

Volume 1 Issue 7

30 August 2001

This newsletter is an unofficial publication and does not express the views of the United States Army

BUSHMASTERS BULLETIN



Company B 37th En Bn (C)(A)

Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340

Commander
CPT James De Lapp

First Sergeant
1SG Richard Smith



Commanders Corner

We are into September now and the mighty Airborne Engineers continue to make significant improvements to the area of operations. We completed our last two paving projects to include the Prizern Bypass in the German sector. The company main effort over the last two weeks was the construction of a basecamp for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) near the town of Vitina. Camp Vanguard as it is called required the efforts of the entire company to construct this basecamp in only ten days. It was an outstanding effort by all and truly reflects the capabilities of a combat engineer company. In the next two weeks, we will lose two of our key leaders. SFC Price will depart us and head back to Fort Bragg enroute to Officer Candidate School (OCS). 1LT Marmon will also head back to Fort Bragg, where he will serve in the S-3 shop until moving into another company. We have greatly appreciated both of their hard work and leadership during the past year. Thank you and good luck! We want to congratulate PFC Cotton and his wife Kara who had a baby boy on 17 Aug at 0609. They named him David Nathaniel Cotton, 6 lbs. 8 oz. Also to SPC Nevarez and his wife Mandylyne who had a baby girl the same day at 1704. Her name is Kaelyne Nevarez, 6 lbs., 2.8 oz, 18 in. Congratulations to both families on you newest additions. Finally, we have to say farewell to the great soldiers of Detachment 2/155th Engineer Company for the Tennessee Army National Guard. We have thoroughly enjoyed serving with these citizen soldiers and have appreciated having them as a part of our team. Remember you always have family at Fort Bragg, NC.

CPT De Lapp Bushmaster 6

BUSHMASTERS RECOGNIZED



From left to right, SPC McAmis and SGT Ascott receive Battalion Certificate for Achievement from TF 11th Engineer Commander LTC Stevens for being selected as Soldier and NCO of the Month. SPC Reed and SGT Rivers receive the Army Achievement Medal for being selected as Soldier and NCO of the Quarter.

CMS Section

Greetings to the families of the Construction Management Section. August has gone and September is upon us. Recently the CMS finished up with the Camp Vanguard/Mijak Road projects. These projects supported the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's deployment to Kosovo for a month of peacekeeping operations. The CMS designed and managed both the construction of the main basecamp (Camp Vanguard) for the Marines, but also designed and reconnoitered the Mijak road upgrade plan. Additionally, the CMS has been working in preparation for the Vrbovac Bridge project, a multi-national bridge-building endeavor between the Swiss Engineer Company and Charlie company, 11th Engineers (with some Bushmaster representation in there to prepare the approaches to the bridge!). We've also helped the Bushmasters kick off the Ferizaj School renovation project. All of the soldiers of CMS are staying very busy, but we miss all of you back home. Keep the cards and letters coming! They are great for morale!

CPT Templeman/SFC Thomas



Members of the CMS pose near the Serbian border while reconnoitering a road failure on Route Rat.

1st Vertical Platoon

Hello to all the families and friends of the 1st Platoon Bushmasters. All is well in Kosovo; everyone is staying safe and working extremely hard. Every soldier in first platoon continues to do great deeds for Kosovo. These deeds go a long way in furthering the peace process in Kosovo.

Over the past two weeks, the platoon has both continued on with the Outpost Campaign Plan and we have also helped construct part of a temporary Marine Base Camp. On August 15, SGT Cooke moved his squad out to Zitinje Church while SSG McHugh, SSG Crockett, and SSG Perry moved the bulk of their men out to work on the temporary Marine base, Camp Vanguard. Due to SGT Cooke's outstanding initiative and perseverance, his squad was able to construct an 8'X8' storage shed, a new dining facility floor, a guard tower improvement, a fuel rack, and a set of pull-up and dip bars. These men also repaired some living quarters and made some other dining facility improvements. The other squads led by SSG McHugh, SSG Perry, and SSG Crockett were able to expertly re-harvest two guard towers and build an elaborate 8'X10' guard shack for the new Marine base camp. In addition to building these two towers and guard shack, SFC Page was also able to use his extensive knowledge of carpentry to build 6 bookcases, 5 picnic tables, a three tier desk, and a conference room table for the Marines at Camp Vanguard. The Marines moved into the new base camp on 25 August 2001 and they were thoroughly impressed with the quality craftsmanship and hard work from the men of first platoon.

