have started sending some of our Soldiers on their 2 week leave. It is a nice change of pace and gives everyone a chance to spend times with their families. As we close out another month remember that we are one month closer to coming home. Everyone is doing well and I am extremely proud to be the Commander of everyone in this Company. Hold your heads high and keep all the well wishes and prayers coming our way. Till next month.....**NIGHTHAWKS!!!**



V/R
Nick Bessette
CPT, LQ
Commanding

Nighthawks

Engineers help with classroom supplies

By Staff Sgt. April Mota

BAGHDAD—Sgt. Rokeisha Berymon, a kindergarten teacher from Alexandria, La., knows that a little help with school supplies can go a long way in the classroom.

On Oct. 7, she and fellow Soldiers with the 225th Engineer Brigade 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, La., 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, passing 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 said excitedly.

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, 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."

feature story

Soldier in Focus – Pfc. Andrea Miedzionoski

By Staff Sgt. April Mota
101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde.



BAGHDAD– Less than one year ago, Pfc. Andrea Miedzionoski, of Forward Support Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, found herself signing on the dotted line at her local military entrance processing station.

Miedzionoski, 30, from Peabody, Mass., now serves as a signal support systems specialist, working on the company’s convoy support team and helping maintain their radios.

“I’m happy to be doing my job, it suits me,” she said of working with the team.

Miedzionoski was inspired by her cousin, an Army Ranger, to join the Massachusetts Army National Guard. She saw the sense of pride he had for himself and his country.

“I was looking to have that same pride in myself as my cousin had. I was looking for some meaning in my life,” stated Miedzionoski.

Miedzionoski, attended basic training at Fort Jackson,

S.C., then went on to her Military Occupational Specialty school at Fort Gordon, Ga. She graduated and immediately reported to her home station with the 101st Eng. Bn., in Whitinsville, Mass. One day later, the unit departed for their mobilization station at Ft. McCoy, Wis., to begin the train up for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Reporting to a unit that was leaving the next day was a little nerve wracking; it definitely had its ups and downs. Ultimately, I think it was the best situation though. I was still focused on my military training I had just received,” Miedzionoski explained.

Her main concern with deploying so soon after graduating was she knew no one in the unit. But as soon as she arrived, she was welcomed with open arms.

“I came into a tight knit group and was instantly taken in and warmly welcomed. I’ve quickly created a very strong bond with everyone here. We’ve got a great team.”

After the deployment is over, Miedzionoski is interested in going back to school. She’s leaning toward the medical field and would like to try to reclassify as a combat medic.

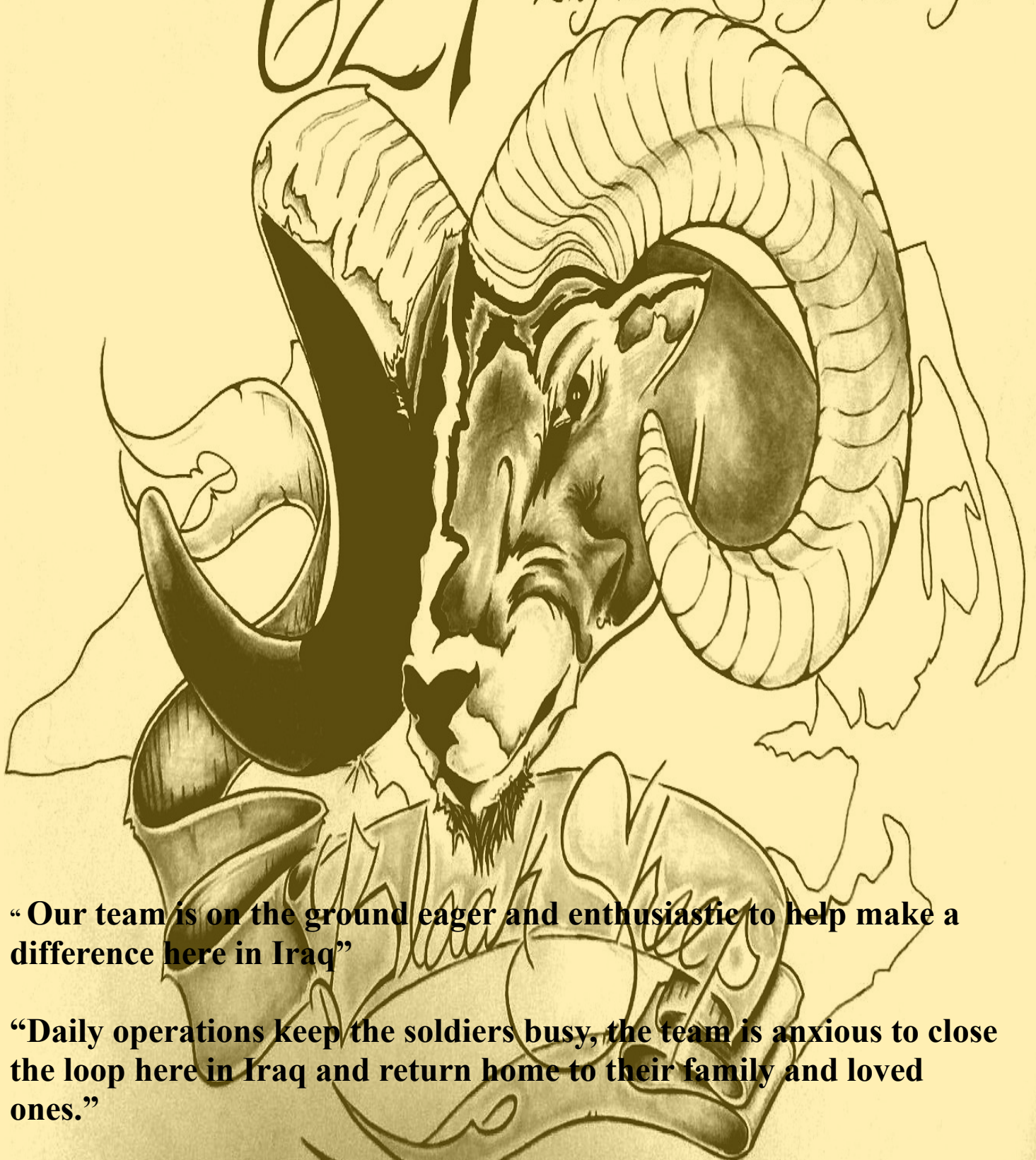
“I’ll possibly go on Active duty, but I wanted to try the National Guard first to get my feet wet,” Miedzionski said.

