



THE SEAHORSE STANDARD

OCTOBER 2011 - DECEMBER 2011

A MESSAGE FROM SEAHORSE 6



Soldiers, Families and friends of the Seahorse Battalion,

I am sure this issue of the Seahorse Standard finds you all busily preparing for the upcoming holiday season. It is truly amazing how quickly summer and fall passed, leaving us facing the winter months and pending holidays. Once again, I would like to take a few moments to bring you all up to speed on some of the battalion's notable accomplishments, provide some insights into what lies in our future, and finally express some thoughts on how to enjoy a safe and relaxing holiday season.

Over the last 3 months the Battalion has remained exceptionally busy. In August the 15th Engineer Company and personnel from FSC and the 72d EN Detachment participated in Operation Vibrant Response at Camp Atterbury, IN. This training exercise validated the battalion's ability to provide a mission ready company in support of our nation's disaster response force. In September, 45 leaders from across the battalion traveled to Fort Irwin, CA, to assist in train-

ing the 307th Engineer Battalion during NTC rotation 11-10. Over the course of this 4 week mission, Seahorse Leaders observed, controlled and provided professional feedback ensuring the 307th Engineer Battalion was ready to deploy and conduct operations in Iraq. In October, the battalion sent the 502d MRBC to Fort Leonard Wood, MO, for 7 days of bridge construction training. During this exercise they assembled Mabey-Johnson, Medium Girder, and ACROW bridges, while also conducting heavy equipment operations. This event validated the "Deuce's" ability to construct any bridge system they may encounter. In addition to these big 3 events, Soldiers in all units continued to train on their Warrior and job specific tasks along with continuing to provide exceptional support to the Fort Knox Military community.

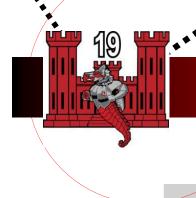
Not wanting to rest on past accomplishments, the battalion has several major training events scheduled over the next few months. December will be relatively quiet as we prepare for the holidays and focus on our Comprehensive Soldier Fitness and resiliency. Once we return in January, we will conduct another Seahorse Challenge event, this time determining which company has the best squad in the battalion. In February, we will take 2 weeks to prepare for and conduct a battalion Command Post Exercise in order to train our command posts and train our platoons on combat operations in a digital environment. These training events will occur as we continue to support Fort Knox with first class force protection and Soldier support.

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to share the holiday season with other members of the unit and community by "officially" celebrating Thanksgiving on 23 November at the Cantigny Dining Facility. All Soldiers and their Families are invited to join Senior Leaders decked out in their dress uniforms serving a traditional Thanksgiving meal to express our thanks for your service and contributions. Additionally, I want to emphasize that everyone should take some time to enjoy the holiday season. Thanksgiving and the winter holidays present a chance to spend time with our Families and friends that we should not allow to pass by. The ½-day schedule will begin on 15 December and run through 30 December. During this time daily operations will slow down allowing Soldiers and their families to prepare for the holidays under somewhat less stressful conditions. Though it is half-days, we all must remember the battalion will continue in its role as the FKKY Force Protection Battalion. Additionally, select personnel and organizations must remain ready to assist the 15th Engineer Company if called upon to deploy during the holiday season. These "real world" and ever present missions remind us that, though not deployed, we are still an integral part of keeping Fort Knox and America safe each and every day.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to each and every one of you for your service over the last year to the Nation, whether as an actively serving Soldier, Family member, or one of the extended "Seahorse" family. Finally, I wish everyone in the Seahorse Family a safe and very enjoyable Holiday Season. BRIDLE AND REINS.... STAND TALL!!!



Command Sergeant Major



A MESSAGE FROM THE CSM



I would like to start off by saying thank you to the Sea Horse Family. Over the past couple of months you continue to be the glue that holds not only the battalion, but Fort Knox as a whole together. I have been approached several times by senior leaders on the installation about how thankful they are for things that the Sea Horse family does every day to make Fort Knox a safer and better place. Over the next couple of months our fellow Soldiers from 3rd Brigade 1st Infantry Division will be returning from their yearlong deployment from Afghanistan. Take the time when you see them to thank them for their service. With their redeployment we will see an increase of about 3,000 more Soldiers in and around Fort Knox. This means that the relatively short lines will be a little longer and your travel time will probably also become longer so please plan accordingly.

