

# BOTTOM TIMES

Volume 1, Issue 2

January 2005

## The Mighty 86th

SPC Tyler Dodd

Since the last issue of Bottom Times, the Mighty 86th has remained constantly busy. In mid-October 2nd Squad, whose operations had been based primarily out of LSA Anaconda (near Balad, Iraq), was called to Base Victory (Baghdad) to do work for 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Corps. After the unexpectedly long convoy from Balad, around



Fallujah, and into the Baghdad suburbs, we arrived at Victory with less than 4 hours of sleep before going to work. Our first task was the destruction of a partially submerged vessel in the Tigris, located in central Baghdad. Using two, 25lb shots, all went well and we accomplished the mission, along with attracting quite a bit of local attention and stateside publicity. Next on 2nd squad's list was the task of clearing Victory's canals, culverts, inverted siphons and fresh water intakes of obstructions, helping to supply the base (one of the largest, and most important, camps in the Middle East) with running water. During this 4 week mission where we worked under 3rd Corps, 1st Cav located us again, requesting our assistance searching for and recovering sensitive items lost by a tank that "fell" off a bridge into a trash pit that some people call a canal. Within four hours two divers and one surface swimmer recovered all items lost by the tank.

While 2nd Squad was in Iraq, 1st squad definitely wasn't staying dry in port. With teams flying back and forth between Umm Said Port, Qatar and Kuwaiti Naval Base, doing security swims on vessels and port facilities, it is a wonder there has been enough time or people to pull off any other substantial work. But as they always do, divers find a way to make things happen. When half the squad was in Qatar, the 5 remaining members of 1st squad worked day and night with the partial assistance of the Kuwaiti Divers in order to salvage the Muwafi, a Kuwaiti tug boat that sank in the port of Kuwaiti Naval Base. 1st Squad has also spent 100s of hours conducting hydrographic survey and side scan sonar essential to CFLCC's Port Expansion and Development Program. Somehow in the midst of this incredibly grueling work schedule the 86th found the time to train 5 soldiers to achieve their salvage diver rating, send 4 of the Army's brightest soldiers to the E5 promotion board, redeploy 2 soldiers home early to attend 1C school.

When 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad returned from Iraq, it was the first time both squads have been in the same place living and working together since the second week of our deployment! Though redeployment is quickly approaching, we are stacked with difficult and relevant jobs supporting the KNB Port Expansion Program. These missions include a sizeable coral reduction project and an extensive area dredge. We have also used our 1 off day per week to refine our dodge ball skills. Recently we were given the rare opportunity to play dodge ball with CSM Perry, who is 7<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group's Sergeant Major.

If ever any of you get the opportunity to pelt balls at your CSM, we highly recommend it!

At time of writing, we have yet to receive a solid date for redeployment, but we know it is coming soon! Our

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Remember anyone can write a letter into the editor voicing their opinions.



SGT Bryan Haldeman enters the water, tended by SPC Ronald Tupacz

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## DCD Notes

### MSG Timothy Pagel

There has been much confusion and many rumors over the future of the Engineer Force and, more importantly to us, the Dive Field. I will clarify EXACTLY where we are as it stands on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, 2004. This info is coming directly from the author of the documents that are driving this whole train. This has been very close-hold information and has not been put out to any large groups. If someone wants to know what is happening, call me. I have a direct link to the latest information and will be glad to update anybody. I will also put the latest info out in this and future BTs. Without further delay, this is where we are:

- The FDU (Force Design Update) is only at TRADOC. It has not made it to DA yet and therefore is not even close to being approved.
- POM for 06-11 still has not been approved.
- The stationing and flagging of our units is only a proposal. The current proposal is to keep all units located where they are now and eventually reflag under the 249<sup>th</sup>.
- Prior to the 249<sup>th</sup> becoming our parent BN, it must be realigned under the FEF (Future Engineer Force) concept. Before the 249<sup>th</sup> can be changed, the FEF FDU must be approved, 29 Engineer Battalions must be resourced(funded), and all supporting documents must be pushed through all appropriate channels. In the end, about the soonest we can expect the units to be reflagged is FY08.

I hope this clears up some of the confusion. I will keep the field informed of progress through future editions of Bottom Times.