Since joining the unit, Miedzionoski has continuously stepped up to the plate to get the job done, displaying the initiative and motivation of a well seasoned Soldier.



Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice, and is never the result of selfishness.

621st
Eng. Det. Survey + Design



“Our team is on the ground eager and enthusiastic to help make a difference here in Iraq”

“Daily operations keep the soldiers busy, the team is anxious to close the loop here in Iraq and return home to their family and loved ones.”

Chief Freeman's Words of Encouragement

Engineers honored for quick response

By Sgt. Tracy Knowles
225th Eng. Bde. PAO



091004-A-1797K-0449

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq—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. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles, 225th Eng. Bde. PAO)



“Back to Basics” technology gets the job done

By Spc. Ezekiel Earle
621st Survey & Design Tm., 101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – Calculating base buildings and perimeter areas, Soldiers of the 621st Survey and Design Team, 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade lend a hand by completing construction progress reports at Forward Operating Base Hammer.

The land surveyors from the North Carolina based team utilized a much simpler strategy; using GPS (global positioning system) and a notebook. Plotting points on paper and locating coordinates on the GPS computer set, this tactic reduced the need for convoy transportation and the amount of time necessary to complete the job.

“You could imagine toting all the survey equipment in and out of vehicles. This job just didn’t require the big systems. Pen, paper and math was all we needed,” said Staff Sgt. Glenn Cornett of Hazard, Ky.

Normally, the job would require survey equipment for specific locations and design work. Through the ingenuity of math skills and basic engineering techniques, this process was made simpler by the engineers of the “Nation’s Oldest” 101st Eng. Bn.

The mission was complete within a few days of work instead of weeks. The simplicity of old fashioned manual note-taking still seems to have its advantages over some of the more precise technology that the Army has grown accustomed to.

Utilizing a handheld GPS device and a notebook with pen, the land surveyors were able to collect adequate data to create a land project file for use to create an actual map of the base.

“It is nice way to use old school technology; a note book and a DAGR (global positioning system). I prefer to use the Trimble R8; new technology brings you within inches of accuracy.” said Spc. Tim Killough of New Salem, N.C.

Sgt. Benjamin Brawley of Wingate, NC, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 621st Survey & Design Tm., collected sufficient data with the help of his Soldiers. Their findings are then entered into mapping software that creates map overlays of FOB Hammer. These new overlays will make it easier to plan and design future buildings around the base.

Survey teams have a very important role in all engineer missions. Creating clearer visual representation of land allows the 621st to draw up plans for road improvement, B-huts construction, and even new interior defense systems.

Whether their methods is old school or the newest technology the 101st Eng. Bn. relies heavily on the 621st Survey and Design Tm. in order to complete preliminary construction missions on all mission sites.



