

# 769th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy)



October 11, 2002 — Issue 5

## Soldiers of the 769th Engineer Battalion:

As we cross the mid-way mark of our deployment, I can't help but look back at our many accomplishments. When I look back, I am reminded of how much training we all went through to prepare ourselves for this deployment.

In many ways, the training has made us a more cohesive battalion. I see much improvement in the way we conduct ourselves during our day to day activities. I also see that there are improvements yet to be made. Many of those improvements can be directly affected by the key leaders. Platoon sergeants and squad

leaders are the ones who have the most influence on a soldier's attitude and perspective of any deployment. Both peace time and during war. Yes, there are other leaders like company first sergeants and the sergeant major, but I truly believe that you must lead starting at the last mile.

Our many successes have been made by the hard work and determination of soldiers in this battalion wherever they are in the theater. You take your jobs seriously even when they don't always make sense.

We are becoming more and more known as the can-do battalion. It



LTC Boutte, James E.  
Battalion Commander

is the can-do attitude that has gotten us this far and what will get us home down this last stretch.

I continue to be proud of you and your support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Continue the fight and let's not be salty.

## Hopelessly Romantic

CPL Brian Allen contacted Oprah Winfrey prior to his third anniversary in hopes of doing something special for his wife. As a result of this gallant gesture, Oprah flew his wife, Rachel, to Chicago. There she was put up at the Four Seasons and pampered for a day at a luxurious spa. Later she was interviewed by Oprah and given the opportunity to see her beloved husband via satellite. At the end of the show Oprah announced that CPL Allen and Rachel would receive an 11 day cruise to Hawaii for the honeymoon they have never taken. Congratulations goes out to CPL Allen for this very unique experience and thanks to Oprah Winfrey for her support.



CPL Brian Allen - HSC

## SOLDIER PROFILE

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.

This group of soldiers are from Alpha Company's 1st and 2nd general construction platoons. They have been constructing guard towers at designated locations along the perimeter. The task includes building the stair cases and winterizing the posts for the cold weather that is expected to come in the near future.

Thank you for your hard work ensuring that we have force protection in place. Thank you for doing such a wonderful job.



SPC Amis, SGT Garcia, SGT Hicks, SGT Campbell

### A few words from CSM Serio...

Soldiers, I am sure everyone is wondering when we will redeploy back to our home station. Unfortunately, I can't give you an accurate return date. What I can tell you however, is that we should be near or over the half way mark and that should make all of you happy. The remaining number of days are getting smaller one day at a time.

Even though we are getting short, I still need your help in maintaining discipline and military bearing. We are all



soldiers and must continue to act as the professionals that I know each of you are.

A few things are bothering me and I want to share them with you because I need your help to

correct the situation.

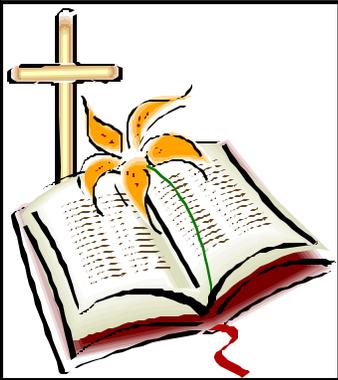
Proper wear of the military uniform. If you don't know what's right or wrong, ask your squad leader. PT uniforms are still uniforms and must also be worn properly. I want to see soldiers take responsibility for their appearance. I want to see regulation haircuts to include mustaches and sideburns properly trimmed. This goes for all soldiers and not just the males.

Easy things to fix. I need your

## Chaplain's Corner

When the Revolutionary War started, it was with a flurry of excitement and expectation. The British advanced on the Massachusetts towns of Lexington and Concord, and the local militia (an early version of the National Guard) fired the "shot heard around the world." Everyone was excited about supporting the cause, and newspapers all over the country urged war.

That was 1776. By the winter of 1777-1778 things were quite different. The Continental Army was shivering in the snow at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. There were scarcities, and soldiers had worries about the condition of their families back home. The fife and drum were no longer playing, and circumstances were tough.



When flags are waving and people are cheering, it's easy to do your duty. When it becomes a matter of drudgery and patience, it's not so easy. We're in the Valley Forge stage of our deployment as the fall days stretch into winter. The bands are silent, but the job still has to be done. The glamour is gone, and now we must keep one boot trudging in front of the other. Spring will come, but not immediately. Now's the time we prove that we're not "sunshine patriots."

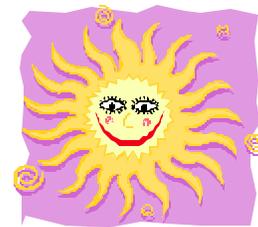
Let me know if I can help.

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



## Camp Cajun Weather Forecast

Friday: 85/ 45 Sunny/Dusty  
Saturday: 85/ 45 Sunny/Dusty  
Sunday: 85/ 45 Sunny/Dusty  
Monday: 85/ 45 Sunny/Dusty



### Alpha Company Receives Coins

Colonel Christopher Pritchard, Dragon Brigade Commander, issued coins to soldiers of Alpha Company who volunteered their time and effort in erecting a flag pole in front of the Base Operations Building. This was completed in time to honor several coalition forces before they redeployed to their respective home stations. Coins were awarded to the soldiers who participated. The flag pole will continue to be utilized as a means of honoring units as a transition through Bagram Airbase.

