

769th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy)



January 17, 2003 — Issue 12



SSG Michael McNaughton

led demining operations from June 2002– January 9, 2003. Known by his friends as SSG “Mac”, he is certainly one of the most outstanding NCO’s that the demining team troops have ever been led by.

He maintains a high work ethic and leads by example. After joining the 769th Engineer Battalion in 2001 in HSC’s equipment platoon, “Mac” volunteered at the beginning of this deployment as NCOIC of demining operations. His duties required him to coordinate Hydrema and MCAP operations and also work with the Ronco mine dogs and Polish Sappers.

Just before “Mac” departed the theater for Germany, he was presented the Purple Heart by Base Commander COL Pritchett. His dedication and commitment to the mission still remain inspirational to us all. He has a can-do attitude and continues to encourage others to achieve great things through positive motivation.

Shown right are members from Hydrema and MCAP teams along with SSG McNaughton (kneeling front row).

Thank you for setting the example and mentoring so many young soldiers. You are a hero to us all.



Soldiers of the 769th Engineer Battalion:

The new year has arrived and we have begun preparation for our redeployment. There's much to do before we complete our activation at Fort Polk. Everyone must remember that our job is not over and we need to keep up the motivation and hard work effort until the very end. The 769th has done an exceptional job and our sister battalion, the 527th, should be hitting ground shortly. There still aren't any definite dates and I realize people are becoming more and more anxious as the days toil on.

It is imperative that we do not become complacent when performing our duties. It is understandable that we are ready to go home, but the deployment is not over and we still have a job that must be accomplished. Redeployment dates have come down from FORSCOM and are tentatively scheduled to be around mid to late February. It is of the utmost importance that we remain vigi-

lant and keep up safety standards.

By now everyone is fully aware of the situation that occurred late last week. It is unfortunate that one of our soldiers was injured. However, it is with the grace of God that his injuries were not life threatening. His demeanor and fortitude when faced with this adversity was certainly inspirational. He specifically stated that he was not quitting and that he wanted each of us to know that he wants us to continue the fight. SSG Michael McNaughton was presented the Purple Heart just before he left for Germany. He is now at the Walter Reed Hospital where he was met by his loving wife. I was greatly impressed by his concern for his fellow troops and the courage he displayed.

I and your leadership will keep you informed as SSG McNaughton's recovery progresses. He is a very strong soldier and personifies what it means to serve and



LTC Boutte'

protect. Many of us have never served with a finer individual.

I encourage each of you to contact your families to inform them of our new timeframe. It is unfortunate that the return dates could not be sooner, but with courage and commitment, this too we will overcome.

My soldiers are all great Americans and I salute you.

Removing Rubble

SGT Tommy Daquilla from HSC's Equipment Platoon is shown here operating the HYEX (hydraulic excavator). He is in the process of stockpiling debris and loading it onto dump trucks for removal.

This will make way for the new engineer motor pool which will be used by the 527th Engineers. The new motor pool is located near the north side of the new engineer camp.



Profile of the Week

Each week, this newsletter would like to recognize an exceptional soldier or group of soldiers for his or her commitment and positive work ethic. Please send recommendations to 1LT Townley and the reasons why you think a particular soldier(s) should be recognized.



DS Maintenance

group is responsible for performing 3rd echelon work not authorized for company maintenance to perform. Primarily concerned with major component repairs, hydraulic cylinders and engine rebuilds or replacements.

HSC Maintenance is led by SFC Choat. Alpha Company Maintenance is led by SFC Grenade and assisted SSG Jackson. Company Maintenance mechanics usually perform oil changes, services, replace parts, etc.

Thank you for performing a wonderful job under less than ideal conditions.

This week the newsletter crew would like to recognize the maintenance sections of the 769th EN BN.

Without these soldiers the 769th would not be able to perform their overall daily construction missions.

The maintenance sections fall into three groups: Direct Support, Headquarters, and Alpha Company.

DS Maintenance is led by SFC Desselle and this



HSC Company Maintenance



Alpha Company Maintenance

New Laundry Facility

SPC Carter and SGT Threton of Alpha Company are installing water pipes into the new laundry facility. The facility will house washers and dryers that will be utilized by the future occupants of Camp Cajun.



Since this photo was taken, the laundry facility is now operational with several washers and dryers available for your use. A wash schedule is posted and all soldiers are asked to utilize the facility only during their respective allotted times and dates. Be respectful when reminding others to abide by the schedule. Keep the facility clean and remember to pick up after yourselves. "Clean out the lint tray when you finish with the dryers," stated 1LT Townley. It is your house so keep it clean.

A few words from CSM Serio...

As they say, we're getting short. We'll be redeploying within the next few weeks. We did get new dates and they may not be what you wanted to hear, but at least we have them now. Although they are still subject to change, I sincerely think that we'll be more able to meet this new timeframe.

