

19th Engineer Battalion Kandahar, Afghanistan

> Volume I, Issue IX January 31, 2009



"Bridle and Reins—Stand Tall!"





The Commander's Column

(Pre-Deployment Site Survey) from the 864th Engineer Battalion out of Fort Lewis, Washington. This is the unit that has been identified to replace us and is just another indicator that we are near ing the end of our tour and completion of our mission. We have about 3 months to go and I want Battalion to sprint to the end and I am confident that the leaders and Soldiers will do just that. Lastly I want to again recognize the efforts of our Rear-Detachment and FRGs as they have done a marvelous job in taking care of families along with training and deploying Soldiers.



LTC Heath C. Roscoe 19th EN BN Commander

BRIDLE AND REINS!!! SEAHORSE SIX

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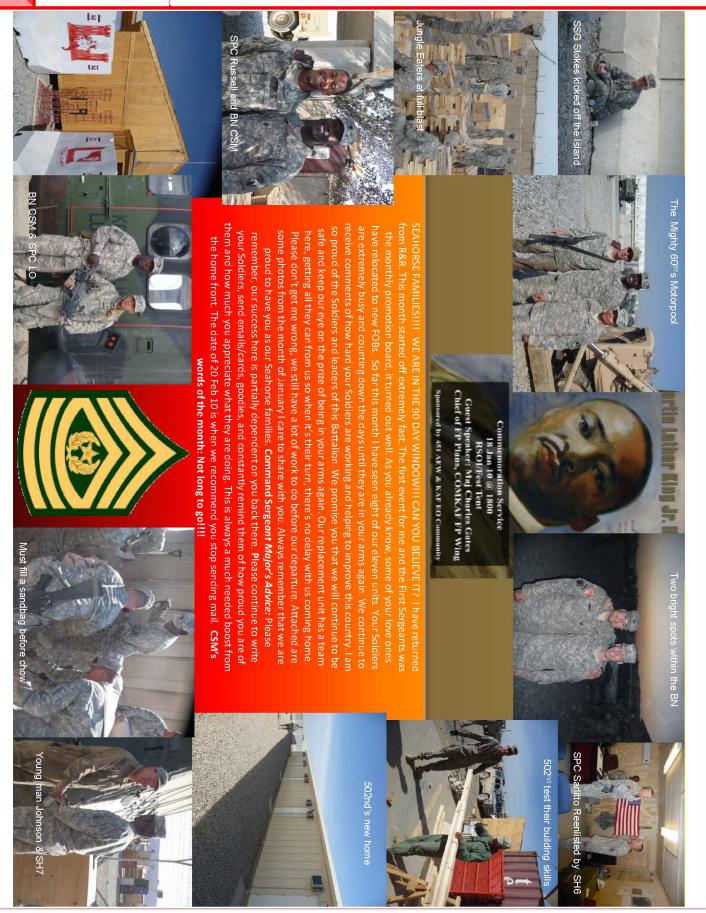
From Left to Right: LTC Roscoe, SPC Rosario, SPC Goodnite, SPC Lyon, CSM Dixon, SPC Dionne



Family and Friends - I hope everyone has had an excellent start to the New Year. The Battalion has been very busy this month getting into place so it can support the President's 30K surge of troops to Afghanistan. I am proud to announce that this has happened due to the great planning and coordination of the Battalion Staff and near perfect execution of that plan by the subordinate units. We now occupy 12 Forward Operating Bases or Combat Out-Posts across Southern Afghanistan. I believe this new mission will be a positive for the Battalion as it gets after complacency that seems to set in with every unit past the half Please keep up that great effort way mark. This fresh mission has and we will see you all soon! caused us to get out of our comfort zone and move to austere locations and conditions to assist the U.S. Army Infantry and Marines by building life support and force protection for the new or expanding bases. As I travel around to the visit with the units, I am still amazed at the high morale of the troops and their desire to work and help fellow Soldiers. You would be extremely proud of your deployed service member working in the rain and snow to get the mission done. The 502E are nearing closer to their halfway mark and have a lot on their plate with supporting the entire Afghanistan theater of operations with freedom of movement - i.e. putting in bridge. In December they finished a significant 160 meter bridge in Regional Command - East that is still being talked about by the senior leadership. They will be consolidating the company at Leatherneck shortly which will aid the leadership in command and control along with maintenance and support. Towards the end of this month, we will welcome the PDSS







