
BOTTOM TIMES

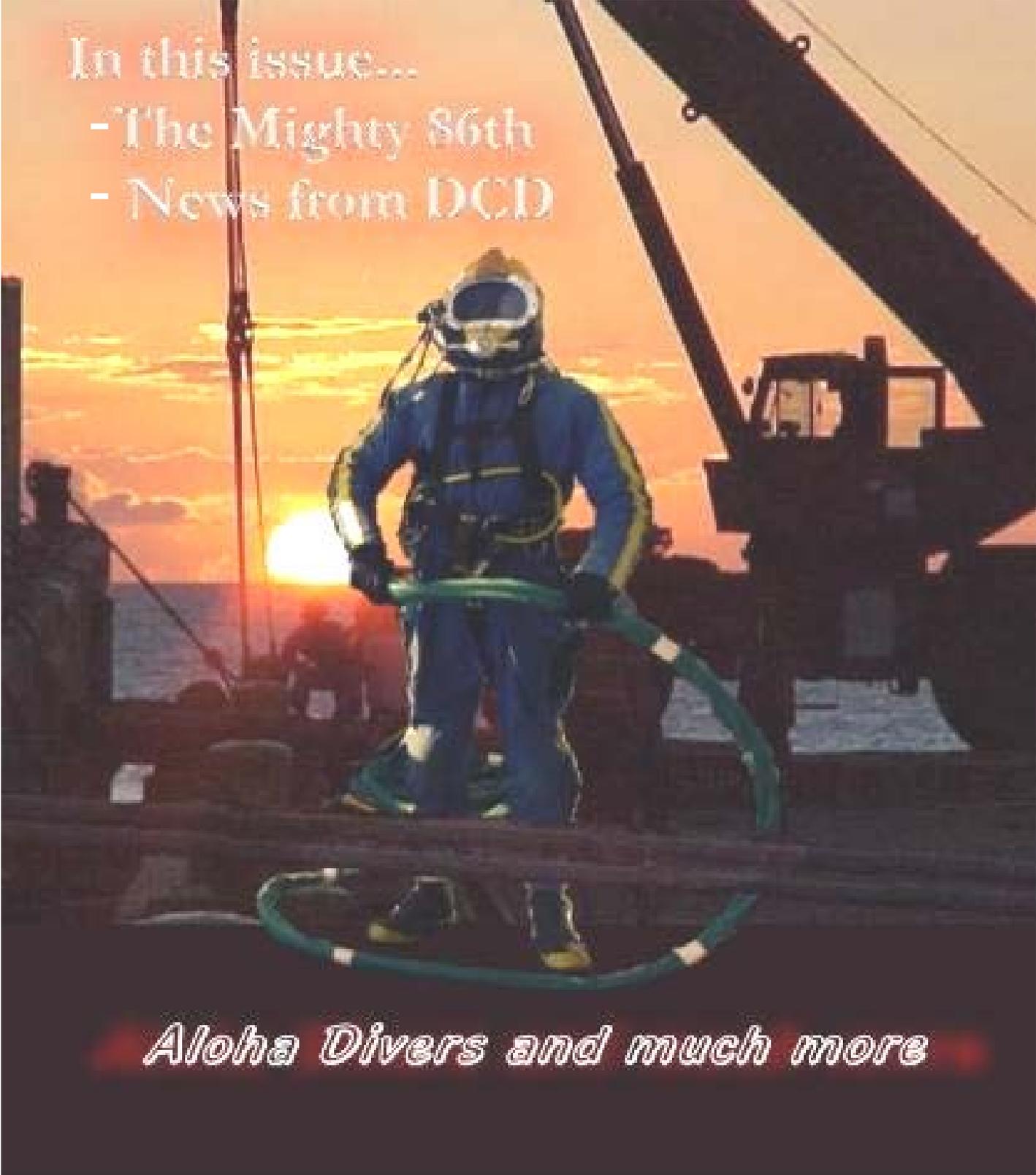
Volume 2, Issue 3

April 2006

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Aloha Divers and much more



From the desk of the CDS:

First I would like to say Congratulations to SFC Vaughn, SFC Chewbahtah, and SFC Green for their selection and promotion to Sergeant First Class.

The most significant change that is heading towards the field is a change in minimum manning levels for diving. These changes are a result of the implementation of Revision 5 of the US Navy Dive Manual and an update to AR 611-75. The change is being staffed in April with final approval with-in the year.

