

101st Engineer Battalion

February 2010 - Baghdad

Volume 2, Edition 2



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. Their professionalism and motivation is second to none. Everywhere I go around the operating area I'm told what a great job the Soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion are doing. 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 thank everyone back home for all the gifts and packages you sent over the Holiday Season. Once again I want to end by giving 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.

Lt. Col Charles Cody

MESSAGE FROM THE CSM

Now that we are into the month of February, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. All of our Engineer soldiers continue to do the right things and continue to set the example in theater while being motivated. Whether on duty building facilities, surveying, moving dirt, or off duty playing street hockey, watching a movie or playing cards, our Engineer family continue to focus on being the standard bearers within the 1st Armored Division. I am proud of each and every soldier in the 101st Engineer Battalion!

CSM Peter Chase



Battalion Soldier of the Month

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

**Soldier of the month
Spc. Felix Papa
101st Engineer Forward
Support Company**



**NCO of the month
Sgt Walter St. Dennis
101st Eng. Headquarters Support
Company**



Chaplain Cpt. Paul Barnett

LOVE IS:

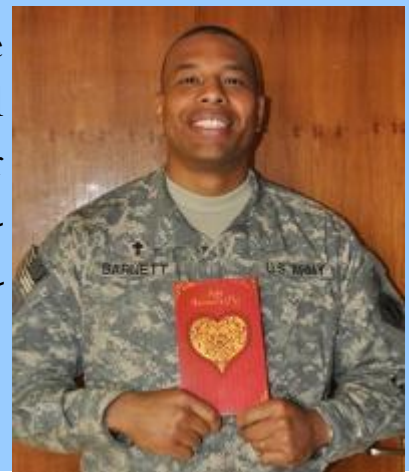
Yes, February is here, the month of love. Of all the great emotions there is none greater to mankind than this heart pumping, breathe taking, soul stirring verb called love. But if I were to ask you, what is LOVE? How would you respond?

There are poems written about it, (Roses are Red, Violets are blue). Almost every movie has love in there plot. (Who can forget the titanic). Music is played and songs are sung with love as the main theme. (We all remember Whitney's Houston's Body Guard Song, "The Greatest Love of All") Yet, with all this attention to "LOVE" do we really understand what it is? My son says he "loves" pizza? My daughter says she "loves" Dora the Explorer? The same word for love that they used for pizza and Dora is what I will use on that special Valentine's day card I sent to my wife of 14 years. So, I decided I better take a look at what God's word in scripture uses to describe this emotion that shapes the very world around us.

Here is what I found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. LOVE IS: [4](#)(Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5](#)It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6](#)Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7](#)It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. [8](#)Love never fails.

What a great list! After all, remember your life is a beautiful poem to be written, and a fabulous song to be sung. So this month may you experience and express all that this list reminds us of what LOVE IS. Remember God loves you, the Country loves you, and we, the soldiers of the 101st En Bn love you. Have a Happy Valentine's day and may you enjoy all that LOVE IS:

CH. (CPT) Paul "z" Barnett Jr.



Chaplain's Asstistant, Spc. Lisa Prochnow



Happy Valentines day to all
our Loved ones at home.

You have to walk carefully at the beginning of
Love; the running across the field into your
lover's arms can only come later when you are
sure they won't laugh at you if you trip.-

Jonathan Carroll

Headquarters Support Company

Words from the Commander

A February Greeting!

It has been awhile since I wrote. The holidays have come and gone and we are now into the month of February. February! One month closer to coming home. Soon, the weather will be changing for us again and we will be welcoming spring in the desert. That brings more rain and slightly warmer temperatures. No worries though, it will not start getting warm for a few more months.

Everyone is well here, as we look forward to the not so distant future when we step off the plane on home soil. The soldiers (your loved ones) continue to do great things and move forward with a purpose that I have come to expect.

