

101st Engineer Battalion

December 2009 - Baghdad



Nation's First, Nation's Oldest

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

I want to start by saying the performance of all the Soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion has been outstanding. It is a very dynamic mission over here and the Soldiers have exceeded all expectation. The work we are doing here has truly made a difference in the lives of our fellow Soldiers and also has helped pave the way for a responsible drawdown in the future. I also want to wish everyone a happy and healthy Holiday Season and give special and heartfelt thanks to all the families and friends back home for your support. We could not do what we do without the support of you back home and no one knows how much you sacrifice except you.



MESSAGE FROM THE CSM

As we roll into December, we say farewell to the 277th Engineer Company as they redeploy back to Texas. Excellent Job Engineers! We also welcome the 317th Engineer Company from Illinois to our team. As the weather cools off, our new challenge is dealing with mud instead of heat. We continue to enhance the living conditions and training facilities across the Bagdad area, as well as teach the Iraqi Army Engineers skills and techniques.

I'd like to take a moment and thank everyone back home for your support of our soldiers. It is important to know we are supported here, especially as we come into the holiday season. I hope everyone has a safe, happy holiday season. Essayons!



Battalion Soldier of the Month

**Congratulations to our winners for the month of
November!**

**Soldier of the month
SPC Eric Mather 1434th
Traverse City, MI**



**SPC Mather is a team leader in a
vertical construction platoon.**

**NCO of the month
SSG April Mota, FSC
Manchester, NH**



**SSG Mota works as the Public
Affairs NCOIC**

Chaplain Cpt. Paul Barnett

The Greatest Gift

Yes, December is here and with it comes the reality that we are a half a year into deployment. (I heard all the yeah's! from here). It is a wonderful time of the year. And what we are doing together as a team for each other is also magnificent. The Unit Ministry team has provided the following resources for our soldiers here in the battlefields of Baghdad to be empowered while serving so valiantly.

On Monday nights, the 1st and 3rd week of every month there is the infamous "God @ the Movies" theatre. We watch the latest and greatest movies and discuss relevant topics of the movie.

On Tuesday we have the Love and Respect Marriage Enrichment program available. It is a video presentation that just elevates and enlightens any relationship with practical tools on how to enhance the romance and communicate more effectively in holy union. Mid-week we have the a bible study available for providing spiritual nourishment for the mind and refreshing and recharging of the soul.

And on Thursday nights we have the "CROSSFIRE CHOIR" praise band practice. This gathering is a lot of fun in the sun as the supporting soldiers display their melodic voices, singing praises to their creator. This act of giving has been instrumental in strengthening and inspiring others soldiers through song to make it another day in the desert. Sundays here at camp liberty there are several opportunities for soldiers to get "plugged in and powered up" at several different worship services provided.

Let us all be reminded during December, that the greatest gift is the gift of Love. For God's word in holy scripture says," Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for a friend (Luke 15:13). This says that the greatest display of love is sacrificing oneself for another. That is what Christ did. The Savior as a soldier for humanity gave of himself at the cross for the salvation of mankind throughout the world. What was his motive? Love.

I reflect on what great sacrifice you all have made. You all have laid down your lives. You have done it with courageous courage, devoted duty and passionate patriotism. What was your motive? Love. For this the world thanks you and we, warriors of the 101 En BN stand and applaud you.

So given the unique circumstance of this Christmas, be reminded that although we might not be there with you to open boxes we will still be smiling, smiling because we will remember the "greatest gift" isn't in a box, it isn't on a shelf at a store, and it can't be charged on a credit card. For the greatest gift is the gift of giving.

Sacrificial giving, not of talents and not of treasure but a more sentimental gift, the unforgettable gift of time.

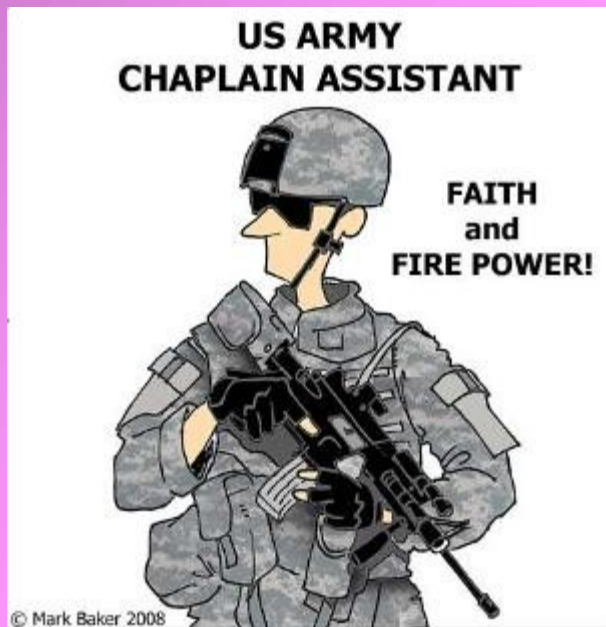
YOU, yes, You! are the greatest gift we soldiers have and want. Thank you for the gift of your time. Thank you for not just being good, not just being great, but for the super soldiers of the 101st Eng BN you are the "GREATEST" of all gifts.



