

“Clearin’ the way-ROUGHNECK!”

TF Roughneck Review

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2011



The formation of the 111th Engineer Battalion goes back to 1917 when cowboys who worked on Texas and Oklahoma oil fields filled the ranks to serve and fight.



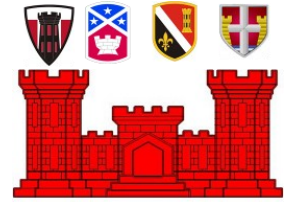
April in Wisconsin. 190th soldiers headed for training.



CSM Senkirik ensures soldiers understand TF standards.

Inside this issue:

926th Engineers	2
1014th Sappers	3
190th Engineers	4
FSC	5
HSC	6
Images	7
Contact Us	8



LTC Tim Senecaut Commander, Task Force Roughneck, 111th Engineer Battalion

Task Force Roughneck Soldiers, It's fantastic to finally have everyone here, together at Ft. McCoy, WI. At times it seemed like this date would never get here but it's finally arrived and we're now on our way. We have challenging weeks ahead of us as we prepare for our movement to Afghanistan. Every bit of training, each training event, and everything you learn here will help you do your job better in theater. Get as much out of the training as possible. Ask questions. If you still don't understand, ask again. Never walk away from training with a lingering question or doubt. The instructors here are professionals who only want us to be as prepared as possible when we load up and move to theater. CSM Senkirik and I have met and discussed our expectations and I'd like to reiterate a few things – keep in contact with your families, you have the opportunity here to talk to them so take advantage of it. They want to hear from you and know how you're doing. Set a high standard for yourself, for your appearance, for your behavior and never fail to

achieve it. I think the CSM and I were very clear on this. We will not accept inappropriate, morally wrong, or depraved behavior. You know what's expected of you. Watch out for you Battle Buddy, accidents happen but to lose someone due to an unsafe act is not acceptable. Think about Safety at all times - Watch out for your Buddy and they'll watch out for you. Lastly, you have a tough task ahead of you. This is where everything comes together and you're mentally, physically, and spiritually prepared to deploy to a combat theater of operations and do your job. I appreciate everything you're doing and are proud of what you accomplished so far. Keep up the positive attitude (despite the weather) and keep up the good work.

Roughneck 6



Task Force CDR Senecaut

Chaplain (CPT) Paul Ganther 111th Engineer Battalion



Chaplain Ganther and TF Roughneck soldiers gather for Sunday service.

Your Encouragement

“Therefore encourage each other . . .”

I Thessalonians 4:18

The spirit and morale of our 111th Engineer Battalion is strong as we settle in at Ft. McCoy, WI and continue training for our mission in Afghanistan. I am honored to serve with your loved ones and am encouraged by their dedication to service. (continued on page 8)

“There is a time for everything...a time to tear down and a time to build.” Ecclesiastes 3:1,3



Captain Darby Boudreaux Commander, 926th Engineer Company

The 926th Engineer Company (MAC) also known as the “Vipers” had their departure ceremony the second week of April at Baker, Louisiana where the soldiers’ families and friends got to see them fly off to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. According to the Company Commander, Captain Darby Boudreaux, the flight out was pleasant and uneventful but he did see emotions run high. He said he knew it was the last time his soldiers were going to see their families until their final four-day pass.

The first few days at Fort McCoy were administrative for the Vipers. They stood in lines and had their official records checked and processed. Equipment issue was next. They were issued the best cold weather equipment money could buy. Within those few days the weather changed from warm and sunny to freezing cold as if winter returned, refusing to let go its icy grip. They wore their warm gloves, boots, coats, and uniforms just in time as they boarded buses outbound to the firing ranges to train on their weapon systems. Captain Boudreaux said his soldiers were well taken care of with daily hot meals, hot showers



“Ready to strike and kill, the deadly viper has always haunted man’s imagination. Now our enemies will fear. We are ready and willing to end their lives...go ahead. ...make my day.”

1SG Turner

Questions & Answers

Q: What has your experience been so far?

PFC Trey Conerly: “It was hard to leave family. I saw people I didn’t expect to see show up. That was nice. The plane ride was quick. I slept the whole way. I woke up when the plane touched down.

PV2 Eric Murphy: “The ceremony was very nice. While in formation, I was mentally and spiritually getting myself ready for the upcoming training and our overseas mission. I’m really pumped up!”

SPC Phillip Taylor: “It was unique to have the motorcycle escort to the airport. I thought it was cool that they did that for us.”