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Commander's Corner

The month of January has been extremely busy for the 502nd. All of our equipment is finally in country, has been up-armored, and is moving to its final destination. Though it's been almost five months since we deployed, the company is still working diligently to get the Afghanistan theater of operations set up so that bridge can be properly and efficiently deployed.

One of the more exciting events that are currently unfolding is the movement of our second platoon. Due to the changing shape of the battlefield, the entire company will coming together at Leatherneck in the near future. This will be a huge task for this platoon to get everything moved while continuing to run their operation, but well worth the effort. Our company area at Leatherneck will soon be moved from our temporary operating environment to a new location on the FOB, with hardstand buildings and plenty of space to run our operations. Theater is taking our mission very seriously and are quickly providing us everything we need to be successful.

One of the things that Afghanistan needs is bridge parks. Bridge parks are the staging points for all of the theater fixed bridging assets. There are currently several locations where bridges are stored, but they're not manned as they should be. The company is preparing to remedy this problem and consolidate the assets into a couple different locations, using some of our subject matter experts to spearhead the efforts. Once these areas are in place, it will greatly streamline the overall capability for our company to react to a battlespace owners' need for fixed bridging capability.

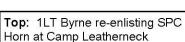
With the Saracha and Andar projects successfully completed, the Deuce has over 200 meters of fixed bridge emplaced, and is currently planning the emplacement of over 100 meters more by the end of January. The company is also exercising our capabilities in preparation for upcoming missions, literally encompassing all of our areas of expertise and then some. With four high profile missions currently on the burner, reestablishing ourselves operationally, and positioning ourselves and our assets in strategic centers, we've certainly got our work cut out for us.

As we near the halfway mark of our deployment, your troopers continue to perform exceptionally. I have yet to brief your Soldiers on a mission that they were not excited to tackle. They meet each new day with unwavering professionalism, expertise and composure. Please continue to show them your support and trust that their hard work continues to positively affect the war effort.

Bridge 6 — CPT Lucas







Middle: PFC Ruhl conducting BII

Bottom: 1SG Ratliff talking with

the Soldiers



Commander's Corner

Company headquarters for the 15th Engineer Company has successfully moved to FOB Price from FOB Wolverine and the 15th Engineer Company is playing a significant role in preparation for the surge of troops to Afghanistan. The company is spread out and making an impact everywhere it goes. At FOB Price, the company with 1/76th is building a Hesco expansion area of nearly two miles with bunkers, a new Ammo Supply Point, and several tent floors to house additional Soldiers coming into the country. 3rd Platoon and 3/60 Platoon are expanding FOB Delaram with a new three mile berm, guard towers, an Entry Control Point, and providing security for all operations. There is also a small detachment at FOB Wolverine completing some unfinished business there. The Soldiers of 15th Engineer Company are working long hours and meeting tough deadlines to support the surge and the missions will keep coming. There is plenty of work to be done to prepare for the incoming Soldiers, and 15th Engineer company is keeping their momentum moving forward.

Blade 6 — CPT Fairel



Above: 15th EN CO improving the roadways at FOB Price.



Above: 15th EN CO grading areas at FOB Delaram II in preparation for troop surge. 60th EN CO providing security for the Soldiers working.

Below: 15th EN CO Soldiers at FOB Delaram II moving through the rainy season mud to get the mission done.

Right: 15th EN CO emplacing guard towers at FOB Delaram II.







