



# The Soul of the Lion



The AT Newsletter of the 133d

<http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/units/grizzly/default.htm>

## From the Battalion Commander

By Lieutenant Colonel David M. Duehring



What a great first week of Annual Training! In spite of a slow start the Engineers of the 133d have risen to the challenge of change and overcome road-blocks that may have caused other units to fail. My compliments to our leaders and soldiers for a safe and successful first week. The projects are doing well and leaders are commended for conducting routine risk assessments and implementing measures to ensure their soldiers are not put in harms way.

Highlighting the first week of training was Common Task Training (CTT) and the "Engineer Stakes." As I observed CTT training and discussed soldiers' feelings about the CTT, I was impressed with the level of professionalism of the CTT administrators and the positive attitude of the soldiers that were tested. Soldiers commented on the insistence of the administrators for soldiers to perform to the standard. No one was given a break! My compliments to our great CTT administrators for making this event challenging in order to set a benchmark for future performance. My congratulations to our soldiers in their level of preparation and positive attitude to make this event the best CTT event ever.

On Sunday we conducted the 'Engineer Stakes' at the Naval Warfare Training Site at La Posta. Eight teams from the battalion competed in this challenging and physically grueling land navigation course across rugged mountainous terrain. By the time the course was completed, six teams finished in a MOPP 4 dash to the finish line. What great attitudes and team spirit that was apparent in all participants. Everyone needs to feel extremely proud in rising to the challenge and setting a standard that will be difficult to match in the future. The soldiers of this battalion truly have heart! Job well done!

As we enter our final days of annual training, I encourage everyone to keep their guard up. Lets be ever conscious about our mission and our environment to ensure we safely complete our missions and return to our families in one piece.

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## HSC Hawks



The bouncing beatty claimed many victims at La Posta. Looks like we'll be at least one cook short from now on (just kidding Staff Sergeant Smith). Go and No Go don't count. It's realistic training and that's what counts! Great job CTT test cell providing this training to the Battalion.



Sergeant Dow of HSC inspects Specialist Chapman's mask after Specialist Champan dissembled and cleaned it during common task training at La Posta.

Equipment Platoon is also doing a great job defending our society. Their haul rates look great and they had an opportunity to work on unique equipment. The water trucks have been constantly on the move squirting dirt and soldiers have been excavating earth. Sergeant Corbett has been taking charge and coordinating to ensure smooth project work. Many positive comments have been noted on the platoon's can-do attitude and professionalism. Keep up the great work and take advantage of any training opportunity presented.

Direct Support has started their mission of supporting Camp Morena in DS level maintenance. This is a rare opportunity to actually perform this level of maintenance on a myriad of equipment. As well as performing maintenance, SFC Edwards, SSG Smith, SSG Lemay and they rest of the section have been supporting CTT. Company Maintenance is busy turning wrenches at Sandia Yard and its vicinity. I hear SGT Howes will be making a trip over to the Border Patrol shop to purchase those unique items you just can't find anywhere else. They've had many young soldiers step up and demonstrate their ability to support any mission.

All the staff section soldiers – S1, S2, S3, S4, Commo, Medics, and Surveyors have

been scattered to the winds supporting the projects and CTT. You'll see members of these sections at East POE and Sandia Yard to name a couple places.



Members of the Direct Support Maintenance pause briefly while at Camp Morena, California.

The Family assistance center has been busy receiving and transporting soldiers from the Portland Jetport, issuing ID cards, and cleaning and prepping the Armory for our return in less than a week. Sergeant First Class Estabrook will assist you in completing your travel claims if they're not complete upon return.

I'd also like to put a plug in for Army Knowledge Online (AKO) accounts. If you happen to use one of the many FREE computers at the recreation hall across the street from our billets, browse to [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil) and sign up. There is great information to be learned there.

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### S-2 Section

Intelligence Summary, Sensitive Items, Spot Reports and the CBS Exercise are part of the daily routine within the section. Captain Penrod, Sergeant First Class Watson, Staff Sergeant Danforth and Specialist Chase have been busy following up with, receiving and forwarding the reports as the units submit them. Remember the reports you

submit are forwarded to Group. Be accurate in your reporting.