## TACOM

### SFC Clayton W. Haney

**Equipment Issues:** TACOM will be providing a solution to the Recompression Chamber electrical problem within the next few weeks. Currently a Safety of Use Message has been issued with regard to the electrical problems, it is anticipated this will be lifted by the end of December or the 1st week of January. We are also in the process of issuing one Miller plasma cutter and one Miller MIG welder with accessories for each Underwater construction set. Also coming out of here will be MK 48 supermasks used for SCUBA or Surface Supplied, each unit will also receive factory training on the MK 48, SL17K, and EXO mask that will provide detail maintenance and repair instructions, along with documentation that says they are

### TACOM Continued

authorized factory repair technician. The masks will also eventually include wireless comms for various operations. We are also currently researching a way to replace the container on the surface supplied set with a steel bi-con that would eliminate the problems with the thin aluminum, skin. We recently fielded the new 18 CFM compressors that are AIR START ONLY along with four new SDASS flasks that are containerized.

Please provide any equipment issues or recommendations to this office as soon as possible. We are here to support the War fighter from the top down, I have herd several complaints and several good things about the equipment keep it coming. I would ask that if you have a problem with the equipment read the manual first and talk with your supervisor to ensure it is not an operator problem. If you have developed a requirement through recent deployments that needs to be addressed it must be sent to this office along with the DCD MSG Pagel, such as the need for a extremely light weight surface supplied set. There is equipment available you just have to document the need!! I would also like to thank Tyler Dodd for his input to this office, feel free to provide input no matter who you are every opinion has a valid point. I am including a link to the Kirby Morgan Dive Lab web site this has tons of info on your equipment and the new mask coming out.

Finally to all you hunters out there, I shot an eight point in December that went over 250lbs that had huge spread on its rack. I will have it scored later on during the year and keep you posted.

Link: <http://www.divelab.com>

SFC Clayton W. Haney.

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## Chief Diving Supervisor

By MSG Kane

A quick highlight a few areas that I have been working:

AR611-75 has a lot of changes to be made from manning levels and promotion issues to simple things such as changing all references of 00B to 21D. As with all doctrine it takes time and everyone and their uncle's signature. Please send me any input you may have.

The Army's NCOES system is transforming as we speak and if you ask anyone in what direct you will get a hand full of different answers. I am working to ensure that our interests and needs are met within the new system. The new system will be either a 3 or 4-tier system in the future but that decision is at the big Army level. PC is working hard on adding mandated training to their courses ASAP. With Phase 1 of ANCOG going away, the technical phase has to add Ethical Decision Making and Lesson Learned to the course. The 40/9 Battle Tasks and Drill are being added to the AIT course. This is a huge challenge for them but mandated by TRADOC.

Many of you have question as to the transformation of diving. MSG Pagel has addressed but I would like to say that it is a very fluid issue and the situation is changing everyday. Hopefully we will be under an Engineer flag in the near future but it is a slow process. We are very little fish in the big pond. MSG Pagel and I are staying as in gauged as we can. Be patient.

On the subject of assignments. With my retirement in August and a few others on the horizon, a lot of moves are going to happen this summer. The stop/loss in HI will also be lifted in August creating more moves. Most will be happy but others may not be. I will be working with the 1SGs to ensure that the positions are filled as best possible.

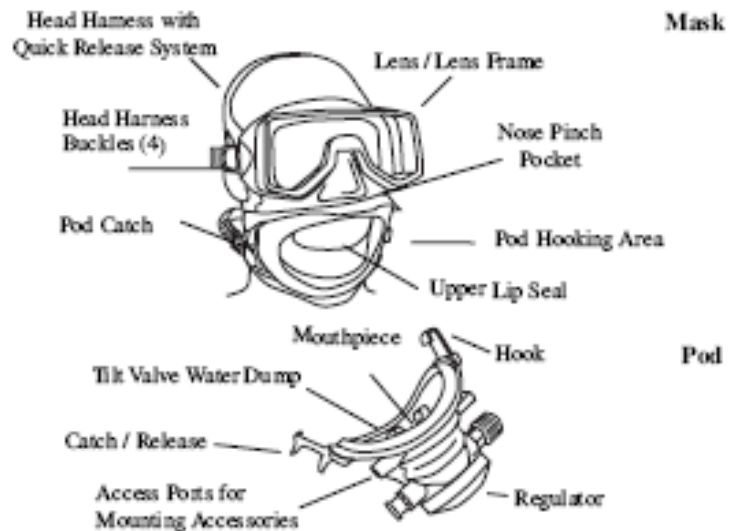
I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and with you all the best in the year to come.