Commander's Corner

Dear Jungle Eaters Family and Friends,

What an exceptionally busy month it has been for Team Jungle Eater. At the beginning of the month, we packed up all of our equipment, Bill of Materials, and personal items in order to move the company from FOB Frontenac to FOB Ramrod. I'm extremely proud of the Soldiers in Team Jungle Eater as they worked countless hours to finish their projects while simultaneously preparing for combat patrols to our new location. Numerous Soldiers assisted in loading vehicles and Connexes onto contracted hauling trucks and onto our own hauling assets in less than three weeks. Also, we had SPC Jessica Robinson re-enlist this month.

1/60 was the first platoon in Team Jungle Eater to push out on a ground combat patrol to our new location in order to set-up and begin construction on tent floors for our new FOB. Before 1/60 left FOB Frontenac they finished placing concrete for the 60'x90' maintenance concrete pad and executed a rigorous training plan for their convoys. Since they have been at FOB Ramrod, they have been doing a great job preparing to receive the remainder of the company and continuing to construct tent floors.

2/60 finished constructing the base defense operations center while they prepared for their ground combat patrols to our new location. Once they arrived at FOB Ramrod, they immediately began construction on tent floors for the FOB.

2/15 continued construction on FOB Frontenac's AHA/Landing Zone. Despite numerous equipment issues, this platoon completed this project in order to begin construction on paving the UAS strip at FOB Frontenac. At the same time, part of this platoon relocated to FOB Ramrod in order to begin constructing several new living space areas. The remainder of the platoon conducted several combat patrols in order to move their equipment from FOB Frontenac to FOB Ramrod.

The Jungle Eater Maintenance team stayed rather busy at the beginning of the month as they prepped their equipment and the company's equipment for our move to FOB Ramrod. On numerous occasions they recovered and fixed key pieces of 2/15's equipment in order to allow 2/15 to continue construction on the AHA/ Landing Zone. Also, PSD expertly navigated the routes this month as they escorted each combat patrol to and from our new company headquarters at FOB Ramrod.

As you can see, Team Jungle Eater has been rather busy this month. We are excited to begin construction at our location as this will improve force protection and quality of life for all Soldiers at FOB Ramrod. Be proud of these fine Soldiers accomplishments and their continued success as we execute our final construction efforts these next few months. Thank you for your support.

Regards, Jungle Eater 6 — CPT Stolzoff



Right: 2/15 continued construction on the AHA/ Landing Zone at FOB Frontenac.



Above: Soldiers prepared and loaded numerous pieces of equipment this month as they moved to FOB Ramrod.



Below: Soldiers from Team Jungle Eater prepare to move out on one of their many combat patrols.



Right: 60th Soldiers worked with the Air Force EOD team in order to learn how to use a mine detector.

Commander's Corner

Team Hammer Families,

The month of January has been a very busy one for us over here at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak. Even in the back end of our deployment we continue to work hard and continue multiple projects. During this month we have seen a couple hard rains and some colder weather but spirits remain high to complete our missions. Included with the rain we also saw some flooding of our living areas, but everyone reacted quickly with some trench digging, gravel spreading and tent floor construction. Headquarters and maintenance continue to support the platoons through all of their missions and work hard to maintain smooth operations around the FOB.

1/15th continues to operate their "heavy junk" and push a lot of dirt. Following the first heavy rain the platoon spent some time making necessary repairs to the FOB to ensure our force protection was not compromised. A lot of this involved removing standing water from locations on the FOB where it had pooled. The water got as deep as 3 or 4 feet in some places! The major project the platoon worked to complete throughout this month was the permanent solid waste disposal area. The platoon got split up at the end of the month to support more priority missions in the Battalion's area of operations. Conditions for that team are austere but morale is high as infrastructure is improved.

2/76th continues to make life easier for the forces at FOB Spin Boldak. They have worked hard to complete their projects on time and give the maneuver units facilities to conduct their operations. The platoon has received many compliments on their quality of work, and they continually strive to make the next facility better than the previous one. This quality is evident in the construction of the Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) that was recently completed. There is still a lot of work to be done, even with the completion of the BDOC.

It is hard to be away from families during the holidays but with all of the support and packaged goodies that we received, it made the separation a lot easier to endure. Thank you from all of us to the FRG and families of Team Hammer for all the support you gave and continue to give us. Make it happen!

