



192d Engineer Battalion



HHD 192d Engineer Battalion standing all together as a unit in front of the Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory Iraq on 7 November 2007 for the last time before all soldiers report to their assigned Forward Operating Bases for a year long mission.

Explosive Hazard Coordination Cell (EHCC)

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The Explosives Hazard Coordination Cell (EHCC) hosted its quarterly Route Clearance Conference on the 17th of February on Victory Base Complex in the Joint Visitor's Bureau. The C7 Director, COL Juan Fernandez, welcomed twenty engineer representatives involved in the counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) fight from the 105 Engineer Group, 19th Light Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Unit, Task Force 134, 411th Engineer Brigade, 1169th Engineer Group, 130th Engineer Battalion. Some of the many C-IED topics included engineer equipment distribution, engineers blowing IEDs in place, Mobile Observation Teams functions, Specialized Search Dogs capabilities, Joint Robotics,

C-IED trends and alternative techniques being used to defeat IEDs. The conference provides a great forum to brainstorm new methods to effectively decrease the casualty rate of IEDs and strengthen the bonds between fellow engineers in the theater of operations.



PFC Wiens and his Specialized Search Dog Cooper

“Green Zone”, Iraq



Right: visiting injured US soldiers at the Combat Service Hospital (CSH), soldiers enjoy Valentines Day cards from a school in West Hartford, CT.



Captain Mark Zydanowicz is in downtown Baghdad near the cross swords and the Al Rasheed hotel. He works as the Baghdad Operations Officer for the Joint Reconstruction Operation Center (JROC) as the Corps Engineer Liaison for C7. Captain Zydanowicz is in charge of reporting and tracking reconstruction projects in the Security Districts.



Above: Gas Station Masour - checking the status of projects in the red zone Baghdad

The Fightin' S-1

What can you say, Admin is Admin wherever you are. Whether you are at Stones Ranch, Stratford Armory, Fort McCoy, WI or Camp Victory, Iraq, Taking care of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Civilians and Coalition Forces is the name of the game wherever you are.

We had a late arrival to our unit from Connecticut. SGT Daniel Makula joins our team working with the Explosive Hazards Awareness Team. Also, SSG Brian Mohr from the Wisconsin National Guard has also joined us to make our deployment numbers 100 percent. Welcome to the TEAM.

Congratulations to the following soldiers for recent promotions: MAJ Richard Leydon, CPT Christopher Morgan, SGT Lisa Kapustinski and SPC Michael Addison.

SFC Daniel Ferrucci, SFC Russell Johndrow, SSG Daniel Nolan, SSG Dana Lapointe, SGT Megan Robbins, SGT Daniel Makula, SPC Michael Addison, SPC Matthew Fedak have all extended their service by 3 or 6 year contracts. THANK YOU to you and your families for your continued



SGT Robbins Reenlists for 6 Years

service and support to the Connecticut Army National Guard and

the United States Army.

We have celebrated Birthdays the best way we know how, cake and silly string.

Friday mornings are saved for group PT which consists of Ultimate Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Dodge Ball, Basketball or Volleyball.



LT Roy's Birthday
14 Dec 06



Ultimate Frisbee MAJ Thompson makes the ultimate dive and catch

Through the Holiday season, we have received cards and tons of boxes of care packages from family, friends, co-workers and supporters of the troops. The support has been overwhelming. The generosity has lifted spirits and helped

us get through holidays spent away from home. Your support is appreciated through and through and will never be forgotten.

SFC Stephanie Luther

Task Force Troy, Camp Victory, Iraq

Here in Iraq one of the most prevalent threats to coalition forces is the insurgent's use of Improvised Explosive Devices. Currently IED devices are being constructed and used in various ways across the theater of operation, causing soldiers to become vulnerable to various attacks as they leave their Forward Operating Bases. One of the first lines of defense to combat the IED threat in theater is to become educated on the components that make up the threat, and understand what enemy tactics, techniques, and procedures are being used against our soldiers. Members of the Counter IED Training Team of the 192nd EN. BN. Attached to Task Force Troy, do just that.

The Counter IED Training Team plays a vital role in the current fight against the Improvised Explosive Device threat in theater. It is our job to analyze storyboard reports from route clearance missions and IED incidents in order to learn the following: what types of devices the enemy is employing, how those devices are being employed, how the devices function, and what areas around theater are saturated with specific types of threat devices. In addition to the storyboards, a bulk of

our information stems from the research of the Combined Explosives & Exploitation Cell, and findings from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams.

The Counter IED Training Team's mission is to take the information that we find and disseminate it down to the soldiers here across the theater of operation. What we teach other soldiers not only becomes essential in their unit training, but also their mission

Weapon Cache situation in Iraq, provide the latest Intelligence on Improvised Explosive Devices in and around that location, and give an IED Awareness and Recognition briefing. In addition, we provide a brief and information on Counter RCIED Electronic Warfare, and we cycle students through an IED practical exercise lane. Once the students complete our course, they are authorized to provide ongoing Counter Improvised Explosive Device training to other soldiers within their units.

