
BOTTOM TIMES

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September 2007

Training Developer and Bottom Times Editor

SFC Ray Ramirez

If you didn't know, I am the new 21D Training Developer and Editor for the Bottom Times Newsletter. SFC vonKeyserling and I did a one for one swap. He will now take the 74th Engineer Dive Team to the desert in support of OIF while I get to sit in a 5' x 5' cubicle pushing paperwork. (Did I get screwed, or what?)

Let me start off by thanking SFC vonKeyserling. His superb organizational skills and meticulous documentation has made my job as the new 21D Training Developer very easy. I appreciate everything you did to make my transition a smooth one.

As for the Bottom Times, again, SFC vonKeyserling did an outstanding job. I will do my best to continue his success. So please send articles, pictures, drawings, etc... Send me anything that you think the Brotherhood would be interested in.

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As for the Training Development portion, I haven't even scratched the surface on what I need to know or get done. This year I will be revising the Soldiers Training Publication (STP) skill level three and four tasks, reviewing all courses at the Dive School, and SSG Vance and I will be reviewing and revising the Phase 1 prequalification course here at Fort Leonard Wood.

In closing, I would like to tell the 7th to stay motivated, be positive, and be safe. Deep Sea!

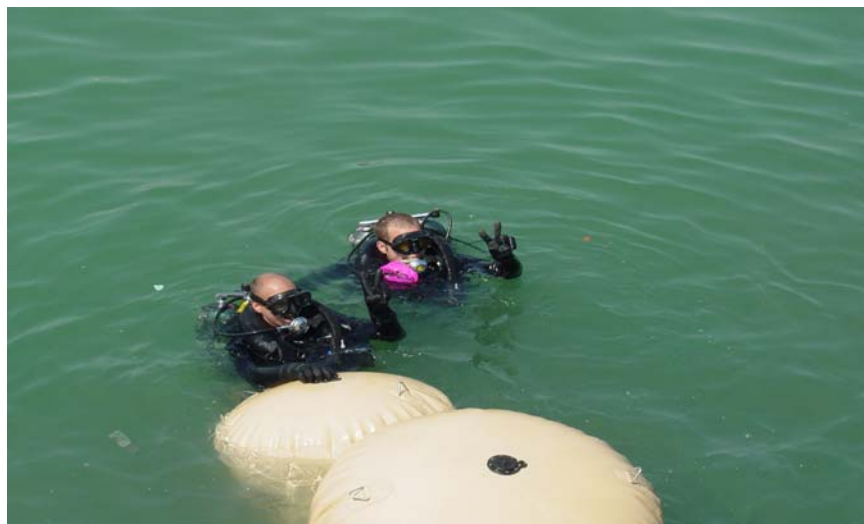
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Chief Dive Supervisor Notes

By MSG James Spaw

Greetings from Missouri. Since the last issue of the Bottom Times, I have been working on getting the NG dive teams all the information and assistance that I can to ensure the Engineer School has done everything possible for their success. Yes, I know this path has been followed before, and I do not know if it will meet with anymore success. In my opinion, if they do not get assistance from the Active Component then the NG teams will fail. It will not be easy filling the ranks of three additional Dive Teams. The National Guard Bureau has taken the necessary steps to forecast training slots for 2010 through 2012. The states will be depending on the TRAP process to fill quotas until that time. There are currently two Dive Teams that have activated as of September 2007, the 627th (Engineer Dive Team) out of Texas and the 726th (Engineer Light Dive Team) out of



Connecticut. Puerto Rico will have an Engineer Dive Team in September 2009. While getting Soldiers trained and in the units will be a huge undertaking, one of the biggest issues will be Diving Supervisors and Master Divers. This year's Dive Conference will dedicate two days to the National Guard issues. More information on the NG dive teams will be passed down from the Commanders and 1SG's who attend this year's conference.

This office is working to increase the instructor slots at the Dive School since they are being reduced to only eight instructors. This office has recently asked for a Resource Requirement Analysis (RRA) and or a manpower study of the course in Panama City. Hopefully, this will increase the TDA instructor slots to the needed level.

The Commanders Guide to Military Diving, a project that SFC von Keyserling initiated, has been given new life. It now looks like ALSA (Air, Land, Sea Application) is doing final research and will request subject matter experts to assist in the final review in late January or early February.

In the next Bottom Times, after the Dive Conference, I will update everyone on the topics I am most interested in which are Diving Safety and Dive Reporting/Dive Accident Reporting. Until then dive, dive, dive.

7th Dive

U.S. Army Engineer Dive Team

Supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom

Aloha from the 7th Dive!

The 7th will hit the one year mark in November. News of our extension was not what we wanted for Christmas, but the troops seem to be adjusting.