Steel Hammer 5 - 1LT Daniel Wolgemuth



Above: The flooding around the living tents



Left: 2nd PLT putting together a floor system for a future Counter IED building.

Below: SGT Lauimeier and PFC Walker stretching HESCOs.



Below: SSG Fregiste toasting to the New Year.



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Commander's Corner

Happy new year to all the Warrior Families! With the closing of another decade we are all drawing closer to the closure of our mission here in Afghanistan. The Soldiers here have continued to do great things and you should be very proud of their accomplishments. Recently we have been having a very strong drive on the re-enlistments! Congratulations are due to PFC Crippen, SPC Barnes, SGT Lucas, SGT Krivitchenko, and SSG Thompson for re-enlisting. From the 3/76th SPC Kennedy and SPC Garcia have both re-enlisted as well. Great Soldiers and the Army is definitely better for having them stay aboard.

The weather in Afghanistan has gotten chilly but not below freezing too often. We have not stopped working because of the weather though. $3/76^{th}$ continues to build the new company command posts just in time for us to hand it over to our replacements. Be that as it may, they've done a great job and can really be proud of their work. 2LT Miller got promoted to 1LT just before going on leave and while on leave he is planning on getting married. Best wishes go out to him and his family. SFC Hunsaker has been doing an outstanding job leading the platoon. Congratulations are also in order for SFC Hunsaker and SFC Johnson because they recently made the E-8 list. Sadly it looks like the company building will be the last mission $3/76^{th}$ does with the company as they are planned to return to the 76^{th} to help them with some projects.

The 538th has split its force and has sent some Soldiers, led by SGT Turner, to assist the Navy at one of our more distant FOBs. It took some doing to move them and their equipment out there but SSG Smith and the Soldiers of the 538th stayed flexible and made the mission happen.

Our PSD platoon has stayed busy with all of the battalion moves and as I write this they are out with the battalion commander visiting the various project sites that we have expanded to. They have done some great things out there helping Afghan motorist injured in accidents and protecting millions of dollars in equipment and materials as it moved across our area.

The battalion staff has been busy with developing the logistics and planning that are necessary for all of our new projects. Our number of projects sites has grown across the battalion and each one poses different challenges for the staff. Everything from mail to lumber has to be planned for and shipped out. The missions themselves are growing as we do our part for the surge. On top of all these missions the challenge of returning home gets closer and closer. A lot of things have to happen to move a whole battalion. That's what the job of the staff is, planning and controlling the fight so that we meet the battalion commander's intent.

Thanks again for all the support that you provide from the home front. The Soldiers are doing well and are getting excited about wrapping things up. We still have a lot to do before we leave. Best wishes to all in this new year.

Warrior 6 — CPT Wittmeier



Above: SPC Kennedy and SPC Garcia re-enlisting at KAF.

Right Top: SPC Barnes and SGT Lucas re-enlisting in a Blackhawk while in flight above KAF.

Right Bottom: SPC Dionne in a MRAP getting ready for

mission.



Commander's Corner

Reinforcer Friends and Families:

The New Year is upon us and there has been a couple of changes in the Forward Support Company. I have taken Command of the Company. I would like to welcome the newest Officer to the Company, First Lieutenant Ray Zelenak. He is now the new Executive Officer. We will continue to strive to provide the best logistical support to the 19th Engineer Battalion and any other unit at Kandahar Air Field.

Your Soldiers are counting down the days until we are able to redeploy. They are eagerly awaiting the day they will be able to get on the freedom flight back to Kentucky. These Soldiers that I am serving with are the absolute best and are heroes. Continue to send your support and love as we continue to make Afghanistan a better place.

My email is Mitchell.a.bosch@us.army.mil if any family member needs to get in contact with me.