Also, over the last three months we have made good head-way with the Recruiting Command. LTG Van Antwerp was shown both the recruiting film and the recruiting posters that SFC von Keyserling developed. Both items are well on their way to becoming official Army publications.

Finally I would like to take a minute and say good-bye to the Engineer Dive Field. As most of the Divers know, I will be retiring in June after almost 22 years in the Army, 19 of which were spent as a Diver. They have been GREAT years spent with some of the best people a person could ever be associated with. I can only hope that the soldiers that are coming up through Army Diving now are able to experience the same level of professionalism, camaraderie, tradition, and adventure that I have. I look forward to keeping in touch with old friends and reminiscing at reunions and other get-togethers. Until then, be safe and stay wet.

V/R MSG Pagel

Sent 2, Received 2, Red Diver leaving the surface...

TACOM

PM SKOT is in the process of reviewing several items for updating and inclusion in future concepts. PM SKOT is working with the DCD to develop the required parameters and documentation for these future systems. We are in the process of testing several survey systems to eliminate both the issues with the cables and the need to send items overseas for repair. We are also looking into a new concept for the photo set that will eliminate the constant need to buy new cameras based on technology upgrades. We are working on an SDASS update to reduce the footprint and include a man portable set of racks for a lightweight dive system. As for the CDRC we are currently working several issues with further guidance coming in the very near future.

V/R
SFC Haney

From the DCD Office.....

Things here are moving at a slow and methodical pace. As everything here does. Currently we are working on putting four of our different sets through the JCIDS process, the process to get procurement money for the new and updated sets. The four sets are the Photo Support Set, Underwater Survey Set, Individual Swimmer Support Set (ISS), and the Open Circuit SCUBA Set (OCS). It is the plan to combine the ISS and the OCS sets to make one new set for all. This paperwork is long and tedious and these are the first pieces of our equipment going through this process that the whole army has now adopted. If you have thoughts or input for any of these sets and have not had your voice heard, drop me an email at Gregory.burress@us.army.mil and we will check out your input. Again thanks for everyone's assistance during this time.

Work on the FDU is slow and methodical and moves forward. To put a timeline to this would be mere speculation so I will pass on that. All in the field should recognize that times are changing and diving will be also. This FDU is not just talk, all the right people are in the right places and all the analysis has been completed, the paperwork is getting its reviews and moving forward, but still certain deadlines need to be met before it's called a final submission. After that there is still a hoop or to that will need to be jumped through. This is no easy task, and each and every diver has a role in this. All divers at all levels must take the time to Inform, Educate, and Demonstrate the diver's professionalism to every other soldier out there regardless of their rank.

That's about it from here.
SFC Burress

Training Developer's Desk

The Directorate of Training and Leader Development (DOTLD) has approved the changes to the Program of Instruction (POI) for the phase I course. The new POI brings the course to an official 2 weeks and 4 days. Which gives SFC Irvin and SSG Bascomb much more time in the pool with the students.

The Soldiers Training Publication (STP) for skill levels one and two is almost through the first round in the editing department. Once the non-diving tasks by some of the other MOS's are completed the STP will be sent out for final review and publication. Skill level three and four should be at the editors by mid July and hopefully on the street sometime in the Fall of 2006.

Pictures and videos are needed, US Army Recruiting Command needs to remake the off the street recruiting video due to the new ACU's. When possible please deploy another diver or the ROV and get some film footage of the divers working. We need good quality clips of divers using the hydraulic tools, Welding, Cutting, inspection measurements, etc. This same footage will also be used to create some high speed informational videos that will be used to brief all Army on diving, and to recruit in service candidates. Send all video clips on DVD preferably in AVI format to

DOTLD/DTD
U.S. Army Engineer School
320 Manscen LP, Suite 270
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473-9829

SFC von Keyserling
Michael.vonkeyserling@us.army.mil

Phase I Engineer Diver notes

It was a blustery cold morning with freezing rain and wind at 0450 in AIT land; we were conducting intense physical training for 1.5 hours and still could not feel our fingers when grasping the pull-up bar. Well no more! Spring is here at the great Fort Leonard Wood.