Chaplain's Asstistant, Spc. Lisa Prochnow

December 28, 2009 marks the 100th birthday of the U.S. Army Chaplain's Assistant.

Thank you Spc. Lisa Prochnow for all you do for the 101st Engineer Battalion!



I love my job. It doesn't get much better than this as far as MOS's go. Whether it's talking to our Soldiers or getting ready for service I Don't think there is another MOS that I want. Since we got Chaplain Barnett I have been able to really focus on my aspect of the job. We may have crazy hours but I wouldn't change it for anything. With this Job I have seen soldiers come in completely broken only to see them walk out with a renewed hope in their circumstances. Just being able to have someone to talk to who will listen and sympathize and be able to see their circumstances through a different lens is a big relief to Soldiers. - Spc. Lisa Prochnow



Headquarters Support Company

Words from the Commander

From the banks of the Tigris,

From all of us here, I hope all had a pleasant Thanksgiving Holiday. It is a wonderful time of the year, when the cold crisp air comes in, football is in full swing, and you are surrounded by family and friends. Unfortunately, we could not join you this year, but we are among friends and family of a different sort. We are also enjoying the fall weather: chilly temperatures (for the desert), fresh crisp rain, and a mix of mud and more mud.

Rest assured we were well taken care of for the Thanksgiving Feast. I can guarantee, with certainty, that what was laid out on the table at home was pretty well represented in our dinning facility. How does prime rib, Cornish hen, lemon baked trout, and turkey sound? You might also find potatoes, yams, greens, gravies, dressings and breads of many kinds. I will not even discuss the dessert entries; I do not think I have enough room.

We are all thankful for all your support from back home. I appreciate the sacrifices you will endure for the upcoming holiday season. Although we will never be a substitute for the family and friends back home, we will be here for each other. Take a moment to catch your breath and be thankful for the things that we do have in our lives, and know that we are thankful for you.

Cpt. Michael McDevitt

Commander's Quote:

Democritus (460 ~ 370 BC) said "Happiness resides not in possessions, and not in gold, happiness dwells in the soul." So, to everyone I ask one question. Simple as it maybe, the answer is not so easily found.

What makes you happy?



Iraqi Army learns carpentry from engineer Soldiers with help from Pfc. Shehata

By Sgt. Tracy Knowles

After two days of a basic carpentry skills course, Soldiers of the 11th Field Engineer Regiment, 11th Iraqi Army Division, finished a practical exercise building dormitory-style rooms, Nov. 14, at Iraq's Old Ministry of Defense, in northeastern Baghdad. Soldiers of the 101st taught a "train the trainer" course so that the IA engineers will be able to continue training each other. The first day of class covered basic safety instruction on the proper use of power tools, personal protective equipment and safety on the job site. The classes included hands-on training for measuring and cutting boards correctly the first time.

"It was great, there was sawdust everywhere, the IA Soldiers were so excited to be working they didn't want to take a break," said Pfc. Raymond Shehata, HSC, of Milford, Mass.

Shehata, originally from Egypt, was assigned to the project because of his fluency in Arabic and helped out with the hands-on portion of the class. Shehata's ability to speak Arabic helped to strengthen the partnership and camaraderie between the IA Soldiers and the 101st. Shehata gained valuable insight into the effectiveness of the training because of his comprehension of Arabic. He was crucial to earning the IA Soldiers' respect, which contributed greatly to the success of the mission. "Being a part of the partnership training gives me a great feeling of accomplishment; knowing I was teaching them new skills," said Shehata.



Forward Support Company

Happy Holidays!!! I hope this month's news-letter finds everyone in good spirits and thankful for everything in your life. We are approaching the half way point of the deployment which is a major hurdle. Once we get past the 6th month time frame it will only get easier. Everyone here is doing well and morale is high. We are planning some events such as a volleyball tournament and other activities to help ease everyone through the holidays. I know I say this every month but thank you the continued love and support everyone has shown throughout the deployment. Every letter, card and package that the Soldiers receive only helps ease the burden of being away from home. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Nick Bessette
CPT, OD
Commanding



**Congrats LT
McNamara on
your promotion
to First
Lieutenant!**

FSC Welders hard at work

Two U.S. Soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion, 16th Engineer Brigade have developed a prototype antenna mount for use on up-armored commercial vehicles. "We were looking for something that kept a low profile so it would not obstruct the driver's field of view," said Beto Salazar, of Chaparra, N.M., a Department of Defense employee. Sgt. Robert Hall, of Groton, Mass., and Spc. Chad Parks, of Steuben, Maine, both welders with Forward Support Company, 101st Eng. Bn., were happy to help Salazar with his request. The Soldiers worked together to come up with a plan that would meet all of the requirements.