Physical Security: Soldiers need to stay focused on securing their equipment. This includes the project sites and the barracks area. Do your part in maintaining physical security. Now is not the time to have sensitive and personal equipment lost or stolen.

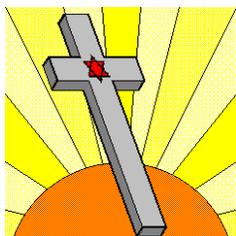
CTT: The whole section (3 soldiers) has completed their CTT for the current year. This was completed without any heat or indigenous animal incidents, at the wonderful La Posta training area.

RECONS: The early and evening recons, to and from the Navel Amphibious Base to 32nd Street have been eventful and mildly irritating. Our present recon teams (consisting of senior NCO's) are determined to travel a different route every day. Consequently the teams have seen more of the greater San Diego area by mistake than design.

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### Chaplain's Corner

*by Chaplain David Sivret*



The next few days ahead offers us choices of many kinds, some big ones, many that will affect other members of the Battalion, a few that will have profound effects on our lives. But no choice, no decision we make, will be wrong. A particular decision may lead us slightly astray. Down a dead-end path, perhaps, but we can always turn back and choose again.

We are seldom aware of the gravity of a particular choice at the time of making it. Only hindsight reveals wisdom of an important choice. Nevertheless, no choice is without importance in the overall picture of our lives. At the same time, no choice is all powerful regarding our lives. We are offered chances again and again for making right choices. The ones that will contribute to the bigger plan for our lives.

We need not worry about the opportunities for decision-making. We should listen to those around us. We should seek the guidance of those who lead us.

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### S3 Section

*by Captain Lance Gilman*

Engineer Operations continue full swing during week two of the Battalion's Deployment in support of Task Force Grizzly on the US/Mexican Border. The Companies continue to excel in their performance and exceed the standards in project design and execution.

Morale is particularly high as a number of companies have gone through their Morale, Welfare and Recreation Day and hit San Diego by storm. The San Diego Zoo and the Aerospace Museum both relinquished entry fees for soldiers and support like this certainly is a combat/work multiplier.

Headquarters Support Company ran a very difficult, but to army standard, Common Task Testing site at the La Posta Land Navigation Site. Nearly all companies rend positive feedback from the CTT Lanes. One of the Lanes involved combat infantry movements under fire, and was particularly challenging and realistic for our soldiers. The site even had machine gun fire and war sounds tape recorded and played as the

soldiers moved through the lane to make it more realistic – excellent job.



*Honorable Craig Duehring, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs speaks to soldiers of the 133d on the border.*

Projects are tracking nicely as most of our 8 critical missions are reporting over 50% complete now. We have hauled over 15,000 cubic yards of material in support of horizontal and vertical missions for Task Force Grizzly. We also had Mr. Duehring, the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, visit a number of our job-sites and interact with our soldiers. The La Posta Navy Seal’s land navigation site missions continue and the support staff will particularly enjoy the exceptional barbeque and patio built by vertical assets in the battalion, under the Command and Control of B Company. This mission included a concrete pour and an extensive concrete brick, professionally landscaped retaining wall.

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### **Battalion Executive Officer**

*by Major David W. Rodick*

The following is a description of an accident that recently happened on active duty.

A soldier drowned when the M985 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) he was driving rolled over into a

streambed. The truck was part of a 73-vehicle convoy conducting a night tactical road march. As part of the support element, his platoon was deployed to support a cavalry squadron movement to the unit maintenance collection point (UMCP) as the squadron began a 14-day training exercise. The night was characterized by light precipitation, with 6 percent moon illumination and 2-mile visibility. The unit was using night vision goggles (NVGs).

This was a movement that should have proceeded without incident or injury. However, the following significant events contributed to the accident: continuous operations throughout the day without rest, insufficient leader supervision, lack of risk management implementation, and no continuous risk assessment.

