
BOTTOM TIMES

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Chief Diving Supervisor

By MSG Timothy Pagel

During this past quarter the Dive Field has made significant headway in many areas that affect our future.

The highlight was the Dive Conference where we were able to get the AC, TRADOC, the 1st EN BDE Commander, the Chief Diving Supervisor, 577 EN BN Commander, all three Dive Company Commanders and 1SGs, representatives from DCD, DOTLD, Rock Island, and EPPO to sit down and go over the future of diving. The fact that COL(P) Semonite(AC of the Engineer School) and Mr. Johnson (TRADOC FDD) are taking an active interest in our future is instrumental to the re-organization of the field. All of us up here in the schoolhouse are working diligently at bringing the Dive Field into the future force. The field could start seeing some of the changes by mid 2006.

Another great step forward was the new board procedure used to select our diving officer candidates. The board consisted of the three dive company commanders, one 1SG and the 577 EN BN, Commander. After the DPFT and initial screening was done, the candidates were interviewed one at a time. Each board member had a group of questions that they thought was applicable to the selection process and each candidate was asked the same questions. Each member voted on who he thought would be the best fit for the field. The best four (three primaries, one alternate) were picked. LTC Edborg (577) stated that if all four make it through school, the alternate will be put in the XO position in PC.

Over-all, things are looking well as we lean toward the future. Take care, stay wet, and be safe!

V/R MSG Pagel

Phase I Comments

SFC Bobby Irvin

Greetings, to all you diving people out there, from Fort Leonard Wood. The Diver Phase I course is running like a well oiled machine with a quarter tank of fuel. As you may already know, we are constantly working with the Diver *Wanna Be*'s to help them improve their weaknesses in between classes. Yes, the recruiters are still sending soldiers that don't have any business being in the water, not even for a pool party, but I guess that is why Bascomb and I are here.

SSG Bascomb has graduated "Benning" phase in Ranger school and is currently in "Mountain" phase. He is due to graduate on the 16th of December so mark that on your calendar and make plans to attend. MDV von Keyserling has been helping out with the students while Bascomb is doing great things. We just graduated 6 out of 14 students. One of which, is 35 years old and spanked all of the others in both academic and physical aspects. There is another that came from Bragg and took a reduction in rank from E-5P to attend. Bottom line, this is a really good bunch of guys that will do well as "Deep Sea Divers".

In closing, we would like to congratulate Jason Hallman for making the Flight Program and the 511th for doing great things in the desert. We wish the best of luck to the 544th and look forward to seeing you back at the dive det this time next year. As for Bob Roman, We are going to miss you, good luck in all of your future endeavors, "God Speed, Hoo-Ya Deep Sea"!

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[Send more](#)

Below photo courtesy of
Maxim Magazine



What was that about a
trained monkey?

TACOM

No News is good news. Unfortunately TACOM was unable to provide us a quick write up about their activities this last quarter. Although as many of you know SFC Haney has been busy setting up training events for the field and working diligently at getting the upgrades to our current systems.

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The 511th EN TM (DIVE) along with the Kuwaiti Divers conducted salvage operations on the sunken Kuwaiti Target Tug Boat "Muwafi"

Training Developer Desk

By SFC von Keyserling

All is well in the training developer world. I would like to thank all those who have sent me AARs and Sitreps. They have helped to create an STP that is based on Lessons learned from you. Currently I am still working on the STPs and waiting on the final review of the Phase I Program of Instruction before official submitting to TRADOC.

I have also been working with 577th Engineer Battalion to make a video that we can use when we go out and

conduct our own recruiting drives. If you would like to see a preview of the video go to

<http://www.wood.army.mil/eschool/Schools.htm>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page and you will see the link to the video and to the Phase I diver home page.

I have also been tasked with creating some motivating and exciting posters to send out to different bases to announce our in service recruiting. So, if anyone out there has some great photos please email me or if you want to design your own poster feel free. The posters will be set up much like the SF posters with the lower portion a white block for us to write the dates of the upcoming visit.

In October the dive field leadership met with key leaders in the Engineer School and regiment. On day one we went over the Force Design Update with TRADOC representative, and the various directorates within the Engineer school to include the AC. Day two consisted of the Basic Dive Officer Selection board and discussion on AR 611-75 with proposed changes. The final day covered updates to our capabilities in FM 3-34.280 and updates to DA Pam 611-21 Military Occupational Classification and Structure, The changes mentioned above will be submitted During FY 06-07.

