
BOTTOM TIMES

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The 544th - Deployed and Well

By SSG Christian Normandy

The last issue of Bottom Times wasn't very informative on the dealings of the 544th Dive Team. So we will fill you in on events since our deployment in mid-December. We arrived in Kuwait on 14 December, needless to say the 511th Dive Team was happy to see us, because that meant they were going home. Since we have been in Kuwait, we have stayed busy. We have had numerous missions in Kuwait and just as many in northern Iraq. To highlight a few of the missions in Kuwait: SSG Kurt Langley led the team on its first Deep Nothus off the coast of Kuwait. Deep Nothus provided great training for our First Class Divers and soon to be Dive Supervisors. SSG Andrew Harrison led an inspection and minor repairs on two oil platforms. Upcoming missions on the Kuwaiti Naval Base (KNB) will consist of the demolition of one of the base's main piers.

In addition to our missions in Kuwait, the 544th has had the opportunity to provide routine security swims in some extraordinary places. As well as maintaining all of the security swim missions in Qatar, SFC Marlo Mendoza, SGT Chad Sluder, SPC Nicolas Marr, and PFC Adam Heidrick traveled to Kenya, Africa, to provide security swims for the Navy Seabees. SSG Harrison, SGT Erich Wagner, SPC Kyle Broughton, and PFC Adam Frey provided the same mission in two different cities in the country of Oman.

Since deploying, we've had the honor of directly supporting OIF operations in Iraq. The first mission in Iraq was a body recovery in a river near Al Asad that emptied into the Euphrates. 1LT Thomas Darrow, SFC Mendoza, SSG Langley, SSG Christian Normandy, SGT David Gills, SGT Eric Shults, SGT Sluder, SGT Frank Flick, and SPC Brian Myers were deployed to search for and recover lost Marines and sensitive items from a vehicle accident days prior. After ten days of continuous searching and 20 kilometers of river, the missing Marines were recovered 45 kilometers further down in the Euphrates. During the search, the team recovered a .50 caliber machine gun, three boxes of .50 caliber ammunition, a 9mm pistol, and two M16 rifles. As the result of the mission, SGT Shults and SPC Myers were distinguished with the rare honor of receiving the Navy and Marine Achievement Medal for their hard work and perseverance. This is an honor that rarely happens in the Army or the Marines. Great job guys.

1LT Darrow, SFC Michael Vaughan, SGT Gills, SGT Shults, SGT Wagner, and PFC Frey deployed to Al Basrah to perform a reconnaissance of a basement that has remained flooded despite numerous pumping operations. After extensive use of the unit's ROV and pumping operations, the team decided that the building is essentially in a low-lying area where all residual rainwater collected.

During the basement recon, SSG Harrison, SSG Normandy, SPC Myers, and SPC John Etheridge later deployed to Baghdad to recover a downed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). After three days and nights of continuous diving, all the sensitive items were recovered from the UAV, which all but disintegrated in the water upon impact.

Most recently, SSG Joshua West, SFC Mendoza, SSG Harrison, SSG Normandy, SGT Wagner, SPC Myers, SPC Edwards, PFC Frey, and PFC Adam Heidrick deployed to Al Taqqadum to perform a body recovery and salvage of a

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MDV Mendoza poses for a very opportune photo: No, the helicopter and divers working in the background are not cropped; that is all real time.

Cobra helicopter. Within four days of searching a 4-kilometer area, the helicopter was located and both missing bodies were recovered. The chopper sat in 30 feet of seawater (fsw), upside down. Using lift bags and Manta Ray Anchors, we managed to roll the chopper upright for proper rigging. We cut off the chopper's blades using a Broco cutting torch, for ease of lifting. We used float bridge sections with a 15-ton crane, counterweighted with a 5-ton truck, to lift the helicopter on the deck. During this major operation, we got a great deal of use and took full advantage of our 100-foot Surface-Supplied Ultra-Light Weight System. Being able to perform surface-supplied diving operations from a seven-man Zodiac made our capabilities more versatile. Our diligence and care of rigging the chopper enabled the experts to determine the cause of the tragic accident. Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of the pilot and technician that lost their lives in that helicopter.