### **What happened?**

The day before the accident, the two members of the platoon involved in the accident awoke 30 minutes earlier than scheduled to get personal hygiene and breakfast out of the way, so they could get started on the day's mission. They were to conduct task force class IV & V distribution with their HEMTT.

Throughout the day, the team distributed the class IV and V in preparation for the night tactical road march into the training area. Their day was filled with a variety of tasks; therefore, they did not get adequate rest prior to the staging of vehicles for the night road march.

At approximately 2130, the company departed the marshalling area in order to prepare for night tactical convoy operations. At 2200, the unit linked up with the remainder of vehicles for serial #4 in the convoy. At approximately 2400, the company commander conducted a convoy

commander's briefing.

The mission was to conduct a night tactical road march and provide mobility support to the cavalry squadron while establishing a flank screen in order to provide reaction time and maneuver space for the division. At approximately 0230, serial #4 came to a halt due to some vehicles backing up at the refuel on the move (ROM) site. At approximately 0300, the convoy began to move again. Some of the vehicles in the convoy had drivers that had fallen asleep during this unscheduled halt. This caused distance gaps between the vehicles in the convoy. Shortly after serial #4 started rolling again, the fifth vehicle in serial #4 unexpectedly traveled to the left side of the tank trail, down an unimproved shoulder, and came to rest in a 160-degree inverted position in a 4-foot deep stream of free-flowing water. The vehicle sustained minimal damage; however, the driver received fatal injuries when he was knocked unconscious and subsequently drowned. The senior occupant of the vehicle received minor injuries.

### Why did it happen?

The company commander delegated risk management down through the squad leaders to ensure soldiers got enough rest prior to missions. However, they did not continually reassess the risks throughout the day due to continuous operations. As a result of conducting the day's class IV and V distribution, the soldiers did not conform to the established guidance on rest. The compounding effects of no sleep throughout the duty day, coupled with the added challenge of night driving under NVG conditions, were the formula for this tragedy.

**Remember: If you're not thinking safety, you're not thinking!**



### Engineer Stakes



*In order, Sergeant Mark Ray, Private First Class Chris Bolduc, Private Jason Harfoush, Private First Micheal Darling, Sergeant Scott Lacroix, and Sergeant Jim Murphy, from the S-1/S-4 team compete in the Engineer Stakes.*

On a hot spring day, in 95 degree temperatures, eight teams of six to eight soldiers each competed in the Engineer Stakes. The Engineer Stakes was a competition made up of events including map orienteering, sending for a nine-line medevac, crossing a contaminated area and current events. The teams shot azimuths from one point to another where they then treaded to the their next point. Several points were over 1000 meters in distance. Once at the point, the soldiers did their hands-on tasks. Each unit in the Battalion and several of the staff sections were represented. It took 3 ½ to 4 hours for each team to complete the competition in the

rugged mountains of La Posta, California. A few teams dropped out. At the end of the course, an Observer / Controller checked the contents of their rucksack to ensure they had all of the contents on the packing list. In this event, just finishing was a feat in itself.

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### Communications Section

So its day 8 of Annual Training and the fun is just beginning. I challenge everyone to keep up the good work. All of us are ready to train hard and work hard. Commo had a few problems to start, but things have come together. The saber radio is different, but everyone seems to pick up how to operate them. I want to thank all of the communications personnel who went to La Posta. They spent many long days getting ready for this upcoming common task testing. A job well done!

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### Command Sergeant Major's Corner *By Command Sergeant Major Harry G. Dumont*



I would like to start by recapping the first week of our annual training. The soldiers of the Battalion have accomplished a great deal so far. We moved the entire Battalion from one side of the country to the other perfectly. The next task for the leaders was to get their soldiers into billeting and get them fed. In spite of certain restrictions in both areas, leaders made this happen. Soldiers moved to their project sites to begin their projects, which included gathering the necessary equipment for their sites. Again, challenges faced us during this phase, but soldiers began their projects in a minimum amount of time. Projects continued to progress on schedule, and soldiers were being motivated by the results

of their efforts. All soldiers had the opportunity to participate in CTT testing and found it quite challenging. I commend the soldiers of HSC for their efforts in making the CTT testing a great success. The final event of the first week was the Engineer Stakes. Each of the units was enthusiastic about this event, and looked forward to challenge of the event. An outcome of the Chamberlain Stakes was the esprit de corps developed in each unit. All soldiers have to be proud of what has been accomplished this past week.