One of the new themes that the senior leaders in the Army use to show how important each and every one of us are is:

The Army is the strength of our Nation The Soldier is the strength of the Army The Family is the strength of the Soldier

Every day your hard work, whether you get a pat on the back or not, is important! I would like to close with wishing each of you Happy Holidays from CSM and Mrs. Walton!!!!!!!!!!

STAND TALL!!!

-Seahorse 7-





Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Warrior Families:

I hope that this letter finds you well and looking forward to the holidays ahead. As we wind down toward them it is a good time to look back on some of the company's recent accomplishments and to preview some of the upcoming events. After the whirlwind of training that was the month of October for HHC, you may well ask yourself "what could be left to do?" HHC began the month with a short FTX at Yano Range, while 538th finished up their fine work on behalf of 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Campbell. After a rapid week of preparation, we returned to the field for 10 days of intense training, during

HHC Chain of Command Commander: MAJ Smith First Sergeant: 1SG Dunn Executive Officer: CPT Miller TOC PSG: SFC Gallegos ALOC PSG: SFC Parks OPS PSG: SSG Begley 538th NCOIC: SSG Franklin which 40 Soldiers participated in a 72hour training exercise with an operational detachment from 5th Special Forces Group. The rest of HHC trained



Soldiers from the 538th Concrete Detachment prepare formwork for the 5th Special Forces Group 9-11 Memorial Pad.

on everything from land navigation to tactical convoys, dismounted operations, dismounted patrols, and Military Operations in Urban Terrain. I greatly appreciate everyone's outstanding performance during the exercise, and I truly enjoyed training with you in the field. I also appreciate the families' patience while your Soldiers were out in the woods for 10 days.

Going forward, in November we will finish the crew-serve weapons ranges and

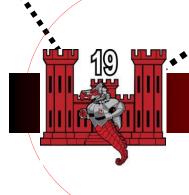


then enjoy the Thanksgiving break. In December HHC will participate in demolitions training from the 6th to the 9th and then will execute a short command-post exercise from the 12th to the 14th, before the Christmas leave and half-day schedule begins on the 16th. Having completed our targeted company training in October, my hope is that we can maximize time spent with families going forward, and I want to wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

I would like to remind everyone that we are looking to gage the interest level in the upcoming all-ranks battalion ball on March 9th. If you think you would like to attend please respond through the chain of command or through the FRG. If you have any questions about something in the company or the battalion, the FRG is a great place to start. We are grateful for the volunteer service of Tammy McCarter as our FRG Leader. She can be reached at 254-423-8879 or at tammymccarter2006@yahoo.com.

SGT McGough leads his team on the Engineer Recon-





Forward Support Company

FSC MONTHLY UPDATE



Team Warhorse:

Since the last Seahorse Standard publication, Team Warhorse has stayed busy and executed several high quality training events. Our primary focus was individual level training of non-MOS specific Soldier skills.

In addition to conducting a rifle range and a machine gun range, both platoons put in a lot sweat and hours into the groundwork for their field training exercises (FTX) in October. The platoon FTXs prepared them for the Company level FTX. Everyone's hard work and preparation paid big dividends with properly certified trainers and Soldiers familiar with the training tasks, FSC executed our capstone

training event with a company level FTX where individuals and buddy teams were certified on select individual level tasks. Our final event in the FTX was a grueling 12.5 mile foot march from TTB Professional back to the battalion motor pool while meeting the XVIII ABC standard. Despite adverse weather and fatigue, Warhorse Soldiers pushed themselves mentally and physically, showing what resiliency means. All the leaders of the 19th EN BN and the Company were extremely proud of this task.