Capt. M. McDevitt



For our Valentines back home, I present my definition of love:

Love - a universally misunderstood, although highly desirable, malfunction of the heart which weakens the brain, causes eyes to glaze, cheeks to warm, blood pressure to spike and the complete loss of rational thought.

Soldier In Focus:

Capt. Sean Keegan



“IT’S AN ATTITUDE THAT YOU NEVER QUIT, IF YOU GET KNOCKED DOWN YOU GET BACK UP AND TRY AGAIN,” SAID KEEGAN.

better and stronger person, mentally and physically.

Keegan teaches a core group of five Soldiers, two whom have already

advanced to yellow belt,

BAGHDAD – As Soldiers it is hard to begin new interests at home, having families and jobs sometimes there just isn’t time for anything new. On deployment most Soldiers start something new, like a New Year’s resolution. Soldiers start running in road races, going to the gym, lifting weights, and overall try to find something to make a year-long deployment fly by.

Capt. Sean Keegan of Pembroke, Mass., 101st Engineer Battalion is the officer in charge of the communications section, teaching Kenpo Karate three nights a week at the local pad gym here on Camp Liberty.

Keegan started taking Kenpo as a way to work out, loved it so much he advanced through the ranks and eventually became a certified instructor. He teaches at the Halifax Karate Center in Halifax, Mass.

Kenpo is a unique practice; it is the art of defense, the art of fighting, the art of healing, and the practice of extreme training to forge a

these Soldiers have gained more self discipline and a sense of self worth, reaping the benefits of each new training session.

“It’s an attitude that you never quit, if you get knocked down you get back up and try again,” said Keegan.

Keegan stresses to his students about reaching down deep inside and finding that little extra to help accomplish your task. He teaches this not only in Kenpo but also in the mission of being a Soldier.

When Sgt. Caroline Olson of Attleboro, Mass., began class with Keegan about four months ago, she was unsure of herself, not being able to focus through the class, giggling when she did something wrong or if she found it too hard. Now Olson is a more confident Soldier,

showing signs of

self discipline. Her hard work

has paid off being, allowing her to hold herself to higher levels of responsibility.

“I feel the class has helped with my ability to be confident in the decisions I make, being able to make a decision is actually a great feeling of confidence I didn’t have before”, explained Olson.

Keegan attributes his becoming a black belt as a journey of discovery, feeling that being a Soldier helps with being a black belt and a teacher of the art.

“Hopefully these new found strengths will awaken in them [Soldiers], and they will apply them to all aspects of their lives,” said Keegan.



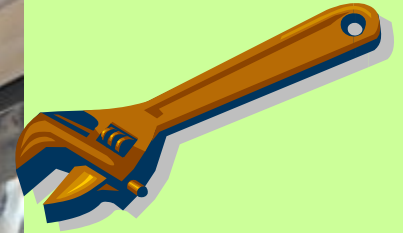
Forward
Support
Company



Flags over Baghdad



Engineers offer maintenance training to the 11th IA



BAGHDAD- Discussing the best way to fix a loose mirror, Spc. Brett Bonina of Bellingham, Mass., Forward Support Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, gives Pvt. Ali Kitab Sarhan, 11th Iraqi Army, a few suggestions during a maintenance class taught here on Victory Base Complex, Jan. 7. Six Soldiers from the 11th IA attended a three day Badger maintenance course covering basic repairs and tool familiarization. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota, 101st Eng. Bn. UPAR, 16th Eng. Bde., USD-C)



1434th Eng. Co.

Season's Greetings Family, Friends, and Fans of the 1434th,

We are now over half way through out deployment! Thanks to your support we are continuing to work hard and support the efforts of many units in and around Baghdad. Our soldiers are out and about building the future workplaces of both American and Iraqi soldiers.

As the United States prepares to withdraw the bulk of its forces from Iraq, we are there to assist. We are constructing operations centers which will be used for partnership operations long after the combat forces are gone. We are preparing our own equipment to be returned to the Army and sent on new missions. Most importantly, we have begun planning our return home!