Reinforcer 6 — 1LT Bosch

HQ PLT

Embracing the year of 2010 is a challenge that everyone in FSC is looking forward to. A pancake breakfast put together by HSC started off the festivities. Soldiers enjoyed holiday movies with full stomachs and fellowship thrived. 1LT Bosch and SFC Doby worked hard and did their best participating in the KAF Weight Lifting Competition. SFC Doby placed second in the female category of the event. We also welcomed 1LT Zelenak to the FSC family as our new Executive Officer from 15th Engineer Company. Sent out for supply support, SSG Harris and SPC Hall worked hard representing FSC on convoys. SGT Tomassi and SPC Perjuci continued providing medical support to outlying bases. SPC Moseley and PFC Kannenberg assisted with the added influx of holiday mail, volunteering at the post office while maintaining their own individual NBC and Small Arms Repair duties. SPC Chiupka has been busy getting Halal meals for all the local drivers as well as keeping inventory of the TPE line. SPC Swaso enjoyed her holidays in the states while on leave. SSG Souza and PVT McDuffy continue to maintain night operations in the CP. We are all thankful for the wonderful care packages sent from home, a nice thought, a prayer, a blanket, or simply a stocking filled with candy can be priceless morale and spirit boosters, and contribute greatly to mission success. We have you to thank for all of it.

Maintenance

This month Maintenance has been busy with a big increase in of equipment needing services coming to KAF. As the Battalion is experiencing many different changes, the Maintenance team is ready to help out any way we can. The Wrecker team has been going out on missions and SGT Keedy and SPC Toliniu helped recover a civilian dump truck and saved a local national's life! The mechanics have been busy repairing many types of equipment including engines on dozers, forklifts, windows on 916's and MRAPs. The Maintenance Platoon has recently welcomed some new faces including SGT McTiernan and WO1 Baccous! We celebrated December and January birthdays with a Pizza Hut pizza party and cupcakes made in the states and enjoyed a grilled pancake breakfast on Christmas morning! We hope everyone back home had a great holiday season and is having a great new year!!



Above: SPC Mosley organizing all the care packages and mail received for the company.

Distro

The Distribution platoon has gone through many changes the month of December and early January. The 15th Engineer Company and 76th Engineer Company relocated west and Distro played a key part in helping move their equipment. They provided logistical trucks to help pick up and move equipment from one FOB to various others. In addition, they escorted over 50 local national trucks loading equipment for multiple Forward Operating Bases to include equipment for 502nd Engineer Company. They've loaded over 20 pieces of bridging equipment that was pushed out west. Distro played a big part in coordinating all logistical pieces of each convoy both Battalion vehicles and local national trucks. They provided their platoon interpreter and watched the local nationals overnight several times. FSC also attended the Christmas Party with HSC where they had a pancake breakfast. The platoon welcomed their new Platoon Leader, 2LT Andrew Hines, and are currently undergoing a new change of command. Distro has a new sleeping area for the local nationals to spend the night, more space in the Battalion Motor Pool for staging trucks and prepping for upcoming missions, and have updated all necessary equipment inventories. Distro is now working on redeployment by packing the early containers with equipment and Soldier's bags, and are currently working on preparing their home station equipment for shipment.

1LT Kim

1LT Bridget Hug



Commander's Corner

As we finish up our third quarter the Detachment is staying very busy. SGT Galbreth and his team moved to FOB Delaram to do the initial survey work. They surveyed almost 500 acres in the last month. They also spent many hours processing the data produced to a map that will be used to design the base layout. The KAF Team designed the new company office building. The guys even got me out there doing some survey work. SGT Hamilton had to split his team up. He and PFC Roberts moved to FOB Ramrod to work on the expansion there, while the rest of the team remained at FOB Frontenac to assist with the construction. SPC Petrus and the Spin Boldak team remained there to finish the projects that are still going on.

SPC Bogacz reenlisted this month. After we get home, he and his family will be moving to Germany. We are all staying focused on what still needs to happen here, but as we start going through the process of redeployment, I know everyone is getting excited to be home.

Laser 7 — SSG Jason Machen

Left: CW3 Johnson re-enlisting SPC Bogzac

Right: PFC Abbott surveying at FOB Delaram



Words from the Battle Desk

Greetings Seahorse Family and Friends!

