

# 769th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy)



October 25, 2002 — Issue 6

## Soldiers of the 769th Engineer Battalion:

For those keeping up with world events, (yes, there is a world outside of this airbase), this past Wednesday, President Bush signed an Iraqi war resolution overwhelmingly approved by Congress. He also passed on some advice to other world leaders to “face up to global responsibility” to confront Saddam Hussein. What does this mean to us in the theater? It could certainly have an impact on our redeployment timeframe. It may not.

There are many rumors being passed around that include what unit will replace us, when that will be, whether we will turn over our engineer equipment or not, and return dates. I want everyone to keep focused on the tasks at hand and not what ifs. These are very important questions to you, your families and myself. There isn't much that I can speculate at this early

stage. What I can tell you is that we must continue our efforts to improve this base. Our tenacity and diligence will ensure that this airbase is prepared for no matter what future missions might require. These questions and others like them will be answered in due time. Until then, continue with the dedication and commitment that you have shown me so far.

Let me say a few words about perimeter security. We have recently begun manning the north and south towers located behind our new motor pool with two soldiers instead of one. This will provide us with increased security and meet some of the objectives that the 82<sup>nd</sup> require. Remember that soldiers pulling guard shifts are required to report to the SGT of the Guard 15 minutes prior to their



LTC Boutte, James E.  
Battalion Commander

shifts for their special orders. Soldiers from the 82<sup>nd</sup> are patrolling the perimeter and are keeping a watchful eye on our tower guards. Be sure you are in the proper uniform and conduct yourselves like the professionals that I know you are.

## First Annual 769th BN BBQ

There was fun to be had by all that attended the first 769th BN BBQ. There was plenty of food and games for everyone. Spades, dominoes, and volleyball were just a few of the events that were available to those who wanted to participate. CPT Thomas and 1LT Jenkins of Alpha Company survived the longest and came out on top in the much awaited Spades tournament.

A special thanks goes out to those who cooked the delicious barbeque.



## 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 HSC's S-3 shop. They survey all the different areas of Bagram Airbase ensuring that stakes are placed in order for buildings and projects are properly built, as well as accounting for proper drainage during horizontal construction operations on the roads and airfield.

Your efforts ensure that the quality of work is accomplished to the highest standard.. Thank you for doing such a wonderful job.



HSC's S-3 Shop

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

What a fast paced couple of weeks did we just go through? The base had a couple of visitors last week that I hope some of us got a chance to see. Actor comedian Robin Williams came to the MWR building and was available for photos in between his bits of stand up. General Tommy Franks also came by and a few selected soldiers had the opportunity to visit with him.

Saturday night there was a scheduled power outage. I'm sad to say that some of us didn't conduct ourselves in the manner that we should have. There was a lot of whooping and hollering going on that was uncalled for. You are all grown men and women and actions like that are unbecoming. Enough said.

LTC Boutte and I continue to be impressed with the speed and progress of our projects. The bypass road around the airfield has shown marked improvement. Tons of gravel and rock are being hauled and spread around the base to help cut down the amount of dust that used to be blown around. I want each of you to always be aware of what is going on around you when operating heavy machinery, whether out in the open or inside base camps. Be very careful. We have had no serious injuries so far.

The North Dining Facility opened a little over a week ago. Our own food service personnel are staffing the new facility and their efforts are helping to alleviate much of the congestion we see at Viper City's facility. Unfortunately, the stick



CSM James Serio

frame structure at Viper City that was to be the new hard-backed dining hall succumbed to high winds and was reduced to a pile of timber sometime late last week. A reminder that local construction techniques are not of the same standards expected by Americans.

Take pride in your workmanship and the quality will shine through.

## Chaplain's Corner

As the pre-winter winds whip into the Bagram valley, I sing an ode to dust! It gets in my coffee, is grit on my teeth, covers my books, must be shaken from my sleeping bag, and endlessly seeps under the tent in asthmatic swirls. Occasionally a shaft of light will enter my quarters, and I can see the suspended particles swimming in unseen swirls. Our equipment raises it up into great clouds of nose-clogging currents of air.

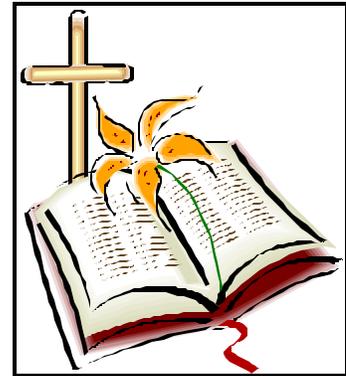
As you've probably guessed by now, I miss Louisiana. I miss my wife, my church, my chair, my dog, and my flushing toilet. But one thing I don't miss is God. God has sustained me through this ordeal just as Jesus promised—one day at a time. And I've also been sustained by gathering in worship with sisters and brothers of faith as we pray with and for one another.



As we begin to prepare for the holiday season, we anticipate a tough time of separation from loved ones. It will become even more important to find strength in our faith and support from one another.