This important milestone, when we begin to think about home, is joyous. But we are not home yet, and still have much work to do. So keep the letters, care packages, and most importantly the encouragement coming. I look forward to the remainder of the deployment, as the 1434th Engineer Company continues to take care of business and to take care of each other as they have for the last seven months.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Iarossi



"Thanks to your support we are continuing to work hard and support the efforts of many units in and around Baghdad."

Capt. Brian Iarossi

First Sergeant's Words

THE 1434TH HAS CONTINUALLY BEEN GIVEN THE TOUGHEST MISSIONS AND REMAINS THE BUSIEST UNIT IN THE 101ST ENGINEER BATTALION.

WITH THE PASSING OF THE NEW YEAR WE HIT ANOTHER CARDINAL POINT AS WE SPIRAL DOWN IN THE UNIT'S DEPLOYMENT. WITH SEVERAL MONTHS LEFT AND SEVERAL LARGE PROJECTS REMAINING YOUR SOLDIERS ARE FOCUSED ON THE MISSION AT HAND. ALTHOUGH STILL SLIGHTLY DISTANT I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE PREPARATION, FOR YOUR REUNIONS WITH YOUR LOVED ONE AND PLANS TO ATTEND THE UNITS HOME-COMING. I WILL ENSURE AS DATES AND TIMES BECOME MORE APPARENT THAT WE SEND THESE OUT.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE AS ALWAYS, FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF THE UNIT ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

"HAMMER AND NAIL"

1SG LAMPHERE



BAGHDAD- Engineer Soldiers of 1434th Engineer Company are constructing a new joint operations center and planning annex at Contingency Operating Station Carver to provide better communication and coordination capabilities between U.S. Forces and the Iraqi Army.

As the role of the U.S. forces in Iraq is diminished and the Iraqi Army takes the lead, the construction of a joint operations center is considered vital by Army leaders to the success of joint security missions.

1st Lt. Brian Civile, of Owosso, Mi., the construction officer-in-charge of the site, says that these new facilities will meet a number of needs.

"The two buildings, being built next to each other, will allow for smoother planning, facilitation and coordination of joint operations between the U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers," said Civile.

Staff Sgt. Todd Thomas, from Traverse City, Mi., has been amazed with the project's success.

"The command group here has been giving Soldiers a chance to shine and they have been highly motivated because of it," said Thomas. "We don't have to tell them anything; they just do it."

None of the current structures at COS Carver will meet the future needs of the U.S. and Iraqi forces. The construction is expected to fix that and will include a large, shared space to conduct joint operations. According to Civile, the U.S. forces are not the only ones who will benefit from the expansion project.

"As the transition of forces in Iraq continues, the Iraqis will begin to work more out of Carver," said Civile. "The base will become more of a focus point for joint U.S.-Iraqi missions. When the U.S. forces eventually leave the base, the Iraqis will be able to run all of their missions from the facilities that were constructed there."

The JOC and planning annex are scheduled to open and begin operations in early February.



Engineers build new joint operations center at Carver



1192nd Engineers



January has been a good month. We've moved more dirt, completed FOB Hammer's mission, and we're preparing turn-in of equipment. From all of the line platoons, to maintenance, to headquarters, all 1192nd Soldiers are performing at a high level and maintaining their professionalism. I've been encouraged by your motivation and determination to complete missions and self-improvement. Your energy and effort make US the team that we are. Continue LEADING THE WAY! VANGUARD!

Capt Joe Ayers

ENGINEERS BRING JOY TO IRAQI CHILDREN

BAGHDAD – To improve ties with the people of Iraq, Soldiers from 1192nd Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, delivered clothes and food Jan. 10 to families living in Area Four, an Iraqi Special Forces training base on Victory Base Complex.