PV2 Brad Williams: “It’s been kinda weird for me! I’ve never been away from home. I plan to adapt to this new environment. It doesn’t really snow in Louisiana. I’ll make the best of it. This is a new thing for me.”

PFC Conerly: “It was in the 80’s when we got off the plane here in Wisconsin. It was just like back home! I was thinking that it didn’t seem

Louisiana “Vipers”

and a warm roof to sleep under each night.

Task Force Roughneck is the team and the Vipers will be one of its key players. “I’m very excited about linking up the Task Force” Captain Boudreaux explained “The 111th has been very supportive and gave us great direction.” He said meeting his fellow commanders of the other units has been a pleasure. He said, “They really know what they’re doing and I look forward to going to combat with these guys.” He continued “My men are ready, we’re training really hard, practicing our skills over and over ‘till it’s second nature. I’m going to get them there so we can do our mission and we all come home safely.”

While talking about the soldier’s family support and how critical it is to a successful mission, Captain Boudreaux mentioned, “We have the easy part, we have to focus on what we’re doing, and the families back home have to go about their daily lives without their loved one supporting them.” He said he will ensure his soldiers will contact home to reassure family and friends that their training at Fort McCoy will contribute to a successful mission and a safe return home.

much different from home. But then the next day it sleeted and then snowed. But I liked it.”

PV2 Williams: “We came to McCoy to learn more so we can do our jobs the best we can. I think I’m gonna love it because we have some good leadership. They will make sure we’re ready for our mission in Afghanistan.

PFC Conerly: “I was extremely nervous. I was scared! I was brand new to the unit and knew no one. After a few months, I love it here! Our leadership is great! So, I’m not nervous anymore!

PV2 Williams: “It’s gonna be a hard thing. I’m anxious! It’s another new environment for me. I’m gonna see new things I’ve never imagined before. But everybody is working together in training and getting ready to do our mission safely. We’re focused. We’ll do our best for ourselves, our families, and our country.”

SPC Taylor: “We left our families at home. We miss them. But we the 926th, have become our new family. And we will help ourselves get through this deployment alive and safe.”



926th soldier trains on MK19.



926th soldiers find fake IED during IED defeat lane.

Captain Juan Rodriquez Commander, 1014th Engineer Co. (Sapper)

Puerto Rico "Bonecrusher"

The 1014th Sapper Company, commanded by Captain Juan Rodriquez, flew 5 hours from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Lacrosse, Wisconsin on April 12, 2011. For their departure, the Adjutant General and the media were there at the airport. The 1014th also known as the Bonecrushers were in the headlines for their part in the war in Afghanistan.

On the plane, CPT Rodriquez said his men had fun. They started singing Bomba music. He remembered the flight attendants were really impressed. Other passengers on the plane said they were proud of what the Puerto Rican soldiers were about to do. He recalls their goodbyes and best wishes. That gesture, Captain Rodriquez said was very good for his troops. They felt that there are people out there that really care about them.

"Wisconsin was a shock! We're from a tropical island where our average temperature is 80 degrees all year round." CPT Rodriquez said, "So, when it started snowing the first few days here, it was totally new for many of my guys." The cold and snow didn't hamper the Bonecrushers. After a couple of snow ball fights, they were the first to erect a Puerto Rican snowman on Fort McCoy.

"I explained to friends and families about our route clearing mission in Afghanistan. I was open and honest about the hazards our troops may encounter. I explained we would join units from Texas, Louisiana, and Tennessee to form Task Force Roughneck." CPT Rodriquez continued, "I told them they can feel at ease because we are taking care of their family members. Myself and the First Sergeant have a commitment to our troops to watch for their safety first; That we will get them well trained for our mission in Afghanistan."

Questions & Answers

Q:What has your experience been so far?

SPC Ricardo Pacheco: "We were at our home station for a few days before we left. And it was hectic! Load and unload. Accountability! Numbers! Everything! We had to be ready. Everything had to be perfect. So we wouldn't encounter

snags on our trip. We worked as a family and we pulled through!" SPC Pacheco continued " We were two or three hours at the airport loading the plane. Puerto Rico is a warm tropical island in the Caribbean. The departure was emotional for me. I saw all our higher command there wishing us farewell. They said they will see each of us on our return a year from now. Then we all got together and said a prayer. We asked for protection of our families, ourselves, and that we would work well as a team. I was really touched."

SPC Edgar Rodriguez: "We Puerto Ricans are joyful people. Some of us were tired but most of us sang songs and had a great trip up here. We had fun in the plane."