Throughout all of the training excitement team Warhorse never forgot to take a minute and step back to enjoy time with our families. The FRG held an exceptional Halloween celebration at the Red River Farms Pumpkin Patch where all participants were able to relax and enjoy a few precious moments with loved ones. Children had a blast, and participated in hay rides, mazes, face-painting, and the always important fishing. Due to the outstanding turnout for the Pumpkin Patch, our FRG team have decided to celebrate the up and coming holiday season with a Christmas Party on 15 DEC 11.



Above: FSC Soldiers and families enjoy a Hay Ride at the FRG Halloween Pumpkin Picking Party at Red Mill Farms in Elizabethtown, KY.

We have had a great quarter of training and have risen to every challenge presented. As we begin the holiday season, the Command here hopes everyone enjoys some time off of work and the chance to see family and friends.

-Warhorse 6-

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A (Chain of Command
Nar- ality	Cor	nmander: CPT Di Giovanni
	Firs	st Sergeant: 1SG Wedding
	Exe	cutive Officer: 1LT Hines
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hy I big fa- one e cer- 2.5 eeting s the	Dis	tribution PL: 1LT Derik Harris
	1	tribution PSG: SFC Mollie
	Ma get	intenance PL: 2LT Matt Par- t
		intenance PSG: SSG Charles field



Above: FSC Soldiers complete 12.5 Mile Foot March in the rain Below: SGT Bustillo and SGT Manibusan help PV2 Curtis with Map Reading Training









TEAM BLADE 15th engineer company (horizontal)

Hello and Happy Holidays!! September, October and November have **Chain of Command** been busy months for Team Blade. In September, six of us went to the National Training Center (NTC) to help train a sister battalion as they prepared for a deployment. The Soldiers at Knox continued construction projects, executed a range, and focused on recovering from our August Vibrant Response exercise and preparing to assume our DCRF mission. During October, we focused on preparing for and executing the Best Blade Squad Competition. And in November we've been executing ranges, Battalion Organizational day and Change of Command inventories. We coupled this with multiple family events through these months including a Chili Cook-off, Spouse's Coffee, Trunk-or-Treat and deployment brief.

Whether we're ready for it or not, the Holiday Season is HERE! That brings lots of different emotions and concerns for our Soldiers and families. I want to highlight some of the concerns I have for Team BLADE: suicides, financial struggles and driving. First, Suicide. The change in seasons, loneliness and change in family situations, coupled with DCRF and the company's requirement to keep a certain number of Soldiers close to the installation, can cause some of our folks to become increasing depressed. I do not want to lose ANYONE in our awesome company to suicide. So please, work together to continue to take care of each other, especially during the holidays. Identify triggers, talk to each other, and seek help to maintain our team. This includes our family members. Second, financial struggles. Execute your holiday season within your financial means. ACS offers several financial plan-

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1–10 Dec: Funeral		
Honors Support		
- 2 Dec: Santa Ruck		

March

 8 Dec: CO X-mas Party (VFW)

- 14 Dec: Change of
Command (Motor Pool)
45 00 0 4 (0 1

- 15–29 Dec: 1/2 day schedule

- 23-26 Dec: X-mas Weekend

- 30 Dec-2 Jan: New Years

- 13-16 Jan: MLK Weekend

- 17-20 Feb: President's Day Weekend

ning classes that can help you and your family develop and maintain a budget that will allow you to have a fun holiday and not put you in the hole financially. Finally, winter driving. Remember to slow down! Check your tires, your anti-freeze, you washer fluid (all fluids for that matter) and make sure you are prepared in the event of an accident. Double check your insurance and make sure you have the right coverage. And remember, it's better to be a defensive driver...just be safe! As always, if you or your family member need help with any of this, 1SG and I are always available!

On a happier, lighter note, have a safe, fun, and relaxing holiday season. Our Soldiers have had a extremely busy past year and you all deserve some time for positive reflecting on the past year. I hope you remember 2011 as one of the best years in Blade history and welcome 2012 with renewed motivation, vigor, and energy, just like you did in 2011!

