

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 11-12

Task Force Knight

223rd ENGINEER BATTALION



With Labor It Grows Vol. 1 Issue 1



IN THIS ISSUE

Task Force Knight

**.COMMANDER'S
CORNER**

.CSM GUIDANCE

**.LTC G HEALTH
DIRECTIVES**

**.CHAPLAIN'S
WORDS**

**.BATTALION
NEWS**

**.SPORTS
COVERAGE -
BOWL REVIEW**

**.SOLDIER OF
THE MONTH**

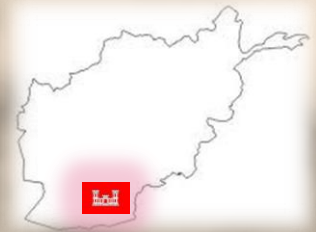
**.PROMOTION
REVIEW**

**.MOVIE NIGHT
SCHEDULE**

**.CROSSWORD
CHALLENGE**

**.WORDS TO LIVE
BY**

**.NEW YEARS
RESOLUTIONS**





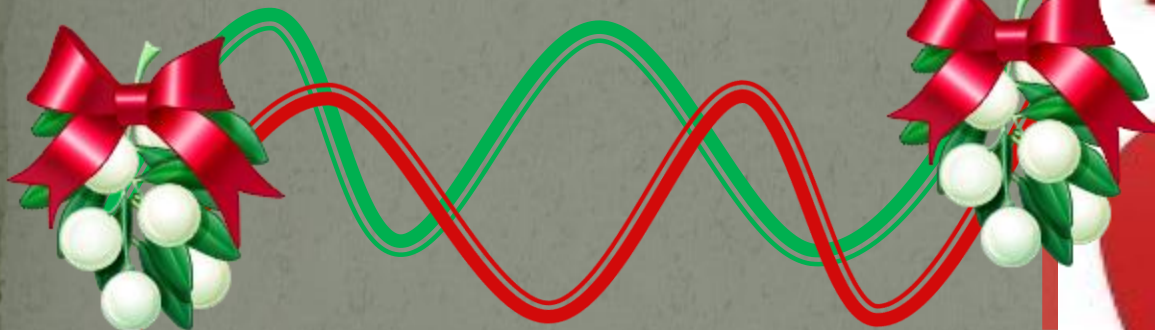
KNIGHT 6-COMMANDERS CORNER

Great Day Knight Warriors !

I hope each of you enjoyed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I'm not sure how you spent your time, but I was fortunate to visit the 288th Sappers. Chaplain Bird provided services around a crackling bright fire on Christmas Eve. It was a moment of perspective. On Christmas Day, MSG Turner and I woke up to a chilly early morning to view the start of the Southern Miss Golden Eagles prior to going on mission. Later that day, I consumed significant Christmas Dinner calories. That evening, I was honored to place the 168th Engineer Brigade patch on CPT Montgomery's sleeve. The ceremony continued until each 288th Knight Warrior was combat inducted. After that, I made a call back to sweet home and spoke to my

wife Shannon and two daughters Hannah and Sierra. I discovered they had just finished opening presents and were watching the Christmas Story. The bottom line of the Christmas Story, "Make sure you were your Eye Pro". As the "New Year/2012" is here I ask that each of you never forget your priorities. Each of you must take a calibration test and make sure everything is in tune. Establish your priorities and become smarter at what you do. Set goals and stay committed. I wish the best for each of you and continue to contribute. You are the best! Stay focused, lean forward and never become complacent. God Bless.