"I took the dimensions and ran with it," Hall said. Hall thought it was a great opportunity to work on the up-armored vehicles as a change of pace from the typical equipment seen in the motor pool.

The most difficult part of the project was drilling the holes for the mount in very precise locations. If the locations were not accurate, the mount would not be able to hold the antenna and wires properly. "If our prototype is accepted, we may have to make more of these mounts. It may even go into production next year, which is really exciting," Parks said.



Sincerely appreciating the help from the 101st Soldiers, Salazar said the mount the two welders designed places the antenna exactly where they had hoped, without interfering with the cables or the field of view. "Our design is simple, but it's efficient. It works," Parks said. The prototype, currently in the testing phase, has the possibility to be in a production phase sometime next year, with the potential to create a safer means of transportation throughout the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



621st Eng Det Survey + Design



Design Team

The design team has really come along way since arriving in theater a few months ago. Our design team is creating designs for structures as big as 10,000 square feet. The design team is also being tasked with electrical plans. Spc. Micah Mahadeo has been a lifesaver designing every electrical layout we have had. The design team has at least 2 projects at a time and sometimes we juggle up to ten projects at once.

Spc. Rachael Pursell has recently made the transition to the design side from the survey team. Pursell has completed her first architectural plan set from scratch.

Spc. Derrick Adams has been a great asset to the design team. He has already completed five plan sets that include a design for a 4,000 square foot building with some very technical details. Adams has done an outstanding job meeting deadlines and getting plans done correctly.

Spc. Ford and Spc. Earle have been in transition on both sides of the house. Ford has recently been tasked to helped the design team play catch up while getting a multitude of plan sets to be done in a short amount of time. Earle has designed the plans for the Battalion Gym creating a complete plan set for that.

“The design team is going way beyond the standard and is a class act in my book.”- SSG Burriloo

Team Milky Way

Spc. Ezekiel Earle

For the past month our team has been working on the staging area and the roads of West Liberty. Lighting will be added to the staging area in order to facilitate mission preparations for the Combat Security Teams. Since we arrived in theater both teams have been utilizing portable lighting systems and MRAP lights as a means of illumination. With the light post being added convoy preparations have been improved.

The most recent survey is the West Liberty project. We are in the first of four phases of this project that includes locating all the roads and ditches. Our team has been hard at work with the boundary road of West Liberty. Our team consists of Team leader Sgt. Harris, Spc. Hughes as lead rod-man, Spc. Ford as Instrument Operator and Spc. Mahadeo as Rod-man and Safety coordinator.

Sgt. Harris expresses her gratitude by explaining how Spc. Ford is a great help. "Spc. Ford has been the primary instrument operator and has done a great job for recording points for the line work of the road."

"Spc. Hughes has done a great job with attention to detail that comes with being a good rodmen." Explains Sgt. Harris when asked how her team is doing with the tremendous attention to detail that Survey Chief Ssg. Cornett emphasizes day in and day out. Spc. Hughes must maintain a clear line of sight and keeping proper distances between control points." Spc. Hughes has done a tremendous job with his efficiency in the precise placement of the rod target." Says Sgt. Harris

Since we sometimes survey under chaotic conditions, Spc. Mahdeo has done a great job maintaining a high level of safety for the Rodman by controlling traffic as we locate the roads and ditches on West Liberty.

Our team maintains a high level of motivation at all times. While the days can be long and tedious, mission accomplishment and team work continues to be our utmost priority.



Team Blacksheep

Spc. Ezekiel Earle

Our day begins with Spc. Wooten and Spc. Killough loading the equipment and checking supplies in the backpack. The gear is loaded in the truck; at the same time Spc. Earle and myself are at the truck doing Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services and are making sure that all essential equipment is in its proper place. We maintain drinks, snacks, and ensure that tri-pods and prism poles are ready to go for the day.

We roll out to our site and it's like running a rat race, we all have first tasks. Spc Wooten sets up the back sight, Spc. Killough and Spc. Earle setup the instrument while I take a tripod and target to the foresight position and the next few control points for rounds.

We stay in close contact with headset radios and now with the fun begins as Spc. Earle and Spc. Killogh run the gun. One taking the shots and the other is recording information manually. Spc Wooten and Sgt. Brawley run the rod with a 360 degree prism; one holds the rod as the other is a safety for traffic control.

At the end of the day we do a quick measure of rounds, take down our instrument load up in the truck and head back to the office. In the office we upload the data that we collected for the day into a high-speed computer program. The program will automatically draw out information that we uploaded to prepare maps, plots, etc.

Once back at the office Spc. Wooten takes charge of preparing the equipment for the next day's work. Wooten ensures all batteries are on charge and all gear is properly secure before his day is over.

That is what a day on the survey team is like, of course there are a few breaks and lunch during the day but you already know what that's like.