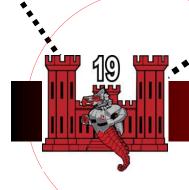
Finally, since this will be my last Seahorse Standard, I want to say thank you to everyone that has contributed to making this company command successful for me. Thank you to 1SG and Sarah Johnson for their tireless support to the Soldiers and families of this team. I couldn't have asked for a better 1SG team than the Jo<mark>hnsons. Also, much thanks to all of the Officers I worked with. E</mark>ach and every one of you taught me something and I hope you learned something good from me. Thank you so much to our NCOs and Soldiers of Team Blade and your families. You are a reflection of my and 1SG's leadership and (while biased) I think you all kick ass, so I must have done ok! Thank you to Mrs. Cara Buckley and all of our FRG members (past and current) for making the 15th's FRG the best and strongest in the battalion. Your efforts in keeping our spouses informed and involved directly contributed to the success of Soldiers and our mission. And finally, to my husband Luke, thank you...for everything. Thanks to everyone reading for making this the BEST 18 months of my Army career. ~ Blade Six~ WHATEVER IT TAKES!



Blade 7: 1SG Johnson Blade 5: 1LT Brown Blade 57: SFC Steese Blade 16: 1LT Skinner Blade 17: SSG Gilbert Blade 26: 2LT Walker Blade 27: SFC Whitford Blade 36: 1LT Dauz Blade 37: SFC Hammond Blade 46: 2LT Walker Blade 47: SFC Tran







76th Engineering Company

HAMMER 6

Chain of Command

Commander: CPT Meade First Sergeant: 1SG Hunsaker

Executive Officer: 1LT Enriquez OPS NCO: SSG Stokes

1st PSG: SFC Acker 1st PL: 2LT Murray

2nd PSG: SFC McKinney 2nd PL: 1LT Kane 3rd PSG: SFC Archilla 3rd PL: 2LT Foley

Motor Sergeant: SSG Stepanoff

Below: Soldiers of the 76th participating in helicopter loading and flight procedures



As I am writing this, the 19th Engineer Battalion has just completed its Organizational Day, at which 76th Engineer Company won the cornhole, tug of war, and soccer tournaments. Congratulations to the winning teams and their team captains - SFC McKinney, cornhole; SFC Archilla, tug of war, and SGT Potter, soccer. SGT Potter was not only the soccer team captain, but also its goalie, and scored the tournament-winning goal, an outstanding effort by an outstanding NCO.

Our Soldiers have been working and training hard these past 90 days, most of which I will leave to the The leadership of the company has been especially active. In August, the NCOs executed another iteration of Hammerdai, a continuous 96-hour operation designed to validate the skills and knowledge of our NCOs before they start training new troops in Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills the following fiscal year. Shortly thereafter, several of our key leaders including 1LT Enriquez, 1LT Kane, 2LT Murray, SFC McKinney, SFC Archilla, and SSG Harvell departed for the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California to act as observer/controllers for 307th Engineers' near-monthlong validation exercise for their upcoming deployment. With these leaders out of the fight, others had to step up to that next level of leadership and make things happen, including SSG Sheppard and SSG Putnam as acting Platoon Sergeants for 2nd and 3rd Platoons, respectively, as well as 2LT Foley as acting Company Executive Officer. Once everyone returned from NTC, we ended the fiscal year with the Company Dining Out at the Leader's Club here on Fort Knox. The mess had as its guests LTC and Mrs. Ray, CSM and Mrs. Walton, and MAJ Drake.

Now here we are at about halfway through first quarter, and the holiday season is now upon us. In October, the company conducted its Halloween Costume Run, followed by Trunk or Treat in conjunction with 15th and 502nd Engineer Companies. On 16 November, the company conducted a Thanksgiving potluck during lunch hours at the Hansen Gallery on Fort Knox. On 17 December, after Hammer Stakes field recovery, the company will have its annual Christmas party. In other family oriented events, the company Family Readiness Group has undergone some recent changes as new volunteers have stepped up to the challenge. Anesia Hines has taken over as FRG Leader, with Katy Meade as Co-Leader, Barbara Jones as Treasurer, Crystal Capps as Co-Treasurer, and Venus Acker, Ashlee Marzan, Lynnie McKinney, and SGT Potter as Key Callers.