LTC Michael N. Cleveland



KNIGHT 7—CSM THOUGHTS

We came here to do a very dangerous mission and we will complete that mission with pride and honor. We represent the Mississippi National Guard and the U.S. Army, as the 223rd Engineer Battalion we hold a high standard of excellence and pride as combat engineers. It is my personal mission to bring home all Soldiers' safely. I would like to note, that each Soldier's safety is my number one priority. With that being said, it is mandatory that each Soldier wears the proper personal protective gear. I

would like to also thank all families for their dedication and support of the soldiers of the 223rd Engineer Battalion. Also, I would like to wish all family members a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

CSM Charles E. Donald



223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward

RELIEF IN PLACE/TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY CEREMONY

On December 11, 2011 transfer between the 8th Engineer Battalion from Fort Hood, TX and the 223rd Engineer Battalion from West Point, Ms is completed. The RIP/TOA ceremony is a long



standing tradition between units of the United States Armed Forces, who while deployed transfer authority of their line units and area of operation to the newly arrived units in theatre. The process of the RIP/TOA takes several weeks. This ensured that the change of authority between the outgoing and incoming unit is done smoothly. The 8th Engineer Battalion, the 223rd Engineer Battalion as well as VIP representatives of Army's chain

of command attended the ceremony. This includes the Senior Engineer Brigadier General Brian Watson, part of U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

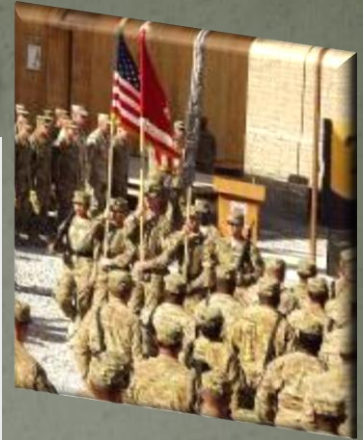


Lieutenant Colonel Morgan D. O'Rourke, 8th Engineer Battalion Commander and Lieutenant Colonel Michael N. Cleveland, 223rd Engineer Battalion Commander have worked closely together the past weeks to ensure that every Soldier has completed training for their respective duty assignment. Both LTC O'Rourke and LTC Cleveland are fully confident in the success of the RIP/TOA for the 223rd to continue the



mission of Route Clearance in Afghanistan.

LTC Cleveland made remarks, to Task Force Knight Warriors "We will continue the mission in their honor with an offensive mindset. Knight warriors, keep the faith, be just and be fair to all. Do what is right and do what is good and always be passionate. --- When our colors are cased next year and new colors are flown, we all want to say that we have fought the good fight and that the foundation is firmer and stronger for our successors. God bless and God speed. Go Task Force Knights!



"With the steely glare of the ever constant Sapper, and the professionalism and adaptation of the Engineer Corps".



223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward

CHRISTMAS WITH 288TH

While family and friends back home in the states were sound asleep; the Soldiers of the 288th Sapper Company out of Houston, Miss. were up doing route clearance missions.

The company started its morning going to a mission brief, which is done each morning before they leave base. They also said a prayer before going out. This particular morning the 233rd

Engineer Battalion's Chaplain, 1LT Jason Bird came out to say a special Christmas prayer for the Soldiers.

"It was nice having the Chaplain here. The night before he gave a good sermon

and we all hung out by the bonfire. It definitely made this Christmas being here special," said Specialist Patrick Griffith of Amory, Miss.

The convoy started on their mission, clearing mostly unimproved roads around the

Battle Space. When the convoy returned, it reported a successful uneventful, mission, meaning no IEDs were found or cleared.

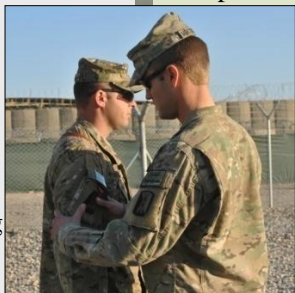
After a quick traditional Australian Christmas lunch (which consists of mainly seafood i.e. shrimp, mussels, salmon, and calamari), the Soldiers were outside in formation for their combat

patch ceremony. This is where the battalion commander replaces the old patch on the subordinate unit's uniforms with the current combat patch of the parent Unit, 168th Engineer Brigade out of Vicksburg Miss. LTC Michael Cleveland; Commander of Task Force Knight Battalion calls the company to attention and replaces the patch on CPT. Brenton Montgomery, the company commander.