With the absolute successes of the missions we receive, we are making a very positive name for ourselves, and are looking forward to further missions directly supporting the units on the front lines. We are also looking forward to possible joint training exercises with the British and Kuwaiti divers. Needless to say, the 544th will stay busy and continue to provide expedient and invaluable support in theatre.



SSG(P) Vaughan is promoted to SFC by Master Diver Mendoza.

Since we've deployed, members of the team have had many chances to step forward and perform well above the standard. The following Soldiers have been recognized and awarded the Army Achievement Medal for doing just that: SSG Langley, SPC Edwards, SPC Broughton, PFC Frey, and PFC Heidrick. SGT Gills and SGT Shults attained the rate of Salvage Diver. Also, SPC Etheridge reenlisted and is looking forward to PCSing to Hawaii as soon as we redeploy. Since we've deployed, we've also celebrated a couple of promotions. Christian Normandy was promoted to SSG in January, and Michael Vaughan was promoted to SFC and Kyle Broughton to SPC in April. Adam Heidrick and Adam Frey will be promoted to SPC in July.

much appreciated and means a lot to us all. We'll keep rockin' out and keep you posted on our world travels. Thanks again.

Thank you all for your support and the numerous gifts and packages we have received. It's very

86th Engineer Dive Team Travels to the Lone Star State for a Quick Demolition Mission

By 1LT Timothy Mitroka

A team of five divers from the 86th Engineer Dive Team departed Fort Eustis, VA, on 29 April en route to Tyler, TX, for a mission in support of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. After two days of driving, the team reached its destination and linked up with officials from Tyler State Park. The mission entailed the removal of an old reinforced concrete deck that was resting atop an even older concrete swimming platform. The original platform, with concrete pillar supports and all, was built in the early 1940s, and due to the rising water level of the lake over the years, an additional deck was added to keep it above the surface. The purpose of this operation was to make the platform safer because its current deteriorating condition caused injury to swimmers. The platform is 40-feet long by 10-feet wide and is 100 feet away from the shore of Tyler State Park Lake's beach. The crystal-clear, natural spring-fed water surrounding it reaches about 10 feet deep.

On the first day of work, the dive team set up and began working immediately on demolishing the additional top deck. The team relied heavily on its hydraulic power tools to break through the concrete. As one diver would

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punch holes into the deck from one end to the other with a 70-pound hydraulic hammer-drill, another diver would follow his tracks with a sledgehammer and smash through the deck, breaking it apart from the rebar. Several hours later with one broken sledgehammer and a very dull hydraulic chisel blade, the team had successfully removed the top deck slab of concrete from the rebar.

What came next was removing the ½-inch-thick rebar that spanned the entire platform in a gridlike pattern only connected to the four side walls of the top deck. The team came equipped with a portable Broco cutting torch system and a few industrial-sized concrete cut-off saws to do the work, and work they did. The Broco torch cut through the rebar in seconds, and the saws did the same. This phase took an hour or two, and the team was then able to walk freely on top of all the concrete rubble, which stacked up a good 6 to 7 inches across the platform.

The four side walls were the only part of the top deck that remained standing. Instead of breaking the walls into pieces, the team just used all available hands to help push the long and heavy sections of concrete over the edge and to the bottom of the lake. This enabled the team to efficiently shovel the thousands of pounds of rubble into trash cans which were then transported by boat to deeper water for disposal. The team spent the next few hours continuously shoveling and transporting all the rubble, as well as using the hydraulic tools again to break apart solid concrete support blocks that were discovered after removing the top slab of the deck. All the dirt that built up over the decades was brushed off the side and, finally, the original swimming platform was exposed. But work for the first day didn't stop there.