At the platoon level, Hammer Strength Company has been especially active. Maintenance Platoon (Always Adjustable) under the leadership of SSG Stepanoff continues to excel at supporting the company in maintenance and recovery operations. However, giving back to the community is the thing upon which Maintenance Platoon really pride themselves, contributing a total of 36 volunteer hours to the Back Pack program of Feeding America Kentucky Heartland. First Platoon (1st to Blaze) welcomed SFC Acker is its new Platoon Sergeant and continued its work on Building 7712 at the former regional correctional facility. First Platoon also distinguished themselves during the Hammerdai, providing the high payoff target for Operation Catch Sisco. Second Platoon (2nd to None) continues to

get things done, forming the core of the company softball team and scoring several upsets in the process. Second Platoon also received a short notice project to build a concrete masonry platform for 3rd ESC and completed it with ease. Third Platoon (Hellraisers) executed special training events, including establishing an air MEDEVAC lane as part of a greater battalion air operations event and conducting the M249 machine gun range during

the battalion crew serve weapons density week. Third Platoon also had the time to build a wheelchair access ramp for our neighbors at the Bluegrass

Challenge Academy. On top of all this, each platoon got a piece of Fort Knox anti-terrorism / force protection mission, conducting vehicle searches at the entrance gates and roving patrols throughout post.

As you can probably tell, there is always a lot going on in 76th Engineer Company, and I've barely scratched the surface. Commanding this company is a tough job, but it's also very rewarding. I look forward to continuing to do great things with Team Hammer over the next fiscal year.

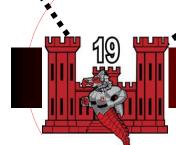
HAMMER STRENGTH! STRIKE HARD!

Hammer 6 out.

Below: Soldiers complete work on handicap ramp project







502D Multi Role Bridge Company

BRIDGE 6



Upcoming 502D Events

28 OCT—Trunk-or-Treat (502D, 15th, 76th)

11-14 NOV-Veteran's Day Weekend

24-27 NOV—Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend

16 DEC-502D Holiday Social

19 DEC—Half-Day Schedule Begins

23-26 DEC— Christmas Holiday Weekend

30 DEC - 2 JAN-New Year's

Once again, greetings to all the Friends, Families, and Soldiers of the Seahorse Battalion! Every quarter seems to be very busy and this one is no exception. From Resiliency training to Bridge Exercises 502D Soldiers have certainly been putting in the hours. Most notably the company completed a very successful Bridge Exercise at Fort Leonard Wood, MO 16-22 OCT. While there Soldiers had the opportunity to work with a few bridge types that are not available on Fort Knox such as the Mabey Johnson (MJB) and Medium Girder Bridges (MGB) as well as the ACROW float bridge. Not to be out done the Earth Moving Section also conducted a lot of training there. From the dozer and I-HMEE to the HYEX simulator and 20 ton Crane, EQ increased some critical operator skills. And of course, all our training and efforts were watched over by our rugged maintenance crew.

On the FRG side of the house, our big event was the Trunk-or-Treat which was held on the evening of 29 OCT. Our FRG Leader, Cassie Burks, and our Event coordinator/Treasurer, Kristen Downs hosted the event along with a couple of our sister FRG leaders, Mrs. Buck-ley (15th EN CO) and Mrs. Hines (76th EN CO). A lot of time and effort went into the planning of this event and it was AWESOME! Together we supported more than 350 Soldiers and Family members. Thanks to all those who had a hand in its success.