Leaders need to ensure they recognize deserved soldiers for their fine work. The opportunity is available on Tuesday, 14 May at the battalion awards formation. Soldiers need to be recognized once in a while, and we as leaders must make this possible. What a better time than before the whole battalion and honored guests to be recognized. If any leaders require any assistance in submitting awards, feel free to see me or a representative of the S1.

Most of the units have enjoyed their MWR days in the San Diego area. I am delighted that our soldiers have not been involved in any unfavorable incidents up to this point. That tells me a lot about the character of our soldiers. Soldiers are handling themselves in a very respectable manner, and are representing their units remarkably well. It only takes one incident to give the entire battalion a black eye in this community. For the remaining units that have not enjoyed their MWR days yet, the buddy system must be enforced. There are many undesirables within the communities that will take advantage of vulnerable soldiers in an ugly way. Leaders continue to stress safety to our soldiers as they embark on their leave periods. The Battalion wants to go home with all its soldiers as the loved ones anxiously await our arrival. Keep up the

good work for the rest of the annual training period.

Remember; continue your risk assessments and safety practices as this annual training period winds down.

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*Sergeant Mark Ray logs messages into the message center. The battalion's message center has logged in over 400 messages during Annual Training 2002.*

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### Company A "The Alpha Gators"



MWR day has come and gone. The Gators are refreshed and ready for the final push. The projects have once again started after a short break. The Employers are here to see what we "Guardsmen" are all about. We are proud of an accident free Annual Training thus far (knock on wood) and kudos goes out to the leaders and the maintenance section for outstanding PMCS. The Gators are proud of our two Engineer Stakes teams; they answered the call and "kicked butt". CTT on Saturday was one of the highlights

of Annual Training 2002. The training was outstanding and well executed – "Great Job HSC". Our soldiers are still talking about the testing and we as leaders have learned from our shortcomings. Horizontal soldiers have received many hours of "stick time" and Spring Canyon Road is now near completion with outstanding results. The Box Culvert projects are running smoothly and the long awaited concrete pour will happen Wednesday (15<sup>th</sup>). The Battalion run is coming up and our running shoes are laced and ready to roll. Speaking of rolling, Annual Training 2002 is winding down and soon we will be rolling down the runway to our home station. Remember: "THAT TO WHICH DOES NOT KILL ME ONLY MAKES ME STRONGER" – Santayna – ALPHA COMPANY – OUT!!!!!!

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### Battalion Aid Station by First Lieutenant Zuber

We have had a few incidences of injury involving the climate and improper or absence of use of sunscreen. Sunscreen needs to be applied to all exposed skin and reapplied every hour and immediately after swimming. Failing to report for duty due to overexposure of the sun is an article 15 punishable event. We want you to have fun, be safe and contribute to the mission. Please take precautions to avoid becoming a casualty.

Adequate supply of fluids is necessary in this climate. Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages do not hydrate. Water, Gatorade and juices are recommended. We do not need missed duty days due to your stupidity. This is an individual soldiers responsibility. Have a nice day.

## Company C “Chargin’ Charlie”

### *Bringing out the snakes*



A lot has happened in Charlie Company since the last edition of the SOTL. We conducted an **OUTSTANDING**

COMMON TASK TESTING day at La Posta! It was tough, realistic training done to standard. Kudos to HSC for putting on such a great and challenging event with professionalism. We even awoke a special friend for a Kodak moment.

Saturday was a great MWR day in San Diego. Trips to the San Diego Zoo, Pacific Beach Block Party, and the Gaslamp District were a few of the hot spots our soldiers got to visit. Thanks to all for coming back to work safely on Sunday without injury.