## Training Developer Desk

By SFC von Keyserling

Since October, I have completed the review of our critical task list, made a few small changes, and added a medical task that will test a Second Class divers ability to recognize symptoms of diving illness. Our previous task list had removed a similar task that basically called on a Second Class diver to diagnose diving injuries (a 20/30 level task). The new critical task list has been approved and anyone wishing a copy can email me

### FEATURES OF THE SUPERMASK



[Michael.vonkeyserling@us.army.mil](mailto:Michael.vonkeyserling@us.army.mil). I have also finished the draft version of the new STP for Skill levels one and two. The draft is now circulating among the divers at Leonard Wood for their input and should be sent to the editors early in March, then onto the Publication department a few months after.

After my TDY trip to CSS to discuss mine countermeasures with our navy counterparts, research with different Col's about river bed mining operations, and talking with some foreign services, I found that this is an area that we may not need to spend so much time on. My findings pointed out that although some nations have trained divers in placing underwater mines, none are currently doing so (riverine operations only), due to the inherent dangers. A threat that does affect us is that these nations choose to float their explosives down stream on home made floatation devices. So what does this mean for us divers? We still need to be aware of underwater explosives, and know how to search for "safe" crossing sites, however we most likely do not need to divert vast resources in determining means to breach an underwater minefield. In all likelihood, a MICLIC would be called forward and used as a much more expedient method of clearing a lane.

*Last but certainly not least, I would like to wish all the Master Diver Candidates well in their upcoming evaluations*

86<sup>th</sup> Continued

thoughts and prayers are with our families and friends during the holiday season. We can't wait to see you all! Thanks for supporting us!

A note from 1LT Eric Marshall

As this deployment draws to a close, I can speak for the entire team when I say it has been an incredible experience out here. The pains of separation from loved ones never quite fade, but they are at least somewhat counterbalanced by some fantastic and relevant diving work. As I meet and share stories with leaders across the theater, all are unfailingly impressed by the amount of ground we covered, number of units we supported, and significant and unique ways we were able to aid in the fight. To my satisfaction we've performed missions in almost all of our METL tasks, have racked up numerous medals for prolific achievements, had no legal problems, maintained currency in perishable skills, and most importantly, stayed safe in a very unsafe environment. It has been, by no means, a perfect deployment; but I am exceedingly proud of the professionalism, class, and competence that these men have repeatedly displayed everywhere they go. Also, enough cannot be said for the support on the home front: CPT Lull, 1SG Andrews and all the dedicated family members made us feel more like an appendage than an amputation from the core. Sincerely, thanks and we'll see you soon back where the green grass grows.

## Phase I Comments

SFC Bobby Irvin

Phase I is still moving on as planned. We are going to miss SFC Mendoza as he moves on to Virginia, to make some of his own changes in the 544th. Those guys better start practicing their 8 counts and crossovers before he shows up! Since the last Bottom Times, Drill Sergeant Chewy moved on to Panama City to do good things there. Since then, we have had many people (civilian and military) comment on how they miss DS Chewy yelling at the candidates in the pool. SSG Bascomb is getting his mean streak and before long he will have an audience of his own. For the fiscal of 2004 we had a total of 122 soldiers try out. Out of those 122 we had 63 drop on request, 33 fail for some reason, and 24 graduate so that means the Dive Field is getting the top 20% of soldiers coming into the Army. Since I have been here, not one reclass soldier has graduated. You'd think that reclass soldiers would show up more prepared than the "off the streeters" but not from what I have seen. Some of the more educated NCO's here at Ft. Leonard Wood believe that it may be because of the current situation the military is in, and commands are not letting go of their good soldiers; also, we only get 9 slots for reclasses per year through ATTARS. I am sure we will manage with the dive field at 130-140 percent strength E-4 and below, I would just like to see soldiers who bring an additional skill or trade along with experience, graduate and move on to the dive field.