Following the conference I headed down to Orlando to attend the AEA conference where I briefed the Council of CSM's on diving capabilities, retention issues, reclass /reenlistment opportunities, and a look towards what the future of Engineer Diving may look like. While I briefed the CSMs, COL Schweitzer, 1st Engineer Brigade Commander, briefed the Council of COLs about the same issues.

Again, I would just like to thank everyone out there for making the field look so good. I have had the opportunity to sit in many meetings with senior leaders of the Engineer Regiment over the past few months and across the board all speak about how great divers are and how they always accomplish the mission no matter what.

If you have questions or comments about new training initiatives please email me at:

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Or

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Fort Eustis Dive Company

COMMANDER DEEP SEA!

Hello to everyone. It feels good to be HOME AGAIN among the finest Soldiers in the Army. You, the leaders, Soldiers, and families of the Company, have impressed me in your devotion to duty, desire for personal and professional excellence, motivation, and understanding. 1SG and I would like to take this time to thank the 511th. Their morale is high and they have been performing extremely well in support of the Global War on Terrorism. They are all true heroes and great Americans. All of the Soldiers are in my thoughts and prayers. We could not be prouder of what they have accomplished.

We also would like to thank the Soldiers and families of the 544th. I know that this is an anxious time awaiting their deployment; however, know that our guys have the best leadership, training, and equipment available. The Soldiers and leadership of the 544th are trained and ready to go. They will continue the Deep Sea tradition the company has established in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There is no doubt they will make all of us proud.

The rest of the company has been extremely busy too. We've conducted numerous training exercises and missions such as Caven Point Pier Rehab, JTF-North San Diego Border Fence, Convoy Live Fire Exercise, participating in the German Proficiency Badge, and preparing for the FTX. I appreciate all of the hard work that has been done and I especially appreciate the understanding of all the family members as your spouses have been working long days. Needless to say, we've been busy diving and keeping divers in the water. We also have a lot more upcoming events these next few months. The company will be conducting the annual FTX in September, sending Soldiers to SAPPER and Air Assault schools, and Deep Chocolate training exercise. After all that, we'll settle in for the Holiday season.

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 fall months. I hope to see everyone at the next FRG meeting! Thanks again.
HOO-YAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!

CPT PJ Inskip

COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

I would like to take this time to say thank you once again to CPT Lull as he departs. CPT Lull has been the best Commander I have served with in my 20 years of service. CPT Lull has done a tremendous amount for the Company and in trying to re-establish a truly functional FRG. I am sure he will do well in the FBI.

It is with warmest wishes that I welcome the new Commander, CPT Inskip and his wife Kelly back to the Company. CPT Inskip and I have already had several conversations about where we would like the Company to go in the next year.

Our vision is to emphasize training the E-6's and future First Class Divers. In order to do that we are hoping to get smaller and shorter missions that the E-6's will be taking out on their own.

We are also looking to have more FRG functions and unit parties/functions. The goal is to enhance the company spirit and bring everyone closer together. This can only be done with some work from the families and everyone involved. If we all were to donate a few minutes every month or couple of months that would be a tremendous help. This will help each family by improving relations between members of the platoons and company. This can really make life easier during TDY's and deployments.

I need to take a minute and thank Sandra Slate for all the work she has done for the FRG. Sandra was one of the driving forces behind last year's Hawaiian themed event and several other FRG function this year. Without her this FRG would not be as healthy as it is.

1SG Andrews

569th DEEP SEA!

Welcome on behalf of the 569th EN TM. There have been quite a few changes in the 596th recently. On the 18th of August, CPT Clayton A. Lull handed over the reigns of command of the Dive Company to CPT P.J. Inskip in traditional Deep Sea style. The Change of Command was held underwater at the Ft. Eustis' Club pool, and was recognized as one of the best Change of Commands in

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the past few years.

CPT Lull is moving on to a position as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His leadership style and presence will truly be missed throughout the company. Everyone at the Dive Company would like to wish him the best of luck in the future.