The good news is we keep promoting people! Sexton and Loper were promoted to SPC; Floto, Neary, Geffert, Luchak, Seidman and Peterson to SGT; Faille to SSG.

Our Soldiers have made over 200 dives since our arrival and participated in many diverse missions since our last newsletter. We continue our support of the Army, Navy, and Coast Guard vessels that frequent Kuwait Naval Base (KNB). They have provided a couple dozen missions for us since our last newsletter in April.

We kicked off April with a mission to Balad, Iraq. The bridge



Sexton, Geffert and Faille Being Promoted

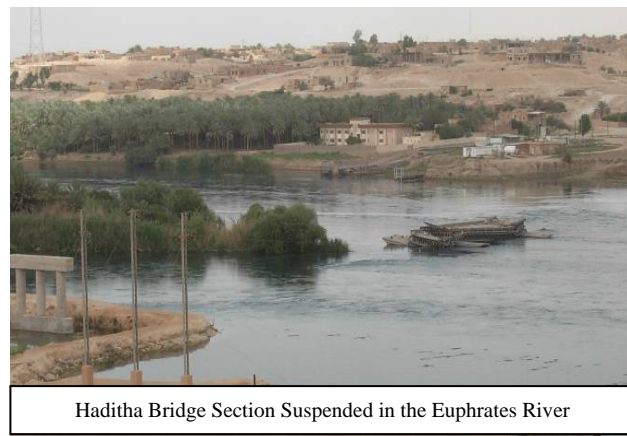


As Sindiyah Bridge and Mine Boom After Repairs

crossing the Tigris River there is critical to the Military and civilians alike. 7th Dive had a two part mission: salvage, repair and replace the pre-existing mine boom that protected the bridge from any waterborne improvised explosive devices and secondly, to inspect the pontoons and anchoring system of the bridge itself. The Divers performed very well and finished the mission successfully despite the seven knot currents, hail, and lightning.

Our next mission in Iraq was on the Euphrates

River near Haqlaniyah. A 110ft, 142 ton section of the Haditha Pontoon Bridge broke away and floated downriver during Operation Iron Hurta/Al Majid. The bridge section was caught and suspended by a ferry cable system that spanned the Euphrates River and was resting partially on the bottom. The concern was that, as the water level increased during summer months, the bridge section would shift further downstream and destroy a floating gas line crossing the surface of the Euphrates River less than 600m downstream and a railroad crossing 3km downstream.



Haditha Bridge Section Suspended in the Euphrates River

LT Biggerstaff and twelve of our Divers headed a task force consisting of 94 Service members from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps to successfully remove the bridge section.

The operation tested many of their Engineer skills. After 7 days of assessment, the Divers used explosives to remove high tension cables, patched the pontoons, fabricated cables for rigging the bridge section, and pulled the bridge section over 700ft to the near shore in 7+ knot river current.



LT B, Sexton, Forkhamer, Haldeman, Williams, Geffert, Luchack and MDV after Mission Complete

The 7th has also had the opportunity to flex the Side Scan Sonar and Hydrographic Survey Systems on the Euphrates River.

We were asked to conduct a recon for a potential bridge site. We were able to validate the site's span, verify depths, and ensured that the area had sufficient clearance to emplace a pontoon bridge.

In our last newsletter we mentioned conducting a recon of two ships the Kuwaitis sank in the Northern tip of the Gulf. Those ships created a navigational hazard for other vessels in the area and we were asked if we could make them go away. As Engineers, we know there is no problem that can't be solved with a proper application of high explosives.

It was an excellent opportunity to work side by side with the Kuwaitis and share our knowledge of salvage, diving, and demolition. The seas, however, did not cooperate with our mission. High winds, crosscurrents, and plenty of jellyfish all thrown in with the wreckage that had accumulated several hundred pounds of fishing net and line made us change our salvage plan the first day.

Our solution was to use a Mine Clearing Line Charge (MiCLiC) to make 900lb demo nets. Those nets were draped over the wrecks and detonated. The largest target required six nets and was detonated at night. The explosives pushed the wreckage into the seabed of the gulf and eliminated the hazard.





Surface View of One 900lb Demo Net Being Detonated

The Kuwaitis showed their appreciation by hosting two dinners for us and taking us on a tour of Failika Island. The island used to be named Ikaros when Alexander the Great swept across Persia in 350-300 B.C. and the ruins from the city and temple are still there. The Kuwaitis also awarded the 7th Dive Team the Kuwait Special Divers Badge during a special ceremony on KNB.



The 7th Engineer Dive Team and Kuwait Dive Team After Award Ceremony

In July, the US Navy EOD Team provided us another opportunity to hone our salvage skills. Their brand new 3500 series GMC truck and boat trailer failed the float test at the KNB boat ramp. We got the call as they were sinking. It stopped about 50 feet from shore under 15 feet of water.



