

# ***NORTHERN EXPOSURE***

***Gulf Region Division—North District***

***COB Speicher***

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*412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command*

## ***Soldiers redeploy***



We bid farewell to the Soldiers of the 412th Theater Engineer Command (TEC). Command Sgt. Maj. Mathias Seitner, from Vicksburg, Miss., says the unit was able to successfully complete its overall mission by remaining strong and determined and working as a team. Members of the 412th Engineering Command recently completed their 10-month deployment and returned stateside to their families and loved ones.

The officers and noncommissioned officers of the 412th were crucial to the Gulf Region North District accomplishing over 240 Iraqi reconstruction projects, valued at over \$650 million. These projects benefited over 7.5 million Iraqis living in the GRD's Region North area. The Soldiers were replaced by the 416th Theater Engineer Command. This issue of *Northern Exposure* is dedicated to the determination of these great Soldiers.



# Commander's Corner



Col. Margaret  
Burcham

## *Our people are our future*

Hello GRN,

Gulf Region North is very fortunate to have many fine employees to help us complete the mission. This month I want to highlight Elizabeth Burg, a project engineer in our Balad Resident Office, for her selection as one of this year's top five Corps of Engineers "New Faces in Engineering." Liz was selected by a USACE panel (in cooperation with the National Society of Professional Engineers) from 22 USACE nominees for this prestigious award. The award recognizes her achievements and community and humanitarian support in the field of engineering. Well done Liz! Her achievement provides me a segue into my column's topic.

One of the most important and primary tasks of a commander is to ensure his or her organization has the proper resources it needs to complete the mission. And without a doubt the most critical resource for that organization are its people.

I firmly believe that if we can get the right people on the team, that is 95 percent of the requirement for achieving success. The right people - those with good character, an enthusiastic attitude, solid education and the appropriate experience - will get the job done. This in turn will build a great reputation for the organization and attract more of the right people.

I have made it my goal to set Gulf Region North on a path to make major improvements to the quality of our construction. The first step is to ensure we have the "right" people on our team. Our Chief, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, also subscribes to getting "the right people on the bus," a term he gleaned from the book "*Good to Great*," by Jim Collins.

In his column in the most recent issue of *Engineer* magazine, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp talked about the personnel challenges facing the Corps in the years ahead.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, in his column "Building strong starts with getting the right people," discussed the need to hire both passionate and talented military and civilian engineers to keep our country's infrastructure secure and our families safe. They must have the ability to operate in a broad range of engineer operations from combat situations to complex reconstruction projects where the goal is to help rebuild entire countries like Iraq and Afghanistan.

He talked about the importance of encouraging engineers and project managers to earn PE and PMP certifications and professional licenses.

To secure our future, he stressed the need to build our workforce "bench." These new engineers must have the opportunity for hands-on training and experience in a multitude of ongoing projects. We need to ensure that they have a part in the upcoming \$44 billion military construction projects surrounding the Army Base Realignment and Closure Projects. And closer to "home," we must give them the opportunity to actively participate in the \$3.6 billion in military and civil construction projects here in Iraq. He calls these projects "living classrooms" for our new engineers and points out that these are experiences that no other organization can offer its developing engineers.

The future is limitless for our engineering corps. "Engineers need the ability to work across boundaries and communicate with a diverse base of customers. They must have effective leadership skills to guide multidisciplinary and multinational teams of volunteers, contractors and state and local officials," Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp said.

With our constant deployments and redeployment cycles, we are in a unique position to follow Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp's vision for the future. We must be ever vigilant and commit ourselves to bringing the best and brightest people to help us in our reconstruction efforts. And once they are onboard, we must continue to guide and challenge them, so that they may take with them the necessary experience to lead the Corps into our boundless future.

### **Northern Exposure**

Col. Margaret Burcham, Commander  
CSM Gregg Phillips, Command Sergeant Major  
Editor: Mike Scheck

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## From the Command Sergeant Major



Command Sergeant Major  
Gregg A. Phillips

### *Be safe out there*

First I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Command Sergeant Major Gregg Phillips and I just arrived last month at COB Speicher. I deployed with the 416th Theater Engineer Command's (TEC) Deployable Command Post (DCP). The 416th TEC is located in Darien, Illinois, and I hail from Wisconsin, **GO PACKERS!**

I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in the Gulf Region North District. I am currently trying to make arrangements to get out to all the Area, Regional, and Project offices, in order to meet everyone personally and hopefully get a better understanding of the unique difficulties and situations you all face on a daily basis in trying to complete your missions. I would also like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication in this historic reconstruction mission.

As we start out a fresh new year, I want to remind everyone to keep Safety on the top of their "to do" list. There are times when we all get rushed and start cutting some corners. Safety is one corner we cannot afford to cut, so if we make a conscious effort daily and get into a safety routine, so to speak, it will more or less become second nature.

I have included some safety items below for everyone's enjoyment.