SPC Andino Tommy: "We like to sing! We do Bomba and Plena. We got off the plane and people were impressed."

SPC Pacheco: "We had the flight attendant and passengers singing and dancing. They took photos and videos of us. It was fun!"

Q: What are your thoughts about Fort McCoy and Afghanistan?

SPC Pacheco: "No training is a waste of time! We're a very disciplined unit and we know we gotta to do what we gotta do. Our mission here is continuous training at a more advanced level. We expect to learn a lot."

SPC Rodriguez: "Route Clearance feels good to me. We're like a family and we will protect each other. I actually reclassified to become a combat engineer because I wanted a real meaningful experience."

SPC Tommy: "This is my second time around. My first tour was in Iraq. I know we have some young people and it's the first time for them. But they're good listeners. They do what they're told. They know they'll be alright because they're in good hands."

SPC Pacheco: "Our mission over there is critical. Lives depend on us. It's a heavy burden on our shoulders but we'll protect each other, the civilians, our troops. I really wish they will feel safe once they know the 1014th cleared their route. They'll say those guys know what they're doing and we are safe. I hope they don't get complacent but have one less worry on their minds."



Bonecrushers build a snowman



SPC Ricardo Pacheco



1014th soldiers train on MK19



"The Bonecrusher in the Transformer movie reminded us of ourselves. Kicking bad guy ass and saving lives. That's us!"

CPT Rodriguez



Captain Thomas Gilley Commander, 190th Engineer Company

Tennessee “Blood Hounds”

In the early morning hours of April 12th, 2011 the 190th Engineer Company, the Blood Hounds, gave their last hugs and kisses to their families. Then they boarded the buses on their way to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. The Blood Hounds had their official farewell ceremony the day before with VIPs and media coverage. But today, as the buses rolled through the communities of Morse Town and Russellville, Tennessee, the citizens came out and lined the streets to wave their support. Several schools had the students out along the route shouting their farewells with flag waving and posters. “It was a special moment for us” Captain Gilley, the commander of the Blood Hounds said. “Some of my soldiers looking out the bus windows could see their kids out there waving. Some of them were crying as we drove through.” The local police and the Tennessee Highway Patrol officially shut down sections of Interstate Highway 40 for the trip to the airport. It was their way of honoring the Tennessee soldiers on

their way to war. The display of respect and pride not only touched the Blood Hounds emotionally but boosted their morale and inspired them for their upcoming mission.

“The purpose for our training here at Fort McCoy is mostly to operate and use our route clearance equipment we’ll be using in Afghanistan. We will work together as a company and work as part of a Battalion.” CPT Gilley explained “The shock of the weather here hit us hard. It was springtime in Tennessee. We came up here and there was 4 to 5 inches of snow. Hope it’ll change soon.” Back home, CPT Gilley said he ensured friends and family that safety was of utmost importance in everything they do. He said the Blood Hounds would be getting the best training and using the same equipment that the active duty soldiers use to train on.



Last formation before departure



“A blood hound is the best way to track down and capture someone or something. We will find every IED and take in every bad guy in our path.”

CPT Gilley

Questions & Answers

:Q:What has your experience been so far?

SPC Shawn Wogtech: “It really hit me when I saw the children lined up cheering us with their signs. Seemed like everybody was lined up along the road to say good bye to us”.

SPC Drew Fanny: “It was hard. I was more emotional than I thought I would be. Seeing families standing outside waving and crying as the bus drove us off. I know it’s part of the job-to leave for missions. I think we’re doing the best we can”.

PFC Adam Wogtech: “I loved the ride up here! It was incredible! I’ve never seen anything like it in my whole life. I’ll never forget it. We had a police escort from the armory all the way to Knoxville. We had kids from elementary schools and junior high schools come out and wave at us and waving flags. We had family and friends out there. It was amazing. We had cops stop and salute us as we got onto the plane. We got to watch a movie. We ate. The flight attendants were very nice. And when we landed it was beautiful and warm.

SPC Christopher Bagly: “Going to Afghanistan...I’m scared. But I think we can handle it.



We’re going over with a great group of guys”.

SPC Thomas Martin: “I’m a little nervous but once we spend time there it’ll go away. We’ve been working and living together every day. We’ll learn each other’s thinking. I know we’ll be fine when we get there”.

SPC Fanny: “We will save as many lives as we can. I feel we’re doing the most important job over there. It’ll be an everyday constant thing. We’re gonna clear those roads and get people home safe.”