Phase I as usual is going through some major changes. Our main agenda is to reduce the attrition rate while maintaining standards, one way is to extend the 1 week 4 day course to 2 weeks 4 days and allow students more time to improve in the areas they may be lacking. The schedule change is now in effect. The Program of Instruction (classes) have been completely revised and updated with the latest and greatest and then REV 5 came out. We are still pursuing the idea of recruiting high speed, willing soldiers from AIT's here on post but have not received a green light due to the legal aspects of taking soldiers from other MOS's right after they graduate their AIT. As long as we recruit from "Off the Street" we will always have the Soldiers that are here because their Recruiter said "it would be cool and the first phase is where they teach you how to swim, sign here".

As you may know, SSG Bascomb graduated Ranger school last December and is now looking to join the ranks in Special Forces. Bottom line is that SSG Bascomb is extremely comfortable with a 90lb ruck on his back and will probably do just fine in that environment. We all wish him well during his next step to becoming a lethal weapon in the war on terror.

A special thanks goes out to SSG Custer and 1SG Andrews for getting the information from Polytechnical College that offers the Associates of Science with Marine Technology with a concentration of Homeland Security, "Mucho Gracious"!



The Mighty 86th Emergency Equipment recovery and more...

The 86th has been hard at work ever since Deep Chocolate. SSG Bower was able to accomplish all his First Class Diver check-offs, and a number of other Soldier's were able to work towards their Salvage Diver rate

It was a cold and windy experience, but the daily BBQ's kept the motivation and morale high. Immediately following Deep Chocolate, Oxyheal Health Group™ sent representatives to the Company for a week to train the E5's and up on recompression chamber maintenance and functioning. The class was very beneficial because this was the first time a number of the Soldier's have ever received in-depth instructions on all the operations of the new chamber by certified personnel. The new year

started off with a recreational trip to Lake Rawlings to test out the new dry suits, and practice with the ROVs. We are planning another trip to Lake Rawlings to conduct a complete hydrographic survey. We hope to render a survey that can be given out to civilian SCUBA divers that frequent the lake for navigational purposes. The following weeks were filled with cutting and welding training and preparing for Range Week.

Three brand new divers have joined The Mighty: SPC Jonathan Lisenby, PFC Logan Luhrsen, and PFC Jason Hayes. We are also welcoming SSG Michael Randal, who comes to us from Hawaii. SSG Brian Smith and SPC Dan Kennedy have transferred to the 86th from the 511th.

Three members of the 86th were highly recognized for their selfless service in volunteering their time over Martin Luther King weekend to help the local police and Coast Guard with an ongoing search for missing bodies in the James River. SFC Lou Rivera, SGT Mathew Hawkey, and SGT Christopher Niese were among the many divers who quickly responded to provide help

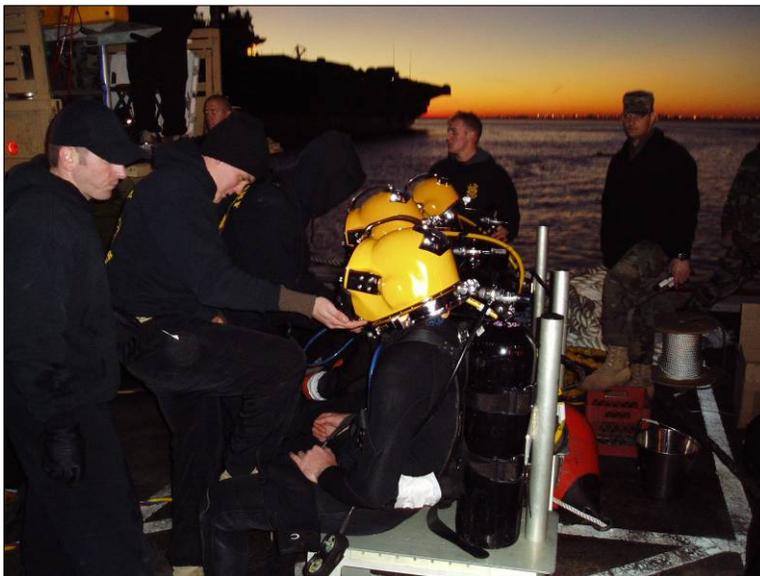
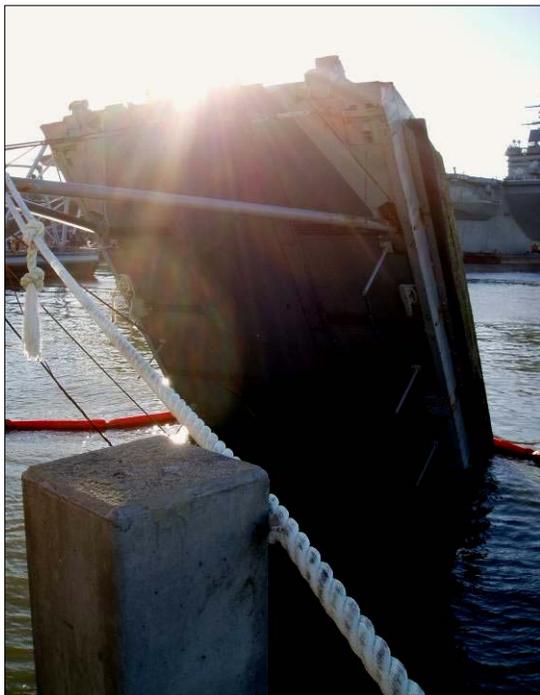
Just before we could kick off Range Week, an emergency salvage operation required the help of the Dive Company. The day's training ceased for the 86th, and all efforts were directed to the salvage of an Army Side Loadable Warring Tug (SLWT) that