"I am proud to lead this team. Their enthusiasm makes my job a very pleasant one. I don't think I could have a better team than the one I have. To me they are the absolute best." Sgt. Brawley

1434th Eng. CO.

First off, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Please take some time on that special day to be thankful for the safety and security our nation enjoys as a result of the fantastic men and women of our Armed Forces. On the other side of the coin, I would like to thank you on behalf of all the soldiers of the 1434th for your contribution to the defense of our nation. Your support is what gives us all the strength to get up and accomplish our missions

As we enter the holiday season, allow me to be frank about the experiences you may encounter. The holidays can be difficult for families who are accustomed to being together every year. Please remember that June will come sooner than you imagine. Additionally, I would like you to consider one more bit of advice. Please remember your long term financial goals as you begin shopping for the holidays. There is no greater benefit for your soldier's hard work than the financial security of his or her family.

As always, I am amazed at the high morale and tireless effort of the men and women of the 1434th. As 1SG Lamphere noted, they continue to make operations possible for the U.S. and Iraqi forces by building great facilities in which they live, eat, and work. Our 160-person company is keeping thousands of other soldiers safe, warm, and dry. I know firsthand that our positive attitudes come from your support at home. We could not do it without you so keep it up!

"Hammers and Nails"



Capt Brian G. Iarossi



Spc. Jonathan Klump, a carpenter, from Sterling, Mich., uses a drill to install tin on top of the new operations building for the Multi-National Division - Baghdad command helicopter pad. The tin is used to help weatherproof the building.

First Sergeant's Words

This month has been extremely busy for you Engineers. During the month your Soldiers were involved in six to seven engineering missions throughout our area of operations. This doesn't include the smaller missions they undertook on Camp Liberty. Your Soldiers have earned a reputation for their professionalism and craftsmanship. The unit has received compliments and certificates of appreciation from the 82nd ABN Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and the 30th HBCT for their outstanding work.

Many of you have had the opportunity to see your Soldiers as they begin to cycle out on leave. Enjoy the time you are able to spend with them and understand that we still need them, for a few more months. I've provided your Soldiers guidance concerning holiday mail, so ensure you ask them concerning deadline periods for its receipt.

I hope you all have a great holiday and we'll ensure we make their day here as pleasant as possible. There are never real days off while on mission, so holidays are often difficult for those on their first deployment. Once again have a great holiday and ensure both you and your Soldiers are communicating.

"Hammer and Nails"



1 Sgt. Timothy Lamphere



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. 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

1192nd Engineers



Hello and Happy Thanksgiving! We have many things to be thankful for, and I am thankful for the outstanding work the unit is doing, from maintenance (less than 9% of the vehicles are down now...YEAH!!), to the platoons, to headquarters. Each Soldier that I have seen is working hard and should be proud of their work!

With Thanksgiving come and gone, we'll be at the 6 month mark for our mobilization. Hard to believe we're half way there, but time flies when you're working hard... or something like that. We currently have seven missions running for the company, not to include maintenance, inventories, supply demands, and reconnaissance of upcoming mission sites. It's quite the tasking, but I couldn't think of a better group of Soldiers to have working at these sites.

As we get into the rainy season, remember to think of safety while on missions and while on post. With the rain, comes the mud, and we need to ensure we're paying attention to slips, trips and falls. Ensure that all Soldiers are using 4 points of contact (did I say 4...just checking to make sure you're paying attention) when climbing on and moving around equipment.

Congratulations to SGT Brown and SPC Zieber for taking the company NCO and Soldier of the month boards. You did an outstanding job. Keeping leading the way...VANGUARD!

CPT Joe Ayers, 1192nd Eng. Co.



Baghdad—Our potpourri of accomplishments at Mahmudiyah, a Forward Operating Base (FOB) was a victory. With limited resources and equipment, 1192nd Engineer Company, 1st Platoon 2nd squad was able to govern and complete the undertakings. This was due in part to the knowledge and know-how of the Soldiers and leadership, but mostly to the devotion to duty, the individual selfless-service, integrity, and skills of the team. 1st Platoon, 2nd Squad of the 1192nd EN CO was initially tasked to improve the existing ASP to meet Division's safety specifications and requirements.

Project NCOIC and 1st Plt Squad Leader Staff Sgt. Trevor Harlow of Huron, Ohio and site manager, Sgt. JD Sims of Ripley, Ohio, worked closely with Staff Sgt. Harlow on the majority of the site management including his team leaders-Sgt Amanda Adamson of Wooster, Ohio and Sgt John Linville of Bethel, Ohio. They communicated effectively and their instruction and direction were always apparent.

The crew worked long strenuous hours and recognized after a short time, that they could accomplish more by initiating a double shift. Each team leader oversaw their respective teams and accomplished much more than projected. Our squad assumed an additional undertaking of improving and updating their current 25 meter range. The existing range had been closed for some time. This required the 120th CAB Soldiers to leave the confines of their FOB and qualify at another location, creating an unnecessary hazard.