I hope you'll consider joining us. If there's one thing as certain as the dust of Afghanistan, it's the fact that God's grace can sustain us all!

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



## Camp Cajun Weather Forecast

Friday: 80/ 45 Sunny  
Saturday: 80/ 45 Sunny  
Sunday: 80/ 45 Sunny  
Monday: 80/ 45 Sunny



### Commo Section Receives Coins

The Commo Section of HSC has been assisting the 18th Airborne Corp. in running cable wire to all installations around Bagram Airbase. Colonel King of 18th Airborne Corp. presented the group with coins to show his appreciation for all the hard work that they have done for Bagram Airbase since 769th's arrival.



### Awarded for their Expertise

SPC Siefford and SGT Jackson are being recognized for their welding expertise that has been utilized around Bagram Airbase. Congratulations go out to these two soldiers for the exceptional work they have done. The 769th is proud to call you one of it's own.



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

“The food since Brown & Root has taken over.”  
SGT Lakenderick Williams

“Our time off on Sundays.” SPC Mills

“Shorter lines at chow.” Chaplain Sanders

“The new building near the flight line that the Red Cross is in.” SPC Faul

“I’m off Hadgie detail. Bah! Bah! Bah!” PFC Roy



**Question of the Week**

What special activities would you like to see for the upcoming holiday season?

*Submit answers to 1LT Townley*

**Robin “Funny Man” Williams**

Actor comedian Robin Williams performed a short stand up act to a room full of soldiers on October 17, in the MWR building. Afterwards he was available to sign autographs and take pictures. He also visited various compounds and the North DFAC to mingle with the troops. This was one of those occasions that will be remembered around Bagram Airbase.



**Artist Hard At Work**

CPL Humphries of HSC’s DS Maintenance Platoon has proven to be very talented. His art work will remain around Bagram Airbase long after the 769th has redeployed to Louisiana. In addition to doing personal signs and pictures for soldiers around Camp Cajun, CPL Humphries was assigned the task of painting all of the markers that are placed along the designated running routes around the airfield. Thank you for doing such wonderful job.



### Flag Ceremony

The 769th had a ceremony to commemorate the first time the American Flag was flown over Camp Cajun. During the ceremony Alpha Company's SGT Dixon was sworn in as part of his extension with the Louisiana Army National Guard. He was the first soldier to extend his enlistment while the 769th has been deployed in Afghanistan. SGT Dixon extended for an additional three years. Thank you to all those who participated in this memorable ceremony.

### To Eucaris

I love you  
I loved you yesterday  
I love you today  
And I will surely love you tomorrow!  
Your beauty can't be written down in words  
It can only be captured by the human eye!  
I see your soft warm face glowing  
Red from the fire  
A tear runs down my face  
Not from sadness but from beauty!  
To think of your smile makes my heart go wild  
With your halo and wings  
You are the sweetest angel there is  
And I will always love you true

From SGT Carroll  
HSC CO Maintenance



### Lets Not Forget About Maintenance

No more long walks to the motor pool. The new motor pool, located in the rear of the compound is finally complete. Parts are steadily flowing in, keeping both Alpha and HSC company maintenance, and DS maintenance occupied with all the jobs that are coming in. This is good for the maintenance crew, but remember, everyone needs to ensure they are doing proper Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) on all equipment. This includes before, during, and after operations PMCS. Operators performing proper preventive maintenance checks will decrease deadline equipment and help projects run smoothly. WO1 Mayeaux would like to thank all maintenance sections for continuing in their efforts at working efficiently with the parts and limited resources that are available in order to repair, maintain and service our engineer equipment.



Pictured are SPC Whitman  
and SGT Dorsa

## Cajun Pics



CPT Stuart Burruss



SPC Ford at CRP



1LT Jenkins, 1SG Lynch, & CPT Thomas



SPC Harriel & 1LT Spann



SFC Pecoraro, SGT Haulard, & SGT Edwards



Media Training



SPC Weston



SGT Prince & SPC "Nurse" Meyers

### **The Quarry**

Equipment operator SGT Mize is shown here utilizing the Hyex (hydraulic excavator) to loosen the quarry walls. Then, front end loaders fill dump trucks with the material for various horizontal projects that are underway around Bagram Airbase.



### **Working Hand in Hand**

769th and 63rd EOD teamed up to construct a volleyball court which is being utilized by Camp Cajun occupants. Sunday was the first official tournament and, after a few challenging games, 769th came out on top. Congratulations go out to those who participated in the activities.

### **Learning about Ordinance**

There are many different groups working together to ensure the safety of mine clearing operations around Bagram Airbase. The groups include: RONCO mine dogs, the Polish Sappers, 63rd EOD, and the 769th EN BN. 63rd EOD has been assisting the 769th in proper ordinance disposal as well as sharing their knowledge and expertise to inform soldiers about unexploded ordinance.

The MCAP team is in the process of clearing Camp Alpini, the future location of Italian coalition forces, and called EOD for assistance when they saw something suspicious.



### **Quote of the week**

SPC Adam Hains “Lookie, there’s snow....”

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

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