A diver enters the rough water for a scenario dive during Deep Chocolate



SSG Christesen and SSG Bower inspect SCUBA divers before they enter the water



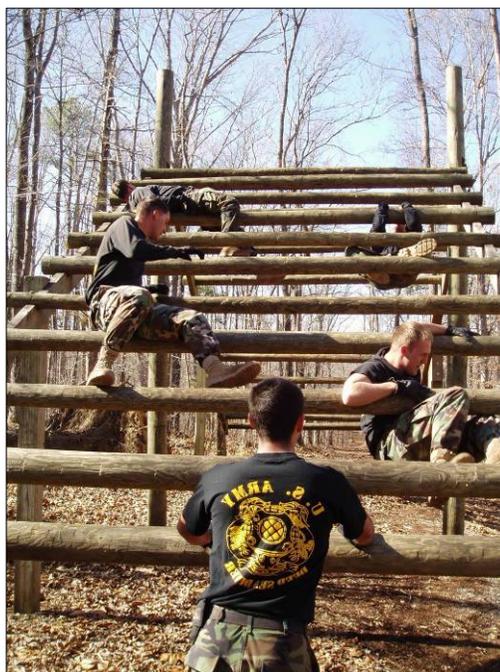
LEFT: The partially sunken SLWT the Dive Company helped to recover. **ABOVE:** The 86th worked well into the night rigging the SLWT for lifting operations

partially sunk off a pier at Norfolk's Naval Station due to rough seas. The team worked until midnight rigging the SLWT with shackles and ropes that would be used to help reposition the tug in the water and lift it out using a crane. All eyes were on the Dive Company's work since nothing could be done until our job to rig the tug for lifting was complete. The persistent work of the Company paid off and the tug was successfully recovered. The following week began Range Week. The Dive Company spent nine days at Fort Pickett, VA, training on the M16/M4 qualification range,



LEFT: A diver fires his weapon down range at a target while sitting in the back of a moving 5-ton during Range Week

RIGHT: Divers from the 86th test their strength as they work their way through the "Weaver" on a Confidence Course



the Leadership Reaction Course, a Zodiac and convoy live fire range, a confidence course, land navigation, and underwater demolitions. The training went very well, especially the Zodiac and convoy live fire ranges. Some of the Soldier's learned how difficult it was to hit a target while moving the future of the 86th is going to be even busier than the last few months. Come late February, the team looks to go cross country to Astoria, OR, and Homer, AK, to conduct week-long hull surveys of Coast Guard vessels. Also, a trip to Tyler, TX, is in store to remove an old concrete swimming platform in Tyler State Park Lake. Divers Week is coming up the week of 17 April, and will conclude with the Commander's Challenge that Friday. And shortly following, the team will take a trip to Panama City Beach, FL, for Deep Blue. It is going to be a busy spring, but there is nothing better than a diver getting in the water and putting his skills to use.

Written by
1LT Timothy Mitroka
Platoon Leader



ABOVE: From Left: SGT Rohde, SPC Lisenby, PFC Luhrsen, and SGT Dodd prime C4 with Det cord **LEFT:** One of four shots detonated across a lake at Ft. Pickett during the underwater demolition phase of Range Week

The 86th is just one of the teams in the Fort Eustis, Virginia Dive Company. The rest of the teams have also been busy - below are some brief overviews of what has been going on with our East Coast divers.