Well, the weatherman is calling for 6 inches of snow over the next two days, which means we will have a White Christmas here at Fort Leonard Wood; something my wife and I have been looking forward to since we have been together. I hope everyone has a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a Happy New Year. Good Speed, Hoo-Ya Deep Sea!!



Baghdad Iraq, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad sets up gear for Demolitions job as local children look on

## 2005 Reunion

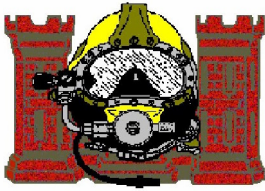
### moves to

## Panama City Beach, FL

Reprinted from USADA newsletter

Are you ready to party on the sunny gulf coast beaches of Florida? Then be sure to mark August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> on your 2005 calendar. For the first time in the associations history it will be sponsoring a reunion outside the state of Virginia. This year's gathering will be hosted by the Marriott Bay Point and supported by the Navy Dive School. This will be your opportunity to spend a weekend in beautiful Panama City Beach, Visit the modern training facilities at the

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## Ft. Eustis Dive Company



### 569th DEEP SEA!

By CPT Clayton Lull

The 569<sup>th</sup> may have been disbanded however there is still a core group of diehard never surrender hairy chested Deep Sea Divers that lay claim to the 569<sup>th</sup> guideon! When the smoke had cleared, after all of the unit's had grown from the influx of people from the 569<sup>th</sup>, there still remained a few dedicated individuals performing duty in the Headquarters section of the company. These soldiers would stay on and operate under the 569<sup>th</sup> chain of command. Without the inner workings of these soldiers there would be no functioning of the Army Dive Company here at Fort Eustis. Things like orders, and travel arrangements for unit missions, and the putting together of promotion packets, and taking care of pay issues are just a few of the things the 569<sup>th</sup> is tasked with.

As for some of the accomplishments of the 569<sup>th</sup> the team was instrumental in the command and control of the company FTX. Also the 569<sup>th</sup> worked hand in hand with the 74<sup>th</sup> on all logistical aspects of the FTX as well. We would like to mention SGT Awad for a job well done. As a new training NCO he cut thru all the red tape coordinating with both Fort Picket and Fort Eustis for the M16 range and Demo. SPC Cavanagh blew them away at the promotion board with a great score of 148, way to go SPC Cavanagh.

Congratulations go out to SFC Bonner and his Wife with a new addition to the family, welcome Baby Ashley. Last but not least welcome to LT Stroiney as the new company XO. And with MSG Casey leaving us we have First Sergeant Andrews taking over as company First Sergeant this fall.

As far as upcoming missions we will be here trudging thru the daily grime making sure that things go smoothly for all those that depend on us for the successful completion of the mission at hand!

HOOYAH DEEP SEA !

*Just a short note from a retiring MDV -*

First of all thanks to the folks who got me here; SFC Baker (prescreen), SFC/MDV Fontaine (2C), my MDVs MacMurphy, Monsees, Letts, Leveille, Stubby, Miller, Groninger, Dodd, and Farber. Also my Diving Supervisors along the way, Bruneau, Hatlan, Malmberg, Butch Snyder, Bystol, Helms, Dillard, Ventura, Heimerman, and Aldridge. I'm sure I've forgotten to name a few, but you aren't forgotten thank you too.

I'd like to thank the soldiers who've gone through the ranks with me or were in the ranks with me; Kane, Rocky, Andrews, Elmore, Thompson, Pagel, Spaw, Sisk, Wilson, Haney, Burch, Bryant, Rivera, Adams and Ellis. To those who the torch is being passed keep the fire burning, MDVs Musser, vonKeyserling, Mendoza, Lohman, and you soldiers going into the grinder good luck (Ramirez, Irvin, Boyer, and Swartwood).

Thanks finally to the Diving Officer I've served with, particularly CPTs Carlson, Lull, Perkuchin and O'Donnell also LTs Hobson and Hurst. I know your time in diving is fleeting and you as much as anyone understands what it is like to leave this community

You young and up and comings trust your instincts, learn from your mistakes and more importantly learn from others mistakes and successes. Not only is it easier, you'll end up with fewer grey hairs. Finally get all the experience you can - then share that knowledge.

Thanks for giving me part of it the US Army Diver Spirit. I'm fortunate in most aspects, as are most of us in this community, share that good fortune.