Navy EOD Team Showing Excitement Over Their Newly Discovered and Inexpensive Car Washing Technique

7th Dive sent a team to Lake Qadisiyah near Haditha Dam in western Iraq in late September to search the lake for any ordinance that may have been dumped there. While the team did not find anything significant to report, it was a great opportunity to do some 100'+ dives and use the side scan sonar and the ROV's.

While that team was away, the guys back at KNB were provided ANOTHER salvage opportunity by the US Navy. Yes, the Naval Coastal Warfare (NCW) heroes sank another one of their 34' Dauntless Patrol Boats (PB). They blew a hole in their transom and got back to their slip in enough time to unload a weapon and a radio before it entered Neptune's Realm. Army Deep Sea had it dewatered and on it's trailer on the pier in five hours. It definitely has the makings of a nice Army/Navy Game commercial.



One lesson learned from our time here in OIF centers around Chuck. Apparently, if you have an autographed picture of Chuck Norris in your possession, it serves as a "No Search" pass at ECPs throughout theatre.

Our new best friends, CPT Geisler and SFC Vonkeyserling, came out to Camp Patriot to conduct the 74th's PDSS last month. They were here less than a week, but I think they have all they need to come out here in a few months and hit the ground running.

In other news this quarter, 7th Dive finally broke its long time running streak of only seizing 2nd and 3rd place rankings in local camp tournaments by taking 1st place in the Camp Patriot 6-man Volleyball Tournament in mid August. War is Hell.



Forkhamer, Jimenez, Williams, Green, Peterson, A. and Peterson, B.

Army Divers in this AOR are struggling to get work on the bigger projects in Iraq. As politicians, Army Engineer leaders, and USACE prepare to adjust to a reduction in troops, the trend is to get the Iraqis to handle their own engineering problems. That is usually in the form of a contractor. So, even though we dive for food, and have briefed all the decision-makers and leadership on our capabilities, we tend to get excluded so as not to complicate the contractual issues.

We will keep knocking on the doors that can open up work for us, and in the interim we'll try to get in a Deep Blue.

STAY SAFE! STAY WET!

HOO YAH DEEP SEA!

TRITON SIX

CPT Dan Curtin



Fort Eustis U.S Army Dive Company (Prov)

COMMANDER DEEP SEA!!

I am extremely proud of the Dive Company. You, the leaders, Soldiers, and families of the Company, have continued to impress me in your day-to-day devotion to duty, desire for personal and professional excellence, and contagious motivation.

This summer has been the busiest ever. The 74th completed their culminating event, the Company FTX, where 544th put the Soldiers and leaders of the 74th through various scenarios which they will face during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Under the leadership of CPT Geisler and SFC VonKeyserling, the team will be extremely successful.

The 86th was constantly deployed. They were in charge of Deep Blue, and then traveled down to Fort Lauderdale for their Tire Removal mission. This mission was a huge success and even gained national publicity. Due to their accomplishments, the Company will continue to support this mission for the next couple of years. The 86th then went on to missions in Seattle, WA to remove derelict fishing nets and Branson, MO to repair the Table Rock Dam. Great job; enjoy the well deserved rest.

The 511th was just as busy. The team was tasked to support the Albuquerque District and dredge the Blue Hole. The 511th did an amazing job and their actions have led to follow on missions. In their next mission, the 511th removed old channel markers in support of the United States Coast Guard. The team went above and beyond the expectations of the Coast Guard and will be utilized next year to aid the Miami District.

The 544th was in charge of the FTX for the 74th. It was an amazing training exercise and really prepared the 74th for their upcoming deployment. Immediately following the FTX, the 544th deployed to Caven Point, NJ. They did an amazing job reconstructing and rehabilitating the terminal for USACE New York. I even received a call from the Deputy Commander telling me what a great job the Soldiers of the 544th did.



The next couple of months will be refit and maintenance time. After the pace of the spring and summer, everyone needs some well deserved time around their friends and family. The pace will be much slower until January, when we start sending Soldiers on missions again.