Our crew was eager to participate in such a functional and well-designed project. The back wall is 21 feet high with a 10 foot berm built in front of it. The berm allows the range to support .50 cal rounds without tearing up the HESCOs. The wall will also protect Soldiers and vehicles from ricochets and allow the range to be used for a wider range of training activities. This new range will greatly increase the readiness of the 120th Combined Arms Battalion.

Once completing our first mission, we as a platoon, realized how proud it is to be a part of this historical event. We understand no matter how small the part we might play; it's still a part of the larger picture and gets us closer to our nation's goal.

Keep up the outstanding effort and jobs well done, mighty proud of 1st Platoon. Look for more updates as the projects continue to get accomplished by the Mighty, Mighty Engineers of the 1192nd En Co, Signing off. SFC David J. Zika, 1st Platoon SGT, Out.

Flags over Baghdad



A tradition where Soldiers can bring their very own flag to be raised and flown at Al Faw Palace. Exactly 33 flags were flown at the top of the Palace over Baghdad within an hour. Each flag was presented with its own certificate on this day to be kept by the Soldier or to be presented to a family member or friend back home.

By SGT Annette Jones 1192nd EN CO Headquarters Platoon, Public Affairs Officer



SPC Luis Perez of Lorain, Oh is focused on accurately folding a flag as SFC Brian Alger of Norwalk, Oh looks on.



PFC Jordan Bracken of Wakeman, Oh



SGT Annette Jones folds her flag on and for her son's 11th Birthday!



SPC Richard Hill Commo Spc
Headquarters Plt



PFC Robert Day of Norwalk, Oh salutes to every flag!



SSG John Scott prepares a flag to be raised.



SPC Luis Perez and PFC Jordan Bracken showed great teamwork folding many flags!

Dirt Devil Families,

Hello again from Baghdad. It is almost December, and the Dirt Devils have finally moved to the tent area in preparation for our return to the states. We are still a little over three weeks away from actually leaving Baghdad, but the time is going by quickly and everyone is anxious to be home. We are still expecting to have everyone home with their families for Christmas. It will be wonderful to be home for the holidays. We are all working very hard to keep everyone as safe as possible while we finish our mission over here. The 317th EN CO has finally started arriving here in Baghdad, and boy are they a sight for sore eyes! We will work very hard to give them the best start we possibly can. I know how important it is for everyone over here to get support from home, keep it coming and thanks for all you have done. Please keep all of us in your prayers; I will keep all of you in mine. I hope this finds you well and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Dirt Devil 6 OUT!

Cpt. Robbins, 227th Eng. Co.



Run for the Fallen 14 November 2009

BAGHDAD-Silence fell across the crowd of anxious runners as "Taps" sounded from the Guard Tower in the distance while soldiers paid silent homage to those they were there to honor during this run. "Run for the Fallen", a 5 kilometer, 3.2 mile run around the Saddam's Ba'ath party members houses was held on Nov. 14, here on Camp Slayer. Over 750, U. S. Military service members and civilians, runners and volunteers participated in honor of the Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Honoring one of their own, Spc. Jacob Barton, the 277th Engineer Company had over 150 soldiers participate. Barton was loved and respected by all that knew him. Barton died while deployed to Iraq with the 277th in 2009. The run for them was a bitter reminder that losing one of their own had really happened during their deployment.



The 379th Engineer Company, MA ARNG, lost a great motor Sergeant in 2003, Sgt 1st class Robert Rooney, many of the Soldiers of the Headquarters Support Company and the Forward Support Company of the 101st Engineer Battalion, had deployed with Rooney in 2003. Rooney died while loading vehicles in Kuwait days before returning home. "At no time did anyone claim defeat as we ran silently down the street with only the soldier's name we had written on our bib firmly on our mind, It was surreal and a very proud moment in my life." said Chief Warrant Officer Two, Sue Williams of Westminster, Mass. 101st Eng. Bn., 16th Eng. Bde.

In loving memory of Spc. Jacob Barton, May 11, 2009, Sgt 1st Class. Robert Rooney, Sept 25, 2003, and all those who have given their lives for freedom. You will never be forgotten.— Sgt. Tracy Knowles PAO



277th Engineers repair range



Soldiers of the 277th Engineer Company repaired a firing range on Nov. 22. “The purpose of the mission was to rebuild the back berm to create a safer environment for the Soldiers utilizing the range,” said Maj. Jackson Macomber, the battalion’s assistant operations officer, 101st En. Bn.



Soldiers from the 277th Engineer Company unload their equipment under heavy fog to prepare for a range improvement mission at the range on Nov. 22.



Using the Bobcat to relocate a load of dirt Sgt. Robert Shilling of Post Falls, Idaho, 277th Engineer Company, reinforces the back berm to the Arizola Range on Camp Slayer on Nov. 22. “The range is important for Soldiers to practice their skill improvement. Skill improvement is key during any force protection mission,” said Maj. Macomber

Good Luck 277th!