The side walls still remained underwater, along with hundreds of pieces of rubble that fell over the edge during the demolition phase. The team rigged one of the 40-foot sections with numerous salvage straps and connected them to three lift bags able to support 6,000 pounds of weight each. It took a few hours to rig up the concrete section and fill the lift bags with



SSG Brian Smith works underwater to hook up lift bag straps to large sections of concrete so they can be picked up off the bottom and towed away by a boat to deeper water.

enough air to raise the entire section off the bottom. As the sun began to set, the team was prepared to tow the section of concrete to the same place in the lake where all the other rubble was dumped. The park officials wanted to put the concrete to good use by disposing of it all in the same location to create a large fish habitat. The section was lowered 40 feet to the bottom and released from its supports by one of the divers. Finally, after 12 hours of arduous and exhausting work, the team called it quits for the first day, knowing they had accomplished much in a short time.



SGT Brandton Rohde is held in place by SGT Tyler Dodd while using a hydraulic hammer-drill to punch holes in the concrete decking.

The next day of work consisted of salvaging the three remaining side walls and transporting and dropping them off. The team also spent a considerable amount of time retrieving all the jagged rubble that was resting on the bottom around the platform. The remaining rubble was recovered and relocated outside the swimming area to prevent future injuries to swimmers. With the top deck removed and the dive team all packed up and ready to go, park services then began phase two of their operation by

building a wooded frame around the original structure—to create a safer swimming environment in the lake. It took the team of divers two days to complete a job scheduled for five days, and the outcome was exactly what the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was expecting.

The knowledge and experience gained was immense for the new and veteran Soldiers on the mission, and as a result, their job proficiency using hydraulic tools and small-scale salvage operations increased tremendously. Although the majority of work involved with this mission did not include diving, the team still took the job without hesitation and used it as a great training opportunity to prepare for future situations that involve using hydraulic tools to break apart concrete structures underwater. The Army divers are capable of conducting under water virtually any engineering operation that is done on land. ♦

Chief Dive Supervisor Notes

By SFC Michael von Keyserling

As many of you know, MSG Timothy Pagel is now officially retired. He had a distinguished career and will be fondly remembered by all of us as: a true diver in heart, deed, and word. I wish him the best as he switches over to civilian life and focuses his efforts on his family and establishing a successful second career—owning his own construction company and building homes around the Fort Leonard Wood area. MSG James Spaw will be taking the reigns later this month.

The field continues to do great things. All divers should be proud to know that their hard work is recognized by many senior leaders. The field has accomplished a lot in the last few months.

- AR 611-75, *Management of Army Divers*, currently being updated at HRC, includes:
 - Manning level changes
 - ANCOC/BNCOC failure policies
 - Permissive engineer diving authorizations
 - Bottom time corrections for our qualification dives
 - References of 00B changed to 21D
 - New training outline reflected for our engineer officer and our dive medical technicians.
- DA Pam 611-21, *Military Occupational Classification and Structure*, is being updated by the Enlisted Personnel Propensity Office.
- FM 3-34.280, *Engineer Diving Operations*, has been reviewed and suggested revisions are being worked on to support our combat developers as they strive to realign the field to better support the U.S. military.
- The draft version of the *Commander's Guide to Military Diving* has been created and reviewed by representatives from the Navy, Marines, Air Force, USCG, and SOCOM. The manual will outline all the different ways divers support the United States and show what type of divers specialize in those areas. This will aid commanders at all levels in properly employing the military dive assets available within the United States.
- The 1st Joint Service Military Diving Technology and Training board will convene within the month. The board's function is to review acquisition programs, training issues, dive procedures, and other information directly relating to military diving capabilities.

These changes could not have been accomplished without the support and dedication that the engineer divers on the ground provide every day to their commanders. I ask that all of you continue to push forward; if you have ideas and suggestions that will improve diving—pass it on. Continue to send your after-action reports and articles to the training developer here at Fort Leonard Wood. The information that you provide is vital to the health of the field.

Thank you, one and all, for doing your job in a professional and meaningful way everyday.

