

“Clearin’ the way-ROUGHNECK!”

TF ROUGHNECK REVIEW



CSM Senkirik Prepares Troops, Embraces Families & Friend

Hello Roughneck Family,
What a Great Day to be a Roughneck Soldier, family member, and friend!

As we wrap up these final couple of weeks it is easy to reflect on our Ft. McCoy experience. These TF Roughneck Officers, NCOs, and Enlisted Soldiers are amazing! They have outperformed every expectation that any of us had prior to arriving here. The Ft. McCoy training staff has commented on numerous occasions that these Soldiers are some of the best that have come through this post.

We have been fortunate this week to be able to promote several great Soldiers. Promoted to Sergeant First Class is SFC Martin Zapata; to Staff Sergeant are SSG Kevin Keith and SSG Karl Navarette; to Specialist are SPC Cameron Valdez and SPC Leslie Rone; and to Private First Class is PFC Jherica Moore. Congratulations to



Command Sergeant Major Bryan Senkirik of TF Roughneck

each of these outstanding Roughneck Soldiers. There will be more in the upcoming weeks; stay tuned for these announcements.

During the first 30 days we have had numerous Soldiers that have had birthdays, anniversaries, and even births of their children. I would like to wish each of them well, knowing that next year they will be able to celebrate these events with family and friends.

As we move forward the

Task Force is ramping up for its final exercise to become “trained & ready” to move into our next phase, which is getting the Task Force into country. The Battalion Staff has come up with a great plan, and we should have no issues.

Prior to leaving Ft. McCoy our Soldiers are going to have the opportunity to spend time with their families and friends. I hope the families will cherish this short period of time to give you and your Soldiers an uplifting loving experience prior to our departure. This time is important for the morale of our Soldiers, Units, and this Task Force.

As I sign off from this edition of the TF Roughneck Newsletter, Roughneck 6 and I would like to thank all the families and friends from Texas, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico. Without you we could not do what we do, defend this great nation. Respectfully,

Roughneck 7

Issue 2
May 2011



CSM Senkirik congratulates recently promoted SFC Zapata



CSM listens to an After Action Review with his soldiers

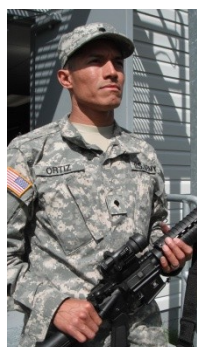
Roughneck Spotlight:

(Continued on page 8)

SSG Philip Thomas, with HHC, 111th EN BN qualified with the M107 Long Range Sniper Rifle. He shot 20 for 20 at 1000 meters with 15 head shots.



SPC Bernal Roberto Ortiz, with the 1014th SAPPER CO, scored 323 points on his APFT and is the top shooter on the Sapper Sniper Team.



Inside this issue:

NCOs 190th EN CO (MAC)	2
NCOs 926th EN CO (MAC)	3
NCOs 1014th SAPPER CO	4
NCOs FSC, 111th EN BN	5
NCOs HHC, 111th EN BN	6
Photo Gallery	7
Highlights & Contact us	8



First Sergeant James Davis 190th EN CO (MAC) "Bloodhounds"

By SFC Glenn Sierra

Serving in the military is tough on relationships, especially marriages. Trying to balance time and effort and see it tilt the wrong way is a hard reality. "This is the only thing that has hung with me." 1SG Davis affectionately said, "This is really my real family, right here."

While discussing the U.S. Army's Non-commissioned officers, or NCOs, he stated that they are the ones that care for soldiers, meets their needs, and loves them. "As I came up through the ranks I'd pick up styles of leaderships that worked for me." He continued, "I kind of like to make it the soldier's idea. I don't walk up to them and

say this is what you will do. Rather, I'll ask them what they think about this or that? Then they take the bait." He said that way his soldiers develop responsibilities and take ownership in making decisions. He is developing the next generation of leaders.

"Today's young soldiers are like today's kids." He said, "They're not 'old school' like me. I've adjusted to get them where they need to be."

1SG Davis said he and his NCOs will teach his soldiers the proper ways of performing tasks and enforce wearing protective equipment because it will all add up when balancing surviving the mission and

returning home. "There are risks" he concluded, "and being prepared helps."