COMMANDER DEEP SEA!!

Hello again to everyone in the Dive Company family. These past few months have been extremely busy for us here at the Dive Company and it looks like it will continue to be that way through the spring months. The 1SG and I want to take this time to let you know how things are going and where we are headed. We have accomplished great things here through the hard work of our divers and the constant support of all the families. The 74th and 86th just returned from a very successful Range Week. I believe all Soldiers had fun conducting the Zodiac Live Fire and Convoy Live Fire. The Soldiers also did an outstanding job in the salvage of an Army vessel. The 511th is settling back into things here at Ft. Eustis and starting to get back to work on their newly arrived equipment.

Over the upcoming months the Company will be busy in its daily efforts in supporting the Battalion and in upcoming training and TDY events. Some of our highlights include: Hull Inspection Missions in Alaska, Oregon, Florida, and Pennsylvania, Tyler Texas Recon and Mission, MK V dives, Diver Appreciation Week, the Commander's Challenge, Deep Blue, England

International Exchange, JLOTS, Caven Point Pier Rehab, River Warrior, Blue Hole New Mexico, and Stamford Hurricane Barrier inspection. Needless to say, we are extremely busy.

The 544th EN TM is also doing well overseas. Their morale is high and they have been performing extremely worthwhile and heroic missions. They have helped to support the many vessels. They are all true heroes and great Americans. The company sends out care packages to the guys 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 all of their support and I appreciate everyone's understanding during these busy times. The good news is that we are busy and your loved ones are conducting missions in which they joined the army to perform.

Thank-you for your 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!!!
CPT PJ Inskeep

569th HOO-YAH!!!

I would like to take this time to say I hope everyone had an enjoyable Holiday Season. It is hard to believe how quickly time has passed since our last newsletter. Now that Spring is fast approaching and the tempo within the Company is picking up, the days

and weeks will begin to fly by even faster than before.

Before I go on further, the 569th would like to welcome back all the Soldiers of the 511th who safely redeployed in early January. These Soldiers set the example for others to follow while they were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Company gladly welcomes the return of the 511th and is eagerly awaiting getting them back in the swing of garrison life and TDY missions.

Speaking of TDY missions, the Company has close to all the missions it can handle for the upcoming year, between possible ice diving up in Homer, Alaska to non-explosive demolition missions in Santa Rosa, New Mexico and Tyler, Texas. It's the job of the Soldiers of the 569th to ensure the Company functions like a well oiled machine and does everything necessary to aid the operational teams for their missions. It's the Soldiers who work up in the Head Shed and in the Supply and Maintenance sections who deserve a pat-on-the-back for a job well done.

Before I go, I would like to say goodbye to SGT Chad McFarlin and SSG Micah Sherrod. SGT McFarlin left the Company in late January, and SSG Sherrod is leaving the Dive Company in mid-March to become a Recruiter. The members of the 569th and the Dive Company would like to wish both of these Divers the best of luck in the future.

1LT Joe Malone

74th POSEIDON

The 74th has kicked the year off by completing plenty of great training events. The first training event was conducted the second week in January and was developed by SSG Kyle Dodge. The training was held over two days at Fort Pickett and taught Soldiers how to

react to Improvised Explosive Devices while driving in a convoy. The team performed exceptionally well throughout the training. The last week in January began with another trip to Fort Pickett, where the Company conducted various ranges. The 74th planned and executed the M16 Range, Leaders Reaction Course, Confidence Course, and the Small Boat Live Fire Range. All ranges were a huge success, especially the second-ever Small Boat Live Fire developed by SSG Weston Cox. He built upon the first live fire and developed a course that tested and challenged all the Soldiers in the unit. Great job SSG Cox! In addition to all the training that was conducted, 1LT Trent Geisler, SSG Milton Prater, SGT Alex Grabowski, and SPC Timothy Tanfield responded to an emergency body recovery mission that was received from the U.S. Coast Guard. These Soldiers along with other members from the 86th were called in from a 4-day pass and deployed to the capsized vessel within hours.