Besides canned goods, books, hygiene items and magazines for the adults, the Soldiers also handed out stuffed animals, cards, balls, coloring books, pens, pencils, crayons, glue and other school supplies to the children.

The importance of the gesture wasn't lost on the young ones.

"The kids were smiling and excited when they saw the truck," said Sgt. 1st Class David Zika, from Norwalk, Ohio. "They knew that there was something there for them. They were appreciative."

Among the goods were about 45 packets of candy. The candy and school supplies were donated from Lakota High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, and members of 1192nd and proved to be a favorite draw by some of the Soldiers.

"I liked giving the candy to the kids. It shows them that we're here to help," said Sgt. 1st Class John Botts, of Cincinnati, Ohio, 1192nd Eng. Co. "This was one of the better days that I've had in theater."

This was the 1192nd's second time

visiting Iraqi children and their families. The Soldiers said they like doing this because it gives them an opportunity to interact with the families, and provides them with useful supplies. And instead of having

excess items from care packages sent during the holidays, the engineers figured the families could use a helping hand.

"There are a couple of little shops, but no grocery store for the families to go and get the things that they need," said Staff Sgt. John Scott from Warren, Ohio, 1192nd Eng. Co. The Soldiers said they plan to go back to Area Four as soon as they can accumulate more items to hand out; especially candy.

"It's fun to see the smiles on their faces when they see us," said Scott; another way that engineers continue to help the people of Iraq.

By: Spc. Heather Todd
1192nd Eng. Co., USD-C





So, we are on our second month here in Iraq. Not much has changed since the last newsletter. Work has consisted of many of the same things as when we first got here. We are still working on mud mitigation and ECP improvements. We are improving roads, container yards, ammo supply areas, and parking lots. We have added vertical and electrical work to our list of accomplishments. It is great to see guys volunteering to use skills from secondary MOSs or civilian jobs to improve conditions in Iraq for US and Iraqi Soldiers.

Our equipment has received a lot of attention. Maintenance is doing a great job repairing equipment and getting it back to the jobs. Operators are doing their part to show the equipment love, but many pieces still find their way back to "dead line row." One thing for sure, Maintenance will never be out of work here!

We have had some accidents. I will allow those that were injured share what details they chose with whom they chose. However, I will say that these injuries are work related, not war related. You guys are doing great work, I just ask that you take your time and work safely. Let's not have any more avoidable accidents. Continue to wear your protective equipment as you have been and be aware of your surroundings. If you need help to do something safely, then get that help even if it means it is going to take longer to complete the mission.

The Commander and I have received nothing but compliments on the work done by the Soldiers of the 317th.

Thanks for all your hard work. Keep it up 317!

1SG Lehr, "Wombat 7"



317th Engineers improve safety at test fire range

Sgt. Brian Moore

BAGHDAD— Dusk falls on the engineers as they work hard to finish filling Hesco barriers that will reinforce the test fire range at Camp Victory Jan. 6. Spc. Jeff Miller of Rockford, Ill., Spc. Peter Trost of Downers Grove, Ill., Ronald Carlson of Tinley Park, Ill., Sgt. 1st Class William Kenes of Mechanicsburg, Penn., and Spc. Andrew Strickler of Wakefield, Minn., work on leveling the dirt in the barriers while Spc. Chris Forrest, Downs, Ill.,



operates the HYEX. These Soldiers serve as heavy construction equipment operators with 317th Engineer Company. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Richard Olson, 101st Eng. Bn.