"Having the combat patch ceremony on Christmas, made special. It wasn't just any other day, it was Christmas day. What made it better is that this is my first combat patch. Makes me proud," said Griffith.



SPC Joseph Chesnut holds up a party favor from the Christmas lunch.



530TH CHANGE OF COMMAND

On December 17, 2011 CPT Richard Revel relinquished command of the 530th Engineer Clearance Company and passed his command to CPT Christopher Blackburn.

The Change of Command ceremony is a formal event conducted between the outgoing and incoming commander. It is an official passing of responsibility and authority from the old commander to the new. This is generally conducted at all levels of command in the Army. During the ceremony the commanders perform the passing of the colors. The outgoing commander passes the unit's flag to the

new commander symbolizing the transfer of responsibilities. This

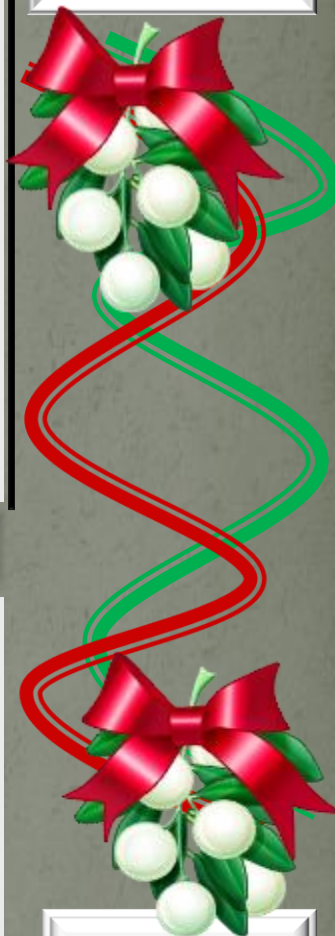
imperative event is where the outgoing commander gets to address the unit for the last time and the incoming

commander can officially speak to his company for the first time.

The ceremony was overseen by LTC Michael Cleveland, commander of Task Force Knight, 223rd Engineer Battalion. He made this statement about changing leadership,

"I know it's difficult giving up the pride of the unit, its colors that represent a legacy of excellence and the bloodhounds, that devote themselves to the mission with much at stake. On behalf of Task Force Knight we say thanks!"

Lieutenant Colonel Cleveland also said to Cpt. Blackburn, "Cpt. Blackburn, never ever take your responsibility lightly. You have a great unit that takes pride in its heritage and its mission. Bloodhound warriors, I ask that you give the same devotion and service to Cpt. Blackburn as you showed Cpt. Revel.

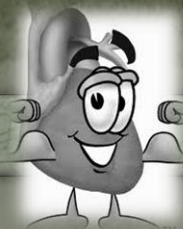


*Never
take your
responsibility
lightly.*





LTC GIAMALVA'S HEALTH TALK



From the medical perspective, the deployment is going well. Unfortunately this is also the time of year when the most illness occurs. We have not had many problems yet, and I think Soldiers are doing a good job of hand washing, staying clean, containing coughs, etc. Keep up the good work! We tend to be concentrated in small spaces, both vehicles and quarters, so keeping your germs to yourself is especially important. Pushing fluids also helps to prevent infections, so drink water! As you may know, sodas and other concentrated drinks tend to dry you out more, so limit those. If you are using protein supplements you must drink even more water to flush out your

kidneys! You can only utilize the amount of protein your cells can use at a given time. Do not take protein supplements the way they direct on the package, they are trying to sell more! If you eat a healthy diet it does no good to take more than about 1/2 the dose they are trying to sell you. The rest goes out through your kidneys, and the concentration can cause damage. We may all want to get ripped, but not at the risk of going home on a dialysis machine. On the same note, we are seeing way too many sports injuries. If you don't play football at home, you need to go slow and be careful playing football, or any other sport here. This is especially true if you are over 30. Not calling anybody old, but if the shoe fits...