Following the Marine base camp and Zitinje Church, the platoon continued to diligently work on the Outpost Campaign Plan. On 27 August 2001, SGT Cooke moved his men out to Pones while SSG Crockett and SSG McHugh started work on Mogila Church. By 1 September, SGT Cooke and his squad again proved their ingenuity and construction prowess by building weapons racks, pull-up bars, and 3 KFOR information bulletin boards. They were also able to make some guard tower and dining facility improvements. At Mogila Church, SSG McHugh's and SSG Crockett's



Specialist's Pollock, Arroyo, and Melhoff put finishing touches on Guard Shack at Camp Vanguard

men worked hard to build a three tier desk, a wall in a tactical operations center, a shelving unit for the dining facility, 2 8'X8' multi-purpose sheds, benches for a guard tower, 2 picnic tables, 4 equipment racks, and one mailbox. The men that worked at Mogila Church received overwhelming praise for their tireless efforts and hard work. Aside from all the work we have been doing, we have also been undergoing many different personnel moves due to some promotions. I would like to congratulate SSG Perry for making the E-7 list, and SGT Cooke for making the E-6 list. The platoon is very happy for both of them. SSG Perry will leave the platoon to take over as Platoon Sergeant for second platoon. I will also be leaving the platoon and 2LT Gregory Henz from Cincinnati, OH will be taking my position as Platoon Leader. I will be rotating back to the states in September to take a new job assignment at Fort Bragg. Finally, due to PFC Williams' hard work and dedication to mission accomplishment, he was promoted early to

the rank of Specialist.

All in all, I want to thank the men of first platoon for having the opportunity over the last fifteen months to serve as their platoon leader. The soldiers of first platoon are some of the hardest working and most disciplined professional soldiers that I have ever seen. I am just happy that I was so lucky to lead and serve with such a fine group of men. In closing, I want to thank all the families and friends of first platoon for all the support you have given the men over the past four months.

1LT Marmon/SFC Page

2nd Vertical Platoon

It is that time again. 2nd Platoon hopes that this newsletter finds all of our families and friends in good health and cheer. Our bi-monthly update is at your home and here is what has been going on in 2nd platoon.

Since we last updated you we had been hot and hard at work on the Vitina Base Camp project that will support the livelihood of over 800 soldiers in sector. In the meantime we took a day to hone our weapons training skills. We took advantage of new technology of the Army by way of a Small Arms Virtual Trainer (SAVT). With this SAVT we were able simulate using our weapons systems on actual ranges and squad missions without using our personal weapons or going out into sector or even leaving Camp Bondsteel (CBS). We all enjoyed the virtual training experience.

Our priorities were shifted from Vitina to a new base camp being constructed for a marine training exercise. We re-harvested old guard towers from recently closed checkpoints and transported them to be put in place at the new base camp. Transporting the towers over 30 miles at a 5 to 15 mile in hour pace through the many small towns was a huge task in its self. We gutted the towers and off-loaded the hundreds of sandbags

resting on them to lift them by crane onto trailer beds. Once on trailer beds the soldiers had to walk 15 or so miles lifting power lines and guiding the vehicles through the towns and curious residents. Each trip lasted about four hours with two trips total. With the transport mission accomplished the only things left to do was to refit the towers with stairs and sandbags... mission complete.