Everyone here in the 101st would like to thank the 277th for all of their hard work over the past few months. We wish them well as they prepare to return home. We'd also like to welcome the 317th Eng. Co. aboard. Over the next few weeks the 277th will be working with the members of the 317th to give them a smooth transition into the 101st.

Welcome to the Battalion 317th!

The 317th Engineer Company is an Army Reserve horizontal engineer company stationed in Kankakee, Illinois. The company is comprised of Soldiers from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The Soldiers of the 317th look forward to training, learning the battle space and conducting future missions.

1LT Richard Hamilton, 317th Eng. Co. Commander

DECEMBER Birthdays

277th

SFC	PATRICK	MCMORDIE	12/2
PV2	TOMOTHY	JOHNSON	12/3
SPC	CONRAD	CAIN	12/9
PV2	TIMOTHY	NELSON	12/9
SPC	DENNIS	ERICKSON	12/11
SSG	JOSE	CERDAGARZA	12/17
PFC	SEAN	LEONARD	12/21
SGT	DAVID	CRUZ	12/25
PV2	JAMES	PARKS	12/29

FSC

CPL	PAUL	MCCLUSKEY	12/11
PFC	JONATHAN	MORALES	12/11
PFC	JONATHAN	LAPAN	12/12
SGT	BRIAN	RAYMOND	12/16
SPC	FELIX	PAPA	12/16
CW2	MICHAEL	LUSSIER	12/31
SGT	JUSTIN	POTTS	12/31

HSC

SFC	DAVID	BELLEROSE	12/15
SGT	TRACY	KNOWLES	12/23
MAJ	JOSHUA	GOODRICH	12/29
SPC	JAMES	MCLAUGHLIN	12/30

621st

SGT	BENJAMIN	BRAWLEY	12/19
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1192nd

PFC	NICOLE	WRIGHT	12/2
PFC	JOSEPH	NESS	12/3
SGT	CAINE	COLLINS	12/7
SSG	BRADLEY	WILSON	12/18
PFC	DANIEL	ROBERTS	12/19
CPT	JOSEPH	AYERS	12/21
SSG	JASON	ANDREWS	12/26
SGT	ROBERT	CAMPBELL	12/29
PV2	BRYAN	POSEY	12/30
SSG	CURTIS	BANNWORTH	12/30
SFC	WINFIELD	STARCHER	12/31

1434th

SPC	PETE	BICE	12/1
SPC	BRIAN	JOHNSON	12/2
SPC	DANIEL	BAUMGARTNER	12/5
PVT	AARON	PIGGOTT	12/6
SPC	MATTHEW	EDWARDS	12/7
SGT	JASON	DENMAN	12/13
SPC	JOSEPH	HOTSINPILLER	12/14
SPC	JACOB	SCHMALZRIED	12/16
PFC	COREY	BROWN	12/17
SGT	MARK	GOSBETH	12/22
PV2	JOSHUA	TILLMON	12/22
SGT	ANDREW	KNIFFIN	12/25
SPC	DAVID	LATHAM	12/27
SGT	FRED	PRIEST	12/28

Happy Birthday to you!



Thanksgiving Dinner

Soldiers of the 101st helped organize a two month long project at the Defleury Café to showcase their talent and enhance morale on Thanksgiving Day.

There were life size Pilgrims, horses, an elephant, Uncle Sam, a horn of plenty that was 5 feet long, a

corral of two dozen turkeys, an ice sculpture, but the most impressive piece was a floor to ceiling replica of the front of the White House, all carved out of Styrofoam. “We wanted to make the Soldiers happy, we’re here for the Soldiers,” said Prasad, who has worked in the dining hall for the past six years as the executive chef.

Over 400 sheets of Styrofoam were used for the holiday presentation. Staff Sgt. Craig Francis of Dracut, Mass., Forward Support Company, 101st Eng. Bn., placed the order and arranged for pickup of the Styrofoam. The decorations were a big hit with the all of the Soldiers. Pfc. Tyler McKinnon of Norwalk, Ohio, 1192nd Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Bn. “The place looked really good, it took a lot of attention off of missing your family”, said McKinnon, “but it was nice to be able to spend the holiday with my friends”. Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Florentine of Boston, Mass., FSC, 101st Eng. Bn., the battalion food service sergeant hoped the project would give the Soldiers the best holiday they could have being away from home. Two months of hard work by the kitchen staff certainly paid off. The dining facility was successfully transformed into a holiday showcase. Hundreds of sheets of Styrofoam later, Soldiers were able to enjoy their holiday meal with friends surrounded by sculptures that transformed the dining facility into a truly festive ambience .



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Seasons Greetings,

I would like to wish the Soldiers and our families the safest and happiest of Holidays, This time of year can be hard even when you are away from home, please remember to take a moment, stop, breath, and remember the real reason for the holidays, our loved ones.

Great job again to all our UPARS .