1SG Davis in front of his troops during a TF Roughneck formation at Fort McCoy, WI.

Question & Answer

By SPC Ariel Bingham



Q: Why are you still serving?

SSG Michael Cunningham— My father spent 32 years in the military and before that my grandfather spent 10 years. It's been a part of the family and I'm just one more in the family tree doing what the family has always been doing.

Q: What is an NCO?

SGT David Lawhead— We're pretty much the backbone. We're the ones that make sure the job gets done. We take care of troops and take care of the mission, whatever the mission might be. Whether it's to get troops fed, make sure they've got all the proper equipment, or to go out and fight the battle.

Q: As a young soldier, did you have a role model?

SGT John Paul Copus— My squad leader when I was active duty said the only difference between an NCO and an officer is an officer does a lot of paperwork and an NCO does all the work. He's a real big role model to me, even to this day, 15 years later, I still remember a lot of his teachings.

Q: How do you motivate your troops and keep them from getting complacent?

SSG Michael Cunningham— I try to motivate them by leading by example. I'm the second oldest man in this unit. I try not to ask them to do something that I wouldn't do. Every now and then you have to look at them and say, "Hey. I'm 57 years old and you're 20. Why are you falling on the ground and I'm still up and going?"

Q: What do you think of today's soldiers?

SGT David Lawhead— We've got some good troops and some that they're going to do a lot of growing up while we're gone. Hopefully we can help them grow up to be good people, They're all learning and they seem to want to learn. They're very willing to learn which is a good thing.

Safety is a huge concern for parents. SGT John Paul Copus said, "I talked to one parent, she tried to make me promise to bring her son home. I looked her straight in the eye and said I will do my best and that's all I can promise. I'm gonna do my best."



SSG Cunningham conducts inventory of medical supplies.



NCO setting up CROWS weapon system.



First Sergeant Howard Turner 926th EN CO (MAC) "Vipers"

By SFC Glenn Sierra

At six foot five inches, two hundred and fifty pounds, 1SG Turner commands attention. His deep voice penetrates through walls and doors. If there is no smile on his stern face then someone is about to have a bad day.

"An NCO is like a father. He's the one that teaches you the difference between right and wrong." He said while discussing the role of the NCO in today's Army. "He's the one that spanks your butt when you mess up!" Motivating soldiers is the challenge of all NCOs.

He said every soldier is different. He gets at an intimate level with his troops because

he found that one thing may work with one soldier but may not work for another. "I'll pull a soldier to the side and point out what he's doing wrong - problem solved" He continues, "But with some, I need to run them around the block a couple of times before they open their minds."

According to him, today's soldiers are much more sophisticated and educated than soldiers of the past. Weapon systems, communication networks, and various technologies are so advanced a solid computer and academic foundation is a prerequisite.

"As NCOs we're trying to create leaders,

not followers." He concluded, "We got the best training, best vehicles, and best gear to make us safe. Which almost guarantees us a safe return trip home."



1SG Turner assesses the situation at a TF Roughneck event at Fort McCoy, WI.

Question & Answer

By SPC Ariel Bingham

Q: Why are you still serving in the military?

SGT Brandon Brooks– We all came in for slightly different reasons. I came in, basically, for many reasons. I came in for the experience and now that I've become an NCO I get to train soldiers and I get to show them what I've learned throughout the years.

Q: What is an NCO?

SSG Bradley Doucet– The NCO creed says that we're a leader of soldiers. We're more than just leaders of soldiers; we're leaders of the country. We're pretty much the face of the Army, We are the very backbone of everything the Army stands for. NCO is more than just a name, it's more than just a title and more than just a creed. It's who you are as a leader. It's in your blood. You can train soldiers to be leaders, but in my opinion it's more than that.

Did you have a role model?

SGT John Winsper- I would have to say my squad leader in Iraq. He always



pushed me at working to become an NCO and then once I became an NCO, he pushed me to become the best NCO I could be. That's kind of how I base how I am as an NCO.

Q: How do you keep your soldiers motivated and fight complacency?