In speaking of work on Sunday, First General has seized the opportunity to excel on the infamous Johnny Wolf (Walker) Creek project. Thanks to HSC support on our MWR day, the site was pretty much ready to receive concrete forms on Sunday. We continued work on Sunday with prefabricating forms for placement along with welding and cutting training taking place.

Second General is starting to “go vertical” with their support to Company B projects at La Posta. Walls were framed and being plumbed and squared.

Horizontal is pushing thru on the Spring Canyon Road and V-Ditch projects. This AT’s company level inter-coordination and teamwork has been second to none. Due to the close proximity of projects, CO C has been able to continue making progress during our CTT & MWR days. Operators

are getting the chance to run the equipment, which is what it’s all about. Training is the name of the game.

Maintenance is doing a great job taking care of the equipment so the missions can happen. Without the “Rock” of Maintenance, we would not be able to “Roll”.

Company Headquarters is doing a great job as usual taking care of our most valuable asset – you!

Thanks again, Chargin’ Charlie for all you do. Remember Safety Always.



*Captain Richard Darveau and First Lieutenant Michael Steinbuechel lead from the front in La Posta.*

### **“Leading from the Front!”**

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**Genesis: Bravo Company, AT 2002***by First Lieutenant Mitchell Levine*

In the beginning, the border was undefended,  
The people said, "This situation needs to be mended!"  
Across the line flowed drugs and other contraband,  
The Border Patrol tried, but the problem was out of hand.

Vehicles and people were swarming into the USA.  
Then, the Engineers were called to save the day.  
They made Team Engineer and Task Force Grizzly,  
Who jumped to the task and worked quite busily.

They created a strip many miles long and 200 feet wide,  
To stop smugglers and illegals from getting to our side.  
With lights, roads, sensors, and high steel fences,  
They set about improving our nation's defenses.

Such a Herculean task requires many hands,  
So they sent the call to all the Engineer commands,  
"Send us your Soldiers who like to play in the dirt,  
To help us stop all the drugs causing untold pain and hurt."

Bravo Company heard and answered the call,  
Fifty-three soldiers, all standing tall.  
Ready to serve and join in the "War on Drugs" fight  
Then the BC commanded, "Let there be Flight."

Engineers gathered, waited, and then took to the air,  
There was dirt to push, stuff to build, and equipment to repair.  
From the moment we arrived just after the aircraft landed,  
Bravo Company knocked out each mission, just as commanded.

For the first six days, our skills were tested,  
And on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of AT, on Friday, we rested  
We were busy, but it was time for MWR fun,  
To see the sights, and play in the sun.

Accomplish the mission, Whatever they need,  
Work hard, play hard, this is our creed.

## **Company B “Bravo Builders”**

### **STEEL, STONE, SAWDUST and SWEAT**

*by First Lieutenant Mitchell Levine*



Bravo Company took to the hills at La Posta to complete a number of vertical construction missions. Two 20'x40' wood frame buildings are the centerpiece of the mission being constructed under the shadow of the massive obsolete satellite tracking station dish at the top of the hill. Chief Hucker, the POC at the site, has been providing excellent support to the soldiers since day one. C Co soldiers have also been supporting the project, building one of the two buildings. HSC medic support has been outstanding with zero worksite injuries so far (knock on wood).

In addition to the structure there are other missions to support the training of B Co soldiers. Soldiers are cutting steel, placing masonry, pouring concrete, repairing electrical service, running telephone lines, and hooking up a water tank. All these projects will increase the value and utility of the training site and reduce the travel necessary to conduct training for the Navy Seals and other units in the Southern California area.

The company commander, Captain David Bouffard, and a team of select hard core B Company engineers plan to run the 1.4 mile road at the training site. If that doesn't sound like much of a challenge, it should be mentioned that the road rises 1100 feet in that distance. Just another way B Co rises to the challenges, and goes above and beyond.



Company B's building project on 7 May



Company B's building project on 13 May. Company C has started a building on the left.