Upcoming events for February consist of another trip back to Fort Pickett to conduct hydrographic survey and demolitions training developed by SSG Prater. This is a training event that will teach all Soldiers how to properly complete a hydrographic survey, a skill that the team will need for future missions. SSG Prater has devoted a great deal of time to this event; therefore, I am sure it will be outstanding. As you can see, the 74th will be very busy for January and February; therefore, in March the team will slow down and conduct maintenance on the team's equipment. This break will be needed and well deserved.

On the homefront, the 74th would like to welcome SPC Erik Kuhn and SCP Timothy Tanfield and his wife, Cara to the Company. SSG Kyle Dodge and SSG Curtis Custer completed BNCOOC phase two, while SPC Kristopher Stribling and SPC Timothy

Tanfield reenlisted for four more years. The Dive Company is lucky to have Soldiers of this caliber; congratulations to all of them. Congratulations are also in store for two families. SGT Joseph Wulczynski and his wife Stacy are expecting a baby girl in February and SPC Stribling and his wife Angela are expecting a baby boy in March. We can't wait to meet these two additions to our family. HOO-YAH & DEEP-SEA!!

SFC Ramirez

511th TRIDENT

Dear friends and families of the 511th, the month of January has been very uneventful. Most of the team has been either on leave or attending schools. We are expecting the equipment by the end of February and then the work pace will pick up. The 511th would once again like to congratulate SGT Kniepp, SSG Knoop, and SSG Connolly on their recent promotions. We would also like to take this time to say goodbye to two fellow DEEPSEA DIVERS; SPC LaFrance and SGT Armstrong. They both will ETS at the end of March. Both are great divers and will do amazing things in the civilian world. SPC LaFrance will return to Cranberry Lake in New York and attend school in hopes of becoming a school teacher. SGT Armstrong will return to Canada as a US citizen and attend school there. As far as upcoming plans for the team we will be refitting and preparing for future missions and military schools.

SSG Vance



544th SEA MONKEY

“Nothus de prep Profundum”

Hello to everyone back home. I would like to say the 544th EN TM 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.

1LT Tom Darrow



Delta Company

U.S. Army Engineer Dive School

Delta Company has had an eventful year thus far. The most apparent change is the absence of Captain Shawn English who was selected to deploy to Iraq and help to train the newly formed Iraqi Army. He is expected to return to Panama City, FL in the spring of 2007 where his wife Tricia and three boys are staying. The English family will remain a large part of Delta Company and our FRG functions.

With CPT English off fighting the War on Terror, I took command as LTC Edborg and Jenny welcomed my wife Ashley and me as the new Delta Company command team. We are loving the challenges and rewards that accompany leading such an elite group of Army Divers. CPT Rob Newbaugher is expected to take the reigns this summer as I assume duties as the XO once again.

January was filled with our AIT 2nd Class Diver course as we had two classes onboard accompanied by four 2nd Lieutenants in the new Marine Engineer Dive Officer (MEDO) course. January was the first of many, Staff Assistance Visits (SAV) from Battalion in an effort to help us down here in Florida stay caught up with the Battalion and FLW. SSG Lopez also attended a week long demolitions convention in Dallas, TX where he brought back a wealth of information to incorporate into the demo portion of our classes. Lastly, 1SG Thompson and I were able to get up to FLW for the Semi-Annual Training Brief to the Brigade Commander and touch base with our support channel at Battalion.

February kept up the torrid pace with the continuation of the 2nd Class and MEDO courses led by MSG Spaw and SFC Boyer. SFC Lohman and SSG Lopez were able to make a recruiting trip to Ft. Bragg, N.C. where they screen potential future divers. Their efforts yielded five packets from Soldiers who want to become “Deep Sea Divers”. Another SAV from Battalion earned a recommended “Commendable” for SSG Lopez as he is the Equal Opportunity representative from our Company. Great job SSG Lopez!

March has brought nice weather again to Panama City and the FRG with help from SSG Valencia has take advantage of the weather in order to raise \$160.00 to offset costs for our 4th of July BBQ this summer. The end of March will start another Master Diver Evaluation Board and we welcome the Bn XO.

I would like to thank all of the Soldiers and families for the time they give and the patience shown with the ever-changing schedules we ask

of everyone. We are looking forward to the training and resources we are being provided from the Battalion staff and the 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Eglin, A.F.B. in getting divers ready to contribute to our on going battle against terrorism.