Engineers construct new landing zone control center



BAGHDAD— Spc. Jonathan Klump (left), a carpenter, from Sterling, Mich., and Spc. Brian Long (right), an electrician, from Benzonia, Mich., use a chalk line tool to mark a piece of plywood, Oct. 19. Both Soldiers are part of the 1434th Engineer Company, attached to the 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade. They are working on getting a landing zone control building ready for operation next to the Multi-National Division—Baghdad command pad.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Howard Alperin, MND-B PAO)



BAGHDAD— Staff Sgt. Joseph Pigeon, project supervisor, from Higgins Lake, Mich., uses a chop saw to cut pieces of wood that make up the railing of a deck, here, Oct. 19. The deck will be used as a waiting area for people getting ready to leave on helicopter flights from the Multi-National Division—Baghdad command helicopter pad, said Pigeon, assigned to the 1434th Company, attached to the 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Howard Alperin, MND-B PAO)

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Engineers receive Combat Action Badge

By Sgt. Tracy Knowles
101st Eng. Bn. PAO, 225th Eng. Bde.



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BAGHDAD—Lt. Col. Charles Cody (left), of Braintree, Mass., commander, 101st Engineer Battalion, pins Sgt. Steven Barry, of Traverse City, Mich., 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Bn., with the Combat Action Badge at Camp Liberty, Oct. 11. Barry, along with four other members in his vehicle, was awarded the Combat Action Badge for sustain-

ing direct enemy fire during a convoy mission. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles, 101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde., MND-B PAO)



Bulldozer
Gazette
Official
Newsletter
of the
1192nd
Engineers



I am free because I know that I alone am morally responsible for everything I do. - Robert A. Heinlein

Congratulations

On Your Promotions!!!



Left - Pfc. Cortrell Wigglesworth of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 3rd Plt., 1192nd Eng. Co., receives his Private First Class rank!



Right - SPC Jonathan Long from Conneaut, Ohio receives his Specialist rank! Long is of 3rd Plt., 1192nd Eng. Co.



Left - SPC Nicole Wright, from Columbus, Ohio, Headquarters Plt., 1192nd Eng. Co., receives her Specialist rank!



Thanksgiving

Hello Dirt Devil Family,

The weather has started to cool and the rainy season is beginning. We are entering into the holiday season and it is traditionally a time to reflect upon and express thanks for the blessings in your lives. I love the holidays and they are a big deal in my family. The entire family gets together at the ranch and has a big meal followed by games and fellowship. I am definitely thankful for my family. Often soldiers reflect upon the people and things in their life that are back in the states and are overcome with a sense of loss because of the time apart. I am filled with a sense of gratitude for the ability to serve in a way that makes me feel like I am in some small part contributing to the protection of the life my family enjoys at home. I feel that my biggest reward for serving my country is the safety provided my family at home, that their lives aren't disrupted by the country being at war, and that they have no concept of what it is like to be involved in a war. When I travel the streets of Baghdad and see the small children whose entire lives are directly shaped by war, I am thankful that my children are safe at home. I am proud to play a part in keeping them safe. I believe that the separation allows us time to realize which things are most important in our lives. Hopefully, when we return to our lives in the states we will live a more fulfilling and meaningful life because of the opportunity to focus on the things that are most important to us. I intend to concentrate my most important resource, time, on those who mean the most to me. I am thankful for all the things patiently waiting safe at home for me to return.

Here in Iraq, there are many things to be thankful for as well. I am thankful every day for all of the tremendous advances in technology which are being utilized by the Army to

help me with my most important responsibility. My most important responsibility is to return the soldiers entrusted to me safely back to their loved ones, I take that responsibility very seriously. I am amazed at the amount of funding and effort being expended to get the latest and greatest equipment in theater and protecting troops. I am thankful for the equipment and for the leaders who have made it the highest priority to get the equipment where it needs to be. Of course, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the most important part of any unit, the soldiers themselves. The 277th has exceptional soldiers who go above and beyond expectations in everything they do, and I am thankful for the honor of leading them. I like to think that the true point of Thanksgiving is to allow you to appreciate the thousands of blessings you enjoy every day and to express thanks for them. I am certainly thankful for all of the blessings I receive.

I will close with best wishes for all the extended dirt devil family during the holidays. Take care, know you are in our thoughts and prayers, and we will see you soon.
Dirt Devil 6



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!!!!!!!!!!!!

Soldiers from the 277th Eng Co And the 1192nd Eng Co work together to build up defenses at Forward Operating Base Hammer..