Phase I

By SFC Bobby Irvin

We have just finished the seventh class for this year. We managed to get two Soldiers out of eight that show potential. Those two will prepare for Phase II in October. If any of you have been here recently, you may remember one of the lifeguards by the name of Tommy Ford; he is in basic training and will be coming to Phase I in a few weeks. We took him and six other candidates from basic training to the pool and found out that Ford is the only one who can swim. The other six couldn't even finish a few laps before quitting. Hopefully we can schedule some of the MOS-T Soldiers to attend the next two Phase Is, so Panama City can do their thing. Four Soldiers have submitted a packet as a result of the recent recruiting missions PC has done. I am expecting more in the near future once they finish their dive physicals. The Army has a great program where we have the opportunity to benefit considerably. It is a recruiting initiative geared toward existing service members stating that if we get eligible people to sign up and pass basic and AIT, we will receive \$1,000. Check it out on the Internet, talk to some people about diving, and make some money. Just think of it as a second job where you can work your own hours. If they sign up as a 21D, make sure they can swim!

Deep Sea!!!

D Co, 577th Engineer Battalion

By CPT Nicholi Armio

Delta Company continues to train Army divers as we head into the fourth quarter of FY06. We currently have two Second Class Diver courses running concurrently with the new Marine Engineer Dive Officer (MEDO) courses, where we have already produced four Navy and two Coast Guard dive officers. The First Class Dive supervisors are here in force, with 10 students preparing to graduate in early August.

April was busy with teaching Warriors how to be engineer divers and staff conducting the all-too-familiar Total Army Involvement in Recruiting (TAIR) missions that Delta Company has been undertaking. SFC Brett Boyer and SSG Christopher Valencia went to Fort Benning, GA, to recruit young divers. The turn out was outstanding, with more than 50 Soldiers attending the informational briefs. Five Soldiers passed the DPFT and are now that much closer to submitting their packet to attend Phase I at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

The month of May included the culminating Capstone Exercise for class 06-10-A2C at Eglin AFB, FL. Soon-to-be divers participated in scenario-based missions while being tested in the TRADOC-mandated Warrior tasks and battle drills. The six-day field exercise was a huge success; all missions were successful, and the country of "Iqratt" is now rid of all insurgents—until the next FTX of course!

June is continually busy as the heat index soars. SFC Chebahtah and SSG Lopez conducted the third and final TAIR mission of FY06. They traveled to Fort Lewis, WA, where they spoke to nearly 500 Soldiers at the Fort Lewis Career Day. The information handed out was very helpful and the dive gear on display was an eye catcher. The Change of Command Ceremony, where CPT Robert Newbauer will take the guidon and drive on with the mission, is on 30 June. We are happy to accept him and his wife Rachel into the Delta Company family. Our Family Readiness Group also welcomed the newest member of Delta Company: SSG Carl Sowards and his wife Jennifer had a healthy baby girl in early June. Congratulations Carl and Jennifer!

I would like to thank all of the Soldiers and their families for their support as my time as company commander winds down. I am proud to say that I work with these fine Soldiers and could not have chosen a more professional group to command.

Fair Winds and Following Seas.



DIVE COMPANY OFFICIAL NEWS



Commander Deep Sea!!

By CPT PJ Inskip and 1SG Patrick Andrews

Hello to everyone. Well, the company has been extremely busy these last couple of months. We've conducted numerous training exercises all over the country. The 74th conducted dam inspections in Portland, OR. The impression the 74th left with the United States Corps of Engineers, Portland District, was outstanding. Due to their hard work and dedication, the district commander, COL Thomas E. O'Donovan, has asked for their return in March 2007. Job well done. Their next mission will be in Santa Rosa, NM, for a heavy dredging operation at altitude.

The 86th went on a road trip from Fort Eustis to Astoria, OR, and then to Homer, AK. These Soldiers drove long hours and dived in extremely harsh conditions to ensure that the mission was a success. The Coast Guard and Navy could not say enough about the professionalism and sense of duty these Soldiers had. The 86th is preparing a pier demolition mission in Tyler, TX; a chain recovery in Bull Shoals, AR; and an Operation Deep Blue and Operation Caven Point. A special thanks to the 86th for their planning and execution of the Diver Challenge. It was a success and could not have been conducted without your planning.

The 511th personnel spent most of the past few months rehabilitating their equipment. They worked long hours and hard days to ensure that they were ready for missions this summer. During this time, the 511th was also able to send part of their team to Pensacola and Mayport, FL, for a hull inspection mission for the Coast Guard. The team conducted themselves with the utmost professionalism and again was commended by the Coast Guard for their efforts. The 511th is currently planning Operation Deep Blue. They will also be traveling to Seattle, WA, to work with the Department of the Army on removing derelict fishing nets up and down the east and west coasts of the United States.

