

19th Engineer Battalion Newsletter



The Seahorse Battalion recently welcomed at the Change of Responsibility Ceremony our new Command Sergeant Major, Mari-Ciriaco, Liirenelli, (CSM Mari). CSM Mari wishes to share the following message with Seahorse Families.



I am excited to be the 19th Engineer Battalion Command Sergeant Major. Throughout my 21 year military career, my passion and commitment will continue to be to coach, mentor and support Soldiers and their families. I believe it is my responsibility to do everything I can to provide the right leadership, resources, purpose, motivation, and a positive environment for Soldiers, so they can be competent, proficient, and reach their full potential. It is an honor and great pleasure to be a part of the Seahorse family. I look forward to all of us working together as one cohesive team.

Then on July 13th, we had our Battalion Change of Command Ceremony held at Brooks Field. We gave our best wishes and thanks to LTC James Handura for his leadership and welcomed LTC Estee Pinchasin. LTC Handura has the following final farewell message.



It has been a privilege to be your Battalion Commander these past two years and be apart of the Seahorse family. Over the course of my time here in the 19th Engineer Battalion, the train never slowed down. I appreciate the hard work, dedication and excellence that the Soldiers have accomplished. I am incredibly grateful to the sacrifices and support that families have provided our Soldiers while they have been training and away from home. I can, without hesitation, say that the 19th Engineer Battalion has come along way and is ready for any mission. I have the utmost trust and confidence that LTC Estee Pinshasin will continue to lead the 19th Engineer Battalion and I look forward to seeing the great accolades that the 19th Engineer Battalion achieves in its next chapter.

Bridle and Reins.....Stand Tall!



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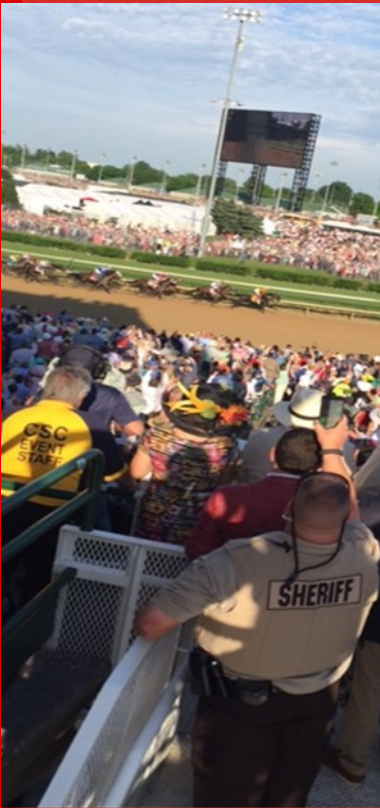


Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company along with the 72nd Survey and Design Detachment have had a very eventful and productive 3rd quarter. To kick off the summer, volunteers from the company worked Volunteer Services during the Kentucky Derby Oaks horse races. These volunteers provided Churchill Downs with a security and customer service detail, ensuring that all attendees had a safe and enjoyable time at this world-renown event. These volunteers raised nearly \$1,115 which was donated to the HHC FRG fund which provides for Soldiers and their Families during special events.

Staff sections within HHC executed a battalion Command Post Exercise (CPX) 16-20 May at the Mission Command Training Center (MTCT) on Fort Knox. During this event staff sections conducted Tactical Operation Center (TOC) battle drills and operations in a remote location. This training prepared and evaluated the staff for a future deployment, PTDO mission which HHC has assumed as of 01 October last year. HHC has also been busy conducting road marches, weapons ranges, drivers training, and range reconnaissance in preparation for the August FTX.

72nd Survey and Design Detachment has been working hard supporting construction efforts across the country, including Fort Knox and Fort Campbell, where they have been utilizing their survey and design expertise to assist in construction projects. Most recently, 72nd completed surveying operations for a concrete pad for Godman Army Airfield and assisted cadet command with bivouac area set up.



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15th Engineer Company "Team Gravediggers"

Headquarters and Headquarters Company along with the 72nd Survey and Design The 15th Engineer Company continued to be busy and productive during the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2016. The main event during the third quarter was an FTX in April that included a live grenade range. The Company conducted a complete project for the Fort Knox Department of Public Works while another platoon simultaneously executed an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE).

Team Gravediggers conducted their Field Training Exercise (FTX) from 11-14 April. Tactical convoys of heavy equipment rolled out from the motor pool to the Training Area 13 and Assembly Area Baker. The NCOs took turns teaching the junior Soldiers about the bulldozers, scrapers, and graders while the maintenance team practiced their recovery operations for equipment that was fixed in the mud. The highlight of the FTX was an all-day grenade range where Soldiers were tested on their ability to properly employ hand grenades culminating with each Soldier throwing one live grenade. The Soldiers were also tested on a rigorous assault course that pushed them to their physical limits and created stressful environments to challenge them. After conducting the successful FTX, team Gravediggers returned all of their equipment and convoyed back to the motor pool to begin a week of recovery and maintenance.

From 17-19 May, team Gravediggers conducted a combined EDRE exercise with the Kentucky Air National Guard. The event was a staggering success, and the company loaded up 12 Soldiers, 1 HMMWV, and a 463L Pallet onto the Kentucky Air National Guard's C-130 aircraft in both day and night operations.

3rd Platoon broke ground on the Railhead Demolition Project on 05May2016 in support of Fort Knox Department of Public Works. The platoon utilized two 230D hydraulic excavators to tear up location to designated stockpile area. the concrete pad into strips, leaving designated lanes open for access to 55 X 30ft road barriers and concrete stockpiles. They operated one M917 20-Ton Dump Truck and two M1157 10-Ton Dump Trucks to transport concrete from tear up location to designated stockpile area.