UPAR, 16th Eng. Bde., USD-C)

BAGHDAD- Sgt Jefferson Crocker, of Duluth Minn., lays gravel in the parking lot of Camp Liberty's PX in an effort to minimize mud during Iraq's rainy season. Crocker serves with the 317th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Thomas E Guzman, 317th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, USD-C)

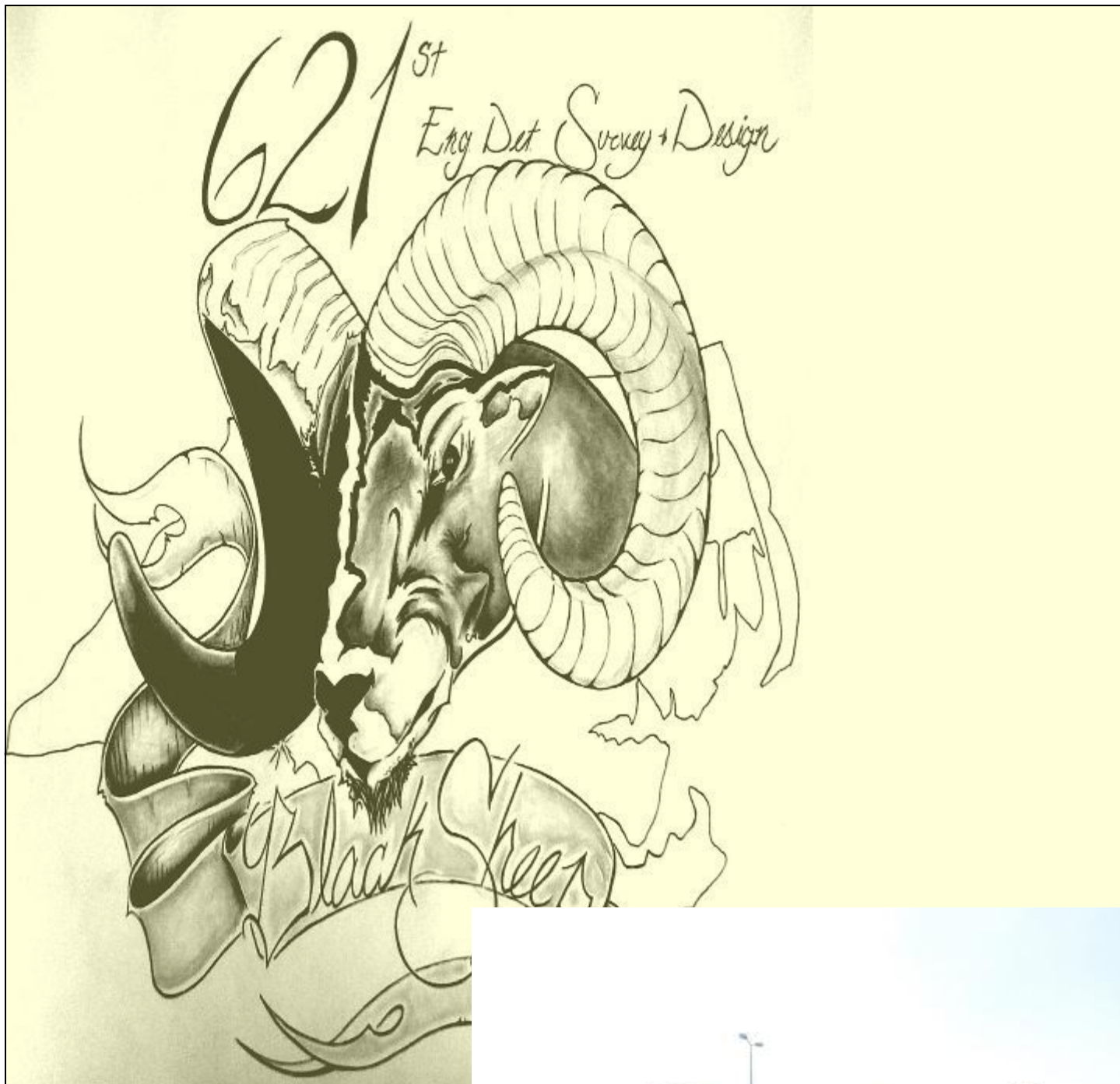


Improving the PX

BAGHDAD- Staff Sgt Daniel Johnson, of Duluth Minn, considers an approach while placing gravel in the parking lot of Camp Liberty's PX. The gravel will help alleviate the mud during Iraq's rainy season. Johnson serves as a construction supervisor with the 317th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Thomas E Guzman, 317th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, USD-C)