Driver and pedestrian safety should be a major concern for everyone. As compared to back in the states, there are a lot more people walking around the COB. Pedestrians need to be aware of their surrounds and understand that drivers may not be able to see them from the multitude of vehicles on the road. Newcomers will also notice that there are no streetlights and it's gets real dark outside. The secret is to always assume that the driver can't see you.

As you've probable notices, there are not many compact or sub-compact vehicles on post. Drivers need to be extra cautious around heavy foot traffic areas like the gyms and PX complex. Traffic patterns and speed limits are designed with safety in mind. Drivers should always obey the posted speed limits. Twenty-miles-an-hour does not mean 20-29 like back in the states. And if you forget, the MP are always there to remind you.

Electrical safety is another major concern. All electrical outlets are 220 volts or twice the voltage as in the states. And while some electrical devices can operate both in 110 and 220 volts, newcomers should be aware of which system their device requires. When in doubt as to what electrical system your device requires, use a transformer. Not only can the wrong voltage damage your device, fires can result from improper use.

Safety should be everyone's concern.

### **Corps gets an audit "A+"**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers became the largest federal agency, in terms of property, to receive an unqualified opinion – or clean bill of financial health – from the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DoDIG) for their civil works financial statements during fiscal 2008. The decision also makes the Corps the first major DoD agency to receive such a rating.

This score is the equivalent of an audit A+, according to Wes Miller, the Corps' Chief Financial Officer. "This audit verifies that we are an organization with people with honor and integrity: we do what we say, and say what we do," said Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, the chief of engineers. "It stands as proof positive that we have been good stewards of the taxpayer's money and are able to account for every dollar entrusted to us by the American public."

The audit, which was conducted by DoDIG and their independent public accounting firm, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, rendered an unqualified opinion on Nov. 17, saying that the Corps' financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects.

Auditors conducted the review between April and November, and examined all financial transactions that occurred during fiscal 2008, equaling \$40 billion in total assets.

The Corps' civil works mission is to provide quality, responsive engineering services to the nation during peace and war. The civil works programs include water resource development activities such as flood control, navigation, recreation, and infrastructure, plus environmental stewardship and emergency response.

*Reprinted from the USACE Web-site*



## GRN welcomes Soldiers of the 416<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command

### *(Front row, l to r)*

Master Sgt. Arturo Mendez, Operations NCOIC, GRN  
 Lt. Cmdr. Nate Price, Kirkuk Resident Engineer  
 Lt. Col. Basil Piazza, E&C  
 Lt. Col. JB Chadwick, Kirkuk Area Office, OIC  
 Command Sgt. Maj. Gregg Phillips, Headquarters, Gulf Region North District, Command Sgt. Maj.  
 Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donna Sendelbach, Kirkuk Area Office, NCOIC  
 Lt. Col. Eduardo Vega, Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer  
 Spc. Dale Barker, S6 Office  
 Master Sgt. Wilfredo Rodriguez, Mosul Area Office, NCOIC

### *(Center row, l to r)*

Staff Sgt. Josh Engel, Sulaymaniyah Resident Office, NCOIC  
 Maj. Kevin Windstrup, Headquarters, Liaison Officer with Multinational Division-North (MND-N)  
 Maj. Bernard Stabinski, Mosul Area Office, Ops Officer  
 Maj. Mark Gregris, Balad Area Office, Ops Officer  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathan Harvey, Headquarters, Special Operations Platoon Leader, 326<sup>th</sup> ENG BR  
 Master Sgt. Cornel Danciu, Headquarters, E&C

### *(Back row, l to r)*

Staff Sgt. Jerry Brown, Balad Area Office, NCOIC  
 Lt. Col. Jeff Holmes, MILCON Program and Project Manager  
 Lt. Col. John Sherman, Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer  
 Lt. col. Edgar Montalvo, Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer  
 Chief Warrant Officer Mike Harden, Sulaymaniyah Resident Office, OIC



# Ring in the New Year!



As Command Sergeant Major Mickey Seitner (right) of the 412<sup>th</sup>, Vicksburg Miss. redeploys, we welcome Command Sergeant Major Gregg Phillips, from the 416<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineering Command.



Command Sergeant Major Phillips accepts the unit colors from GRN Commander Col. Margaret Burcham during the Change of Responsibility Ceremony.



Command Sergeant Major Seitner receives a gift of a Saif sword from Col. Burcham.



# The Balad Area Office



Maj. Mark Gregris (left) replaced Maj. George Soubassis as the Balad Area Office Operations Officer



Staff Sgt. Jerry Brown (left) replaced Staff Sgt. Horace Henley as the Balad Area Office NCOIC



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeremiah Manning (right), Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team is replaced by Lt. Col. John Sherman



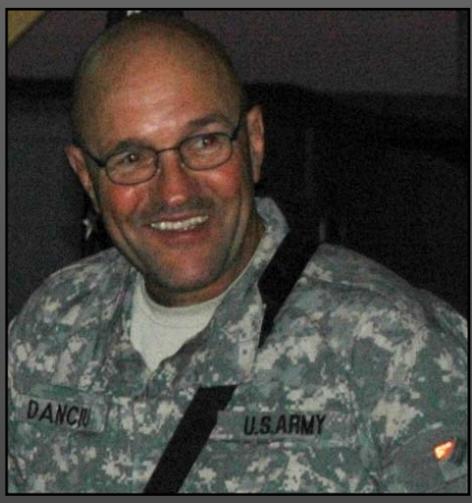
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathan Harvey will be the Special Operations Platoon Leader for 326 ENG



