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# BOTTOM TIMES

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## Training Developer and Bottom Times Editor

*SFC Ray Ramirez*

Since the last issue, I have mainly been assisting the Prequalification Course, attending required classes for my position, and learning the Automated Systems Approach to Training software (ASAT). I added another Phase 1 class for the National Guard to attend. It was considered a Mobile Training Team class and is being taught by MSG Mendoza. The class is in full swing and started with five Soldiers, however they are in day four and only two Soldiers are left.



Retired Diver Andy Distassi

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As for the Bottom Times, I would like to thank everyone for their article submissions. The one thing I ask of you is, could you please send pictures with your submissions? I know many of our readers intend on reading the newsletter, but can't find the time, so I am trying to add pictures

since they say a thousand words.

In addition, if there is anyone that did not receive the newsletter via email and would like to, send your contact information to: [raymond.j.ramirez@us.army.mil](mailto:raymond.j.ramirez@us.army.mil)

## Chief Dive Supervisor Notes

*MSG James Spaw*

Greetings to all the Engineer Divers. I hope everyone had a good break in action during the holidays. I congratulate the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive team on a job well done as they return from their deployment. I expect great things from the 74<sup>th</sup>, and truly believe they will continue to uphold the Engineer Divers good name within the Engineer Regiment and throughout the Army.

There are two training issues that this office is assisting with. The first action that has been initiated by this office, at the request of Delta Company 577<sup>th</sup>, is to ask TRADOC to conduct an Interservice Training Organization (ITRO) study of the training and training resources of the courses at the Dive School. This study will assist in identifying any training resources or instructor shortages and is planned to be completed by the summer of 2008. It may be 1 to 3 years before all of the results of this study are implemented. The second training issue of concern is reducing the attrition at the Phase I course without lowering the standards. The 1SG's, Phase I Course Manager, Training Developer and I will identify the objective tasks that are needed to maintain a high pass rate at the Phase II course in Panama City and hopefully decrease the attrition currently seen in Phase I. It is extremely important that the diving community seeks a solution to this problem. If we fail then the Army and the Engineer Regiment will fix it the best way they see fit. Although not a training issue, I would like to wish the best of luck to SFC Chebahtah, SFC Lubin, SFC Vance, and last but not least SFC Green, in their endeavor to become the next Army Engineer Master Divers. I am sure you have never heard this before but my advice to all of you is study, study, study, dive the dive not the scenario, and of course remain calm.

For equipping the force SFC Burress has summarized the future actions underway by his office. In addition I am looking to get an authorization for another E-7 here in Fort Leonard Wood. This E-7's main function would be to assist in the development and implementation of Technical Manuals for all Diving Equipment. I will keep the field updated on this action since it is a goal and not yet a reality. SFC Burress and I are also assisting the development of a new recruiting video, therefore I may be doing site visits to Panama City, FL late April and Ft. Eustis in May to get any needed video footage. Dates have not yet been finalized. Until next quarter, dive safe and never cut corners in maintenance of dive equipment, it jeopardizes the safety of your peers and subordinates.



Army and Sea Bee Students on a SCUBA dive

## 7<sup>th</sup> Dive

# U.S. Army Engineer Dive Team

*Supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom*

Aloha from the 7<sup>th</sup> Dive!

Just before the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team hit its one year mark in the CENTCOM Theater, the work picked up and has not stopped. While Divers always welcome an opportunity to get wet, we are also currently trying to shift our focus to packing up and redeploying.

7<sup>th</sup> Dive also had the opportunity to promote and reenlist some of its Soldiers this quarter. Sexton and Lott were promoted to SGT and Jordan was promoted to SSG. Both SSG Jordan and SGT Sexton could not refuse the tax free reenlistment bonus (SGT Sexton had to reenlist so he could afford his new Mustang).

7<sup>th</sup> Dive's first mission this quarter was Operation Wolfhound. Operation Wolfhound was a Duty Status and Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN) search for two 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Soldiers that were abducted on 12 May 2007.



Divers Patrol into Salman Island to Search for MISCAP Soldiers

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ID, MND-C, Missing and Captured (MISCAP) Cell gathered significant intelligence that the Soldiers had been deposited Southwest of Baghdad, on or around Salman Island, a 750m x 150m swampy marshland on the east side of the Euphrates River. Due to the water depths and marshy environment, MND-C requested the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team to conduct the search.



Diver Searching Euphrates River

Using SCUBA, Side-Scan Sonar, metal detectors and machetes, the dive team was able to search the Euphrates River that surrounds Salman Island, sweep inside the island twice and search remote bodies of water inland from the river in a 14 hour period. With the support of a Battalion size security element to protect the Divers from the Al Qaida in Iraq (AQI) cells working in that area, the Navy RIVRON boat unit, and two cadaver dogs, the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team was able to rule out the Salman Island area as a potential burial ground for the

two missing Soldiers. However, during the search, the team did discover and destroy two Al Qaida fighting positions that were prepared for an ambush on Coalition Forces patrolling the Euphrates River.

Currently, the 7th Engineer Dive Team has been called back up to other locations to perform additional searches for these Soldiers.

From MND-C, 7th Dive moved back to Baghdad to do what all Divers dream about: blowing up a bridge.