We are rapidly approaching the holidays and I know everyone's focus is on their Families and the time they can spend with them. But hopefully we all take a little of that time to be aware of the colder weather and the hazards that come with it. Slick roads, over loaded plugs, heating elements near flammable material, etc. Ensure your celebrations are happy AND safe. **NEVER QUIT**!

- CPT Amy Hutter-



BRIDGE7



Team Bridge

Commander: CPT Hutter

First Sergeant: 1SG Lake

Executive Officer: 1LT Corley

1st PLT: 1LT Dominique 1st PSG: SFC Keib

2nd PLT: 2LT Maci 2nd PSG: SFC Staton

SPT PLT: 1LT Dolan SPT PSG: SSG Rosa





Hello to all the Soldiers, Families, and Friends of the Seahorse Battalion. I want to thank everyone for the warm reception for myself and family as I assumed responsibilities of the 502D MRBC. This has been a great past couple of months; the company

went to Fort Leonard Wood for the Company Bridge Exercise and the Soldier's performances were outstanding. With little pause in between the Company is now executing Red cycle details for the Battalion and Installation which include flag detail, force protection, and many other duties. It keeps the Soldiers busy but like always they shine in everything they do. The Holiday season will soon be upon us and we will be able to slow down for half day schedule and opportunity leave. Once everyone is back from the holidays we will move right back into our training cycle, kicking off the New Year with ranges in January.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

Never Quit! 1SG Lake



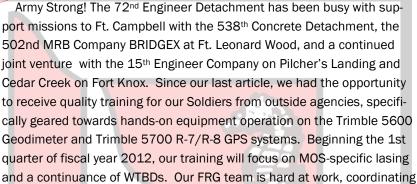
72nd Survey and Design Detachment

LASER 6



Command Team CDR: CW2 Springette NCOIC: SFC Leigh XO: 1LT Foster

Right: SPC Aleman conducting a soils moisture content test





our FRG Bowl night and Christmas Pot luck dinner. Recently, we have welcomed our newest families to the Detachment: Mr. and SGT Gerke, SFC and Mrs. Leigh, and SFC and 1LT Foster.

-Laser 6-



Above: Mr. Faircloth, a representative from Trimble Navigation Ltd., conducting complimentary training on survey equipment.





BN Master Resiliency Trainer

Hello everyone! I hope this message finds everyone in a high state of mind. I would like to thank all of you for the time to learn about the Master Resilience Training (MRT) this past quarter. This training was a huge success as we have now introducing the program to 100% of the Battalion.

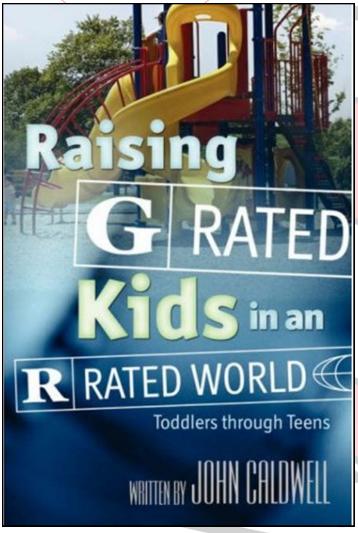
I would also like to thank those of you who had the opportunity to see this program at your FRG meetings. We are moving forward with this program as we conduct a minimum of two hours of training each quarter. This quarter's training is the beginning of Module Two, which is Building Mental Toughness. We are learning about how "activating events" or those "heat of the moment" situations guide our thought process and in return display our emotions, which lead to consequences. From there we learn about those thinking traps that we may fall into during those activating events or heat of the moment situations. This allows us to identify those areas in order to better react to those situations. We are building our self awareness and mental agility. Finally, we are learning about our deep inner beliefs that we call "ICEBERGS."

I have also completed gathering all the military discounts that are offered by a variety of businesses in Radcliff and Elizabethtown. A group of Soldiers and myself visited each business in the area to see who offers a military discount and that information will be published shortly. We are also beginning a partnership with North Hardin High School. This partnership will allow Soldiers of the Battalion to visit the school's different programs, and add their expertise in making the students and the community better. Lastly, as the holiday season is around the corner I cannot stress enough the importance as we continue to "Hunt for the Good Stuff." This is a timeframe when we often begin to feel overwhelmed or things don't go as planned, so it is OK to slow down for a moment and evaluate yourself. Understanding your emotions and your thought process is a great start to help eliminate some of that unwanted stress.