We have officially finished 9 months of deployment, what a great feeling. We are under 80 days now until redeployment! Even though we only have a few more months, the Seahorse FRG has been busy getting the Battalion on-line...literally on-line. The 19th Engineer Battalion is now on **Facebook**, you can find the page by typing "19th Engineer Battalion" in the search box. The Seahorse Battalion page will come up as one of the choices with the unit crest as the profile photo. It is a business page, so people become fans, not friends. Log-on and become a fan of the 19th Engineer Battalion on **Facebook**!

As we near redeployment there will be some important reminder dates that are passed to your Soldier. I will begin listing those dates here from the Battle Desk as necessary so everyone can stay informed. The first important upcoming date will be mail cut-off 28 February 2010. If you send mail from the States after 28 February 2010, the package cannot be guaranteed to reach your Soldier. If a Soldier has a forwarding address on file, the mail will be sent back to the States. If a Soldier does not have a forwarding address on file and the package is not marked return to sender, the package will be destroyed.

Do not forget that the FRG also has the 19th Engineer Battalion website at www.armyfrg.org. Photos are updated on a regular basis, there is currently over 2,000 photos of Soldiers in Afghanistan. **WWW.armyfrg.org**

Left: LTC Roscoe re-enlisting PFC Crippen at Kandahar Airfield

Middle: SSG Colon proud to be in the Seahorse Battalion

Right: T.G.I. Friday's at Kandahar Airfield

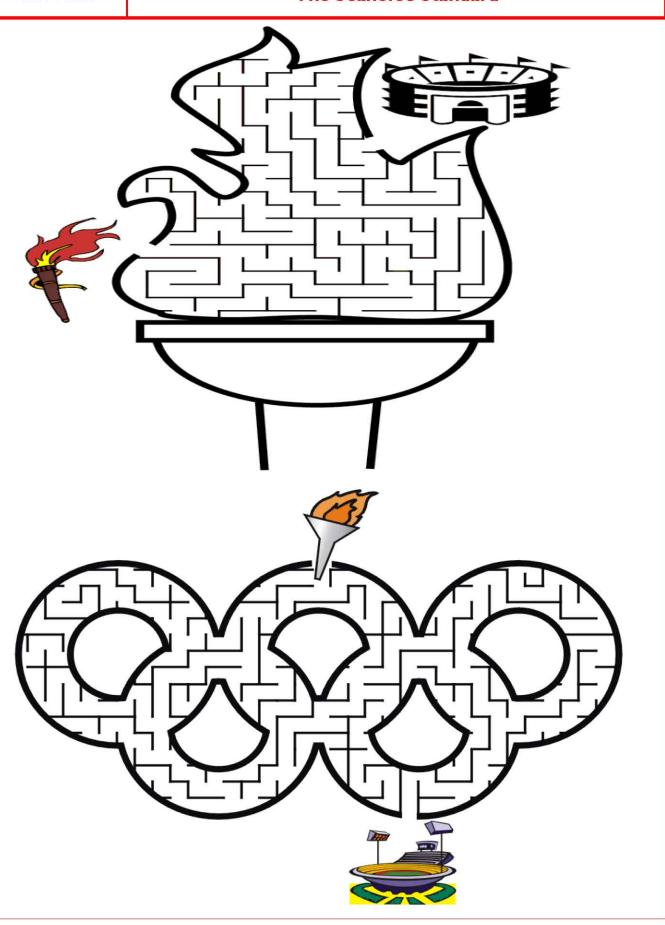
Thank you for all of your support, CPT Jaime Miller













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HIDDEN WORDS

SEAHORSE ARMY AFGHANISTAN FORTKNOX KENTUCKY SOLDIER BOOTS DESERT HOME SKIPPY



l 9th Engineer Battalion Kandahar, Afghanistan



Chaplain's Corner



19th EN BN Primary Staff

BN Executive Officer MAJ Daniel Segura

BN Operations Officer MAJ Joseph Lehman Lal

BN Adjutant ILT Brandi Smith



BN Intelligence Officer CPT Megan Conrad



BN Logistics Officer CPT Troy Miller



BN Signal Officer ILT Thomas Lopez



Bottom Left: 1LT Smith being promoted by LTC Roscoe.