We have had an outstanding month and I can only see us getting better. SSG. Mota and I could not do any of this without the support of all of the Companies and UPAR's

Merry Christmas and God Speed to all.

Sgt. Tracy Knowles

Happy Holidays to all of the friends, families, and members of the 101st Eng. Bn. To the families at home, even though we can not be there with you, we will all be thinking about you over the next few weeks. To the Soldiers of the 101, we're all family too, so lets enjoy the holiday season as we approach the half way point of our deployment.

The entire battalion has been very busy. We've appreciated all of the efforts put forth by the companies to make sure the stories are told. We've had more than two dozen publications over the last month, and we thank each and everyone involved in making the public affairs an extremely busy office!

-Staff Sgt. April Mota



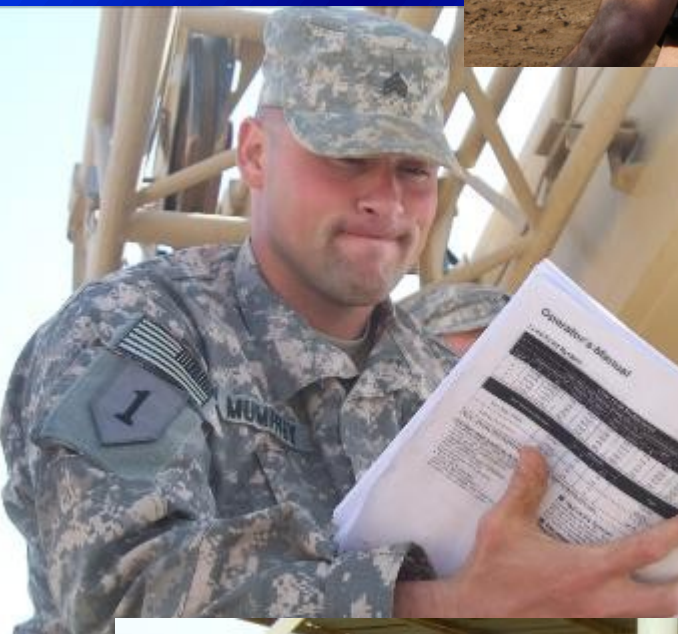
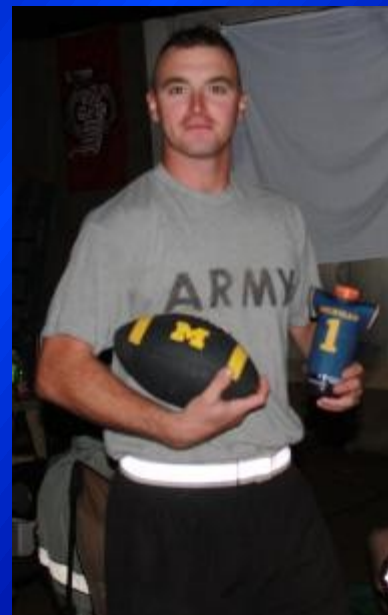
PHOTO OF THE MONTH CONTEST



FSC welders adjust the gas flow on their oxygen and acetylene torch to replace hinges on a gate to a motor pool on Victory Base Complex

Memories





TOP, WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOUR NEW
COMPUTER?!

Eh? Oh, IT SAID IT
NEEDED "RE-BOOTED."
SO I DID...
WITH MY SIZE 10.
REPEATEDLY.



I'VE GOT SOME
EXTRA GEAR
THAT I CAN
ISSUE YOU.

THANKS,
SPECIALIST.

SUPPLY



SGT, I GOT
YOUR PAY ISSUE
SQUARED-AWAY.

THANKS,
SPECIALIST.

FINANCE



SGT MURPHY,
I'VE GOT YOUR
ORDERS.

THANKS,
SPECIALIST.

S-1

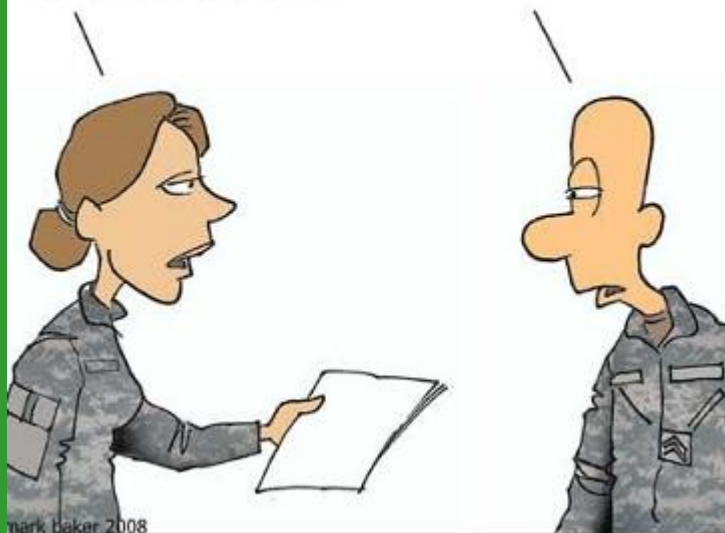


AND HERE I THOUGHT
GENERALS RAN THE ARMY.