On that same note, the 569th Team welcomes the new commander, CPT P.J. Inskeep and his wife Kelly back to the Dive Company. Previously, CPT Inskeep was the Platoon Leader of the 74th EN TM (DIVE) and deployed with that team in support of OIF I in 2003 – 2004. All of the Soldiers in the 569th are eager and are looking forward to working with CPT Inskeep throughout his tenure as the commander of the Dive Company.

1LT Scott Stroiney is also preparing to leave the Dive Company here in the near future. 1LT Stroiney pinned on the rank of CPT on the first of September and is deploying to Qatar on the 20th of September. He will be working with the Department of Public Works during his year deployment to the Middle East. We would like to thank him for everything he has done for the Dive Company. Congratulations to him on his promotion and we wish him the best of luck during his deployment.

Another congratulation goes out to one of our Supply Sergeants, SGT Tracy Morgan and his wife, Danielle on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Winter.

I would also like to let it be known that the Dive Company is starting a collection box or care package to be sent over to the 511th. We are looking at one care package a month. If you are interested in sending anything over to one of the members of the 511th, a collection box will be located at Bldg. 3302. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

One thing I would like to add is that if you know of anyone that is not being included on the Company FRG email distro or via mail please contact myself or SPC Tupacz so that we can see they stay informed and as always if there is anything we can do for you, please let us know! HOO –YAH, DEEP SEA.

1LT Joe Malone
Joseph.e.malone@eustis.army.mil

74th POSEIDON

Life in the 74th has been exciting and busy for the last couple months. On the 27th of July the team returned from Caven Point, NJ where they conducted pier construction and rehabilitation operations for the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Overall, the team replaced and attached 17 chocks, 9 wales, 31 fenders, 3 vertical support beams and new decking on one of the piers. The mission was a huge success and the pier looks great!

On the garrison side, the 74th was in charge of the change of command ceremony for the outgoing Commander, CPT Clay Lull, and the new incoming Commander, CPT P.J. Inskeep. The ceremony was a hit and some in attendance proclaim that it was the best change of command that they had ever seen. The Battalion Commander was so impressed with the performance of the 74th during the change of command that he gave the entire platoon a coin for excellence!

On a personnel note, the 74th would like to welcome the new cherry Platoon Leader 2LT Geisler and say farewell to 1LT Malone, which is taking over as Executive Office for the Company. The team also has two soldiers that will be leaving us. SPC Gorman will be moving to Florida to attend culinary school and SPC Fields will be starting his own internet company- farewell gentleman, and best of luck in your future endeavors. SSG Dodge is currently down in Panama City completing first class school, and SSG Custer and SGT Galbreath are back from the Special Forces Qualification Course. SSG Custer will be leaving again soon to attend the SAPPER Leader Course in October.

As for now, the 74th is looking forward to the company FTX in September, downtime in October to spend time with their families and ending the year with Deep Chocolate in December.

2LT Trent Geisler

86th NEPTUNE

86th Dive Team

Here's the latest going on with the 86th...We'd like to say goodbye and good luck to those that have recently departed from not only the dive community, but the Army as well: PVT Hicken, SGT Robert Strother, and SGT Bradley Johnson. We'd like to welcome into the 86th SGT Matthew Hawkey, who transferred here last month from the 7th Dive Company out in Hawaii, and 2LT Timothy Mitroka, who took over as the new platoon leader. After giving there all for their first job the 86th in San Diego, SPC Wagner and PFC Frey will be moving over to the 544th at the end of the month to deploy in support of OIF.

Congratulations to SSG Thomas Christesen and his new wife Kaisha on their marriage on the 13th of August. There's a new father in the 86th, SPC Andy Weekley, so another congratulations goes out to the Weekley's!

2LT Tim Mitroka

511TH TRIDENT

The 511th has continued to perform a variety of missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and our Nation's Global War on Terrorism. In the past few months, the 511th has continued to dive and dive and dive... They recently executed a variety of hydrographic survey and salvage missions. The 511th has also been keeping busy by continuing to conduct missions, training, and by pushing themselves physically. They will all be ready to compete in the Iron-man soon. The 511th recently was visited by ISG Andrews and saw another friendly face when 1LT Tom Darrow visited the team for a week.