Joe Casey

## 74<sup>th</sup> POSEIDON

The 74th was busy these last couple of months. In August the team deployed to Ft. Pickett for a platoon FTX in preparation for the Company FTX and sent a recon to San Diego, CA and Laredo, TX in support of Joint Task Force North. It looks like we will have a lot of good, hard work coming our way this spring. September and October were both busy months preparing for and conducting a Company FTX. The FTX was a great success with the 74<sup>th</sup> operating as the Battalion Headquarters and dressing up as the bad guys making life miserable for the other teams. Also in October we sent a recon to San Francisco to survey a sunken 350 ton tug for a possible salvage mission next year. Things are winding down now for the holiday season. This will give the team some well deserved free time to spend with their families. SSG Cox and SSG Lufholm went to Panama City to complete First Class School. SGT Gooch went to and passed Special Forces Selection. We gained SFC Ramirez, SSG Dixon, SPC Smith, SPC Owens, SPC Gorman, and SPC Stribling from the 569<sup>th</sup>. Welcome fella's.

## 511<sup>TH</sup> TRIDENT

The 511<sup>th</sup> has been extremely busy preparing for the upcoming OIF III deployment. We spent July in Panama City, Florida participating in the company Deep Blue exercise which turned out to be some great training. August and September were spent at Rawlings Lake conducting diving operations and Ft. Pickett, VA conducting small unit tactics training and exercises that mirrored the experiences being met by the 86<sup>th</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> in Iraq. October thru December will be spent preparing to leave and taking care of any remaining deployment requirements. We look forward to the holiday breaks and well spent time with our families.

Are you ready  
for the  
Reunion?

## 544<sup>th</sup> EN TM (DIVE)

SSG(P) Gregory Burress

Been a busy quarter for the 544<sup>th</sup> with the Company FTX in October followed by a mission to Stanford 2 days removed from the field for a cleaning/zinc repair mission on a hurricane barrier there. Upon returning from TDY we took some much needed time off and completed some maintenance while awaiting our new LT to graduate school and get here. Once he arrived he was thrown right into the fire by doing 100% inventory after only being here for one week. You can only imagine the fun! Currently the 544<sup>th</sup> is at the HELM of a company training exercise where an old familiar name for us old timers is assisting us, Dave Dodd (ret MDV). Dave is out there teaching us about our underwater construction sets and teaching us how they do it in the real world.... Hey wait can we be doing it that way??... No really it has been great that Dave is volunteering his time and helping out, a big HOO-YAH!!!! Goes to him. After UCS training we will go into the holiday shut down mode and will crank back up in Jan 05 for another year where our team is awaiting SFC Mendoza to get here and take the helm. Boy isn't he going to be surprised that the first month he is here we are going to spend like ¾ of it in the field... whoops guess the cat is out of the bag now. I am sure he will be fresh and up to any challenge that Ft. Eustis puts in front of him. Well that about does it, on behalf of the entire 544<sup>th</sup> EN TM we all hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday and a prosperous, and TDY filled, new year.

## FIRST SERGEANT

As the new First Sergeant I would like to take this time to thank everyone for welcoming me back. 1SG Joe Casey has done a lot of work over the last year bringing the company together and getting it through some rough spots. The company is on much better ground now and I hope to continue where he left off.

Unfortunately we must say goodbye to Joe as he prepares to retire. Joe has been in the Army for 20 years and has had a great career. He is one of the most colorful characters I have known. He always has a smile on his face and really looks for the silver lining in every

*Continued on page 7*

## Company ISG Continued

cloud. Joe is going to be moving on to a career as a massage therapist and trying to convince Sylvia to move to Cabo San Lucas. We all wish him well and I know he will be successful in whatever he does.

The company has been very busy this year and it looks like things are finally starting to taper off. The Commander and I have several goals over the next quarter and this is a great way to let everyone know what they can look forward to. During the month of November we are cleaning house. Both buildings are going to be completely cleaned and organized. The cages and shelves are going to be organized. The conexes are going to be straightened out and lined up. The old rotten conexes are going to be removed. The 511<sup>th</sup> will be using this time to get themselves and their equipment ready to deploy. In December we are trying to get the contract completed and the new fence installed for the expanded motor pool. The vehicles moved from the battalion motor pool to building 3302. We are also hitting hard and heavy on the maintenance. All major pieces of equipment are going to be gone over from top to bottom. We also have some training scheduled with Mr. Dave Dodd. He is a retired Master Diver and is working as a commercial diver. The 511<sup>th</sup> will be taking some well-deserved block leave as they put the final touches on their deployment.