SGT MURPHY, I HAVE
YOUR ORDERS. YOU'RE
GOING TO RUSTAIMIYAH.

RUST-A-WHAT-A?



mark baker 2008

FUN PAGES



UPCOMING RACES



NATIONAL GUARD'S BIRTHDAY RUN



**Run 3.73 Miles Celebrating the
373rd Birthday of the Army National Guard
13 December 1636 – 13 December 2009**

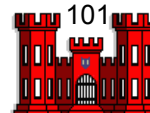
**Race Begins at 0630
13 December 2009
At Victory Stage**

**Pre-Register - CPT Keegan
Sean.keegan@mnd-b.army.mil**

**Volunteers Needed Contact SPC Band
Sandrae.band@mnd-b.army.mil**

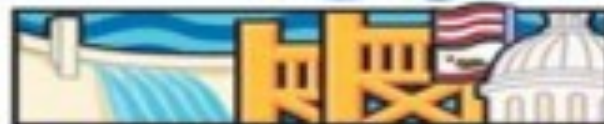


**Sponsored by the Nation's Oldest
101st Engineer Battalion
"The East Regiment"**



Massachusetts Army National Guard

26th



CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

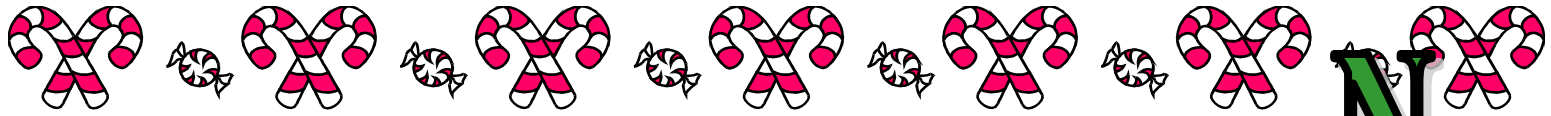
HALF MARATHON SHADOW RUN

*First 200
Finishers
receive Finisher
Shirt and Medal*

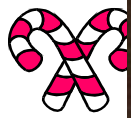
**GO BACK IN TIME WITH 659TH
MAINTENANCE COMPANY
AND RUN THE 26TH CIM**

**6 December 2009
@ 0630**





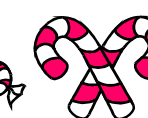
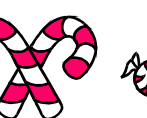
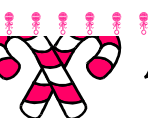
Congrats to Sean Smith, son of Jillian and Spc. Jesse Smith, 1434th, for winning second place in a baby modeling contest!



Way to go Bree! Congrats to Briannah Raymond, daughter of Sgt. Brian Raymond, FSC, for earning her black belt in Karate!



PFC Jerriyne Howard!
1192nd EN CO welcomes
your new bundle of joy
Jerriyah Mylove Howard
Born: September 19, 2009
6lbs, 19in

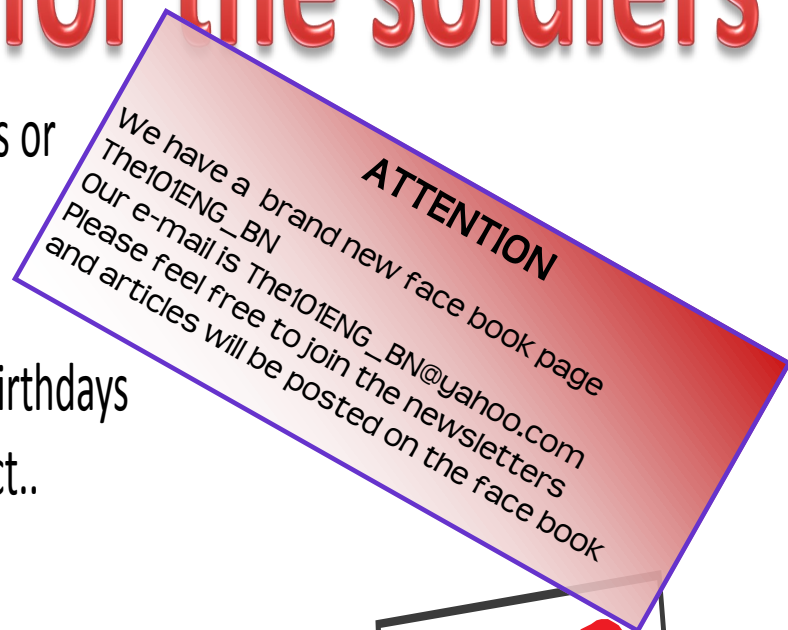


101st Eng. Battalion News Letter

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

Or SSG April Mota, Public Affairs NCOIC

April.mota@mnd-b.army.mil