**Congrats:
1st Lt.
O'Connor
on your
promotion!**



091022-A-1797K-25127

CAMP TAJI, Iraq—1st Cavalry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Rory Malloy (right), of Campbellsburg, Ind., jokes around with Spc. Eric Salinas, with the 277th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, of San Marcos, Texas, after awarding him a coin for combat excellence, here, Oct.22. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles, MND-B PAO)

Chaplain's Corner

By SPC L. Proctor, 101st Air Bn, Chaplain's Assistant

Chaplain Captain Paul Barnett wishes to welcome everyone to Camp Liberty and he encourages all soldiers to stop-by and check out their lounge. The chaplain's office is located in the last office on Pad 9 across from the subway sandwich shop.

For your needs, Chaplain Barnett has an open door policy with normal business hours from 0900-1700 Monday through Saturday. Phone: 847-3110

Chaplain Barnett would like everyone to know that

"The vision of the chaplain's

office is to nurture the living,

take care of the wounded and honor

the dead."

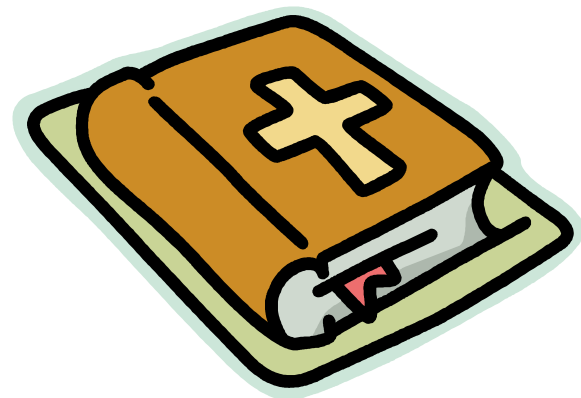


**Sunday Services: 0800 Catholic Services
and 1000 for Non-Denominational**

Worship.

**Tuesday Services: 1700 is the Hour of
Power! Bible Study.**

**Thursday Praise Team Rehearsal-Band
Practice at 1800 and Choir Practice**



From Tanker to Chaplain

By Sgt Tracy Knowles
101st Eng. Bn. PAO, 225th Eng. Bde.

BAGHDAD—Soldiers stomp their boots on the marble floor, raise their voices and make some noise.

This is how Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Barnett, from Wareham, Mass., 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, likes to start his Sunday worship services at the Engineer Chapel, here, on Camp Liberty.

As a 17 year-old who was pushing his luck, making some very risky and costly choices, a judge gave Barnett a choice.

“Jail or the Army, son,” Barnett clearly recalled.

Barnett took the opportunity to change his life. The judge encouraged Barnett to show the world that he was a productive member of society and that he was worth something so much more.

In 1989 he left his home for basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas.

“I looked at the opportunity to gain some structure, discipline, self worth, and belonging to something greater than the streets,” Barnett remembered.

“Be all you can be,” the Army motto at the time was what got Barnett training. Every time he would slack, his drill instructors would press him, and Barnett pushed himself harder and harder in all areas of his life.

Barnett said he started to become a better man; working harder, striving for the best.

Driving a tank during Operation Desert Storm, in 1991, he was affected by what he saw during his tour and started soul searching.

“During a convoy I saw a young girl about seven years old holding a very small baby; she was giving the sign for food,” he said. “I could see the hunger pains in the child’s eyes; my own heart changed. I physically felt hunger pains.”

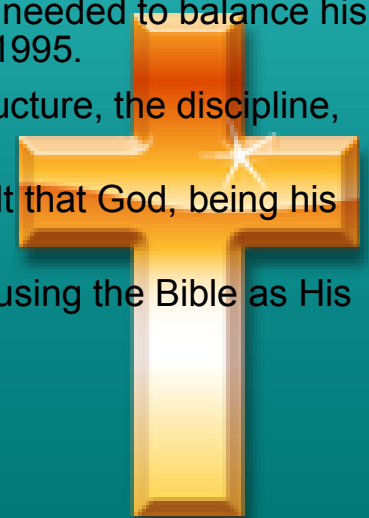
After Barnett’s tour he returned home and decided college was where he was supposed to be. He was accepted into the University of Massachusetts, located in Dartmouth, Mass.

No longer a Soldier, Barnett said he started to slip back into his high schools ways. Finding he was making bad choices, he was close to being in front a different judge again, one who might not give him another chance. Feeling he needed to balance his life, Barnett joined the Massachusetts Army National Guard in 1995.

“I wasn’t being all I could be,” sighed Barnett. “I needed the structure, the discipline, the Army values back”.

Just like his drill sergeants used to tell him to do his best, he felt that God, being his spiritual drill sergeant, was telling him the same thing.

“I wanted to follow God’s [standard operating procedures] and using the Bible as His [Army Regulations],” Barnett explained.