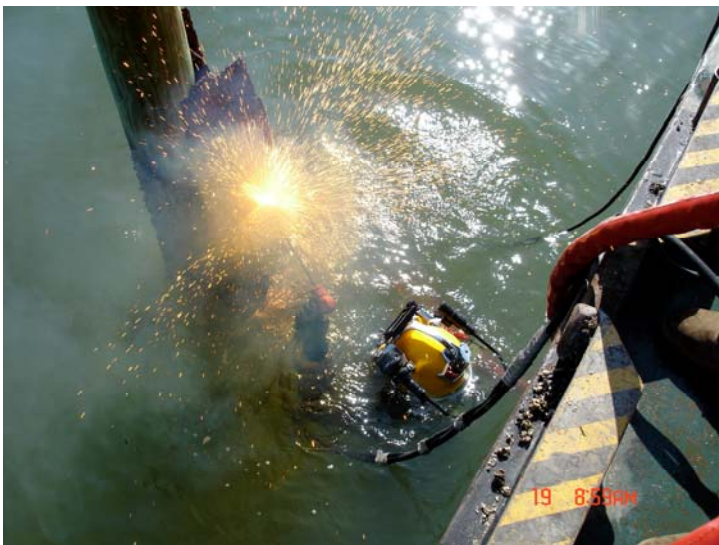
Thank-you again for your support over these busy months, we could not have accomplished half of what we did without the families. I hope to see everyone at the next FRG meeting. Claire Key has some great activities lined up for the fall, and I hope everyone who's available will come. Have a safe autumn season! Well done, Dive Company and family. HOO-YAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!

**CPT PJ INSKEEP
1SG PATRICK ANDREWS**

569th HOO-YAH!!!

Greetings to the Dive Company and their families from the 569th! We are finally coming into the fall season and I am sure everyone is ready for it. It has been a very busy past spring and summer with a lot of missions going on not only for the Company, but also for personnel from the 569th. With the fall season upon us now we are beginning to slow down and prepare for a Company change of command as well as the holiday season.

Over the past four months the 569th has had many Soldiers break off for duty on different missions. During the month of June SSG Joshua West spent two weeks in Santa Rosa, New Mexico for the Blue Hole dredging operation with the 511th, while during roughly the same time a lot of the 569th were also working hard to support the field training exercise for 74th's upcoming deployment. Following Blue Hole, SSG Carl Sowards and SPC Kevin Simmons deployed up to Caven Point, New Jersey to help the 544th in a pier reconstruction project. Following that project SGT Jonathan Lisenby deployed for a month long mission to France, along with other Dive Company Soldiers, to



help look for MIA Soldiers from World War II. Simultaneously SFC Michael Sisk deployed to be the Master Diver for two weeks on a joint Army-Navy operation to salvage a sunken submarine in Providence, Rhode Island. Then lastly, SSG Milton Prater, who just recently was assigned to the 569th, left for a week to Table Rock Dam in Missouri to help in repairs at depths up to 150 feet.

In this letter I would like to take the opportunity to address some recent personnel changes for the 569th. In the last few months we have had the pleasure of welcoming to the Company five new Soldiers. SGT Jonathan Long, SGT Alicia Regis, SPC Quantarius Brawley, SPC Logan Myers, and PV2 Jose

Leon were all recently assigned here to the Dive Company. None of them are Divers by training,

but nonetheless they are still part of the family and should be welcomed as such. Please everyone extend to them your warmest greetings and hospitality. I, SFC Michael Sisk, SSG Carl Sowards, and SSG Milton Prater have all moved up to the Head Shed and become part of the 569th family.

Sometimes as we gain people we also lose some. LT Mike Hallman, who I replaced as Executive Officer, is finishing his degree in Business at Old Dominion University. Everyone should know though that he is still in the local area and is absolutely still a part of the company, so don't be afraid to give him a holler. SSG Kyle Dodge however has transitioned from the Army and will be married to his lovely fiancée Jennifer Maki on October 6th. We wish all of them the very best!

In the course of the next few months the operation tempo will be slowing down, but at the same time the Dive Company will begin preparing for the change of command. CPT Charles Denike, who will be replacing CPT P.J. Inskeep, is most recently from assignment with our Dive brethren of the 7th EN TM (Heavy) in Hawaii. He should be arriving here to Fort Eustis around the November time frame; I would ask that everyone welcome him accordingly.

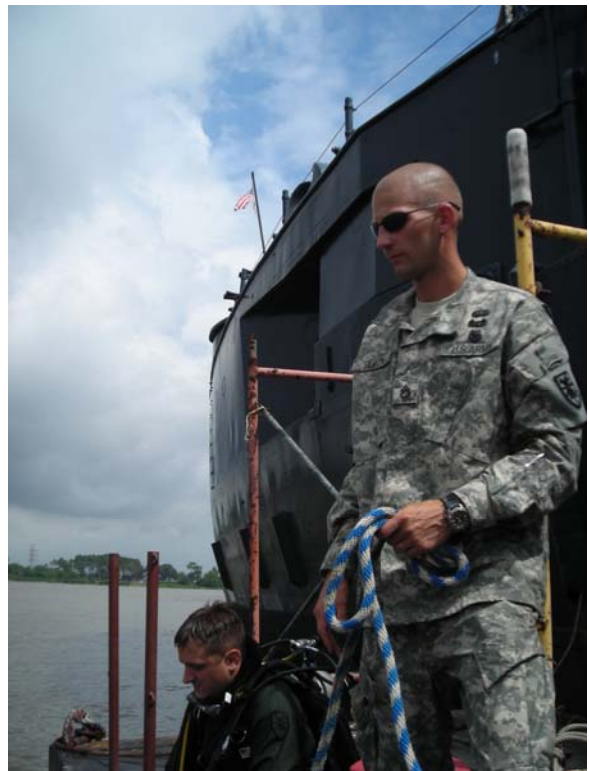
In closing, I would encourage all Soldiers and their families to enjoy their time off in the next few months. You have all more than earned it! And lastly I would personally like to thank everyone for their commitment to their Country and the U.S. Army Dive Company! Your commitment to excellence and dedication to duty make the Dive Company the great organization it is. HOOYAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!