We are now in the process of preparing our gear and equipment for redeployment back to home station. We are also conducting redeployment briefings. It is important to make sure you don't pack anything that will not pass through customs, such as copied CDs, untreated wood, unauthorized weapons, brass or ammo and war trophies.

Weapons are only authorized with proper documentation. For those who have purchased

muskets, you will need to go to the JAG office and secure an affidavit allowing you to bring it back to the states.

I want to thank everyone for your continued motivation and hard work throughout this deployment. I know we have had some problems, but with all good must come some bad and overall this has been a very successful mission. Don't let our bad apples sour the mission.

The 769th will be remembered in Bagram for building from the ground up. All around Bagram you can see the work that we've accomplished and everyone should be proud of themselves for doing such an outstanding job. This battalion has played a tremendous role in improving the quality of life that all soldiers on this base now en-



CSM James Serio

joy. This base is nothing like when we first arrived. The 527th Engineers still have lots to do, but with our help, hard work and commitment, they will succeed just as we succeeded at our tasks.

On January 13th, 2003, we were treated to steaks, blooming onions, and shrimp on the barbie by the great folks from Outback Steakhouse. I certainly enjoyed the meal.



678th Moving Out

SGT Smith from 3rd Utility Section is going out on a recon for the establishment of a new FOB. SGT Smith will determine the electrical demands and BOM requirements for the new FOB to be constructed.

Preparing to Fly

Pictured is 3rd Utility Section under SSG Ransom and half of 2nd Utility Section under SGT Fontanelle just prior to departure to the new FOB. The two teams will construct Tier 3 tents, a DFAC, Shower Facilities and all plumbing, Hesco barriers, guard towers, and all electrical systems for the FOB.



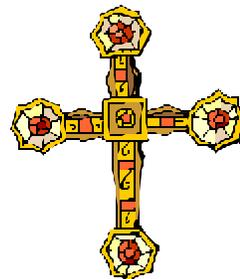
Chaplain's Corner

This coming weekend we will honor the memory of a great American—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. At a time in history when the country held to the fiction of “separate but equal,” he called upon us to remember the original dream of a land where “all men (and women!) are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.”

So this Sunday we'll eat a special meal, hear some music, and enjoy some inspirational speeches. I have a feeling, however, that Rev. King would want us to honor him in other ways as well. Treat each other with kindness because all members of the human race are created in the image of God. Reach across the bridge of misunderstanding and conflict through forgiveness and by refusing to let the root of bitterness grip your heart. Inasmuch as it lies within you, live a peace with everyone. And most important of all, dare to dream again!

Have a happy, safe, and blessed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day! May our nation continue to move toward his noble vision!

God bless you, and have a good day,
Chaplain Sanders



678th Ensures all is Secure

Pictured from left to right SSG Charles Ashley, SPC Brian Williams, SPC Aurthur Lott, SSG Jeff Jenkins, and SPC Bazzle in front of the security gates at ECP1 vehicle inspection point. These soldiers just finished welding, hanging, and ensuring the gates were plumb and easy to function for the MP security point.



ANA Mission Continues

The 678th has been performing a large number of missions outside the wire. Pictured is a team of 2nd Utility under SSG Jenkins with two equipment operators just prior to deployment to the ANA training center. These soldiers will replace the soldiers from the 769th in maintaining and improving the electrical and plumbing systems for the international forces in Kabul.

AAFES Action

Bagram Airbase is proud to present a brand new BX/PX located just across the street from the South DFAC. The new PX has been open since Christmas and the supplies are still rolling in. In the middle of this desolate place, the new base exchange is akin to an oasis in the desert. It is fully stocked with more than just the bare necessities. Music, movies, electronics, food, clothing and yes, you can even arrange the purchase of cars, trucks and motorcycles. The good folks there work long, hard hours stocking shelves, keeping the place clean and helping soldiers find what they need. Next time you find yourself at Bagram's new exchange, find one of the helpful workers and tell them thanks for supporting us. Pictured above is manager Maria Schizas- Price and her mixture of US citizen staff and local nationals.





Pat on the Back

Major Kyger accepts a plaque on behalf of the 769th in appreciation for their hard work and support during Operation Enduring Freedom. The plaque was presented by COL Pritchett of the 18th Airborne Corp. The 678th and 249th Prime Power were also recognized for their contribution to engineer missions. The ceremony was held at the North DFAC.

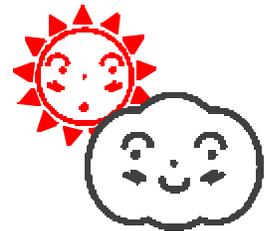
A New Home

The new engineer camp is under construction. The camp is located at the north end of the airfield and will be occupied by the 527th EN BN, 678th EN Detachment, as well as all other engineer assets on post. This should help consolidate all engineer efforts and provide for more efficient command and control.