SPC S. Wogtech: “Our job is on the dangerous side. But with the leadership we’ve got, I feel confident we’ll get it done. Everyone in the truck will know their job and perform it well”.

SPC Martin: “I’ve seen videos of what can happen to us. But we’ve got veteran squad leaders and platoon sergeants...they’ve been there! They have the experience and know what they’re doing. They’ll help us do the right thing so we can come home safe”.

PFC A. Wogtech: “I’m excited, anxious, and scared. I guess that’s the right way to be. Keeps me alert. I like my job. It’s saving lives. That’s a big thing for me. I’ve always helped people out”.



Enjoying last day at armory



VIPs motivate 190th troops

First Lieutenant Jeremy Wilcox Commander, Forward Support Company

The Forward Support Company, or FSC for short, is commanded by Lt Wilcox. FSC, also known as the Phantoms, are the unsung heroes behind the scenes supporting the route clearance teams who are out in front clearing the roads of danger. “We have three main efforts,” explains Lt Wilcox. “We have the distribution platoon, the maintenance platoon, and the recovery section.” The distribution platoon transports equipment, supplies, and personnel throughout the area of operations in convoy logistic patrols. The vehicles in this part of the world take a pounding and parts wear out fast and then break. The maintenance platoon has mechanics, welders, and other specialties to maintain and repair equipment. The recovery section consists of tow vehicles that go out and bring back vehicles or equipment that are stuck or broken down. The Phantoms also have a headquarters platoon with two sections. One performs administrative duties and the other has field feeding teams that make sure meals are

Questions & Answers

Q: What has your experience been so far?

SPC Bigbie: “I was mostly scared at first. I didn’t know what to expect. I never seen a town come out and support like that. When I was younger I don’t remember seeing anyone come out for my dad when he deployed. On our way to the airport I kept looking out the bus window trying to take in all the passing scenery. I’ve never been anywhere! Different things kept going through in my mind the whole trip.”

PFC Chavez: “When we stopped in Stephenville, I never seen a town so supportive of their military. I never seen anything like that! I’m from another unit. My family had to leave the night before and I said my goodbyes. On the bus I felt all alone. But those people out there made me feel proud and part of something special. As the days go by FSC has made me feel welcomed. There are a lot of veterans here supporting us new guys. They may know it or not but they’re a big part of preparing me for our mission over there.”

Texas “Phantoms”

nutritional and safe to eat throughout the AO.

“Wisconsin is not Texas!” Lt Wilcox said “The cold weather was tough to get used to but I look it as an opportunity for my soldiers to get used to because it should be similar to the temperatures in the mountains of Afghanistan.” FSC departed warm spring April weather from Stephenville, Texas. The Family Readiness Group made that event a special moment for the Phantoms. “That was a great day! A very emotional day! The best send off you could send a soldier with.” He explained that having a strong family readiness group in Texas will give his soldiers the ammunition to fight the fight in theatre. That day the Phantoms were the “talk of the town.” The mayor delivered an inspiring speech. Along the streets of Stephenville the Boy Scouts, many veterans, and hundreds of citizens took the time to line up, wave, and show support for the Phantoms.



“A phantom is never seen. But we always appear. Our main effort is to support our soldiers anytime, anyplace.”

1ST Lee



SPC Camacho: “I had all mix of emotions: Anxiousness, excitement, and scared. The bus ride through Stephenville was really emotional. I’m from Dallas and you just don’t see that kind of connection between people. That was very special from a small town. I too come from another unit. The soldiers of FSC has been supportive and helpful to me. That makes me feel at ease and ready to do my job.”



Left to right. PFC Jose Chavez, SPC Jessica Bigbie, SPC Laura Camacho finish up training at counter IED training.



FSC soldiers listen in to 1st Army instructors at IED defeat lanes.



SFC Salas supervises PFC Nonea during IED training



First Lieutenant Gary Ward Commander, Headquarters Support Company Texas “War Dogs”

April 23, 2011, 1st Lt. Gary Ward is commander of Headquarters Support Company, HSC for short. He was busy finishing up last minute details and over watching his soldiers board the buses for their trip to Wisconsin. “The soldier’s spirits were high!” Lt Ward said, “It was sad to leave but at the same time we were ready to get on the road.” HSC, or War Dogs, were to join four other companies to form a Battalion size route clearance element, called Task Force Roughnecks. “The soldiers were eager to go and train” he continued, “Time goes by a lot faster when soldiers are busy working and training. A deployment has three phases. First is training. Second doing the mission. Then finally the return home. We just started the first phase.”