Directly after completing our portion of the Marine Base Camp Project, we were redirected to assist with the infamous campaign plan to add overhead cover to the walkways and break area at a checkpoint in sector. We also have the honor of repairing a high school and kindergarten in the nearby town of Ferisaj. The school is in bad shape and we are happy to help repair its broken windows, display cases, shaky floors and bookshelves. As usual, the kids love to see us coming and hate to see us leaving for they appreciate everything we are doing for them.

With that we close out this chapter of 2nd Platoon's bi-monthly update. Thank you for all you do for us all here in Kosovo and all you plan to do in the future. Continue to send your support. You all have our best wishes.

1LT McRae/SFC Price



Pushing power lines up to move guard tower through the small towns to new location at Camp Vanguard



2nd Platoon moving a guard tower w/LE Assistance

Light Equipment Platoon

Greetings to friends and family of the LE platoon. Recently many of the smaller taskings have gone by the wayside for the time being. We've concentrated our efforts on only three major projects for the past two weeks. A Marine Corps unit occupied an existing isolated Observation Post (OP) near the town of Mijak on the border of Macedonia. The OP had no road leading back into Kosovo. From 16 August – 24 August, we built a trafficable road for them by widening and connecting two separate, extremely rutted logging trails through steep, mountainous terrain.



D7's pushing up berm at Camp Vanguard



DEUCE slipped track while making road to Mijak

Four DEUCE bulldozers threw their rubber tracks due to the harsh and unforgiving conditions of the logging trails. Half way to completion, we were informed that land mines were reported to be found near the end of the trail on which we had planned to build our road. Luckily they were not close enough to the road to cease our operation. SPC Woodall, SPC Ramirez, and SPC Newson were key operators on the road under SGT Matteson's close supervision. They did a great job despite the fact that they were literally teetering on the side of a mountain and had the threat of landmines all around them. From 14 August – 24 August, we built a large base camp near the town of Vitina. Named Camp Vanguard, it holds about 100 Marines. Brown and Root Construction Company erected the tents inside but we did the rest. Our platoon pushed up a 10 ft high berm all the way around the 1000 meter perimeter. SPC Powder got some good stick time on the D7 on this operation. He also learned the value of wearing goggles when pushing dusty soil on a windy day. SPC Michaels graded out and spread rock on the entrance road so that it wouldn't get too muddy for the month that the Marines will be in country. SGT Thorne, SGT Rogers, and SGT Foote, the men in charge on sight, managed to finish this project a day early! SPC Losoya used our crane to help the vertical construction pla-

toons collect old guard towers left at vacant camps, haul them to Vanguard, and finally place them on the ground where they are now. The Army's goal was to save money by having soldiers build this camp instead of Brown and Root. We definitely impressed them with what we could produce in only 10 days. We have also been supporting the Asphalt Platoon with their route upgrades. The pressure's on to finish as much paving as they can before they leave. Since 18 August, we have been providing them with at least 5 of our 20 ton Dump Trucks per day. We haul hot asphalt from the plant to their job site. From now on we will be on a new schedule. We will do maintenance on our equipment for a week and then work for two weeks. This will benefit our soldiers because the farther we can plan into the future, the easier it is for them to do their jobs. Life on Camp Bondsteel seems to be improving for us. We have been allowed shed the "pickle suit" and don civilian clothes on Saturday nights. They have also instituted a program to take soldiers into Gjilane to go shopping on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Whether we get the time to ever do those things is another story! Thanks again for all the support you provide back at home.

1LT Wohlfel/SFC Constantino

Maintenance Platoon

Hello to all from the Maintenance Platoon, Bravo Company, 37th Engineer Battalion way out here at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The platoon keeps trucking right along with its daily duties of keeping Bravo Company rolling along to its many and diverse tasks at hand. Since we last spoke our section has been quite literally tasked to the hilt. Between trying to keep an antiquated fleet of seven M920 20-ton tractors that the last unit left us only to receive new ones upon their return to Germany. Must be nice. To keeping the rubber tracks on, literally, our newest fleet of DV100's, otherwise known as the DEUCE, you know, the ones that replaced the D5 dozer. Between these two fleets, they have kept us gainfully employed to say the least. Oh, and by the way, we still have to maintain the other 140 pieces of equipment.