In January we are concentrating on training and licensing. There are a lot of mandatory classes we have to attend. We will spend the rest of the month wrapping up any loose ends. After that we begin to get ready for the rest of the year. There are several missions that are in the planning stages and each platoon will have a great job or two to do. We will also be happy to welcome the 86<sup>th</sup> back from their deployment to Iraq. They have done a great job over there and have continued to build a great reputation for Army divers.

Once again, thanks to everyone for welcoming the family and I back here and I know that with your help, the unit will be a better place in the future

## 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment (Dive)

CPT George A. Mitroka

Commander



We would like to officially say good-bye in this issue to CPT Scott Miller, former commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment (Dive). He served with great distinction in Hawaii for the last four years and has vaulted the recognition of the unit throughout PACOM to levels that will be hard to match. I was honored to take over from CPT Miller on 15 DEC 04, in a traditional Deep Sea underwater Change of Command.

As I am sure many of you have heard, the position has now been deemed branch qualifying for the Detachment Commander. This has allowed CPT Miller to move on and do greater things for the army as a Branch Qualified Captain. He will be deploying shortly in support of Headquarters Multi National Command in Iraq as a project-contracting officer. Good-Luck and God-Speed.

We have said good-bye recently and will be saying good-bye to some very good divers in the near future. SSG Ross, SGT Booker, SGT Alexander (Medic) have all moved on or are in the process of becoming a civilian. We will also be saying good-bye soon to SPC Keese and CPT Chaney, who was recently promoted. CPT Chaney has also been offered a slot for selection to Special Forces, congratulations and good-luck in your endeavor to earn the Green Beret.

The detachment has supplemented some of its losses with the recent additions of SGT Craig, from Ft. Eustis and SGT Hodrick, our new Medic. They have hit the beach swimming and are excited about the mission here in Hawaii. We are also expecting CPT Chaney's replacement, LT Denike, from Panama City in the next few weeks.

On an FRG note, SSG Forkhammer and his wife Penny had their second boy, Jeffery on 20 November 2004. Both



Back Row: CPT Miller, LTC Miles, CPT Mitroka  
Front: 1SG Heikkinen

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# BOTTOM TIMES

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mom and son are healthy, can't say the same for SSG Forkhammer who could probably use more sleep.

The detachment has accomplished a lot and performed many exciting missions over the last quarter. All of which I cannot personally take credit for, but I would still like to recognize the amazing work the divers are doing in Hawaii. MDV Heikkinen has strengthened the relationship we have developed with NOAA by deploying for one week on their recent deep dive expedition off the coast of Maui as their Master Diver on station. The type of diving being conducted was Trimix (Helium, Oxygen, and Nitrogen) dives to depths of 240 feet using open circuit SCUBA and Nitrox (Nitrogen and Oxygen) dives to 130 feet. The reason for diving to those depths was to gather scientific data on the Black Coral population surrounding the Hawaiian Islands of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai. Black Coral is used in the local Jewelry trade. The federal and state governments closely monitor this resource to ensure it is not over harvested.

In October, the detachment conducted an extensive underwater demolition exercise, cutting an old Lincoln Town car into bite size chunks. Utilizing the most recent AARs from Afghanistan and Iraq, they also trained on convoys in an urban environment integrating building clearing and casualty evacuation. Their most exciting mission during the 2-week FTX incorporated a Helocast Operation in conjunction with a live demolitions project casting both zodiacs and personnel. The 324<sup>TH</sup> Marines out of Kaneohe Bay provided CH-53 "Sea Stallions" for this mission. It was an excellent example of sister services working together in our future joint environment.