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76th Engineer Company (Vertical)

The Hammer team has been at a full on sprint this quarter and I am excited to have the privilege to be at the wheel! Since taking command in May, I have been constantly impressed by the dedication and hard work of our Engineers. The tireless effort to complete our objectives before the 4th of July is something to be commended! I am extremely proud of our Soldiers and their Families for all the hard work they've put in this quarter and I'm even more excited for the year ahead!

Team Hammer has collectively gone above and beyond in showing organizational pride, motivation and support. Over 30 Soldiers volunteered during Derby Weekend, completed the tactical 10k ruck march in under one hour forty minutes as well as the four mile formation run in under thirty-five minutes, and met mission on re-enlistment.

1st Platoon has been working hard in support of the 11th Aviation Battalion, constructing both a helicopter display pad as well as overseeing Team Hammer's electricians in installing spotlights at the site. This electrical work was critical in gaining our electricians valuable experience in a wide spectrum of tasks they must be able to accomplish for the Company. Additionally, they built 3000lb concrete sling load training blocks to assist 11th Aviation in meeting their training objectives.

2nd Platoon spent the quarter doing a fantastic job on the 19th Engineer Battalion memorial and flag pole, honoring 19th heroes who sacrificed their lives in past conflicts. They spent many hours on the job site to make sure the memorial reflected the care and appreciation we have for our veterans. To top off the quarter, the platoon completely demolished and rebuilt a two-story structural range façade at Burcham Range for Fort Knox Range Operations. The platoon not only demolished the structure in two days, but maintained a rapid-fire pace. This pace was critical in keeping the project ahead of schedule and ensuring the highest level of quality possible.

3rd Platoon provided support for two large DPW projects this quarter: the deconstruction, relocation, and reconstruction of the Thorne Park Playground, as well as the reconstruction of the 19th Engineer Battalion Pavilion. Both of these projects are especially important to the Battalion as they provide recreational resources for Soldiers and their families here on cantonment. 3rd Platoon Soldiers successfully identified issues and improved the designs for the pavilion in order to ensure construction of a quality product that will serve the Battalion long into the future.

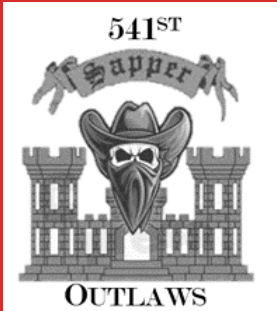
4th Quarter begins with Team Hammer supporting Fort Knox Garrison and Cadet Summer Training during our red cycle and serving as an integral asset in the ability of the Battalion to fulfil its duties and obligations. Come September, the Company goes back to basics with an NCO FTX, M4 and Crew Served Weapons range, Convoy Live Fire FTX, in addition to a week of building obstacles and defensive positions during our tactical FTX. Construction projects will not be forgotten however, as we are lining up a helicopter landing pad project at Ft. Campbell as well as projects for the U.S. Navy here on post!

I am extremely proud of our Soldiers and their Families for all the hard work they've put in this quarter and I'm even more excited for the year ahead!

HAMMER TIME!
CPT Trevor Gerard
Hammer 6



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541st Engineer Company (SAPPERS)

We have been put in the fortunate position of being allowed to focus almost uninterruptedly on our mission: to prepare to assume the role of a globally responsive engineer force. This mission has given us the privilege of directing all of our efforts on training the individual, building our team, and certifying our collective units to prepare for the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). JRTC is a combined arms training center in Fort Polk, LA where we get put to the test of simulating a fight against an enemy force that is ruthlessly cunning and will make sure we hone the engineer and infantry skills of our Soldiers as well as the patience and creative thinking of our leaders. They will accomplish this by throwing everything but the kitchen sink at us to stress us into a cohesive and sharpened combat engineer unit from the squad to the company level.

In order to prepare for the kitchen sink that will in all likelihood actually get thrown at us too, we have asked our Outlaws to commit a significant amount of their time to train. Back in April we pit each of our squads against each other (and the weather which brought over three inches of rain) to determine who could claim the title as the best sapper squad. Each squad rucked over 15 miles, blew some doors off of hinges, tried to figure out how our mine clearing trailer worked, emplaced 11-rows of obnoxious uniform-tearing wire, measured a bridge while avoiding flood waters, and tried to effectively shoot targets while moving water cans and sleds just because.

After the dust settled from that, we threw the squads back in the field in May and made them work together to blow an opening into a field crossed with wire. Our Outlaws had to crawl through mud and untangle themselves from a grapnel hook and throw it repeatedly at a fence, and then create a demolitions system that would push mines and wire up into the trees so they could drive through the field.

So then June came around and we took a week away from them again to ensure they still knew how to shoot every weapon system we own. Then we practically dropped them into the field again, but this time for 10 days. This was the coup de grâce for our training, as now we were certifying our platoons. Each platoon had the mission to clear a minefield with a rocket strung with 1,500 pounds of (fake) explosives, rapidly drive to an objective while shooting at vehicle targets with live rounds, and then dismount and try and seize an enemy objective that was once again defended by popup targets. We gave them another mission where they would stumble upon an IED, call for help from helicopters, and then stop an enemy force.

So, as you can see, we've monopolized their time for the past three months, but it was all for the greater good. Throughout the whole process we have received new Soldiers and leaders that we tried to plug into the holes in each team so we can be ready at JRTC. So thank you for all of your hard work and sacrifice and let's make the best of JRTC while we are there. Maybe, just maybe, we'll be able to catch our breaths afterwards. And yeah, red cycle is a real thing that we'll have to do again as well...

Outlaws! Sappers Forward!!!

Outlaw 6

CPT Scott Sylvester