Does all this sound fun yet? But of course, everything is, in a nut shell, proper attitude and what you make of it. For instance, over the last few weeks alone our recovery section, led by SGT(P) Ovanic, has handled at least one recovery mission per day except on maybe Sunday. Then there are the constant contact missions to repair equipment on site all the way down as far as MNB-S, led by the Germans. These missions have been led by such notables as SGT Tran, and SPC Manners, as well as SGT Babeu and SPC McAmis. This is good. Our mechanics not only get to do their military jobs, but they get to do it in a real world scenario non the less.

Also, in the scope of our daily ritual we have managed to find time to play soccer of which our very own DSU mechanic,



SPC McAmis operating a Skid Steer to move parts in the Motorpool

SGT Babeu, is the team captain, and, in which our very own commander, CPT De Lapp, is a member in good standing. Various others in the section have also freely accepted the challenge of attending school and studying somewhere between work, physical fitness training, and sleep. Way to go team, study and work hard for the future

now. It will pay off big dividends in the end.

On the lighter side, Bravo has once again managed to take both top honors at the Battalion NCO and Soldier of the month boards, with the soldier being non other than our very own SPC McAmis. This will have been his last board prior to going in front of the Battalion Sergeant's board next month. In closing, I ask all of you, our Bushmaster extended family, to keep those letters and packages coming, and especially your prayers. You can only imagine how much we need them both. So long for now, God bless and take care of the home front until we return. Thank you, CW2 Madrigal.

CW2 Madrigal/SSG Bolender



Company B 37th En Bn (C)(A)
Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340
Commander
CPT James De Lapp

First Sergeant
1SG Richard Smith

FREE MAIL

BUSHMASTERS

Place Address Label Here!

**DET 2/155TH EN CO COMPLETES MISSIONS AND PREPS
FOR REDEPLOYMENT. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
YOU TRULY PAVED THE WAY!**

155th Asphalt Platoon



From the Ridge Runners

The Ridge Runners have completed the Prizren Bypass Project for KFOR and the MNB-S. This puts the Ridge Runners in the re-deployment mode for the next two weeks. The equipment has taken a lot of abuse but has served us well for the past six months. The soldiers of the 155th have taken part of the Tennessee heritage along with its tradition and given it to the people of Kosovo. The time that they have taken out of their civilian lives to support the Army in its mission in Kosovo has been filled with good times and bad but it will always be remembered. Every one of them looks forward to getting back to Tennessee just in time for football season to start. We thank the families that supported us while we were here and made it possible for each soldier to know that someone back home was thinking of him or her.

The 1st squad finished the Clam Shell 4 (1000 tons) and CBS Air Refuel Point (1700 tons) projects with ease. Then they finished up working on the running track in Gjilane for the local population (450 tons). Cpl Powell ran the first 400-meter race with Kosovo's Olympic hopefuls but came in a distant 5th. He claimed that he would return next year and take the gold. The 2nd squad finished the Prizren Airbase for the German Army. The project a little over 9000 tons and took 14 days to complete. The bypass will be for military and civilian traffic. We have to thank the German Air force for taking care of them. The squad hated to leave the base but they knew that it would not be long and they would be back with their families. The 3rd squad has been busy getting the equipment cleaned up for the customs inspections. While SSG Street has been making sure the paperwork is ready for the redeployment. Spc Tony Dooley has been feeling the blues since the Asphalt Plant Representative has left for her trip to Jamaica. Dooley has become quite the ladies man here in Kosovo. He plans on learning Greek and traveling back to Kosovo in the near future. We also have to thank the soldiers of Bravo Company, 37th Engineers for their support during this deployment. I think all of us will remember with a special fondness the Airborne Troopers out of Fort Bragg. I only hope that some time in the future we get to work together again. ***We Pave the Way!***

1LT Lacy/SFC Brooks