Camp Cajun Weather Forecast

Friday: 15/ 40
Saturday: 15/ 40
Sunday: 15/ 40
Monday: 15/ 40



Putting it Together

SPC Ganaway of HSC's company maintenance is seen here welding a gate that will be used to encase an aqua duct. The aqua duct will be used at the sewage treatment plant located on the far side of the airbase.

Leaving the 769th Mark

Everywhere that engineers go they leave their signature. CPT Dirk Erickson took the opportunity to refresh his operating skills and sign the 769th in a minefield with the MCAP. An aerial photograph will be taken at a later date to be placed in the 769th scrapbook. Hooah!





What is your New Year's Resolution?

"Stop smoking." - CPL Lavergne

"Live life to the fullest and stop taking things for granted." - 1LT Townley

"Not volunteer for anything else." - SPC Roy

"Be a better father." - SGT Ritchey

"It's a little late for that." - CPL Dedon

"Always be there for my son and daughter?" - SFC Dykes

"To be grateful for the little things that make life happy." CH Sanders

Question of the Week

What are you going to do when you get home?

Submit answers to 1LT Townley

Week in Sports

SGT Richard of Alpha Company is running to home plate in this past Sunday's softball game against the Marines. The game was held at Camp Alpini at the north end of the Airfield. This was the last game of a three game series. The scores were, 24-19 Marines, 32-17 Army, 24-20 Army. And that's a wrap.



New Years Eve 2002

SSG Jackie Bronson hosted the New Year's Eve bash which consisted of food, drinks, and lots of fun. People participated in a lip-sync contest that was won by SPC "Chip" Thomas. Congratulation goes out to everyone who participated in the festivities. Pictured to the left is CPL Thomas doing his rendition of one of James Brown's songs.

10. "Commanding officers may now be addressed as 'Sir' or 'Dude'" (Specialist Maronni Nelson)
9. "Protective vests now made with Kevlar and Old Navy performance fleece" (Private First Class Amanda Adams)
8. "Helmets with built-in Rogaine dispensers for soldiers with male-pattern baldness" (Specialist Alan Terrill)
7. "Every armored personnel carrier is equipped with a salad bar" (Private First Class Michael Grant)
6. "One of us is secretly a humble \$19,000 a year construction worker" (Corporal Brad O'Rourke)
5. "We now possess a high-performance, technologically advanced triple-blade shaving system" (Sergeant Steven Overton)
4. "We're bringing back catapults" (Captain Ciro Stephano)
3. "Night-vision goggles come in eight new exciting colors" (Sergeant First Class Raheem Batts)
2. "I have a robot that makes my bed" (Specialist Justin Case)
1. "A year ago, I thought Bagram was a tasty Indian chicken casserole" (Specialist Robert Meredith)

Top Ten Ways The Army Is Different In 2003



David Letterman's Top Ten

CPL O'Rourke and SPC Nelson were among some of the soldiers chosen to participate in David Letterman's famous Top Ten List. The topic was "10 ways that the Army is Different in 2003". The show aired January 9th in the United States. This is definitely one of those experiences that will not soon be forgotten.



Still Pouring

SGT Garcia and his crew are in the process of pouring a wall at the four corners enabling more efficient drainage in the future. All of this work is being done so that in the future they can improve Disney Drive allowing for much smoother travel. Pictured is 1LT Pazzaglia and SGT Clark before they installed the form.



Debriefings

The Chaplain with the assistance of 1SG Smith are preparing troops for the redeployment back to home station. The briefing entails some of the situations soldiers may experience since they've been away from their loved ones for an extended period of time. The briefing also included customs inspection; more specifically, what can be brought back and what should be mailed home.

Cajun Pics



SGT Witte, 1LT Mafhouz, & Country



SGT Richard is takin' it to the hole



SGT Lakendric Williams



SPC Josh Martin keepin' watch



"Big Bubba" and SGT Davillier



Little Nguyen



SFC Hotard



SGT Overstreet doing laundry



SEE Me Dig

SGT Achee is in the process of digging footings for a form at the new engineer base camp. The advance party of 527th should be arriving in theater soon, and this mission is just one step in preparing the new camp for their arrival. Still lots to accomplish, but we're getting there.

Getting Ready to Depart

Each unit must go through SRP prior to departing theater. During the screening, the soldiers received a tuberculosis test and psychological evaluation. Alpha Company soldiers are seen here waiting their turn.



Power Line Work

Prime Power in conjunction with HSC's equipment platoon is in the process of removing outdated power poles and lines. Over the past several weeks, both of these groups have been busy installing poles and stringing up new power lines.

Moving Ground

SFC Mizell of HSC is grading the road connecting Entry Control Point 5 to Disney Drive. The repaired entryway should allow for a smoother transition from Disney to ECP-5. Be safety conscious when traveling this area due to the heavy equipment rolling about.



If you have anything you would like published in the newsletter please submit to 1LT Townley.

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