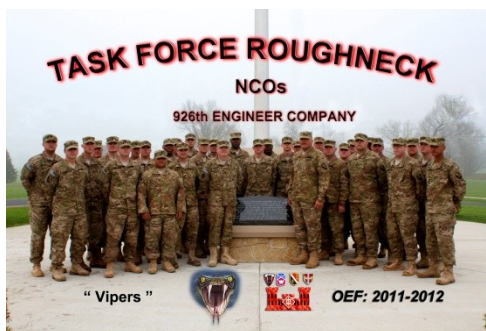
SSG Bradley Doucet– We lead from the front. In everything that we do, we show these soldiers that if we can do it, so can they. We try to show these guys that they volunteered to fight for their country and we keep them motivated by showing them the fruits of their labor. You show them that they're about to do something good for their country.



From left to right. SGT Winsper, SGT Brooks, and SSG Doucet.



NCO ensuring belts of rounds are linked together correctly on a CROWS system.





First Sergeant Emilio Cintron 1014th EN CO (SAPPER) "Bonecrushers"

By SFC Glenn Sierra

One night, at the barracks, soldiers were trying to make sure they heard right. They were hearing the rhythmic sounds of drumming, laughter and singing. "The music is called Bomba and it comes from my island, Puerto Rico." ISG Cintron explained. "Our culture keeps us together and that makes our job easier."

He said the NCOs make sure the job gets done and they make sure it's done right. It is not just at the work place but at home. He wants his NCOs to make sure they know how the soldier is doing at home, school, or at work.

"To motivate, you have to find a way. You

have to be a good communicator. You have to get their needs met." He said, "You have to keep them on the straight path. You have to keep them out of trouble."

ISG said he plans to keep a lid on complacency by peer pressure. If someone lets their guard down it is going to affect everybody in the unit. He said no one wants to be that guy.

He concluded "When we left PR I was wondering how my soldiers were going to be treated. Are we gonna be outcasts? Are they gonna treat us differently?" He then smiled and said, "The guys from Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas have treated us

like brothers and that has highly motivated my soldiers to drive on."



ISG Cintron tracking training progress at Fort McCoy, WI.

Question & Answer

By SPC Ariel Bingham

Q: Why are you still serving?

SSG Carlos Rodriguez— After 9/11 I felt like I needed to do something. That is the best decision I have made so far. I'm proud to serve my country. It's something I have inside, something I can't describe. It's a feeling. A good feeling. I'm proud to do it.

Q: What is the importance of an NCO?

SGT Javier Olivo— They are important because you have to take care of the soldiers and you also have to make sure the mission gets accomplished. You have to take into consideration what the soldiers need and you have to think about the safety of the soldiers. As we all hear, the mission comes first. No, safety comes first.

Q: How do you motivate your soldiers?

SSG Rafael Bruno— I always try to be a step ahead, leading by example. Sometimes I see them, especially the younger ones that don't have much experience, they're kind of afraid of going outside the wire because they don't really know. I sit with them, tell my war stories and try to build their confidence.



Q: What experience do you, personally bring to the mission?

SSG Carlos Rodriguez— I'm a police officer in my country. I have experience with bad situations. As a police officer, I deal with people every day in good or bad situations. You use your experience and knowledge every day.

Q: What would you say to a concerned parent about the risks of going overseas?

SGT Javier Olivo— As we know, this mission is not easy. It's a valuable mission we will be conducting over there. We are trained and we are still training for this mission. I would tell them not to worry. The soldiers are well trained and they know what to do. They know how to defend themselves.

SSG Rafael Bruno— I'm a man of my word. I don't like to lie to anybody. I can tell them they don't have to worry about it because right here, we are working very hard. We got a lot of training, good training. Every single soldier knows what to do.



From left to right, SSG Rodriguez and SSG Bruno.



SGT Olivo performs function check on equipment.





First Sergeant Brett Lee FSC, 111th EN BN "Phantoms"

By SFC Glenn Sierra

A child's dream can be like a sail in a steady wind. After thirty-two years, 1SG Lee's boyhood dream is still on course. His inspiration was his father, a Command Sergeant Major, with over thirty years of service.

While discussing NCOs, he said there were good ones and bad ones to role model to. But one NCO was so impressive, he changed jobs to become a motor sergeant like him.