SGT. Makula, CPL Addison, and CPL Bashta training coalition forces in Counter-IED operations



Training and educating numerous soldiers around the Theater of Operation is only a small piece of the larger puzzle Task Force Troy is trying to complete. Nevertheless it is an extremely important piece, and each day it leads us

closer to achieving the goal of defeating the enemy. The Counter IED Training Team in Iraq will continue to provide soldiers with the information and tools they need in order to combat the IED threat. We will continue to provide soldiers with TTP's that increase their knowledge and situational awareness on the battlefield, and increase our efforts to have a positive impact on multiple units' readiness posture.

planning in order to be successful each time they leave their FOB's. Currently we have four satellite teams positioned throughout Iraq. Our job is to travel to different FOB's and instruct units on the most up to date friendly and enemy TTP's, and most recent threats present in their areas. Upon arrival to a unit we provide a three day, train the trainer, IED instructional course. During this course, we brief soldiers on the UXO and

Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Since early in November 2006 the 192nd Engineer Battalion has been deployed to both Iraq and Kuwait in South West Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of the multiple

missions the 192nd has been tasked with is teaching counter improvised explosive device (C-IED) training and awareness to soldiers, sailors and airmen deployed to the region. The team that has been stationed in Kuwait, lead by SSG Dan Nolan includes three members from the 192nd with SSG Bruce Pendleton, SGT Mike Mish and SPC Matt Fedak along with regular army SSG Steve Waterstraat from 3-Corps under his command. We have been teaching between two and five classes per day, and have given instruction to well over 10,000 service members to date to

include the U.S. military, Australian military and the El Salvador army. This team will also be training the Jordan and Moldova soldiers later this month. Our team works in parity with a representative from the British Army

teaching Anti-Fratricide awareness in conjunction with our curriculum. The hard work and dedication has paid off with knowing that soldiers are receiving quality training. However all work and no play makes GI Johnny a dull boy, so the USO has made a few visits with entertainers from the states to include Carrie Underwood, The Harlem Globetrotters, Aaron Tipen, Kid Rock and this month comedian Jamie Kennedy will be visiting us followed by country singer Chely Wright. The scenery here is not much to look at, imagine the largest beach without the wa-



ter, life guards, or the occasional mother yelling to her 3 year old to stop eating the sand, the only thing your likely to see is a herd of camel, goat and sheep.

That's the middle east, though at times we have been able to venture out and check out some of the local areas, almost

like home with restaurants like Ruby Tuesday, Pizza Hut, Burger King, and even Dunkin Donuts and Krispy Kream. Although it would be difficult to patronize these places while in uniform and carrying automatic weapons it is still nice to just drive by and see the signs. SSG Dan Nolan has made daily physical training mandatory here and though not always popular with everyone the team in Kuwait is really starting to shape up. The moral in Kuwait is very high though most of the credit is due to the constant support from friends and family back home. The numerous care packages and letters have lifted our spirits in countless ways. With daily access to phone and internet service the distance between us has been severely reduced with the encouragement and love we constantly receive from you. On behalf of the Kuwait team I like to thank all of you for making our lives easier with your generosity and kindness. We not only enjoy all the freedoms provided by our country we are willing to fight for them in order to keep you safe.



Sincerely,
CIED (Kuwait)



COB SPEICHER, IRAQ

Hi everyone! Sergeant Kapustinski and I have been here at COB SPEICHER, Tikrit Iraq since early November. That's right, Sergeant Kapustinski. I had the honor and privilege to promote her on February 2nd. It's a rank she has been performing at since well before we landed in Baghdad. At least now she will be getting paid for it.



SPC Kapustinski's promotion ceremony to Sergeant with our adopted friends from the 1/69 Fires Brigade.

When the two of us arrived here, we fell in with a group of soldiers that had only arrived at this base a month earlier. The group that is here now is great. Two Army Reserve soldiers from First Army, one out of Fort Dix New Jersey and the other out of our MOB Station Fort McCoy Wisconsin. The third is an active duty Staff Sergeant out of Fort Hood Texas who is also top notch. This base is big compared to some, pretty much because everything is so spread out. It used to be the location of Saddam's Air Force Academy, that is at least, before the US Air Force evicted him prior to our arrival. There is not much to see in this part of the nation. Everything is flat, dusty and there are really no trees. With it being the rainy season now the dust is now mud which is great if you are into wrestling but lousy if you are just trying to get around. The mud dries like cement and always seems to get into everything.

Since our arrival, we have been very involved in the counter IED fight by helping to provide much needed training to the units located here in the northern part of Iraq. We have averaged over a class a week, traveling to seven different FOBs and have trained over 270 unit leaders who, now trainers, are providing training to soldiers at their level. We already know our efforts have been worth while because we have been ap-

proached by soldiers who have attended our classes that have told us they saw things on their convoys that they might not have, if not for the classes we provided. It's a great feeling when you know you have made a difference.



Although the two of us have been sent out here by ourselves to man this satellite team we do not feel alone. Another unit from Connecticut is also based here at COB Speicher. LTC Adams and CSM Chapman of the 143rd CSSB out of Waterbury have welcomed us with open arms. So even though we are away from our unit, we are not far from Connecticut. We also have been blessed with some step parents for lack of a better term. The 1/69 Fires Brigade, a Field Artillery unit with the Colorado National Guard has made us a part of them as well. These are the guys who handle our mail and have gone out of their way to help us both out in every way possible. To me they have also become family.

In closing, we want to thank everyone, family and friends alike who have taken the time to keep in touch and send care packages to us out here. It's hard to put into words how much they mean to us when we pick them up. Keep up the good work. Until you hear from the two of us next, know that we are safe and far from alone.



Al Asad, Iraq

Life out west in Al Asad is a little different than in Baghdad. There are no date nut tree groves, no bodies of man-made lakes, just barren desert. It is mainly a Marine Base, where the Army is the minority. SSG Charles Godleski and SSG Dana Lapointe drive on with the mission of the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Team. They are working hand and hand with Joint Forces in the effort of training up soldiers for the fight against Counter-IEDs. We have trained a little over Nine-hundred (900) Soldiers and Marines also have trained over Two-hundred (200) Iraqi Army (IA) soldiers.



SSG Dana Lapointe and SSG Charles Godleski with the Iraqi Army



Training up the Iraqi Army with the Marines, SSG Lapointe marches on..



To pass the time and a sanity check, a little MWR. Hitting some golf balls is a great stress reliever...