I also want to thank everyone who has been helping with the Family Readiness Group (FRG). Your support has been outstanding. I also want to say thank you to everyone who helped with the Diver Challenge. It was a great camaraderie day for the divers of old and present and 6th Transportation Battalion.

The 544th Engineer Team is also doing well overseas. Their morale is high, and they have been performing extremely worthwhile and heroic missions. They are all true heroes and great Americans. The company sends out care packages to the Soldiers deployed overseas, so if there are any special requests, please let us know and we'll try to accommodate them in the next shipment.

Again, I want to thank everyone for their continued support of the FRG program and helping me on a day-to-day basis. I appreciate all that you do. That being said, I hope this message finds everyone in good spirits and looking forward to the upcoming summer months. I hope to see everyone at the next FRG meeting! Thanks again. Hoo-Yah!!! Deep Sea!!!

569th Hoo-Yah!!!

By Joe Malone

It's that time again for the quarterly newsletter, and as always, the 569th is extremely busy keeping up with the high up-tempo of the four operational teams. The members of the 569th have the strenuous duties of ensuring that all travel, personnel, financial, maintenance, and supply issues are properly tended for any mission to be a success. From May through September, the Company will have Soldiers conducting various missions in at least eight states. The missions will be ranging anywhere from hull inspections on U.S. Coast Guard vessels, to the removal of derelict fishing nets in the

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Puget Sound, to the rock and debris removal from a natural spring on the outskirts of the Chihuahua Desert. In addition to playing a vital role in each mission's success, the members of the 569th also assist the Soldiers of the Dive Company when it comes to different military schools. Over the next few months, the Company will have Soldiers attending BNCOC at Panama City, FL; the Sapper Leader Course at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and Rappel Master and Air Assault School at Fort Pickett, VA. Each member of the 569th plays a vital, behind-the-scenes role in conducting the daily operations of the Dive Company, and without them, neither school nor mission would succeed.

On a separate note, a few members of the 569th have departed the Company. Both mechanics, SSG Bertholf and SGT Harrison, left the company in June. SSG Bertholf left the military to take care of his family, and SGT Harrison was reassigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC. The third member of the 569th to leave the Dive Company was SSG Lufholm. He had reached his ETS date and after long deliberation decided to switch services and enlist in the U.S. Navy to become a Seabee. Even though SSG Lufholm enlisted in the Navy, he remained in the diving community. All three of these Soldiers will be missed, and the 569th would like to wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

74th Poseidon

By 1LT Trent Geisler

The 74th has just come off an exciting trip from Portland, OR, inspecting The Dalles and John Day Dams along side the Columbia River. SGT Jeb Dunham, SPC Daniel Gorman, and SPC Victor Polivka were all awarded the Army Achievement Medal for their send its warmest welcome to the following new deep-sea divers: Tessa Brianne Wulczynski, daughter of SGT Joseph and Stacy Wulczynski, and Charles Alexander Stribling, son of SPC Kristopher and Angela Stribling. Congratulations as these outstanding performance in Portland. Good Job! This mission was a prelude for follow-on work for the Northwest District of the Corps of Engineers next March. The divers won't mind this since they will be able to experience Mt. Hood – the greatest skiing in the country. For the time being, the 74th is focused on maintenance and down time as they ramp up for another exhilarating summer. The divers of the 74th are anxiously waiting to head out to Deep Blue, Blue Hole, and River Warrior. These summer month missions will enhance the diving skills and knowledge necessary for advancement in the dive field, while keeping the divers a little warmer in the water.

The 74th would like to families continue to grow and develop in the dive community.

The Soldiers of the 74th still find time to excel in areas other than diving. Congratulations to Alex Grabowski for his promotion from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant this past March. Not only was he promoted, but he was the distinguished honor graduate of the strenuous two-week hazardous materials course here at Fort Eustis. SPC Timothy Tanfield also proved his physical and mental prowess by graduating from the Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA, in March. Good work men!