Our most impacting mission this quarter clearly was the coral transplantation project that was conducted in December off the coast of Coconut Island (aka Gilligan's Island) in Kaneohe Bay. The unit worked directly with Mr. Jim Lackey of the University of Hawaii to remove coral that was beginning to impact the trafficability of boats from entering the harbor. SSG Hayden and CPT Miller headed up the project, and brought with them SGT Grabowski, SGT Normandy, SPC Jimenez, SGT Hodrick, SSG Brown, SSG Green, SGT Hawkey, and PFC Haney. 1SG Heikkinen and SSG Hayden also designed and constructed a "Hookah" rig for the product. (See Maintenance and Equipment Issues for a description). SGT Grabowski also welded and constructed a 4' x 8' platform and cage that was used to transport the coral from the harbor entrance to another designated location in Kaneohe Bay. They moved the loads of coral (500 lbs at a time) by hooking the caged platforms to their zodiacs. The mission had a tremendous environmental impact as well, as they were able to move live coral, without killing it, from one location to another. After recent inspections, as predicted, the coral had began to take hold in its new location and continued to live. This brought tremendous accolades from local news channels to an article in USA Today. It was a win-win situation for all, as the islands were spared needless dredging of live coral while the Army Divers were able to incorporate innovative readiness training into their busy schedule.

We have some exciting events coming up in the next quarter. SSG Forkhammer will be leading the next deployment to Kauai for our annual Deep Blue exercise in January. In February, we will be deploying with the



Left: SGT Grabowski



Right:  
Coral off Coconut Island

Battalion to the Big Island of Hawaii for two weeks to conduct weapons training, grenade ranges, convoy lanes, and other CTT tasks. In March, SSG Hayden will take another team to Coconut Island for Phase 2 of the operation. They will continue to transplant coral from another site that is waiting the impending removal of a condemned pier. Before the pier can be removed, the coral must go first--you don't want to come between the scientist on this island and their coral.

I am in the process of planning a joint training mission with MDSU1 and EOD units of the U.S. Navy as well as Australian Navy Divers for the Bi-Annual Talisman Saber Exercise in June '05. This will be geared towards training our Force Protection METL in a joint FTX environment at the port of Gladstone, Australia. We are currently slotted for 25 divers to go on the mission, and will most likely not be able to fill all of these slots. If you are interested in sending divers on this mission, please contact myself or 1SG Heikkinen.

On behalf of the Divers of the Pacific; Hoo-ya Deep Sea!!!

## AR-611-75 Comments...

The following discussion should be considered for future operations:

### A. Issue: Dive side manning requirements.

Discussion: After observing the NOAA dive-side and participating in Australian Army dive operations, the US Army Engineer dive side is over-manned. Why are there five Soldiers on the surface in order to put two divers in the water? AR 611-75 dictates these requirements, but looking from a more practical view, the US Army Engineer dive side is not very efficient. In today's Army that is not good at all. For example, the Aussies and NOAA have two in the water and three on the surface (stand-by, supervisor, and tender/boat operator).

Recommendation: Submit changes to AR 611-75 allowing the dive supervisor to tailor manning according to METT-C. For most of our diving operations using fewer personnel would work without compromising safety or mission success. Conducting a risk assessment prior to the dive mission should answer any questions concerning manning.

### B. Issue: NOAA Dive Manual

Discussion: Currently FM 21-11 is the only dive manual used by the US Engineer divers. The NOAA dive manual has an incredible amount of information that FM 21-11 does not. Both manuals should be used side by side. FM 21-11 was written by the Navy for the Navy with very little input from the Army. In fact, the Army just put its preface, cover sheet, and FM number on it. The NOAA manual offers more information and procedures on diving in remote areas and actually covers working dives. Information contained within the NOAA Dive manual should be made available to the Army engineer dive community in order to be used as another tool for planning, training, and procedures.

Recommendation: The Army Engineer Dive community should add the NOAA dive manual to the list of authorized reference concerning dive equipment and operations. Some may find this hard to believe, but the Navy is not the "know all be all" of diving any more. The civilian, commercial, and scientific (NOAA) communities are far more advanced in diving in many ways. If the Army Engineer Divers are to stay relevant and ready they must look at what others outside the military are doing and consider adopting what would work for us.