BAGHDAD – 101st Eng. Battalion Executive Officer Maj. Joshua Goodrich of Webster, Mass. looks on as Staff Sgt. Glenn Cornett of Hazard County N.C. and Spc. Jeremy Hughes of Greensboro, N. C. both with the 621st Survey and Design Team, explain the process of the computerized program that allows them to estimate the soil compaction on a new road being constructed on Contingency Operating Base Taji on Jan. 22.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles, 101st Eng. Bn., 16th Eng. Bde., USD-C)

Site visit leads to soil compaction lesson

By Sgt. Tracy Knowles

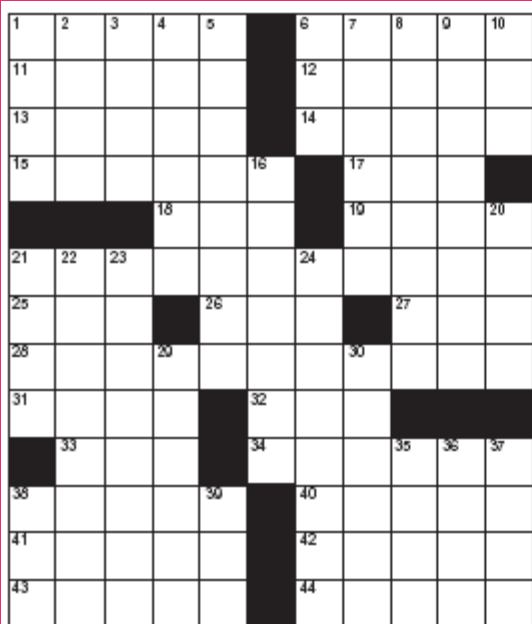


BAGHDAD - Spc. Micah Mahadeo, of Stanely, N.C., and Spc. Phillip Ford, of Gastonia, N. C. both with the 621st Survey and Design Team, give a quick soil compaction lesson on Jan. 22, to Spc. ** Oxley, of the 1192 Eng. Co., on Contingency Operating Base Taji, it is important that when constructing a new road the soils is compacted tight so there is no future road erosion.

February Birthdays

ALBRECHT	KEITH	2/12	317
BALAMUT	STEPHEN	2/3	317
BAKER	ERIC	2/16	317
BURGESS	BRANDON	2/11	317
DEWITT	DANIEL	2/21	317
FISCHER	SHAWNA	2/13	317
FREIDLUND	ANTHONY	2/15	317
HARRISON	WILLIAM	2/26	317
HARMON	BRETT	2/7	317
LUELOFF	MICHAEL	2/8	317
KRAEMER	TIMOTHY	2/15	317
MCCULLOUGH	ITANZIA	2/6	317
PERRINGTON	JOEL	2/19	317
RISTOW	RYAN	2/13	317
EARLE	EZEKIEL	2/14	621
ANDERSON	JONATHAN	2/23	1192
FORTSON	NICHOLAS	2/27	1192
GALLAGHER	BRIAN	2/17	1192
JOHNSON	ISAAC	2/2	1192
LENHART	JOSHUA	2/27	1192
MUMFREY	KENNETH	2/16	1192
REID	MICHAEL	2/1	1192
SWEETLAND	SHAYNE	2/13	1192
WADE	CLEVELAND	2/18	1192
WEST	MICHAEL	2/14	1192
GRIGG	CODY	2/25	1434
HILL	DEREK	2/22	1434
KIM	HUENG	2/10	1434
LAMPHERE	TIMOTHY	2/14	1434