SPC Jarred Fuller qualifies with his M203 during storm

“I was reading Shakespeare and the quote “...and let slip the dogs of war...” always stuck with me. We’re going to war. And, there it is.”

LT Ward



Questions & Answers



Left to right. PFC Cameron Valdez, PFC Tyler Wagner, PFC Susan Martin, kneeling is PFC Leslie Rone



Left to right. PFC Leslie Goben and SPC Echo Holland look for IEDs along the IED defeat dismount lanes

Q: What has your experience been so far?
PFC Valdez: “It was really great to see all of Brownwood outside with flags waving at us. It was cool to see people appreciating what we’re doing for them. It was a great feeling I’ll never forget it. I was nervous at first about our mission to Afghanistan. But as the days go by and the training sinks in I’m feeling ready to go!”

PFC Martin: “I really appreciated the city of Brownwood coming out showing support. I thought it was really awesome! It made me feel really proud to be a soldier. Being on the plane with my friends helped me feel not alone. After the snow storm hit us here in Wisconsin...I’m definitely a Texan! Being in the snow and cold is not for me!”

PFC Wagner: “Looking out at all those smiling faces waving flags, I kept wondering if we’ll get to

see all those people again when we get back from our mission. Since we landed here, I’ve noticed how fast the pace has gotten for us. This is the real deal and I’ve been ready for this moment ever since I joined the Army.”

PFC Rone: “It was very emotional seeing everybody in Brownwood out so early in the morning for us. I had lots of friends and family out there. I would text them. They would text me. “I just saw you go by!” that was cool. It was awesome that everybody came together as a community to show support and see us off. It’s hard to be away from family. I’ve never been away from home. But inside, I have a feeling that I’m taking part in something good in the grand scheme of things. Being here at Fort McCoy is getting better. It was pretty coming out into the fluffy white snow at first. But then it got...yucky!”



SPC Jose Caldera takes notes at an After Action Review meeting after a mounted IED defeat lane exercise.



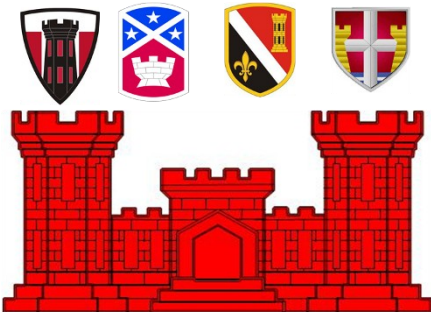
TF Roughneck April 2011

TF ROUGHNECK

SFC Glenn Sierra
111th Engineer Battalion PAO
1868 Regimental Avenue
Fort McCoy, WI 54656

Phone: 608-388-6351
E-mail: glenn.sierra@us.army.mil

[www.facebook.com/
111th Engineer Battalion](http://www.facebook.com/111thEngineerBattalion)



Today the 111th Engineer Battalion is a 176th Engineer Brigade and Texas Army National Guard asset headquartered at Camp Bowie, Brownwood, TX. The Battalion is capable of providing support to combat theater units, battalions, brigades and divisions in the form of mobility, countermobility, survivability and sustainment for world-wide contingency operations and to the citizens of the state of Texas under Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) in times of emergency and state-level crisis.



HSC & FSC of 111th EN BN final formation at Texas departure ceremony

Chaplain Ganther (continued from page 1)



CSM Senkirk at Sunday service.

I arranged transportation, and many took advantage the opportunity to attend the established LDS fellowship, General Protestant worship or Catholic Mass the first Sunday we were on post. And when we needed to train on the following Easter Sunday morning, many also took advantage of a Christian Easter “field service” I offered at sunrise outside in a grassy field. I see many other places and ways that soldiers are encouraging each other for the days ahead, too.

In the Christian scriptures, the Apostle Paul reminds the Thessalonian church of the importance of encouraging each other when faced with difficult times. It’s a gift we have the opportunity to give each other. I hope you will be very liberal with gifts of encouragement for the soldiers of the 111th. Cards, letters, phone



FSC soldiers ready for training.

calls, e-mails, care packages and prayers will be a vital life line as we move into the next phase of our deployment half a world away from those we love.

Again, spirits are high. Yet, your encouragement will help keep it that way. Thank you in advance for all that you will do for us “back home.” Yet, even as I remind you send encouragement our way, let me assure you that I will remind the soldiers to send it back to you! We know this is hard for you, too. We must encourage each other!



Chaplain (CPT) Ganther ministers to soldiers.