Barnett met Kenneth Walsh, of New Bedford, Mass., in Oct. 1995, and the seed of friendship was planted.

The two friends, along with others, named themselves the B.A.C., otherwise known as the Born Again Christians. Barnett and Walsh started experimenting with rhyming spiritual rap over secular music and they wrote a few songs during the next few years of college.

In the summer of 1996, they finished recording a three song demo at a local recording studio. As word got out on the UMass campus, churches started to invite them to play at various events.

In August 2000, the group released their first full-length album that opened the doors to the world of mainstream Christian music. They were even invited to be the opening acts for Christian artists such as Rebecca St. James, Sonic Flood, and Nicole C. Mullen.

Becoming a chaplain candidate in 2002 allowed him to help feed the spiritual hunger pains of Soldiers. Like the young girl he encountered during his Desert Storm tour, Barnett has helped to feed the hungry, minister to the sick, and pray with the wounded.

Barnett deployed to Iraq with the 101st Engineer Battalion as the battalion chaplain in June 2009. His church services started with very few people attending. As word got out about his preaching style and music, his congregation grew. Whether out of

pure curiosity or word of mouth, Barnett now ministers to a full house.



NOVEMBER Birthdays

BAGANHA, PAULO SSG 11/10/1978 HSC	KINCAID, ANDREW PFC 11/10/1988 277
BAGLEY, JOSHUA 1LT 11/20/1967 HSC	LAVALLEE, JAMES SPC 11/8/1985 FSC
BEACH, PAUL SSG 11/15/1980 HSC	LLOYD, RANDY SGT 11/24/1967 1434
BOUCHARD, BRIAN PFC 11/17/1973 1434	LONG, BRADLEY SPC 11/08/1969 1434
BRADSHAW, JASON PV2 11/22/1977 277	MALDONADO, JOSE PFC 11/5/1984 277
CARPENTER, WILLIAM PFC 11/03/75 1434	MOTA, APRIL SSG 11/13/1982 FSC
DELANE, VERONICA SPC 11/17/1982 HSC	NICHOLS, CHRISTOPHER SPC 11/08/1986 1434
DELGADO, MARCOS SPC 11/12/1983 277	OLSON, CAROLINE SGT 11/11/1983 HSC
DELUNA, ADAM SGT 11/6/1979 277	OVERMAN, STEPHEN SGT 11/26/1968 1192
DOYLE, NATHAN SPC 11/3/1986 HSC	OXLEY, LOUIS SPC 11/30/1987 1192
FALTING, DAVID SGT 11/18/1977 1434	PEARSON, THOMAS SGT 11/10/1969 277
FISHER, THOMAS SPC 11/13/1987 1434	PESANTEZ, ALEX SPC 11/28/1983 FSC
FOLLMER, HOLLY SSG 11/1/1977 277	PIATT, BRIAN SPC 11/13/1988 1192
FORBES, SEAN SPC 11/27/1987 1192	PIFER, ROBERT SPC 11/13/1984 1192
GARZA, GABRIEL PFC 11/19/1986 277	RING, PAUL SPC 11/18/1970 1434
GATLEY, MATHEW SPC 11/5/1981 FSC	RITTER, ROBERT SPC 11/16/1983 1434
GIBSON, ALLEN PFC 11/24/1970 277	RIVERARIVAS, JUAN SPC 11/11/1973 277
GREENMAN, KEVIN SPC 11/11/1984 1192	SCOTT, JOHN SSG 11/25/1974 1192
GRIFFEY, TRAVIS SGT 11/28/1975 277	SHERIDAN, JAMES SGT 11/30/1984 1192
GUERRERO, JUAN SPC 11/28/1983 277	ST. DENNIS WALTER SGT 11/4/1981 HSC
HATFIELD, SHANE SGT 11/8/1974 1192	STOTTS, MICHAEL PFC 11/24/1986 1192
HAWKINS, NICOLAS SPC 11/3/1981 277	THARP, NATHALIA SGT 11/10/1980 277
HENDRICKSON, ANTHONY PV2 11/27/1978 277	VAUGHN, ALEXANDER SPC 11/10/1969 1192
HERNANDEZ, ALEXIS SPC 11/27/1984 277	WELLS, JOE SGT 11/21/1984 277
IAROSSI, BRIAN CPT 11/13/1979 1434	
JOHNSTON, THOMAS SGT 11/08/1967 1434	

Happy Birthday to you

WIGHT, MARK SPC 11/10/1971 277

Thanksgiving's History

Thanksgiving Day today in America is very different from its original incarnation. The differences mostly revolve around the date, the food, and who held the first Thanksgiving Feast.