The 74th would personally like to thank all the families, wives, and friends that stand by and support us on a day-to-day basis. We all know how difficult this can be with the strenuous and demanding hours of the military. Thank you to all that support what we do. God Bless and Hoo-Yah Deep Sea.

The Mighty 86th

By 1LT Timothy Mitroka

Since the completion of Range Week in early February, eleven weeks have gone by. Of those eleven weeks, there have been only four where there hasn't been a member of the 86th away on a mission. The past missions include a recon to Tyler, TX, for a follow-on mission to partially demolish an old concrete swimming platform in the middle of Tyler State Park Lake; the highlighted cross country mission to Astoria, OR, and Homer, AK, to conduct hull surveys on Coast Guard vessels; a recon at Caven Point Marine Terminal in New Jersey for a follow-on three-week long pier rehabilitation/reconstruction mission; and another mission to conduct the same hull surveys as before on Coast Guard vessels in Pensacola and Mayport, FL. The missions were all successes, and the new Soldiers have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience.

The future for the 86th has even more in store, and it all started in May when a team of five divers departed for Tyler, TX, for a week to conduct the swimming platform demolition. The following week, a surface-supplied team traveled to Bull Shoals Dam in Arkansas to conduct a 130-foot dive to retrieve a chain that broke off from one of the dam's sluice gates.

The week after that, the whole team deployed to Panama City Beach, FL, for a week and a half for the annual training evolution, Deep Blue. In June, the team had some time to recover, train, and prepare for the upcoming Caven Point rehabilitation mission in July.

Congratulations to Melissa and Tracy Bower on the new addition to their family. Their baby girl Audrey was born on Monday, 10 April.

We will be losing SFC Rivera shortly—he will be moving down to Panama City Beach to instruct at the dive school. SGT Dodd will also be moving within a few months to help instruct at the dive school. SPC Wilson will ETS in mid-July. SSG Bower departed for Drill Sergeant School at the end of June. SSG Hawkey and SSG Randall left in May to attend First Class Dive School. And good luck to SGT Cleveland, who tried out for Special Forces at the end of April.

511th Trident

By LT Mike Hallman "Trident 6"

The months of March and April were busy for the 511th. On 17 April, we welcomed back five of our Soldiers from the Warrior Leader Course at Fort Knox. SGT Boyd, SGT Parmenter, SGT Rowley, SGT Roberts, and SGT Kneipp all did extremely well. SGT Boyd earned the title of distinguished honor graduate, and three of the other Soldiers made the commandant's list.

Congratulations go out to SSG Connolly for making SSG and advancing to Salvage Diver; SGT Roberts, SGT Armstrong, and SGT Knoop for also advancing to Salvage Diver; and SPC Evers for an outstanding job at Airborne School. SPC Evers was the honor graduate at Airborne School.

We say goodbye to SGT Matthew Lafrance. We all wish "Frenchie" well and thank him for all his hard work. In May, SSG Connolly and SSG Kaufman began First Class Dive School, and we will not see them again until August. Also in May, SGT Boyd attended Sapper School, and SSG Poole attended Warrant Officer Candidate School. We wish them all good luck!

The upcoming months will be busy as well. In May, we attended our annual training mission "Deep Blue" in Panama City, FL. In June, we conducted reconnaissance for the field training exercise in August and sent members of the team to New Mexico for operation "Blue Hole" with the 74th Engineer Team. In July, we will retrieve fishing nets from the waters in and around the state of Washington. In August, we will conduct the company field training exercise. The tempo should slow down a bit after August, as we go into the part of the year we conduct maintenance to prepare for the following year's missions. Deep Sea!!!

544th Sea Monkey "Nothus de prep Profundum"

By 1LT Tom Darrow

Hello to everyone back home. The 544th Engineer Team is doing very well overseas at the start of our second OIF deployment. The Soldiers' morale is high and they have been performing extremely worthwhile and necessary training in preparation for a few big missions we may have lined up. Through their diving, they have helped to support the ports and the numerous vessels both in Kuwait Naval Base and in Qatar. The Soldiers of the 544th are doing an excellent job representing the Dive Company and the entire Dive Field to the theater Army.



