



FIGHTER FLYER, VOLUME 1

Your source for what's new, what's happening, and what's important with the Fightin' Fifth!

Winter Edition

A Message from Fighter 6

LTC Chris McGowan

I hope that the winter edition of the Fighter Newsletter finds everyone doing well after an enjoyable holiday season. It is really hard to believe it is nearly the middle of February-the weather has been pretty kind thus far...a year ago Fort Leonard Wood was under several feet of snow and enduring bitter cold temperatures, as the Beast Team was stranded at Springfield Airport waiting to deploy to Afghanistan. We are absolutely thrilled to have had the honor of welcoming home the 55th MAC last weekend after a year of service and sacrifice in support of our Nation. I am tremendously proud of all the Beast Soldiers accomplished and I am humbled by the unconditional and selfless support that was shown throughout the deployment by the 55th MAC Families and loved ones. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to make our Army and our Nation so incredibly strong.

No doubt I am a bit bias...however, I do believe that the Fighter Ball held at the Four Season Lodge at Lake of the Ozarks in December was an absolute blast. Feedback has been tremendous and I only ask that those who were able to join us spread the word and help us make the next Battalion event just as enjoyable. I am absolutely committed to having a similar event this summer after we have brought 515th and 509th back home. We will do our best to keep the cost down and tailor the event to accommodate what Soldiers and Families want most.

Over the last couple of weeks we have had some significant transitions across our Senior NCO Leadership. My heartfelt thanks goes out to 1SG Byron Harris from HHC, 1SG Tony Love from K9 and 1SG Gustavo Dordal from 55th MAC. They have provided exceptional leadership and support to Fighters and Fighter Families over the last couple of years. I wish 1SG Love and 1SG Dordal the very best as they begin the next chapter of their military career and 1SG Harris all the best in retirement after over 20 years of faithful service to our Nation. While saddened to say goodbye to these great leaders I am thrilled to be able to see incredibly deserving senior non-commissioned officer from within our own ranks get promoted and assume the duties of 1SG for HHC, K9 and 55th. I know that 1SG Steve Ramsey (HHC), 1SG Sean Wiley (K9) and 1SG Noah Brock (55th) will continue to build upon the legacy of their predecessors as they lead and serve Fighter Soldiers and Families.

Many big events over the next few weeks, please visit our Battalion Facebook page at (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fightin-Fifth-5th-Engineer-Battalion/>) for photos and critical information on upcoming events. Also, please join us as we welcome home the 515th Outlaws in early March and continue to keep all of our deployed Soldiers and Families from K9, the 515th and 509th in your thoughts and prayers. Don't hesitate to reach out to me at christopher.mcgowan@us.army.mil if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for all you do to serve and sacrifice for our Nation, our Army and the Fightin' Fifth! Victory...Since 1861!!!!



- LTC Chris McGowan

Promotions:

50th MRBC - PFC Perez, PFC McKinley, PFC Ehlers, PFC Lamar, PFC Dingle, PFC Byles, SPC Candelaria, SPC Singletary, SPC Fox, SPC Carter, SGT Bandy

FSC - SPC Adams

HHC - SPC Johnson, PFC Haskins, SPC Dandeneau

Rear Detachments - SFC Owen, SGT Westover, PFC Draper, PFC Vella, PFC Curiel, PFC Dandeneau, PFC Diaz, PFC Zugmaier

Awards:

50th MRBC - Army Commendation Medal — SGT Dowse
 Army Achievement Medal — SGT Clopton, SPC Holcombe, SGT Story, SGT Williams
 Certificate of Achievement — SPC Hamik, PV2 Mendiola, PFC Sandidge, SPC Wright

FSC - Army Commendation Medal — SFC Jones, SFC Hoskins, SFC Barrientos
 Army Achievement Medal — SPC Beasley, SPC Worley, SPC Dizon, SPC Niedbalski
 Certificate of Achievement — SPC Heuck, SPC Riggins

HHC - Bronze de Fleury Medal — MAJ Knarr
 Meritorious Service Medal — SFC Malloy
 Army Commendation Medal — SPC Roberson
 Army Achievement Medal — SPC Johnson

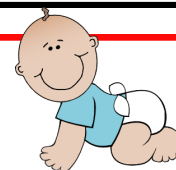
Deployments/Redeployments:

K9 - Deployed 1 FEB — SGT Ross, SPC Morley
55th Mobility Augmentation Company - Redeployed 05 FEB

UPCOMING EVENTS:

13 February — Day of No Scheduled Activities
 15 February — 55th MAC Change of Responsibility
 17-20 February — President’s Day Long Weekend
 23 February — Battalion Hail and Farewell
 02 March — Fighter Day
 12-16 March — Opportunity Leave Period
 02-05 April — Dauntless Week
 06-09 April — Easter Long Weekend

WELCOME THE NEW FIGHTER BABIES!!!