Most important of all, we need to watch out for each other. YOU are your buddy's safety net. If anyone seems down or is spending too much time isolated or alone, talk to them. The guy who is most likely to make a bad mistake might be the guy nobody wants to talk to. Think about it and do the right thing. Also, if you know somebody is having a problem, talk to them or get someone to talk to them. Again, take care of each other. If you feel yourself getting down or feeling hopeless or helpless you should ask for help. There is no shame in it. Talk to the chaplain, the PA, a senior NCO, or the medics wherever you are. We need to do all we can to see everybody go home safe.





THIS MONTH'S PROMOTIONS



On December 21, 2011, 1LT Joshua Williams was promoted to the rank of Captain. CPT Williams stated that "Life had taken him out of the state of Mississippi, but it would never take Mississippi out of him. Congratulations go out to CPT Williams and a Hearty Thank You for his service to the National Guard, The State of Mississippi and the U.S. Army.



Andrew Zaborowski was promoted from 1LT to CPT. He is the Executive Officer for the 713th EN CO (SAPPER) RCP.



KNIGHT WARRIOR OF THE MONTH



SPC Micah Welch is our Soldier of the Month. SPC Welch says the recognition is an honor, especially among his peers where he feels everyone works just as hard as he does and puts forth their best effort. Being the Chaplain's assistant also comes with the responsibility

of helping to improve the morale of the Soldiers. Which Welch does, by periodically hosting movie nights.

Welch's immediate supervisor, First Lieutenant Jason Bird had this to say about him, "He enjoys his work and consistently seeks out more responsibilities. His enthusiasm is contagious."

As the Chaplain's assistant he has the opportunity to go out to different FOBs throughout Afghanistan and boost Soldier's morale as well as spreading the Gospel. On the civilian side,

Welch likes to go for runs, swim and play with his pets. He also enjoys helping out at his local church and going new places with his friends. He has a huge interest in watching moves, watching Anime and reading adventurous novels.

"I like to live by the motto: 'Don't follow the standards, set the standard.' It's just something that reminds me to go above and beyond what people expect of me and what I am capable of. It's very similar to the old Army motto: 'Be all you can be,' which is what I strive to do."





CHAPLAIN'S WORDS

As we turn the page on a new year, many of us will make New Year's Resolutions for 2012. The resolutions will vary – some will resolve to lose weight, others to get out of debt, or start on a degree, or to quit smoking, or read more, etc. . . . We begin with high expectations and great commitment, but often find that both are gone within a matter of weeks. Could it be that the reason our resolutions don't last

until March is that we are operating with a faulty motivation? In Colossians 3:23, the Bible says "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." The phrase *whatever you do* covers every aspect of our lives. Whether it is our work, our hobbies, or even our resolutions, our motivation to be our best should not be simply to better ourselves or to please others. Our motivation for

everything in our lives should please God.

God gave His best when He sent His Son for us. He certainly deserves the best that we can give Him. In light of that, consider making a resolution for 2012 that you will strive to give your best in everything as an act of worship to God. . . . who knows, it may help you keep those other resolutions throughout the year!