Major General Tim McHale, Guest Speaker at Reunion 2007

Mr. Bill Duncan, U.S. Army Diver Association

We are pleased to announce that MG Timothy P. McHale has accepted the USADA's invitation to be our guest speaker at the 2007 reunion in Savannah. Many of you may remember MG McHale as a young lieutenant at Fort Eustis, VA, where he began his career in 1978 as a diving detachment platoon leader and later was the commander of the U.S. Army Diving Detachment (Provisional), 10th Transportation Battalion. After diving, MG McHale attended the Rotary Wing Aviator Course, where he earned his pilot's wings, and from there served as an aviator in Germany and Fort Hood before assuming the position of Commander, 8th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, at Fort Campbell, KY. After attending the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, MG McHale was assigned as Commander, 159th Aviation Brigade, and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), again at Fort Campbell, KY. After brigade command, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Joint Staff in Washington, D.C., followed by a tour with the Joint Staff of the Eighth United States Army, Korea. During that tour, he was promoted to brigadier general and assigned as the Commander, 19th Theater Support Command in Taegu. BG McHale was promoted to major general on 1 May 2006, and continues to serve as the 19th TSC Commander.



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USADA Web Site

The USADA now has an official Web site. The site is in its infancy, with a lot of room to grow. We are also looking for webmasters to create and update the site. Right now, our biggest task is to get the site posted/published where a Google, Yahoo, or MSN search will cause our site to pop up in the top ten search listings.

We hope you will visit the site and direct your old Army buddies to it. The URL is <www.usarmydeepseadivers.com>. If you would like to assist with the Web site or the search, please contact <blduncan@usarmydeepseadivers.com>.

When the Web site is complete, the vision is to have multiple pages of diving history, a photo album, and a store for all things USADA, as well as links to the Yahoo divers group and other sites where Army diving is highlighted. It is the hope of the USADA that the site will help us locate our brothers and sisters who are not aware of the association or who have lost touch with the association. This is your Web site; feel free to submit material to be published.

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The U.S. Army Engineer Museum Requests Our Assistance

The Engineer Museum wants to create an inclusive dive display and describe the incredible history of Army diving. Anyone wishing to donate diving equipment, log books, photos, and other memorabilia should contact Mr. Francis L. McGrane, Director U.S. Army Engineer Museum, 573-596-0780, <Francis.McGrane@wood.army.mil>.



Man in the Sea Memorial Monument Project

By Kenneth Dreger

To give you an update on this project, the Homeland Security Policy Institute Group (HSPIG) has been “Inclusive”—all groups wishing to participate in this project from the beginning. HSPIG has had links and supporting documentation from various groups. It is HSPIG’s priority to bring this project to a reality; we have driven this project from just an idea to becoming a reality to all who deserve the recognition. We have acquired one of the best bronze sculptures available; and have been working with one of the leading architectural firms in the country (HDR).

To date, the estimated cost for a 10-foot monument is approximately \$150-175k, and may exceed this depending on the physical location requirements. It is our understanding that there is approximately \$27k so far in donations for the project. HSPIG will be generating a great deal of capital to fund the monument with the limited edition (250 copies) of 22-inch miniatures.

We all would like to have this project completed as soon as possible, but in reality, it takes time and money—and personal effort from people who are not being paid to do this at all! If anyone would like to donate their time and money to speed up the project, please let us know, and we will be glad to get you going! There is a old saying, “Talk is cheap, but action is what counts.” If you are interested in this project and really want it done, we need your help to make calls to people or get donations from people and companies. This project will become a reality. HSPIG will continue to drive this project to its completion under the highest standards and with the best interest of all the people this project represents. HSPIG will gladly give recognition to those who make donations.

For further information on the project, please visit <<http://www.hspig.org/hspig-maninthesea.htm>> or contact Kenneth Dreger, Managing Director, Homeland Security Policy Institute Group, Inc., at <www.hspig.org>, commercial (562) 698-5555, or e-mail <maninthesea@hspig.org>.