LOOMIS	ROBERT	2/22	1434
MCCLISH	WILLIAM	2/23	1434
PUCKETT	JOSHUA	2/18	1434
SISSOM	JONATHON	2/25	1434
VANDEREYK	CHRIS	2/22	1434
VITUNSKAS	MARK	2/17	1434
GARAFOLO	ANTHONY	2/27	FSC
MCNAMARA	MICHAEL	2/10	FSC
MORALES	CARLOS	2/5	FSC
PALLOTTA	JAMES	2/22	FSC
CHASE	ANDREW	2/5	HSC
PESANTEZ	JESSICA	2/23	HSC
MAN	ALBERT	2/21	HSC
MERTEN	FLORANGEL	2/3	HSC
MUDGE	STEPHEN	2/28	HSC
NEWMAN	JOSHUA	2/12	HSC
STRIGLE	SUZANNE	2/8	HSC
WALTERS	WILLIAM	2/6	HSC



ACROSS

- 1 Olympic gymnast Kerri
- 6 Sonia of "Kiss of the Spider Woman"
- 11 University of Maine town
- 12 Kick back
- 13 Like some lips
- 14 Floor
- 15 Tangle up
- 17 Dada artist Jean
- 18 Long ____
- 19 Apple product
- 21 City where "Three's Company" was set
- 25 Pub order
- 26 Title for Wesley Clark: Abbr.
- 27 Pronoun for a ship
- 28 Woman called "Angel of the Battlefield"
- 31 Toy with a tail
- 32 Arena cheer
- 33 Original
- 34 Quaint oath
- 38 Hyperactive
- 40 Shoot for
- 41 Oldsmobile model
- 42 Bag
- 43 Bygone
- 44 Ladies' room?

DOWN

- 1 Top-Sider's bottom side
- 2 1982 Jeff Bridges film
- 3 ____ service
- 4 Oust
- 5 Flips out
- 6 Car protector
- 7 Sit tight
- 8 Chicken Little, for one
- 9 Chilled soup
- 10 Fire
- 16 Hood denizen
- 20 San Francisco columnist Herb
- 21 Fire
- 22 Generally
- 23 Straightened up
- 24 Tethered
- 29 Do some electrical work
- 30 Capital of Saskatchewan
- 35 Shortstop Vizquel
- 36 Truth alternative
- 37 Flute part
- 38 "Little Red Book" author
- 39 Pen resident

Little David comes home from first grade and tells his father that they learned about the history of Valentine's Day. "Since Valentine's Day is for a Christian saint and we're Jewish," he asks, "will God get mad at me for giving someone a valentine?"

David's father thinks a bit, then says "No, I don't think God would get mad. Who do you want to give a valentine to?"

"Osama Bin Laden," David says.

"Why Osama Bin Laden," his father asks in shock.

"Well," David says, "I thought that if a little American Jewish boy could have enough love to give Osama a valentine, he might start to think that maybe we're not all bad, and maybe start loving people a little bit. And if other kids saw what I did and sent valentines to Osama, he'd love everyone a lot. And then he'd start going all over the place to tell everyone how much he loved them and how he didn't hate anyone anymore."

His father's heart swells and he looks at his boy with newfound pride.

"David, that's the most wonderful thing I've ever heard."

"I know," David says, "and once that gets him out in the open, the Army guys can shoot him."

PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Happy Valentine's day to the loved ones of the 101st Engineer Battalion. We continue to do all we can to make sure the hard work of the Soldiers of the 101 is properly document. Combined I think we have well over 50,000 images!

We continue to march on knowing that we'll be back home with you, our friends and families, before we know it!

Staff Sgt. April Mota

Happy Valentines day, to all our loved ones back home. We are on the down hill slope. Before you know it we will be home. The PAO office has been busy and we will continue to tell the Soldiers Stories. Until next Month, take care and remember we Love you all.. Sgt Tracy Knowles

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



1192nd gets the job done!!

Memories