544th GATORS

"Nothus de prep Profundum"

The 544th EN TM Dive has been very busy over the past couple of months with various types of training to readily prepare us for our up and coming deployment to Iraq. We seemed to start out a little slow in July with block leave and then shifted right into high gear with training, command inventories, and missions. In July, SSG Harrison took a team of four divers to Washington State to conduct a hydrographic survey in support of an up and coming JLOTS mission. The team's expertise and knowledge shined once again with the final product being above and beyond what was expected. An Underwater Demolition Range at Fort A.P. Hill was conducted in late July allowing 10 divers to receive salvage check offs. We were able to welcome SMG Di Marzio from Switzerland who spent 5 weeks training with us on new swift water diving techniques. His knowledge, experience, and techniques aided us in our preparation for Iraq.

The 544th would like to welcome our new Soldiers to the Deep Sea family. PFC Marr and his wife Alyssa, PFC Edwards, PFC Heidrick, PFC Myers, and PV2 Broughton are all new right in out of dive school. SPC Wagner and PFC Frey will be joining the team from the 86th EN TM Dive. All Soldiers have been doing an outstanding job and our thanks go out to them and their families for all of their support. Also, we would like to welcome back SSG Vaughan and his wife Erica from Hawaii. SSG Vaughan is no stranger to the diving community and will be a well a great addition to our team.

During the month of September our team will be participating in the company FTX. This training exercise will provide us with an invaluable training needed for deployment.

The 544th would like to welcome CPT Inskeep and his wife Kelly back to Fort Eustis. We feel you are finally back home Sir, and we all look forward to working with you over the next couple of years. With the arrival of CPT Inskeep, we must bid a fond farewell to CPT Lull. CPT Lull has made his name not only in the diving community, but also throughout the Engineer field as a whole. You have been an outstanding leader, mentor, and most of all a friend. You are without a doubt the "True Gentleman". You will be greatly missed. We wish you the best of luck in the future and remember you will always be a member of our deep sea family.

SSG Moir

7th En Det Dive

Aloha from the Divers of the Pacific, here again to give you latest and the greatest of what has been happening with the detachment on this side of the world. It was filled with some good operations and real world missions so let's dive right in.

The quarter started off with a deployment in support of the Joint and Combined Training Exercise Talisman Saber which was held in Australia. Myself, Lt Denike, SSG Larrew, SSG Green, SSG Hayden, SSG Forkhamer, SGT Hodrick, SGT Craig, SPC Haney, and SPC Jimenez successfully deployed over 42 tons of gear, which included our 300 foot set, Under Water Construction Set, the new B sets in their containerized 20 foot connexes, a HMMWV, and one of our LMTVs. The exercise was a joint and combined diving and demolitions operations with elements from the Mobiles Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1), Explosive Ordinance and Disposal Group One (EODGRU-1), and the Australian Clearance and Diving Team Four (CDT 4) forces. The teams operated in a Port Security posture to respond to generated missions from the planning and control center based out of Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia. Along with the ten divers from the 7th Engineer Detachment, the US Navy deployed 60 divers from MDSU-1, based out of Hickam, Air Force Base. The combined effort came from the CDT-4, out of Perth, on the west coast of Australia. The teams were co-located in a state-of-the-art base camp, provided by the



7th Engineer Detachment arriving in Gladstone, Australia

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EODGRP-1 based out of San Diego, California. This was truly a unique opportunity for the four diving organizations to work together and learn from one another the different diving techniques each utilizes when operating in a Port Security environment.

A highlight of the exercise was the joint and combined security swim/pier inspection that employed divers from the Army, Navy, and Australian Navy forces. Utilizing an Australian searching technique, the operation consisted of clearing and marking any unidentified objects along a section of a pier 100 meters long. The technique consisted of



MDSU, EOD, Australian, and Army Divers at Triangular Island

of deploying five divers at a time, each at a different depth in the water column with a surface swimmer guiding the column of divers from the surface to each piles or pillars. What was great about the mission, and key to the exercise as a whole, was the exchange of techniques and Standard Operating Procedures for security swims that we can take back to our commands and implement in future training exercises and operations. The Australian method proved to be safer for the diver and quicker as the actual mission in water was accomplished in under 15 minutes.