1LT Brett Evans

74th POSEIDON

The 74th is in full swing preparing for their upcoming deployment in January. The operational (TDY) tempo has slowed, but the maintenance and training tempo has picked up to ensure the Team has all the tools necessary for a successful deployment.

On October 2, 2007, CPT Trent Geisler and SFC Michael von Keyserling returned from their pre-deployment site survey in Kuwait to help prepare the Team both personally and professionally. CPT Geisler and SFC von Keyserling linked up with the 7th Dive Detachment out of Hawaii to research how they are conducting operations and their issues and recommendations. The survey was very successful and the 74th has a lot to look forward to overseas. For the remaining months of October, November, and December, the 74th will remain focused on three main objectives: 1. Pack out all of the units' equipment for deployment. 2. Train and prepare personnel for deployment. 3. Take care of our families by setting up



a support network.

A few achievements and highlights from the 74th include the presentation of several awards. SGT Dan Gorman, SPC Eric Kuhn, SPC Joshua Palmer, and SPC Brett Taake all earned the Army Achievement Medal for their outstanding performance on the retrofit of 74th's hyperbaric chamber. SGT (P) Thomas Kneipp, SGT (P) Thomas Owens and SPC (P) Joshua Palmer attended the promotion board in September and all were recommended for promotion. SPC Joshua Palmer also attended the battalion's Soldier of the Quarter Board where he advanced to the Soldier of the Year Board for Fort Eustis. Congratulations on a job well done.

We would like to welcome three new additions to the team, SPC Michael and Katie Vahey, who has come over from the 511th and 2LT Charles Martin, who will be the new operations and executive officer for the 74th. Both of these Soldiers will be great additions to the team. The 74th would also like to say farewell and Good luck to PFC Michael Braton. PFC Braton will begin his journey towards an engineering degree this fall. He will be greatly missed by the 74th.

Finally and most importantly, the 74th would like to thank the Dive Company, family members, and friends for your support while we prepare to deploy. God Bless and HOO-YAH DEEP SEA!!!

CPT Trent Geisler

THE MIGHTY 86th

Greetings and salutations from the mighty 86TH Beavers. The summer months have been very busy for the 86th, and now that things are winding down we can take some time to reflect on our accomplishments this work season.

The summer started out with a bang. SSG "Mad Matt" Hawkey led the 86th during the successful and high profile tire reef removal mission in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The joint mission, which included divers from the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and other Federal agencies, removed over 10,000 tires from the ocean floor...only 1,990,000 tires to go. Due to the success and professionalism of the 86th, the Army Dive Company has been invited to continue the work of removing more tires over the next few years.

Shortly after returning from the Ft. Lauderdale mission the 86th was out the door again. SSG Craig Cleveland took the reins and led the net removal mission, dubiously named "Operation Fishnets." The team's mission was to find and plot the locations of derelict fishnets within a given area of the Puget Sound Region of Washington State. The team conducted ten dives a day for twelve days in approximately 50 fsw and surveyed over 50 miles of coastline and waterways. The Army Dive Company will be returning next season to remove those nets that they found. It was a positive mission and we are looking forward to next summer.

This summer also saw two dream missions come to the Dive Det. The first was a mission to Corsica, France to find the remains of missing World War II service men, and aircraft. Again the 86th's SSG "Mad Matt" Hawkey was tasked to help lead this very important mission. Also sent on the mission was newcomer SPC Paul Reidner. Currently both team members are still in France and are doing outstanding work.

The Dive Company also had the chance to work with the Navy's MDSU 2 again to salvage a Russian submarine in Providence, Rhode Island. The Russian sub was a museum attraction for the city that sunk during a recent storm. A team of Army Divers led by SSG Weston Cox worked jointly with the Navy to prep the submarine for next season's salvage operation. The mission involved penetration dives into the sunken submarine, and general salvage work that Army Divers



normally do not get to do. The mission was such a novelty that there will not be any shortages of volunteers for next year's mission.