CPT Arnio
D Company Commander



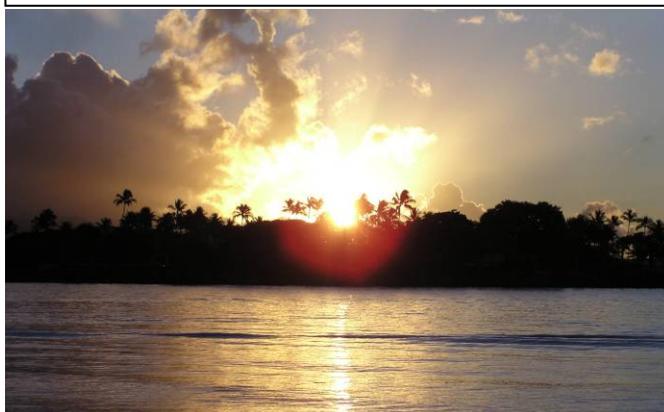
7th Engineer Detachment - Ready to go!

Aloha from the Divers of the Pacific! We have some exciting announcements to make to the field in regards to deployments, promotions and re-enlistments. For the first time in its history while located in Hawaii, the 7th Engineer Detachment will deploy to relieve the 544th Engineer Detachment in OIF and give Fort Eustis a much needed year-off. At this point, we are 99% certain that this swap will happen, but continue to expect that both the 74th and 7th will conduct battle focused training in preparation for a deployment until the official announcement is made. This has been the opportunity all of these Soldiers stationed here have been waiting for as they will now get a chance to put their training to the test and represent the Army Dive Community on a much larger scale.

Hawaii would like to congratulate the three Staff Sergeants who were selected for promotion to Sergeant First Class this year; SFC Chewbatah, SFC Vaughan, and especially our own SFC Chris Green, who all promoted on 1 April 06. All three were well earned, and we look forward to preparing SFC Green for MDV Evaluations next year. After a two and a half year wait, we are also proud to announce that SGT Bradley Petersen, our Medic, finally pinned on SSG in March. We confirmed his college courses that credited him with the



CPT Mitroka and SGT Jimenez after SGT Jimenez re-enlisted on top of Diamond Head.



Does it get any better?

needed points that made him eligible for the promotion. PFC Geffert pinned on SPC in March and we anticipate sending him to the Soldier of the Quarter Board in April. He will have big shoes to fill as SPC Tomlin competed in and won the Soldier of the Quarter Board in February. He will be moving up to the Brigade level next month and will represent the Divers proud at the next level. On a re-enlistment note, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the following Soldiers for their self-less service to the nation and the Dive community. In the last three months, SSG Bryan Haldeman, SGT Edgar Jimenez and SGT John Williams all re-enlisted to remain in the Dive field and deploy with the unit this winter. As a Commander, it is one of the finest days in the Army when great Soldiers make that commitment to stay in and continue to serve. Thank you again for your continued service

The 2nd Quarter of the year saw the Divers of the Pacific break out their Engineer Reconnaissance gear in their most extensive Squad Evaluation in the unit's history. The majority of the three months were dedicated to the maintenance and training on the ROV, Hydrographic Survey, Side-Scan Survey, and Security Swim operations. We also began incorporating Warrior Drills into our Diving Operations, getting the unit focused on "Reacting to Contact/IED", "Securing a Halt", "Evacuating a Casualty" and general convoy procedures. We are eagerly waiting to hear how the latest SOPs are working in theater on both the



SSG Haldeman re-enlisting on the USS Arizona Memorial.

Convoy and Diving techniques to begin incorporating them into our training events and pre-deployment preparation.

The beginning of year saw 5 Divers further their military education requirements with the Warrior Leader Course (formerly PLDC) and Phase 1 and 2 of BNCOC. SPC Haney completed the two-week long Warrior Leader course in February at Bellows Air Force Station. We also had 4 Divers, SSG Aaron Clark, SSG Bryan Haldeman, SGT Christopher Faille, and SGT John Williams finish phase 2 of their BNCOC requirements at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. They are looking forward to 1st Class School starting in May. We also qualified everyone in the unit at our semi-annual M16 Range at Schofield. Our best score was recorded by our new medic, SSG Bradley Petersen, as he shot 40/40.