As part of the land and underwater demolitions training, each unit rotated divers to Triangular Island, off the coast of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area

for four days at a time. The divers experienced one of the luxuries of having an island strictly dedicated to demolition training. It serves no other purpose than to give the Australians the opportunity to conduct demolition experiments and training both underwater and on land. Our teams received valuable training on unexploded ordnance identification and disposal from the Explosive Ordnance and Disposal Mobile Unit 5 based out of Guam. They learned how to disable unexploded ordnance using a linear shape charge without detonating the ordnance. They were also exposed to some of the differences with Australian priming systems as compared to the US. The Australians utilized electric remote controls primarily to initiate charges compared to our Modern Demolition Initiators (MDI) techniques used in the US. The divers also exploded 500 lb bombs and the explosive charge from a missile through sympathetic detonation.

The divers also conducted a small arms range and were exposed to the Australian ‘Minimar’ or their version of our Squad Automatic Weapon, qualification on the Australian Basic and Advanced Qualification tables with the M-16,

and 9mm familiarization. One of the Australian training tools that proved to be very beneficial was a Video Display Unit (VDU). The system recorded the path of each round going down range so the firer had instant feedback on exactly where the round hit the target. They used this feedback tool to coach the soldier and make any necessary adjustment during the qualification. As opposed to just knocking down targets at a standard US Army range, the qualification standard and point system was based on where you actually hit the target, center mass receiving the highest score per round.



(SSG Green with SSG Hayden Coaching on the Australian Small Arms Range)

Summer kicked in high gear, and with it came four new divers from Fort Eustis, Virginia whom we welcomed and brought in to our Deep Sea Community of the Pacific. SGT John Williams, his

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wife Faith, and daughter Lily; newlywed SGT Aaron Clark and wife Suzanne; SGT Christopher Faille; and SPC Daimon Smith all arrived safe and sound and are already contributing by spreading their wealth of knowledge and experience that they have picked up in Virginia. We also picked up another Medic, PVT Damon Ford, who is with us temporarily until the Battalion aid station forms up. Finally, we want to congratulate SPC Nathan Haney for recently getting married on the 26th of August to his new bride April. They celebrated their honeymoon in NYC; congratulations and welcome to the Deep Sea Family.

The new look 7th En Detachment received their first taste of Coconut Island, and the Coral Transplantation project we are continuing with the University of Hawaii. This was SGT Randall's first major operation that he took out while under the instruction of SSG Larrew. The rest of the team consisted of SSG Hayden, SSG Forkhamer, SGT Clark, SGT Jimenez, SGT Faille, SGT Craig, SGT Williams, SPC Haney, SPC Smith, and PVT Ford. We were able to clear out another section of the harbor, and move approximately 20,000lbs of coral, bringing the entire project up to about 100,000



(SGT Randall and SPC Haney hold a 15 lb piece of coral for reporters from local media stations)

lbs of coral relocated and saving the state more than \$7 million dollars. Along with the Coral Transplantation, the divers put on their construction hats and built a 34' by 8' floating pier with a 20' by 4' attaching 'L' section. Again, this construction project saved the University time and money, as the US Army Divers were able paint and water seal the wood, finish the decking and have it in the water in just over 5 days of work.

MDV Heikkinen is currently working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at some of the most remote islands in the Pacific. His mission has been to provide technical assistance for the maintenance of the diver's gear, provide technical and medical expertise with their on-board chamber, and NITROX mixing station. To date, the NOAA team has made over 600 dives around the islands of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to name a few. NOAA is conducting ecological assessments of reef fish, corals, other

invertebrates, and algae. Good work, we can't wait to see the pictures you bring back from those remote places.

We are planning an Under Water Demo Range in Oct, and look forward to giving the NCOs some good leadership experience and tasks during the mission. We will also be incorporating the new 40 Warrior Tasks into our training and knock out our yearly range requirements in November. We will slowly taper off the OPTEMPO as we move into the Holiday Season and the dreaded annual inventories in December. MDV Heikkinen and myself are also looking forward to the upcoming dive conference at Fort Leonard wood, where for the first time in a long time, the three major commands will come together to choose the new BDOs as well as discuss some of the key topics that will be shaping the field for the future.

V/R,
"Triton 6"

CPT George A. Mitroka, Commander, 7th Engineer Detachment (DIVE)



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Two more great photos from Hawaii – Thanks Rocky for your contributions, looking forward to seeing more like this



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