Maj. Kevin Windstrup (left) replaces Lt. Col. Dwight Futrell as MND-N Liaison Officer



Spc. Dale Barker, S6 Office



Master Sgt. Cornel Danciu, CQCM, NCOIC E&C



Lt. Col. Basil Piazza, Headquarters



Lt. Col. (left) Jeff Holmes replaced Lt. Col. John Banewicz, Project Manager (MILCON)



# The Kirkuk Area Office



Lt. Col. Edgar Montalvo (left) replaced Lt. Col. Jack Hourguettes, Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer



LT. Col. Jean Chadwick (left) replaced Lt. Col. Mario Trevino, Kirkuk Area Office OIC



Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rodney Gilmore (left) is replaced by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donna Sendelbach as the Kirkuk Area Office NCOIC

# Sulaymaniyah Resident Office



Staff Sgt. Josh Engel (left) replaced Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sally Cole as the NCOIC at Sulaymaniyah Anaconda Area Office NCOIC



Chief Warrant Officer Mike Harden (left) replaced Maj. Leslie Teague, Sulaymaniyah Resident Office, Officer in Charge



# The Mosul Area Office



Maj. Bernard Stabinski (left) replaced Maj. Jesus Nufable as the Mosul Area Office OPS Officer



Lt. Col. Eduardo Vega (left) replaced Lt. Col. William Gatewood, Mosul Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer



Master Sgt. Phillip Baker (left) will be replaced by Master Sgt. Wilfredo Rodriguez as NCOIC of the Mosul Area Office





Let's take it for a test drive!



Training...



Get this party started!



And more training...

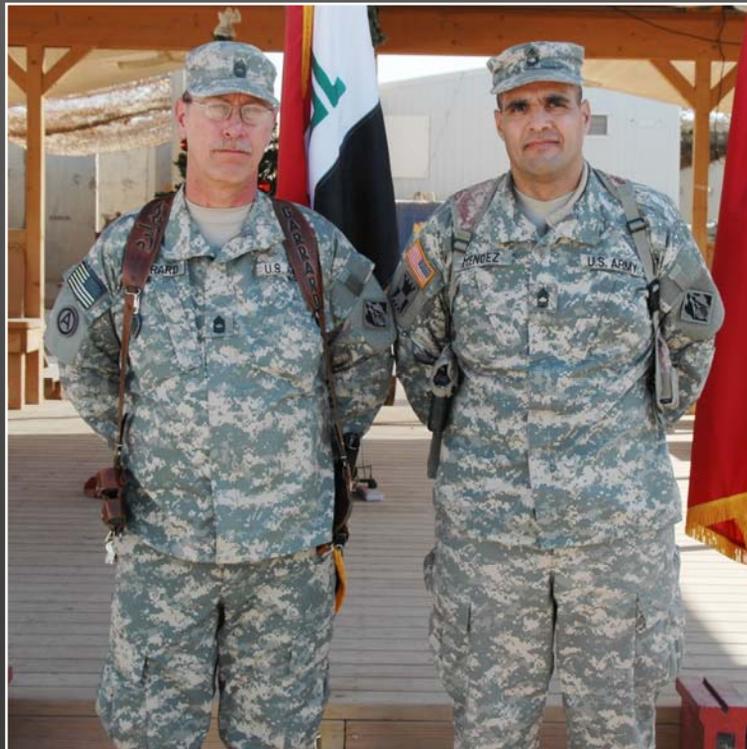


Back from the Range!

# Who you gonna' call? Brigade S-3! Hail & Farewell...



Maj. Jesus Nufable (right), replaced Maj. Scott Lowdermilk as the District S-3



Master Sgt. Arturo Mendez (right) is the new District S-3 NCOIC, replacing Master Sgt. Ronnie Garrard

New friends at GRN...



Sgt. 1st Class Randall Bitz  
OPS



Diana Rodenas  
HQ



Jewel Hogans  
HQ

This space  
intentionally  
left blank

Mike Scheck  
PAO



Aaron Serafinowicz  
S6

*In-country transfers*



Ali Hamoudi  
HQ, E,C moved to  
Baqubah Resident Office



Maj. Jesus Nufable  
Mosul Area Office  
Moved to HQ Speicher

# ...and those leaving GRN



Jodelle Ferguson  
HQ



Tiffany Ferguson  
HQ



Patrick Addison  
MOA



John Fay  
KAO



Evelyn Williams  
HQ



Todd Stockel  
HQ



Phillip Haag  
TRO

# Farewell to the OPS crew...



All except Capt. Tiffany Maraccini of course



Who ya going call now...Super Sears!

## GRN Holiday Party 2008, Camp Speicher