Thanksgiving Feasts have a long tradition in many cultures. They have been used to mark particular events such as victory in battle, treaty agreements, a successful harvest, Solstices, or any other event. They are a time for the group or community to come together, celebrate, socialize, and form new bonds.

The first attested thanksgiving celebration was on 08 September 1565 in Saint Augustine, FL by the Spanish celebrating their safe arrival in Florida. In 1578 Martin Frobisher, explorer of Canada looking for a Northwest Passage to the Orient, held a traditional Thanksgiving in Newfoundland. On 04 December 1619, thirty-nine English colonists landed at a new site in Virginia they named Berkeley Hundred. The arrival date was ordained by the colonial charter to be celebrated every year. In the 1622 War with the Native Americans, 9 of the colonists were killed, along with one third of the Virginia Colony. The site, now part of Berkeley Plantation, still hosts a Thanksgiving celebration. However, the traditional Thanksgiving we think of is the "First Thanksgiving" as recorded by the Protestant Pilgrims at Plymouth Plantation in 1621.

At the time of the Pilgrim's arrival the New World and Native Americans had been in contact with Europeans for well over 100 years, including European diseases. Two years prior to the Pilgrims arrival European explorers had traveled up the Northeast coast to Nova Scotia, leaving a trail of empty villages from European diseases. The site of Plymouth (Plimouth) Plantation was originally the site of a Wampanoag Summer village, killed off by European diseases. Several years of abandonment had left the site overgrown. The Pilgrims, religious Protestors, hence Protestants, had left England over 20 years prior, settling in Protestant Amsterdam, Holland. Their experience with farming and survival off of the land was limited to book-knowledge and a few adventurers more familiar with European warfare. Coming to North America in late 1620 they landed in New England instead of their intended destination in the Virginia Colony. They survived the winter living off of salt-pork and beef shipped in barrels and trade with the local native villages.

The local Native American villages, a complex matrix of linked political, tribal, and ethnic competing alliances, recognized the potential advantage of allying themselves with the Europeans as a means to defend against larger tribes such as the Iroquois Nations and Abenaki expansions. Teaching the Europeans Native farming, hunting, and fishing techniques they formed an alliance that ultimately lasted until 1675 and the King Phillips

War. However, this led to their eventual demise by enabling the English colony to take hold.

The Pilgrims celebrated their successful first harvest and Native American alliance with a Thanksgiving Feast; but the “true” Thanksgiving feast didn’t occur until 1623 after the colonists switched from communal farming to privatization and dramatically increased their harvest yields.

Thanksgiving days and feast occurred throughout the following years without a particular day set aside. Primarily a religious celebration it transitioned over time to the secular event we know today. The first Official Thanksgiving Day was decreed by President Washington on 03 October 1789 in recognition of the government of the new country, The United States of America. Days for thanksgiving were periodically ordained in subsequent years without a set day decreed annually.

It was not until the American Civil War that our modern concept of Thanksgiving Day came into existence. President Lincoln ordered that all days of thanksgiving would now be officially recognized as the final Thursday in November. In 1939 President F.D. Roosevelt broke with tradition and declared the fourth Thursday as Thanksgiving Day – November had five Thursday’s that year. In 1940 there were four in Thursday so F.D.R. declared the third Thursday to be Thanksgiving Day. His reasoning was to give merchants a longer marketing and advertising sales period before Christmas in order to help pull America out of the Great Depression. However, many communities continued to celebrate Thanksgiving as the last Thursday of November.

In 1941, the US Congress passed a bill declaring the fourth Thursday of November to be the official Thanksgiving Day, which F.D.R. signed into legislation on 26 December. This codified the many different Thanksgiving days and feasts in the US into one annual Federal Holiday and tradition – making it a largely secular celebration.

In Canada, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the second Monday in October. This is partially due to their earlier harvest cycle, to the Martin Frobisher celebration, to historical events of the Seven Years War, and to the post-WWI celebration of Armistice Day and Thanksgiving during the week of 11 November. The two were separated in 1931.

Enjoy the feast!

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

so this is what
writers block
feels like.....



Its already Fall,
First let me
thank every Soldier
that helped put the Octobers newsletter to-
gether.

I am looking forward to the great pho-
tos and stories soon to come. Keep up the great
work.
Happy Thanksgiving to all My fellow Soldiers and
their families.

Smile for the camera.

SGT Knowles

**PS All Packages to and from the states for
Christmas must be
sent no later than
NOV 19th.. Wow its
early but the mail
gets back up....**



Soldiers of the
101st:

Happy Holidays to all the Soldiers of the
101st Eng. Bn., whether here in Iraq or back at
home!