The good NCOs he said, "guides and mentors young soldiers. Mold them and leads them up the chain to becoming NCOs themselves." he continued, "Out

from your heart comes care for your soldiers' morale, welfare, spiritual, mental, training, just everything that will lead to a successful career."

His military record shows a long list of different units and job titles. "I've seen a lot! Done a lot! Learned a lot from very good soldiers and leaders." He said with the knowledge he's learned he shares it with the others to help them progress.

"If you can deal with personalities, you can motivate any soldier." He concludes, "If you keep them motivated and focused on their jobs, situation and the mission you can fight complacency. Things out of our

control we can't ensure their safety. But within our control, we've taken steps to ensure they'll return home."



1SG Lee over watching his troops during training at Fort McCoy, WI.

Question & Answer

By SPC Ariel Bingham

Q: Why are you still serving?

SGT Jerald Ruppelt- Well I have kids and I want to make this a safer place for them - to protect our freedoms and our rights so my children have the same things I've had.

Q: What is an NCO?

SSG Michael Bagley- An NCO is kind of like an older brother. He's been where the lower enlisted are at one point in time. He knows what rules they're going to try to bend, He's got the experience and he's got the knowledge. They're relied upon to maintain standards.

Q: How do you motivate your soldiers and keep them from getting complacent?

SGT Michael Welch- I talk to them as though I'm an equal with them. I try to get on their level. It's really easy for me personally to relate to a lot of things that they feel. I reassure them constantly of what's going on.

Q: What do you think about today's soldiers?

SGT James Muncy- I don't think there's been much of a change. You still do have a lot of lower enlisted that come in and really



do care about the military and do care about serving their country and they care about giving respect. A lot of them understand that the more respect that they give, the more respect they'll get back.

Q: What would you tell a concerned parent about the steps that we take to mitigate some of the risks we take?

SGT Michael Welch- It all goes back to staying on your guys, making sure they are on top of their game. Constantly just keep the training aspect. This job of course has its hazards but so does walking across your street every day. Bad things happen every day, whether we're stateside or overseas. All we can do is try to do our best, listen, learn, and just keep our heads on. The better we do that, the better we can accomplish our mission and the easier it is to come home safe.



SGT Ruppelt makes a plan at Entry Control Point training.



SSG English sends report to headquarters.



SGT Muncy preparing to qualify at firing range.



First Sergeant Javier Garcia HHC, 111th EN BN "War Dogs"

Picture a M1 Abrams tank smashing through a mud brick wall. That's how 1SG Garcia's passion is about his troops. "I'm more of a pusher. I spent 25 years in tanks." He says, "I'm looking forward to bringing what knowledge I have and applying it to the situation."

In regards to today's NCOs he said it is not just a job title, it is a commitment. "We are cultivating young men and women into positive productive people." He continued, "As an E-5, I affected 3 soldiers and I was hooked."

He has seen how technology and gadgets have become a main thread in our society.

Soldiers are a reflection of society. He says because they are more techno-savvy it benefits them in today's complicated Army.

"We can't predict every single incident that may happen." He said in reference to NCO supervision, "About 70 to 80 percent of whatever happens we can control." Keeping soldiers physically fit, well rested, equipped, and trained is how he plans to mitigate risks.

He recalls a 1SG who was strict and hard about everything. Always trying to improve his troops. Later, he found out that 1SG's entire platoon was ambushed and killed in Vietnam. The press was negative

on the Army. That 1SG committed himself to restoring the Army's image and teaching soldiers lessons learned to increase their chances of survival and return home.



1SG Garcia takes pictures at TF ceremony.

Question & Answer

By SPC Ariel Bingham

Q: Why are you still serving?

SSG Raymond Boswell—I believe in the freedoms that we have and because I like doing what I'm doing. I like being where I'm at. Being an NCO is the most rewarding thing I've ever had the chance to become.

Q: What is an NCO?

SSG Philip Thomas— An NCO is always setting the example. He's willing to train younger soldiers, share the experiences and help younger soldiers, give them the knowledge they've accumulated over the years; to mentor and motivate them.

Q: Did you have a role model?

SFC David Harte— Yes I did. His name was SGT Fletcher. When I was a private, he was an NCO that generally cared about the people he worked with and I've tried to emulate that in my career. I really care about people and their needs.