Zoey Marie-Ann Wells, 8 pounds 15 ounces and 20.75 inches long, born to SPC Wells on the 7th of December!

Tiernen Steven Young, 5 pounds 5 ounces and 19.6 inches long, born to SPC Young on the 13th of January!

Liana Heberang Ngimgotel, 7 pounds 11 ounces and 20.5 inches long, born to SPC Ngimgotel on the 18th of January!

Jaci Malena Espinosa, 6 pounds 4 ounces and 20.5 inches long, born to SGT Espinosa on the 27th of January!

55th Redeployment Ceremony



ABOVE: The Freedom Riders escorted the 55th MAC upon their return



ABOVE: CPT Warren leads his Soldiers into Davidson Gymnasium



LEFT: SPC Robison was the winner of the first kiss raffle

BELOW: Family and friends showed their support with signs honoring their loved ones



ABOVE: A Soldier greets his daughter during the ceremony

RIGHT: The 55th MAC in formation in front of family and friends



BELOW: Family and friends filled Davidson Gym in support of the 55th Soldiers

BELOW: Buses brought the 55th MAC Soldiers to Davidson Gym where their families awaited their return



Forward Support Company

Happy Holidays to all! The last few months have been great to spend with family for the Forward Support Company. As true with the rest of the Army, FSC saw a lot of changes during the months of November and December. During this time period the FSC did have to see one of our leaders, SFC Wempe leave the company to go up to battalion to help relieve some key shortages in the S3 shop. I know that he will be truly missed by the company. I do want to welcome, 1SG Ellingson and his family as he has taken over as 1SG and is doing an outstanding job and will be the company's 1SG for the foreseeable future. We also said goodbye to Mrs. Alina Jones as the company FRG leader, but welcomed Mrs. Amy Bermudez as she has volunteered to step up and be the new FRG leader for FSC. The battalion celebrated the holiday season with a battalion ball that was a great event for all those that attended. In December, FSC was able to take liberal leave and recharge their batteries by spending some extended time with families and friends during the holiday season. In January, the Maintenance PLT traveled to Camp Dodge to conduct training at the National Maintenance Training Center. This training allowed the platoon not only to learn from the cadre at the center but also show this traditional National Guard Training center what an active army FSC can really accomplish. During the PLT's time at the NMTC the Bounty Hunters were able to log more man hours and complete more maintenance jobs than any previous unit at the NMTC as well as conducting all those missions with zero safety incidents. It has been a pleasure working with all of the Soldiers in the 5th EN BN, FSC and look forward to the great training we are planning for the Spring.



ABOVE: FSC Soldiers provide the Color guard at the BN Christmas Ball

RIGHT: FSC Soldiers participate in the BDE Door decorating contest



ABOVE: FSC Soldiers digging a FOX hole to "Standard" during warrior time training



ABOVE: The commander and 1SG making sure the GROG has the right stirring tool

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

HHC would like to welcome their new company commander, CPT Christopher Smith, and his family into the Workhorse family. CPT Smith took over for CPT Carroll on 17 Nov 11. On the same note we would also like to bid farewell to CPT Brian Carroll and his family, who is moving on to attend Captain's Career Course here at Fort Leonard Wood. HHC also had mass participation in the BN's annual turkey bowl where the officers took on the senior NCO's of the BN. The officers prevailed this year, but the NCO's are already plotting their revenge for next year's game.

During the month of November the S-6 shop participated in the Change of Command ceremony for the incoming company commander. In addition, the shop provided audio and visual support for the memorial service for the fallen soldiers of the 515th company. The S-6 shop participated in the Turkey Bowl football game; a few played in the games, while those who did not play supported from the sidelines.

We held our first HHC FRG pot luck in the month of January. Everybody who attended had a great time, and thanks to everyone who brought some food to share! We discussed many opportunities for future company functions and also came up with several fundraiser ideas so we can get some items with the HHC Workhorse logo on them. Follow us on Facebook at "HHC, 5th Engineer Battalion ~ Workhorse" to learn more about fundraising ideas, upcoming FRG events, and pictures of our Soldiers!



ABOVE: SPC Vella is promoted by SSG Ellis



ABOVE: SGT Westover is promoted by his wife and father



ABOVE: Outgoing 1SG Harris hands SGM Bennett the NCO sword during HHC's Change of Responsibility ceremony



ABOVE: HHC and the rear detachments in formation before a battalion run



ABOVE: CPT Smith reenlists SFC Owen in the battalion conference room

50th Multi-Role Bridge Company

On 17 December, 32 soldiers from the 50th MRBC drove to Columbia's Children's hospital in Columbia, MO. The group was spear-headed by SSG Smith and SSG Norman, whom collected unwrapped toys from the company to donate. In addition to the toys that were donated from Soldiers, we raised \$400 within a 24 hour period to help purchase gift cards, gas cards, and additional gifts for the families of the children located at the hospital. Many of the children were unavailable for a visit with the Pirates due to their illnesses, but we visited in the hospital lobby with nine of the children that were being treated. The Christmas tree in the lobby was adorned with candy canes and the rest of the gifts contributed by the Pirates before the gathering ended.