The 86th lastly found itself back in Branson, MO. Once again we were working on the Table Rock Dam for the Corps of Engineers. It would seem that the concrete fills we placed in the holes on the dam did not hold up as well as projected. This time we placed a metal patch over all three holes and filled in behind that with a special composite material. SSG Milton Prater oversaw the operation that included 10 Sur-D-O2 dives at a depth of approximately 140 feet. The 86th extends a special thanks to the 50th EN Company, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, who supplied the team with floating bridge sections to utilize for a diving and work platform. Without their bridge bays the mission would have been much more challenging. The success of this mission has awarded the team opportunities for future jobs on other dams in this area.

As with any military unit we have had some comings and goings of key personnel. SGT David Kelege PCS'ed to Germany. SSG Steven Roberts is instructing at the Dive school in Panama City, FL, and SFC Mike Sisk and SSG Milton Prater were assigned to the 569th. Last but not least, SGT Adam Galbreath has finished his Army career. They will all be missed and each was an asset to the team. It seems that with every farewell we have a hello. The 86th would like to welcome the new platoon sergeant, SFC Boyer, his wife Tammy and son Cole to the team. The 86th also received three new Soldiers from dive school, PFC James Vahl, PFC Brian Craig, and SPC Paul Reidner. Welcome all, and the team is looking forward to working with all of you.

Some congratulations are in order for SPC Jason Hayes and his wife Kathy for the birth of their first child Kylie Hayes. SPC Hayes also passed the E-5 board along with SPC Jason

Jakovenko. Also, SGT Christopher Niese was recommended for E-6 and PFC Benjamin Lane and PFC Kyle Nicholas were promoted to the rank of Specialist. Did we mention it has been a busy summer?

The late fall and winter months are considered our down time at the Dive Company and we are looking forward to it. It will be nice to spend some time with family and friends. Also it will give us time to get our equipment back into working order and prepare for next year's equally eventful schedule. We would like to thank our loved ones for being so patient and understanding during this busy summer.

SGT Jason Jakovenko

511th TRIDENT

The summer of 2007 has proven to be busy for the 511th. In June the team supported the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during Operation Blue Hole, in Santa Rosa New Mexico. Following Operation Blue Hole the 511th rolled right into three other missions in Florida, Massachusetts, and Corsica, France. Second squad supported the sub salvage in Rhode Island as well.

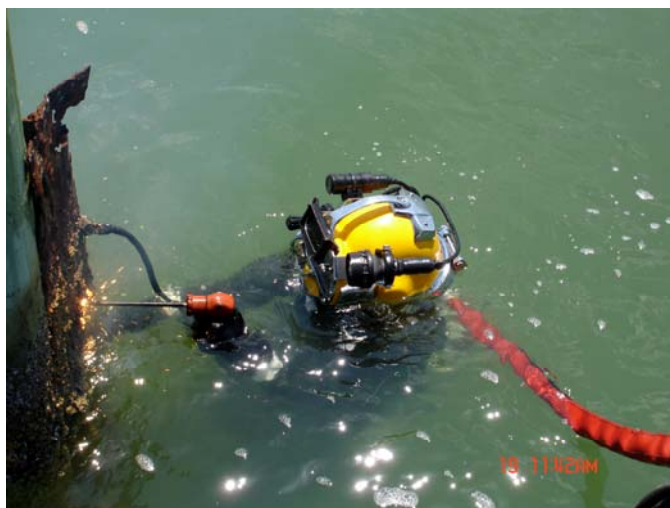
The tempo should slow down a bit after September as we go into the part of the year where we conduct maintenance to prepare for the following year's missions.

We say goodbye to SGT Machuca and SSG Knoop. We wish them well and thank them for all their hard work. We also say goodbye to SSG Vance as he takes over the Diver Prescreen in Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. We welcome two new Soldiers to the team, SPC Prince and PFC Ford. We also welcome our new Platoon Leader 2LT Sann.

Congratulations to SGT Marr, SGT Heidrick and SSG Parmenter on their promotions and to SSG Kaufman for winning NCO of the Quarter Board. In September SSG Parmenter and SGT (P) Rowley will begin First Class Dive School and we will not see them again until January. Also in September, SGT Marr and SPC Hyre will attend Airborne School. We wish them all good luck!

Congratulations to SGT Tucker and SSG Kaufman on their marriages to their wives Brenda Tucker and Jamie Kaufman. Both members will be adding to the 511th family with babies on the way. This fall the 511th will prepare for the arrival of the new Company Commander and the annual Dive Company range week in January. We are also preparing to dominate in any physical challenges the Commander presents for his departure, being that we have been Commander's Challenge Champions for the past three years.

SSG Travis Kaufman



544th SEA MONKEY

With summer winding down the “TDY Season” is also coming to a close. After conducting missions for the Corps of Engineers and participating in Dive Company training over the past three months, the 544th is ready to take a minute and refit while preparing for the company change of command.