### Troops Receive Awards

Once again HSC's Company Maintenance had the opportunity to show Bagram Airbase everything that they can accomplish when it comes down to the mission succeeding. They were able to rebuild an MCAP dozer in a short period of time to support the mine clearing operations that are being conducted around the Airfield. Congratulations goes out to: SFC Choat, SPC Pennington, SPC Siefford, SGT Thompson, SSG Batts



### What's the one thing you'll remember about Afghanistan?

"The day I finally get to go home." SGT Tate

"The sunset over the mountains." CPT Perkins

"The dust." SFC Rivere

"Meeting the Army Chief of Staff General Shenseki, shaking his hand and receiving a coin from him." SSG Thompson

"Missing the things we don't have and appreciating the things we do have in America." SPC Fuller



### Question of the Week

What changes around the base have you noticed that are improving troop morale and welfare?

*Submit answers to 1LT Townley*

### Flag Ceremony

A flag ceremony was held to honor the Polish, as well as other coalition forces for their support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The fight against terrorism continues as a result of the tragedies that occurred on September 11. Terrorist methods never have been and never will be a solution to the problems individuals or organized groups face in their quest for independence or religious freedom.



### Earth Moving

The 769th is providing engineer support to U. S. and Coalition Forces stationed at Bagram Airbase. A member of Alpha Company's horizontal platoon is shown here assisting in earth moving operations at the British AHA (ammunition holding area).



### Hard At Work

Alpha Company's Vertical Platoon is hard at work erecting HESCO's along the perimeter of the British AHA. The HESCO's are being used in the airbase's Force Protection plan as well as to create a wall, which will eventually connect the British AHA (ammunition holding area) to the American ASP (ammunition supply point). These two areas will be combined to create a more secure and maintainable ammunition point.

### To ex-Louisianians, present Louisianians, and future Louisianians:

We're about to enter the peak of the hurricane season. Any day now, you're going to turn on the TV and see a weather person pointing to some radar blob out in the Gulf of Mexico and making two basic meteorological points.

1. There is no need to panic.
2. We could all be killed.

Yes, hurricane season is an exciting time to be in Louisiana. If you're new to the area, you're probably wondering what you need to do to prepare for the possibility that we'll get hit by "the big one."

Based on our experiences, we recommend that you follow this simple three-step hurricane preparedness plan:

Step 1: Buy enough food and bottled water to last your family for at least three days.

Step 2: Put these supplies into your car.

Step 3: Drive to Nebraska and remain there until Halloween.

Unfortunately, statistics show that most people will not follow this sensible plan. Most people will foolishly stay in Louisiana.

We'll start with one of the most important hurricane preparedness

items.

**HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE:** If you own home, you must have hurricane insurance. Fortunately, this insurance is cheap and easy to get, as long as your home meets two basic requirements.

1. It is reasonably well-built, and
2. It is located in Nebraska.

Unfortunately, if your home is located in South Louisiana, or any other area that might actually be hit by a hurricane, most insurance companies would prefer not to sell you hurricane insurance, because then they might be required to pay YOU money, and that is certainly not why they got into the insurance business in the first place. So you'll have to scrounge around for an insurance company, which will charge you and annual premium roughly equal to the replacement value of your house. At any moment, this company can drop you like used dental floss. Since Hurricane Georges, I have had an estimated 27 different home-insurance companies. This week, I'm covered by the Bob and Big Stan Insurance Company, under a policy which states that, in addition to my premium, Bob and Big Stan are entitled, on demand, to my kidneys.

**HURRICANE SUPPLIES:** If you don't evacuate, you will need a mess of supplies. Do not buy them now! Louisiana tradition requires that you

wait until the last possible minute, then go to the supermarket and get into vicious fights with strangers over who gets the last can of SPAM.

In addition to food and water, you will need the following items:

23 flashlights

At least \$167 worth of batteries that turn out, when the power goes off, to be the wrong size for the flashlights.

Bleach. (Not sure what the bleach is for. Nobody knows, but its traditional, so get some.)

A big knife that you can strap to your leg. (Useless in a hurricane, but it looks cool.)

A large quantity of raw chicken, to placate the alligators. (Ask anyone who's been through a hurricane. There will be irate alligators.)

\$35,000 in cash or jewelry so that, after the hurricane passes, you can buy a generator from a man with no discernible teeth.

Of course these are just basic precautions. As the hurricane draws near, it is vitally important that you keep abreast of the situation by turning on your television and watching TV reporters in rain slickers stand right next to the ocean and tell you over and over how dangerous it is

## Cajun Pics



MCAP team takes ten



SPC Slaughter



SSG Jackson at British AHA



SGT Flowers & SPC Shelmire



Flag Ceremony for Polish Redeployment



SPC Paulk & CPL Allen



Trip to ANA



1LT Jenkins

### **Paving the Way**

Bypass Road located at the northern end of the Airfield is presently under construction. This road is primarily used by HSC's equipment platoon to transport fill to other project locations on the base.



### **Camp Alpina**

Since our arrival, the 769th has been detailed to do different jobs around Bagram Airbase. One such detail is preparing an area at the north end of Disney Drive for the Italian Coalition Forces, which is known as Camp Alpina. The 769th is currently clearing the area with the MCAP and emplacing constantina wire around the perimeter.

### **North DFAC**

The DFAC located at the north end of Disney Drive has been under construction for some period of time. The 769th has done everything from hanging lights to improving the area around the facility. Finally, the long awaited opening of the DFAC has almost arrived. The DFAC is scheduled to open on 15 October and should alleviate some of the congestion that we are presently seeing at the south DFAC. SPC Kidder of Alpha company's horizontal platoon is seen here putting the finishing touches on the area surrounding the north DFAC building. The north DFAC will be operated by Army food service personnel while the south DFAC will continue to be staffed by Brown & Root contractors.



### **Quote of the week**

**"It's not what you do, it's how you do it."  
HUUUH BRUH.**

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

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