Bottom Right: 1LT Smith with SFC Williams at 1LT Smith's promotion party.

Well here we are at another milestone in our deployment we've made it below 90 days remaining! I can't believe we have been just over nine months in theater now! Of course all of you spouses - especially those with children - are well aware of this fact. You simply cannot wait for your significant other to return to you and rescue you from the overwhelming stress of the kids, the bills, the housecleaning, and all the other demands of life. Your phone conversations and emails are filled with repetitive phrases such as "I miss you", "I can't wait for you to come home", "I miss you", "I'm sending the kids in care packages!", and "I miss you, did I already say that?" As the remaining days go by your Soldiers here are still keeping busy with the many missions still going on.

You would think that things are winding down but the opposite is true. It is great to see our Companies so involved in the many FOB expansions that are taking place here in Afghanistan. In fact, we occupy twelve different locations total, and our efforts have spread to some places so remote that the biggest luxury is the dessert item of the MRE and a possible lukewarm shower. I have had my share of non-showering while visiting these places and delivering care packages sent from volunteers back home in the states.

It is nice to know that wherever I go, I have seen less and less stress from Soldiers. This, no doubt, is due to the great lines of communication we have back home with our families and loved ones and also that we cannot wait to return to them once our job over here is complete. Please continue to pray for our enduring safety and the swift completion of our missions. We are all looking forward to your next "I miss you".

God Bless, Chaplain Peter McDonald





Rear Detachment Commander's Corner — Alpha Company Gators

I wish to thank everyone for the warm welcome I received upon my arrival to the 19th EN BN Rear Detachment. I have been working in a general HQs for the past three years; 2 with USARJ at Camp Zama Japan and 1 with the 3d ESC here on Fort Knox. To say that I am excited to be back in an Engineer battalion is an understatement; I have really missed working with operational Soldiers! I am dedicated to supporting the Soldiers and Families back here in the states as well as prepare to receive our proud Soldiers from down range. Even the community is getting involved! Volunteers from 4 local Best Buy stores came to Fort Knox and working with our Families prepared some wonderful welcome home signs to display for our returning troops.

Essayons!!

Gator 6 — CPT Hutter





19th Engineer Battalion Kandahar, Afghanistan

19th EN BN Rear-D Staff **Battalion Staff Duty**

Rear-D Commander

Rear-D SGM

HQ Support Company

Forward Support Company

15th EN CO

60th EN CO

76th EN CO

502nd MRBC

Thank you to the 19th Engineer Battalion Volunteers that were recognized as Volunteers of the Quarter at Fort Knox, Kentucky on 29 January 2009.

Volunteers of the

Quarter!

HSC

Denise Goodnite Sandra Wittmeier

FSC

Jojo Heiman

15th EN CO

Toni Luster

76th EN CO

Lisa Williams Gloria Mejia

502nd EN CO

Jennifer Lucas Anna Conrad Jill Bozeman

> Check out the 19th Engineer Battalion on Facebook!

Upcoming FRG Meetings:

HSC-February 09, 2010

1800-2000hrs

Battalion Classroom

FSC—February 09, 2010

1800-2000hrs

BN Conference Room

15th EN CO-February 09, 2010

1800-2000hrs

McDonalds in Radcliff

76th EN CO-February 25, 2010

1800-2000hrs

Battalion Conference Room

502nd MRBC-February 09, 2010

1800-2000hrs

Main Post Chapel Annex



19th EN BN FRG Leaders **HQ Support Company**

502nd MRBC

76th EN CO

655th Detachment

Forward Support Company

15th EN CO

60th EN CO

269th Detachment

1227th Detachment

Welcome Home Committee





BLDG 2374 Hell on Wheels Ave

19th Engineer Battalion



THE SEAHORSE STANDARD





T-Walls decorated by SPC Dionne and SPC Lyon. Photo outside the 19th Engineer Battalion TOC at KAF