## Equipment and Maintenance Issues:

**Hookah Rig:** The Hookah rig is nothing more than the yellow Amron console hooked up to twin 80s instead of the SDASS racks and 75ft umbilicals. This gave us the capability of diving out of Z-boats if needed. The divers wore a 30 cu ft bailout bottle and the umbilical was attached to a second stage regulator. The system worked perfectly everyone who used it thought it was an excellent way to work shallow surface supplied missions., and not have to bring a ton of gear

**New B-Sets:** We will be fielding the new B-Sets this month during our Deep Blue Exercise. I look forward to giving some input in next quarter's issue of Bottom Times

## Delta Company 577<sup>th</sup>

Here in Delta Company we are doing great things. We have acquired a UH-1 Huev Helicopter that we will be sinking in the Bay. The helo will be used to better train divers on the Side Scan Sonar system and in conducting Body Recovery Operations. We have tentatively planned to sink the Helo when the TRADOC CSM is here in late January.

Christmas was great and all returned safe for the start of a busy Year. Speaking of the new year...we will be conducting two Master Diver Evals this year. The first will be in January and we will be graced by the presence of CPT Chaney from Hawaii and the S-3 from FLW. MAJ Cagle; whom I might add is a HIGHLY motivated individual and we are excited to have him here. We have also selected three new BDO's who will complete the last Navv Basic Diving Officer Course. We have one 2C Class on board currently that will graduate in May, and another one starting January 26th.

Just a reminder, ensure when you come for either BNCOC or ANCOC you are in good physical condition and all physicals are up to date.



History question: Any divers past or present know the story about this photo?

*Continued from page 4*

Navy Dive School and again share good times with

old friends. The Marriott is located on the bay and is providing rooms in this Florida paradise for \$74.00 for active duty personnel and \$89.00 for the rest of the association members. Activities for the weekend will include a diving trip in the clear warm gulf water, a golf tournament at the Bay Points world-class links, a Friday night Social at the Limes on the Bay and our annual family picnic. Other activities are being planned and will be announced in future newsletters.

## Announcements / Classifieds

**Editor's Note:** Bottom Times is NOT an official Army publication, it is simply a newsletter keeping friends and families informed of what each other has been doing over the past months.

The job adds placed in this newsletter are not endorsed by the Army in any manner. They are there only to inform divers that are contemplating retirement and or ETS that there are employers looking for your skills.

We are currently looking to fill two positions in a family owned business. Reaching out in a news letter is by far better for us since we have advertised locally and received very little response.

**#1. Full time mechanic position:** to perform service work on bulk feed transportation equipment, dump bodies and dump trailers. PTO, Hydraulics, air systems, electrical and welding experience desired. Uniforms provided and an excellent benefits package. Competitive wages. E.O.E.

**#2. Parts Room Manager:** to receive, issue, order, monitor and control all materials required for the shop operation. Computer experience required. Training is provided on the programs. Uniforms provided and an excellent benefits package. Salary position. E.O.E.

If interested, initial inquiries can

be directed to Dave Fontaine,  
[RetMDV@aol.com](mailto:RetMDV@aol.com) .

We are located outside of Lancaster, PA.

Artist wanted to draw humorous cartoons about diving and things concerning a diver's life in general. Position pays high in *atta-boys* and maybe a cup of coffee sometime. Cartoonist can feel free to draw divers in all the greatness and glory that is a diver. Help Wanted: Any one having knowledge of civilian jobs that may fit a diver soon to retire or ETS. Send info to Bottom Times

Photos wanted: Anyone interested in seeing their photographic achievements printed in a highly acclaimed newspaper should not submit their photos to Bottom Times. Individuals who would like to donate pictures to bottom times and get a nice "Thanx" feel free to email them to SFC von Keyserling.

Items for sale/Rent: Stop being a cheap skate and list it in an actual news paper.

Army news: If something neat is happening in the Army or military, type up an article and I will see about getting it into the next issue.

Getting ready to leave military diving check out these web sites for employment opportunities:  
<http://www.divewise.com/employment/default.asp>

<http://www.scubadivingdeals.com/scubadivingjobs/>  
<http://www.diveweb.com/commdive/features/20kjobs.html>

[http://www.florida-scuba.com/dive\\_jobs.htm](http://www.florida-scuba.com/dive_jobs.htm)

**Drill Sergeant Position opening** soon: SFC Baumgartner is coming off the trail in May 2005. This is a great position for SSG and SFC to make their records shine.

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