Through the month of July the team was deployed to Jersey City, New Jersey working for the New York District of the Corps of Engineers. The annual pier rehabilitation mission was an excellent opportunity for the team to get out and see “The City”. Whether it was attending Mets and Yankees games, getting lost on the subway or visiting ground zero the team was able to experience NYC while working in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty.



Since coming back from the garden state the team has attended two FTX's at Fort Pickett, VA. The main focus of these training exercises was the demolition ranges. However, in addition to ranges done strictly for training, including underwater- demolition, the team also conducted timber clearing for range operations at Fort Pickett.

At the beginning of October the team will be spending some time at Lake Rawlings which is located southwest of Petersburg, VA. With a maximum depth of 65 feet, crystal clear water, with visibility of up to 50 feet, the lake will provide an excellent opportunity for the team to train on its remotely operated vehicles, test out the new underwater scooters that just came in, and enjoy some time away from Fort Eustis.



Not only does the Dive Company conduct missions on a team by team basis, but also some missions are done jointly using personnel from all the teams. From mid-July through the end of September SGT Adam Frey and SPC Kyle Broughton have been deployed to Corsica, France. Adam and Kyle have been in France searching for the remains of downed aircraft and crew from WWII and will be back on the ground by the first week of October.

As the entire team comes back together from missions around the country and the world we wish SSG Kurt Langley and SPC Chaise Turner who are still away at Fort Benning good luck at Airborne School. And for all of

us at Fort Eustis we look forward to seeing the rest of the company that has been gone on missions all summer.

1LT Matthew Kozlowski

Delta Company U.S. Army Engineer Dive School

Delta Company had a fantastic fourth quarter in which we graduated a Second Class Diver Course, a First Class Diver Course, and a Marine Engineer Dive Officer Course totaling 25 highly trained divers. Since the majority of these students graduated in late July, Delta Company has only had one course on board allowing the instructors to finally take some well earned leave. However, this break will come to screeching halt in October as we, once again, take on three more classes in our attempt to train the best military divers in the world.



July was our busiest month yet as we had four classes on board with each class conducting resource intensive training simultaneously. However, the extremely talented Non-Commissioned Officers of Delta Company handled the potentially stressful situation with ease as they conducted Field Training Exercises, 190 ft air dives, and the graduation of both a Marine Engineer Dive Officer course and an Army Second Class Diver Course.

The month of August started to slow down for the instructors of Delta Company as we graduated another class, the Army First Class Diver course, resulting in five newly qualified Dive Supervisors in the Army. The drop in work load could not have come at a better time as the weather down in Panama City, Florida really began to heat up with a heat index regularly in the 100s. Even as the work load started to settle down, we had a hard time enjoying it as we bid farewell to our Operations Sergeant, SSG Tyler Dodd, who PCS'd to Fort Eustis, Virginia to become a Squad Leader for one of only six Dive Teams in the Army. SSG Dodd's performance over the past year was outstanding, as he and his witty humor will be sorely missed by the rest of us here at Delta Company. However, with the loss of one came the gain of another. SSG Steven Roberts arrived in Panama City to take Operations Sergeant's position from SSG Dodd during the last week of August. SSG Roberts is married to Terra and they have two children with the oldest being a girl named Avalon, and the youngest being a boy named Arden. Delta Company welcomes the Roberts Family.

Finally, September marked the beginning of better weather in Florida, where we did not see



Heat Category 5 until noon as opposed to 0700 in the morning as we were experiencing in the previous months. Since we only had one course on board, we took full advantage of the situation by conducting two different Dive Exercises where we tested our future Master Divers on the proper procedures to command and control dives, as well as how to treat a diving casualty. The training was a huge success and gave the future Master Divers some good experience as they continue to prepare for Master Diver Evaluations.

Delta Company looks forward to the training of more divers as we pick up more classes in our attempt to support the Engineer Regiment. HOO-YAH! DEEP SEA!

Phase 1 FLW Prequalification Course

The new FY is here in full effect at FLW. We are starting our 2nd of 3 classes back to back. Good thing SFC Vance showed up when he did because SSG Connolly is picking up his clearing papers today. Crazy Earnie is fitting in well here; he claims to have already lost about 9 or 10 lbs depending on the barometric pressure that day. We are scheduled for 14 classes this year; hopefully the recruiting branch can fill them up with Soldiers who can swim. We just finished a class that started with 21 and ended with 2. Even though 21D is still on the BEAR program, I have noticed a sharp decrease in application packets over the last 5 months. If someone you know is interested in changing their MOS, send them to www.wood.army.mil/577th/diver/ for the application packet.