-SSG Martin - BN Master Resiliency Trainer-



Battalion Chaplain



Greetings From the Battalion Chaplain!

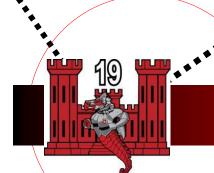
If some of you are not aware, the 19th Engineer Battalion has now held two awesome marriage retreats at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason Ohio. Boy these events have been a great time! If you missed them I would encourage you to not let another one go by. Now, I know there are a lot of misconceptions at what actually goes on at one of these events. Well, let me tell you what we do, we simply have fun to the max and at the same time learn a little bit about different ways to make our marriage better. It really is that simple—maximum fun with some learning somewhere along the way. Just ask anyone that was there at the event. Truly, it was a blast.

Now, in between the swimming at the more than 80,000 feet of indoor water and the scavenger hunts available for the children, one of resource available to those that went to these events were wonderful books on various family subjects. One of said books offered was Dr. John Caldwell's Raising G Rated Kids in an R Rated World. This book has wonderful advice on how to parent our children and its content is invaluable advice. Dr. Caldwell even presents a chapter on corporal punishment from a biblical perspective. Of course, I know this is a sensitive subject and we may not all agree on its applications and usefulness. No matter on what side of the issue you may now stand, at the very least we should acknowledge the courage of this author to write about it. If you would like a free copy of this book, I may

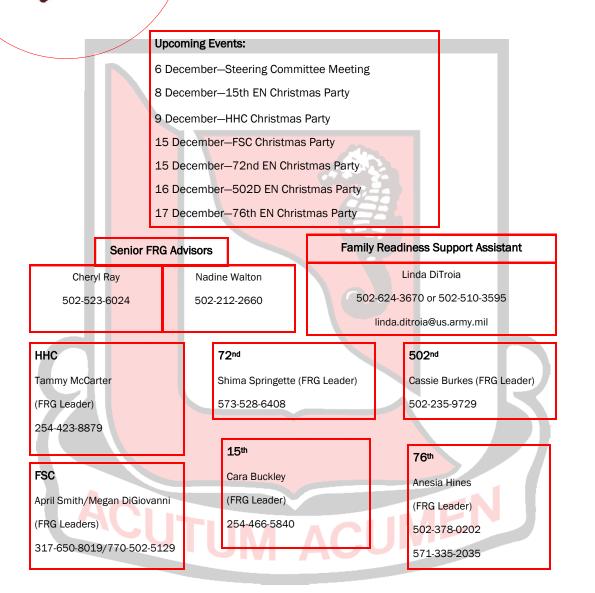
still have about ten or so in my office. If you stop by and ask for one, I will gladly provide you with one. And if you stop by, maybe we can talk about the next retreat and about you joining us for that one. May the almighty creator of heaven and earth, the eternal loving and merciful father bless you in the days to come. From the Fuentes family to yours, God be with you.

-Chaplain Abdiel Fuentes-





Family Readiness Support Group

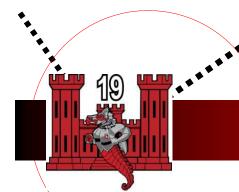


If you have not been receiving information from your FRG and would like to, please contact Linda DiTroia at 502-510-3595.



Search: "19th Engineer Battalion"

Virtual FRG <u>www.armyfrg.org</u>





Upcoming Events

- 24-27 November: Thanksgiving Training Holiday
- 01-10 December: Funeral Detail Support
- 16 December-02 January 2012: Half-day Schedule
- 23-26 December: Christmas Training Holiday
- 30 December-02 January: New Year's Training Holiday
- 17-20 January 2012: Battalion Seahorse Challenge