In addition to the great event at the Columbia Children's hospital we held our yearly Christmas party at the FLW airport hangar. The potluck spread consisted of turkey, ham, and a variety of entrees and desserts provided by the Pirates. The area provided for a great evening and dining with games and activities for children, and we even had a visit from Santa who handed out toys and gifts. The night ended with every one going on a safe and well-deserved Christmas break.

For January the Pirates were welcomed back with many promotions from PFC to SPC. The difference in responsibility is great because now, as a SPC, they are required to manage other enlisted soldiers of lower rank. To earn SPC the Pirate has served a minimum of two years and is experienced and proficient in his/her specialty skill. The SPC is also given greater responsibility and trust from subordinates, peers, and their NCOs. The promotion ended with awards that were given out to soldiers for Victory week and Operation Razor Back 2011.



ABOVE: On 16 December 2011, Soldiers from the 50th MRBC went to Columbia Children's Hospital with bags of new toys



ABOVE: 1LT Moreno was promoted in January by LTC McGowan



ABOVE: Soldiers of the 50th MRBC add their drink of choice to the Grog during the Holiday Ball



ABOVE: 50th MRBC Soldiers during the HMMWV push event of the 6 JAN Fighter Day

Engineer Canine Company

From 06 - 30 January 2012, Engineer Canine 67th and 94th Detachments sent five personnel to support 82nd Airborne Division JRTC rotation. SSG Proctor and PFC Garcia attended the rotation as SSD handlers, SGT McGhee and SGT Reese as Observer Controller Trainers (OCT) and one Vet Tech, SPC Patel.

The Mine Working Dog (MWD) teams supported three Improvised Explosive Device defeat lanes and two cordon search lanes during the first week of Situational Training Exercise lanes. Our Canine personnel supported multiple missions during the Force-on-Force training to include an out of sector, high intensity, and High Value Target mission requiring two MWD teams and one Entry Control Point. These missions were vital in providing the necessary tactical training for our junior MWD team.

The Vet Tech support for this rotation was excellent. SPC Patel went on every mission with the OCT's to support any real world emergencies that might have been encountered. In addition, SPC Patel observed how actual combat missions were conducted in sector and he learned valuable lessons of what to expect when deployed.

The primary mission of the MWD teams was to ensure that the unit they supported knew the capabilities of their MWD teams and how to properly utilize these teams effectively in a combat operation. The handlers conducted several briefings with the leadership of the 82nd Airborne Division to ensure the MWDs were used as an asset. The handlers gained experience in briefing Divisions OIC down to the platoon leaders while conducting missions during the rotation.



LEFT: SPC Morley and SGT Ross deployed for the K9 Company at the beginning of February



RIGHT: SGT Ross kisses his daughter goodbye before he deploys in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

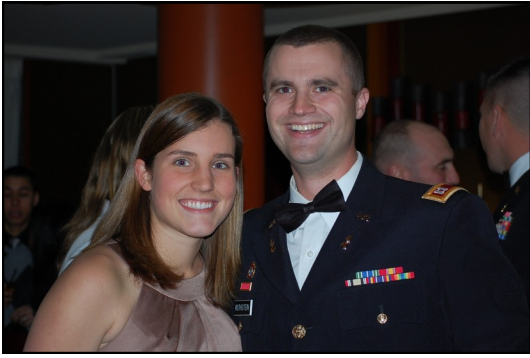


ABOVE: LTC McGowan promotes 1SG Wiley in the battalion conference room



ABOVE: 1SG Love gives his farewell remarks during the Change of Responsibility ceremony

5th EN BN Winter Ball 2011



ABOVE: CPT Rothstein and his date



ABOVE: 2LT Langley and SPC Delie cut the cake as the youngest members of the battalion



LEFT: CPT Austin and his wife pose with the battalion sunglasses

BELOW: 1LT Watts and his wife



ABOVE: SGM Bennett tests the Grog to ensure quality taste for the battalion

RIGHT: SPC Proctor, SPC Delie, and PV2 Hupp



BELOW: SPC Bermudez and his wife



BELOW: CPT Rothstein inspects the Grog before human consumption

Pictures from Afghanistan



ABOVE: 509th Route Clearance pictures



ABOVE: 509th Route Clearance pictures



LEFT: Soldiers from the 515th celebrate Christmas in Afghanistan

BELOW: 509th has worked with Italians during their support of Operation Enduring Freedom



ABOVE: 515th Sappers showing their Christmas spirit

RIGHT: 515th Soldiers enjoy care packages, including these given by the Gutoski family



BELOW: 2nd Platoon, 509th holds team competition to build morale

BELOW: 509th prepares to distribute the care packages that came for Christmas