SPORTS COVERAGE—BOWL REVIEW

*-ARMED FORCES NETWORK

Beef O' Brady's Bowl

Florida Intl. 10
Marshall 20

New Mexico Bowl

Temple 37
Wyoming 15

Idaho Potato Bowl

Ohio 24
Utah St. 23

New Orleans Bowl

San Diego St. 30
LA Lafayette 32

Poinsettia Bowl

TCU(16) 31
Louisiana Tech 24

MAACO Bowl

Arizona St. 24
Boise St. (8) 56

Hawaii Bowl

Nevada 17
So. Miss(22) 24

Independence Bowl

North Carolina 24
Missouri 41

Little Caesars Bowl

W. Michigan 32
Purdue 37

Belk Bowl

Louisville 24
N.C. State 31

Military Bowl

Toledo 42
Air Force 41

Holiday Bowl

California 0
Texas 21

Champs Sports Bowl

Florida St(25) 18
Notre Dame 14

Alamo Bowl

Washington 56
Baylor(15) 67

Armed Forces Bowl

BYU 24
Tulsa 21

Pinstripe Bowl

Iowa St. 13
Rutgers 27

Music City Bowl

Mississippi St. 23
Wake Forest 17

Insight Bowl

Iowa 14
Oklahoma(19) 31

Meineke Car Care Bowl

Texas A & M 33
Northwestern 22

Sun Bowl

Georgia Tech 27
Utah 30

Fight Hunger Bowl

Illinois 20
UCLA 14

Liberty Bowl

Cincinnati 31
Vanderbilt 24

Chick-fil-A Bowl

Virginia 24
Auburn 43

Jan 2

Ticket City Bowl
Houston(20) 30
Penn St.(24) 14

Gator Bowl

Ohio St 17
Florida 24

Capital One Bowl

Nebraska(21) 13
South Carolina(10) 30

Outback Bowl

Michigan St.(12) 33
Georgia(18) 30

Rose Bowl

Wisconsin(9) 38
Oregon(6) 45

Fiesta Bowl

Stanford(4) 38
Oklahoma St.(3) 41

Jan 3

Sugar Bowl
Michigan(13) 23
Virginia Tech(17) 20

Jan 4

Orange Bowl
West Virginia (23) 70
Clemson(14) 33

Jan 6

***Cotton Bowl 1/7 0530**
Kansas St.(11)
Arkansas(7)

Jan 7

***Compass Bowl**
SMU 1/7 2230
Pittsburg **Replay 1/8 1230**

Jan 8

***GoDaddy.Com Bowl**
Arkansas St. 1/9 0630
No. Illinois **Replay 1630**

Jan 9

***BCS Championship**
1/10 0600
Replay 1630 & 2230
Alabama(2)
LSU(1)



ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

223RD Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward



223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward





Merry Christmas

**223RD ENGINEER BATTALION
AFGHANISTAN**

*Remember to write your
loved ones back home—
LTC Michael N. Cleveland
COMMANDING
TASK FORCE KNIGHT*



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Greetings to all Warriors of Task Force Knight,



I wish you the best this Christmas and the "New Year" to come. I want to thank you for your courageous actions and your devotion to duty. You make me proud and you make your country proud. Most will never know exactly how much you have sacrificed. I ask that each of you take a tactical pause and wish your fellow Knight Warrior's Merry Christmas. Wishing God's blessing upon you.



Happy Birthday



12-2
STEPHEN JACO
ETHAN WICKER
12-5
JEREMY FREEMAN
CHRISTOPHER
PEOPLES
12-6
THOMAS KING
CHARLES
SIZEMORE
12-7
JESSICA JACKSON
ASHLEY WADDELL
12-8
KEVIN CAMP
LARRY WILLIAMS
ANDREW
ZABOROWSKI
12-9
JOSEPH ASHFORD
HENRY RANDALL

12-10
JAMES MOORE
12-11
WILLIAM MCBRIDE
PAUL LACHANCE
CHRISTOPHER
VESTAL
12-12
WILLIAM CRIDDLE
LACONIA SPEARS
KEENAN EVANS
DENNISS POPE
12-14
MATTHEW PAYNE
12-15
WILLIAM
HONEYCUTT
VINCENT HUGHES
12-16
BILLY MOORE
TYLER BOWERS

12-17
BRIDGETTE
DAVIDSON
JEREMIAH BEMIS
12-18
JORDAN ROBERTS
ZAVKARY ZIMNY
12-20
ARNOLD COLEMAN
12-21
LAKASHA SMITH
MARCUS TALLY
JEREMY VOORHEES
12-22
THOMAS RIDDLE
CHARLIE VASQUEZ
12-23
RANDY CARTER
12-24
JONATHAN BYRD

12-25
ROBERT GREGORY
PERRISH SHAFFER
12-26
WILLIAM HEAD
DERECK WHITFIELD
ROBERT
WITZIGMAN
12-27
LOURIVAL LEDO
JOSHUA HUGHES
12-28
ASIA JEFFERSON
12-29
STEVEN WYRICK
12-31
RICHARD CULVER
BARRY WARD

223rd Task Force Knight – Leaning Forward



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\$oldier Finance

FOR ANY FINANCE ISSUES PLEASE
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S1 OFFICE .