Q: How do you motivate your soldiers?

SSG Raymond Boswell— Sometimes it's nothing more than an encouraging word. Other times its really bearing down on them.



Sometimes when a soldier knows someone is looking out for them, they tend to be a little better motivated.

Q: What do you think about today's soldiers?

SSG Philip Thomas— From when I first got in, I think I'm seeing more softer ones. I think they're babied too much. So they need a little more tough love. There are many good soldiers, no doubt. Those few just have to quit being babied.

Q: Safety is always a concern for parents. What would you say to reassure a parent?

SFC David Harte— We are going to do everything in our power to make sure our soldiers are safe and protected during the deployment. We are not going to take any unnecessary risks with our soldiers.



SGT Hubbard takes charge of litter team while training at Fort McCoy, WI.



SSG Smith organizes for live fire exercise.



TASK FORCE ROUGHNECK



OEF: 2011-2012



190th ENGINEER CO.

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS CO.

926th ENGINEER CO.

FORWARD SUPPORT CO.

1014th SAPPER CO.

CSM BRYAN SENKIRIK

LTC TIM SENECAUT

111th ENGINEER BATTALION

MAY 2011

FORT MCCOY, WISCONSIN



TF ROUGHNECK MAY 2011

“Clearin’ the Way-Roughneck!”

US Army National Guard

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



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

Task Force Roughneck will be in Afghanistan to clear the roadways of IED’s and other hazards which will create freedom of movement for all citizens of Afghanistan and coalition forces. We will provide logistic support to units within our Area of Operations as well as facilitating route clearing operations. We will provide construction assets within our AO which may include building facilities and infrastructure to support coalition forces throughout our AO. We are prepared to conduct site exploitation operations in coordination with other units in our AO. We are prepared to conduct site surveys and cost estimates for future facilities and infrastructure projects in coordination with Provincial Reconstruction Teams. We are able to provide limited vertical and horizontal construction assets in support of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams. We are prepared to train, mentor, and assist the Afghanistan National Army Corps of Engineers to establish and maintain freedom of maneuver across northern Afghanistan.



“Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal . . . “

Philippians 3:13-14a

We are coming near to the end of our training period at Camp McCoy. We’ve had our share of frustrations with the weather, long tiring days, equipment shortages and training that we wish had gone better. Therefore, some may not feel good about moving forward into our mission because they fear someone may cast a critical eye on our readiness. Well, we may not be “perfectly” ready, but we’ve made great progress and are straining towards the goal of serving well.

Considering his purpose and mission and available strength, the Apostle Paul in the Christian Scriptures, thought he had not yet “taken hold of it.” Perhaps that’s true for you, too. (In the battalion going overseas and for family at home!) But, Paul’s course of action in the face of that assessment was a good one. “Forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead. Press toward the goal.” So, set good and noble goals for the way you want your service to go over the coming year and press toward the goal.

I’m not a great student of American Presidents. But what I know of Teddy Roosevelt, I like. That includes the following quote for a speech of his in 1910: “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory or defeat.”

Thank you “Roughnecks” . . . thank you families . . . for straining toward the goal of serving well.

CH Ganther

Roughneck Spotlight:

(from page 1)

- For rewarding soldier performance the 1014th SAPPER CO promoted from E-3 to E-4: SPC Soldevila Ricardo Manuel Pacheco, SPC Robles Eric Alexander Delgado, and from E-2 to E-3, PFC Axl Ramirez.



Newly promoted SPC Pacheco

- For outstanding achievement from FSC 111th EN CO goes to PFC Christopher Dougherty and SPC Kenneth Martinez for becoming fathers to



Newly born baby boy

- To mention achievements from HHC; SPC Michael Allison scored 300 points on his APFT, SPC Gilbert Soto scored Expert at M4 qualification, and SPC Jarred Fuller won the 176th EN BDE “Soldier of the Year” competition.



CSM congratulates newly promoted SSG Keith

baby boys born this month. (Each mother should get a million dollars for their part but it’s the thought that counts.)

- Also from FSC, SFC Martin Zapata scored 293 points on his APFT and SPC Chance Tall scored 297 points on his APFT.