MDV Irvin

Two cents from SFC Vance: FLW is just what everyone told me minus a few small details. You do get off early (around 1630-1700) but they and them forgot to tell me you start around 0445. We have very busy this year and looks only to get pick up speed from there. If anyone is passing through the area feel free to call or stop in. Until next time DEEP LAKE...

SFC Vance

TACOM

*SFC Adams
Material Developer*

RECENT PROCUREMENTS:

The 1st of 7 new chambers is scheduled to be completed Jan 08. It's fielding will follow shortly after. This system is a Standard Navy Double-Lock Recompression Chamber System that has been modified to meet Army specific requirements. The ISO container houses everything minus a power source to conduct chamber operation. We are



currently working on the changes and additions to what will be a joint TM for this chamber.

The SNDLRCS is housed in an International Organization for Standards (ISO) container with an oxygen/air supply system designed to support training, surface decompression, and recompression treatment operations. An Air Supply Rack Assembly (ASRA) supplies high pressure air to the system. Oxygen is supplied from four oxygen bottles that are mounted within the container. The SNDLRCS is also capable of providing mixed gas to the chamber. The SNDLRCS has an Environmental Control System (ECS) that provides temperature and humidity control for the chamber.



FYI for those that didn't know this position is responsible for supporting the Special Operations Divers as well as Engineer Divers. We have been busy integrating a Divers Propulsion Device into one of the Special Forces dive equipment sets. An Army TM for the Divers Propulsion Device was developed and new equipment training was successfully conducted in Key West, FL.



SKO UPDATES/COMBINATIONS:

The Underwater photography set has been undergoing review and updating. Updated and replacement components are being evaluated. One of the possible replacement options was sent to the 7th early in their deployment and we have been receiving feed back on that system (Thanks 7th for the input). A new system is due out in the near future.

Several of the similar SCUBA sets are being combined by the Engineer School to reduce the overall number of LIN's. Our goal is to modernize, incorporate product improvements, and build new user friendly supply catalogs in LOGSA, during this combination process.

CURRENT RDT&E/FUTURE EFFORTS:

The fielding of dive equipment to the new National Guard teams is a monumental task. We are working to get things in place prior to receiving funds. We want to facilitate a quick and painless fielding process.

A replacement for the aging SDASS is in the draft stages of development. The new concept is to have a system of components that are able to be separated and provide both a small, standalone, rapidly deployable surface supplied air system along with the high volumes of HP air needed for stationary long duration deep dives.

Along with market research on new rebreathers for the Special Operations Divers, Market Research is ongoing for BCs that meet the needs of both Engineer Divers and Special Operations Divers. The CSAV is one that might fit both needs in one BC. An RDT&E procurement is in the works. Several will be procured and sent to both the Engineer Divers and Special Operation Divers for evaluation.

We are researching the implementation of a computer software program designed to shorten the logistic pipeline. It would allow the requisitioning of individual equipment items (examples: wet suit, knife, fins, mask) at the individual/unit level. This would be accomplished through a secure web based application that contains a list of authorized items. The request would go through an organizational approval process. We are looking at existing programs that are already in use by other services but it is long way from concept to implementation.



LEST WE FORGET!

Frenchy Leveille

In the early 1980s Army Diving was undergoing a much needed transformation. There are a number of people responsible for the evolution of the marine diver program and one of the prime players was Major Joel McGrady.

Major McGrady was the Deputy Director of The Office of the Chief of Transportation (OCOT). He and SGM Frank Gibert placed the foundation for the Transportation Corps to assume the responsibility for Army Diving Training and Safety. These programs would be written and managed by OCOT.

I met Major McGrady in the spring of 1988. He gave me a comprehensive briefing on his vision of what had to take place in order for Army Diving to become an asset that the Army could not live without. It had to have the best training program that the US Army could provide. I knew from that very moment that he believed in and cared about Army Diving. McGrady was a terrific mentor, he would often enter my office, ask a few questions about diver training and begin to disseminate brilliantly insightful ideas.

Physical training was his favorite time of day, we ran and worked out in the gym together. He worked hard but he new how to let his hair down. At parties he sang Irish songs, drank Irish whisky and smoked Marlboro cigarettes. He was a great boss and we became great friends.

McGrady was promoted and became the director of OCOT and I became the 1SG of the Dive Det. I saw him at Desert Storm, he was commanding a battalion. Later that year I saw him at the Transportation Ball, resplendent in his blues, wearing eagles on his sleeves. He was about to take a brigade and asked me if I would be his Sergeant Major. It was the ultimate complement but he was TC and I ENGR, it was not to be.

We both retired several years after Desert Storm and I had no contact with him for 12 years, so while visiting family in Newport News I went in search of him. I found him; Colonel Joel McGrady Died at the too young age of 55 years, on 7 February 2006 of lung cancer. And I shall miss him.