PLEASE HAVE A COPY OF YOUR LES
AVAILABLE WHEN YOU CALL OR EMAIL.
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The 223rd Engineer Battalion was mobilized on October 1, 2011 to help the continual efforts of the U.S. Army during Operation Enduring Freedom.

2012



**What new
years
resolution
will you
make for
the new
year?**

Submit your replies to
the editor and check
back next month for the
best, funniest and most
common replies.

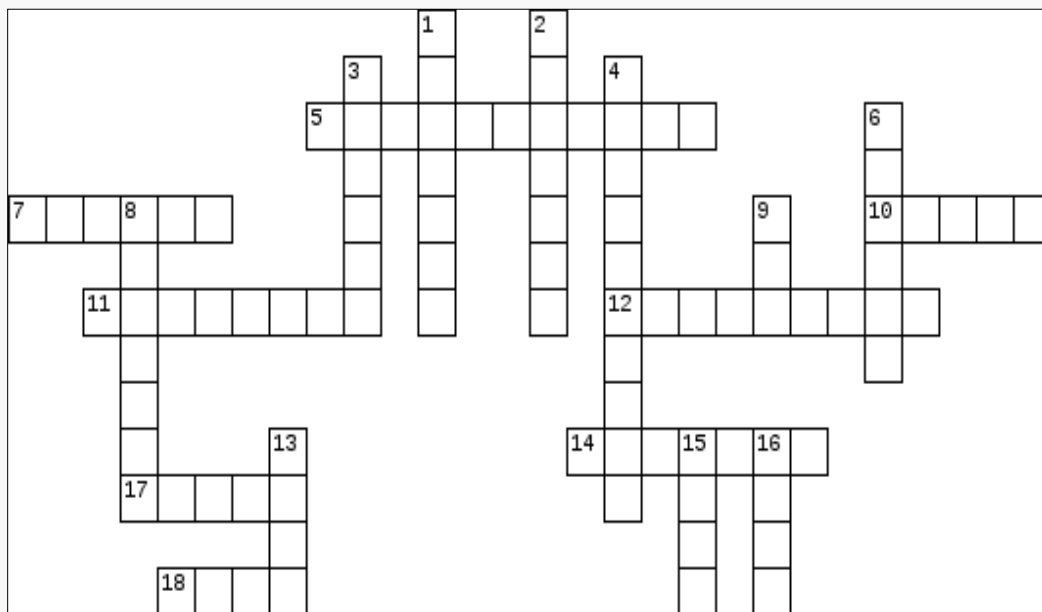
**See you
then, stay
safe!**

2012

2012

2012

Crossword Puzzle



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Across Clues

5. "The Manhattan Project"
7. _____ Attack "Chopper"
10. Navy's specialty units
11. Air
12. 1914-1918
14. North and south _____
17. North and South _____
18. Widely used "Chopper" in Vietnam

Down Clues

1. Sacrifice every day
2. Multi-purpose
3. The _____ is the most widely used piece of equipment in the military
4. Hitler's war
6. Operation "_____ storm"
8. Troop transport "Chopper"
9. Or "roadside bomb"...
13. Sea
15. Armored _____
16. Land

Essays

Jan movie Night Schedule

- 1-6 Anger Management
Yes Man
- 1-13 Rise of the Planet of the Apes
Planet of the apes
- 1-20 The Expendables
Rambo
- 1-27 Courageous
Facing the Giants