1SG Heikkinen conducted his second major deployment with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) in February. He sailed with their team, who was conducting coral and fish research off the coasts of the Pacific Islands in and around Samoa. He spent 30 days as the on-

call Master Diver on station. NOAA requires having this level of experience on board; based on the nature and difficulty of the diving operations they were conducting

1LT (P) Denike and SSG Larrew also led a team of divers to Kauai, in order to conduct a Hydrographic Survey of the Kikialoa Boat Harbor for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). They deployed with six other Divers, SSG Christopher Green, SSG James Forkhamer,



SSG Larrew and his team prepare to conduct survey operations on the island of Kauai.

SGT Bradley Petersen, SPC Damon Smith, SPC Jeremy Tomlin, and PFC Adam Petersen.

The mission was the first as an Army Engineer Diver for the unit's new Senior Diving Medical Technician, who is also an Army Combat Diver, and for two of the unit's new divers from dive school, SPC Kane Tomlin and PFC Adam Peterson. The new divers to the 7th Engineer Detachment (Dive) have integrated quickly and they performed exceptionally well on their first mission.

The Detachment surveyed for five days including three portions of hydrographic surveying and verifying survey control points. The Divers battled challenging sea

conditions while collecting depth soundings near the shoreline as they had to operate the Zodiac inflatable boat through breaking surf. Large surf is challenging enough when trying to conduct a beach landing, however much more difficult when moving slowly and collecting depth soundings. The survey teams are definitely more skilled at rough water boat operations after conducting this hydrographic survey. As in the past, the Army Divers were transported by the US Coast Guard on a C-130 from the Air Station Barber's Point.

Lastly, we wanted to say thank-you once again to SFC von Keyserling for taking the time out of his busy schedule to help evaluate our Squad Evaluations in March. It was very effective having an outside evaluator come in with a different and un-biased set of eyes to give us some great feedback on how the unit is trained overall on our collective Engineer Reconnaissance Tasks. As a whole, the squads did well incorporating Troop Leading Procedures, convoy operations, and reacting to contact drills into our technical diving tasks. 1LT (P) Denike and SSG Green were also able to incorporate real world requirements for the Corps of Engineers and the United States Coast Guard into the evaluation FRAGOs. This gave the training event a more realistic feel for the squads as they had to give their products to outside customers at the end of the evolution. At the end of the 4 Days, the two Squads had conducted pier and hull inspections on the LSV and the piers at Hickam AFB with the ROV and SCUBA divers, rendered a Hydrographic Survey of Sand Island for the USCG, and captured Side Scan Sonar images of the Sand Island Bridge and Waianae Small Boat harbor for USACE.

At the end of the week, the team received its final FRAGO for the Squad Evaluations, which was to conduct a Ships Husbandry mission for the USCG on the USCGC Walnut, stationed at Sand Island, Honolulu. The mission was a continuation of the maintenance work that the 86th Engineer Detachment started in Oregon and in Alaska on two other vessels. Mr. John Kern, the leader of the maintenance team, is making his way around the country inspecting the hulls, running gear, grates, and overall condition of these vessels to determine whether dry-docking is necessary. By using Army Divers, he has saved a substantial amount of money, which would otherwise have been contracted out to



SSG Hayden, SSG Clark, and SGT Faille conduct side-scan sonar operations underneath the Sand Island Access Road Bridge for Squad Evaluations. They are being evaluated by SFC von Keyserling; riding in the bow of the Zodiac.

civilian divers or the Navy. Mr. Kern was impressed with both teams' efforts, and believes that this relationship will be sustained for future maintenance cycle evolutions with the Coast Guard.

We are planning some exciting events in the third quarter, as we will conduct our culminating collective diving task by conducting a Salvage Exercise in Panama City, FL in April. Afterwards, we will link up with our brothers from Eustis and piggy-back on their Deep Blue Exercise and conduct some deep diving operations in the Gulf of Mexico. In May, we will be conducting our first extensive Convoy Live Fire Exercise in the unit's history. We will begin the development of our Warrior Drills when we deploy to Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii for two weeks. Last, but not least, I will be handing the guidon over to CPT Dan Curtin this summer, as he is eagerly awaiting to take charge and lead this unit on its first major deployment.

Thank you, again, for the continued support of the Divers of the Pacific as we move into the busiest training quarter of the year. I am looking forward to spending these last three months of command with this group of Divers, before I head out to be a Team Leader for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command here at Camp Smith.

V/R,

“Triton 6”

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