Over the past month, we've covered
some great missions and talked to quite a few
Soldiers in the process. I can't thank Sgt.
Knowles and the UPAR's for all the hard work
they have done so far. Things look great, let's
keep it up.

Over the next month, the 101st Eng. Bn.
is going to be doing a lot of construction mis-
sions that will be happening here on post as
well as in and around the Baghdad area. Hav-
ing taken a look at the projects myself, we
should be pretty busy. Ultimately, these stories
are our firsthand opinions, so let's tell it right
so someone else doesn't tell it wrong. That
way, we will know our mission was a success.

Once again, if anyone is interested in
submitting any mission or event related articles,
by all means, stop by the PAO office in the Bn.
TOC. Ultimately, Sgt. Knowles as well as my-
self are here to get you all recognition.

Overall, great work produced over the
past month! Until the December newsletter,
this is LT Lind signing out...



From left to right, SSG Mota
and SGT Knowles in PAO class
at Camp Liberty

As the newest member of the 101st Eng. Bn. PAO
team I am looking forward to covering all of the great
work we are doing here throughout our deployment.
This is quite a change of pace from my previous posi-
tion in the motor pool, but am excited for the opportu-
nity to tell the story of the soldiers. -SSG Mota

FUN PAGES

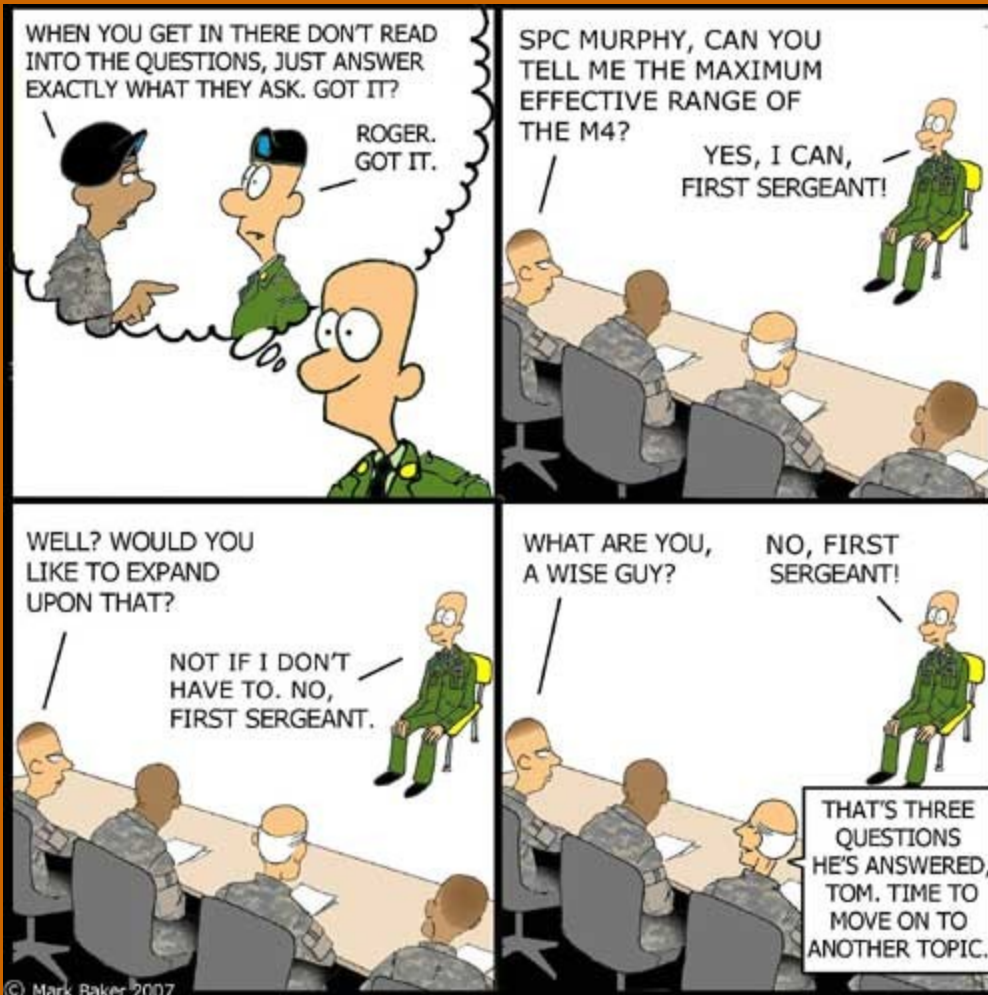


PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Ohhhh Scary
Three members of the "THRILLER"
dance crew
Performed at the October Engineer
Call



UPCOMING RACES





Grand Opening 5K Fun Run

The Paris Boutique invites you to run with us at our Grand Opening Celebration on November 1, 2009.

Who: All residents of Victory Base Complex
What: 5K Fun Run
Where: Race begins and ends at Paris Boutique, Camp Victory, Riva Ridge Road
 Packet pick-up begins at 0530, race begins at 0630.
When: Sunday, 1 November 2009



Prizes For Winners (Men & Women)


T-Shirts will be distributed to the first 300 finishers.
 Awards will be given to the top three males and top three females

1st Prize \$ 100 with Gift Card
 2nd Prize \$ 50 with Gift Card
 3rd Prize \$ 25 with Gift Card

November 1, 2009 at 6:30 AM

Pre Registration starts October 26, 2009 at Paris Boutique
 Registration the day off start at 0530 till the start of Run.
 All Registered Participating Runners will be entered in a Raffle for a Prize of a \$200 Gift Card



For Additional Information Please Contact Us
Kenneth Wicker
 kenneth.wicker@parisboutique-iraq.com



VETERAN'S DAY 10K RUN

8 NOVEMBER 2009
 SIGNAL HILL
 0600
 POC: 1LT Joseph Woodley
joseph.woodley@iraq.centcom.mil
 318-485-3480

T-Shirts to first 300 Finishers
 Register at the link below
<http://corps.intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/sites/separates/vbcbg/coord/dhr/VETERANS%20DAY%20RUN/VETERAN'S%20DAY%20RUN%20FRONT%20PAGE.aspx>

What: 5K Veterans Day "Run For the Fallen"

Register online at MNC-I Home page, follow link at bottom of page <https://corps.intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/pages/default.aspx>

When: 14 November 09

0530 hrs, Late Registration

0600 hrs. Run Begins



Veterans Day 5k Run



*Race begins at 0600 on 14 Nov 09
 at Camp Blayer (Fishbowl Gym)*

Pre-register by 11 Nov and run in memory of a fallen comrade

First 200 runners to finish receive a T-shirt





Sponsored by L3 and MNC-I C7

Congratulations Blake Cyr

Son of Master Sgt. Cyr, 101st En Bn
Battalion Staff

Blake graduated Army
Basic Course at Ft. Sill on
Aug. 21 and is now on his
way to becoming a
Health Care Specialist
at Ft. Sam Houston.



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Congratulations Spc. Ford
of the 621st Survey and
Design Team on the birth
of your new baby boy!!

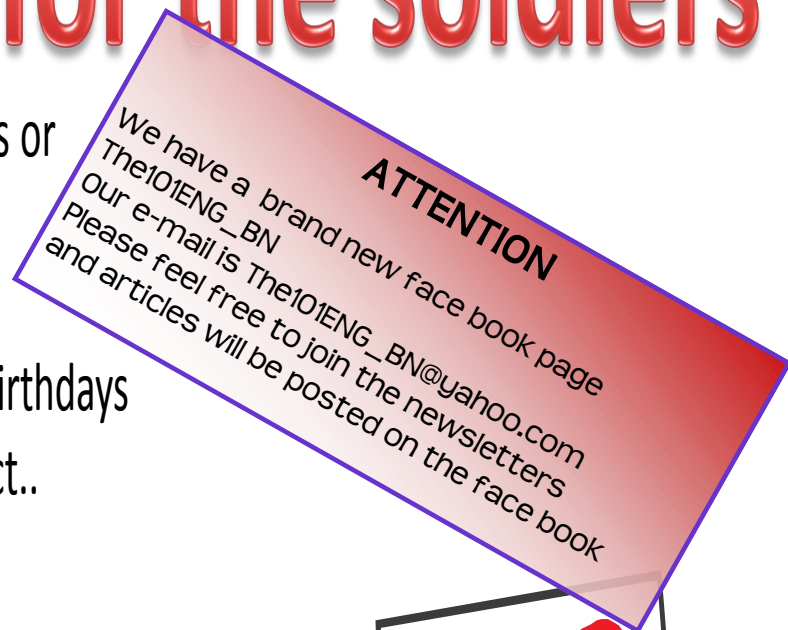


101st Eng. Battalion News Letter

By the soldiers for the soldiers

Wanted : stories and photos about jobs sites or missions

Photos for Photo of the Month
Letters or Photos from home ie: birthdays
of children , Births, graduations ect..
Clean Humor, cartoons.
Funny stories
words of advice
quotes any thing else you think I might be
able to put in the news letter



If interested come by and chat at the BN Toc or email me
I need material every month by the 15th

POC: Sgt Tracy Knowles Public Affairs NCO

Tracy.a.knowles@mnd-b.army.mil

Nipr 847-3109