On 12 April 2007, a Vehicular Improvised Explosive Device (VIED) killed at least 10 people and destroyed a large section of the Sarafiyah Bridge. The bridge was built in the 1940's by the British and serves as a historic and symbolic bridge to the Iraqi people.

The bridge linked Sunni and Shiite communities, and its loss devastated the Iraqi people. The Iraqi Ministry of Construction & Housing set the reconstruction of the Sarafiyah Bridge as the nation's number one bridge priority. However, their inability to break apart and remove the section of the bridge that was submerged in the Tigris River was significantly delaying their progress. LTG Odierno, MNC-I's Commanding General, felt it was in MNC-I's best interest to TACON the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team to MND-B in order to demolish the underwater section of the Sarafiyah Bridge.



The Sarafiyah Bridge as of 28 NOV 08



Members of 7<sup>th</sup> Dive Lowering Shape Charges to Diver Located on Submerged Bridge

After numerous meetings with the Ministry of Construction and Housing, Iraqi Contractors, MNC-I, MNB-D and the Gulf Region Division Corps of Engineers, the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team put together a plan to break the bridge section into pieces small enough for the Iraqi contractors to remove.

Using 130 M2A4, 15lb shape charges and various applications of M112 C-4, the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team successfully broke up the submerged section of the Sarafiyah Bridge in order for the Iraqi Contractors to remove the broken sections and complete the reconstruction of their historic bridge. The mission lasted just over 3 weeks with no injuries or deaths.



Even now, missions are still being conducted in Iraq while 7<sup>th</sup> Dive is trying to prepare for its redeployment in early February, but due to Operational Security (OPSEC), we can not report on them.

Meanwhile in Kuwait, 7<sup>th</sup> Dive is still helping out the Army, Navy and Coast Guard with numerous ship's husbandry dives. For all of the outstanding work 7<sup>th</sup> Dive has performed for the Coast Guard, we will be receiving the Coast Guard Achievement Medal and the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Medal.

While the jobs have been picking up, so has the USO entertainment. Recently members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Dive have were able to go see Robin Williams, Lance Armstrong, Miss America, Lewis Black and Kid Rock all perform at Camp Arifjan. The event was a warmly welcomed change of pace out here, and everyone that went definitely got their money's worth (even though it was free)!

It has been a long deployment, and all the members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team are more than ready to get back to Hawaii to see their friends and family.

In closing, we would like to thank everyone for all of the care packages, letters, and cards that we received while deployed over our second holiday season.

**STAY SAFE!  
STAY WET!  
HOO YAH  
DEEP SEA!**

**TRITON SIX**

*CPT Dan Curtin*



The 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team During Its Final (15<sup>th</sup>) Detonation at The Sarafiyah Bridge

# Texas National Guard 627<sup>th</sup> Dive Team

*CPT Proctor*

Greetings from the 627th Dive Team, Texas Army National Guard. As I write this, two of us are halfway through Phase I. Hopefully soon we'll be on to Phase II in Florida.

The 627th is based in Corpus Christi, a south Texas coastal city. We are in the midst of recruiting, training and acquiring facilities.

Recruiting is our first hurdle. After the team was created, we put out a call statewide for volunteers who were already in the Guard. We seem to have run through most of that pool of potential candidates. Unfortunately for us, soldiers motivated enough to become divers also tend to have other options; for example, the Texas Guard's new Special Forces company.

Other sources of members for our team are likely to be prior service soldiers who are interested in becoming divers, or civilians who want to be divers but don't want to pay for commercial dive school.



National Guard during Prescreen

Our training has focused on preparing for Phase I. While we are able to cover a lot during our weekend drills, team members have to do more on their own to meet the physical and academic benchmarks. During our drills, we generally take the DPFT on Saturday, followed by a classroom session, then return to the pool in the afternoon. Sundays we do PT, followed by another class and another pool session. As we start to get more qualified members, we will probably have to adjust our training to meet the needs of those who have gone to dive school and those who haven't. One result of the last conference between the Guard and Active Duty dive units was the idea that we

might be able to send members to active units to participate in ongoing dive jobs. I hope we can make this idea work. I think it would be a huge step towards keeping capable divers in the unit.

Currently the team occupies an unused indoor rifle range at our armory. In some ways, it's almost ideal. It's a 25 by 80 foot space with a high ceiling, and has an attached office. We're about to enclose one end of it to make a classroom. It's not much, but it's home.

We've just gotten two 88 cfm compressors, thanks to the efforts of the divers at Rock Island and Panama City. While we're looking forward to getting more equipment, we're also trying to figure out what we can afford to maintain and still train.

We're also looking for a Master Diver. Right now we have one full-time E-8 position, and hope to be able to announce four more full-time positions from E-4 to E-6, but will probably have to settle for less. My intent is to fill the remaining part-time slots this year.

We've got some months, maybe years, of gruntwork, frustration and skinned knuckles ahead of us. Still, it continues to be the most fun I've had in the Army. Thanks for all the help you've given us so far. Please call me at (337) 739-2410, or e-mail me at [james.mert.proctor@us.army.mil](mailto:james.mert.proctor@us.army.mil) if you have any questions.



MSG Mendoza teaching prescreen for the National Guard

# Fort Eustis U.S Army Dive Company (Prov)

## COMMANDER DEEP SEA!!

Happy New Year to the Dive Company family. 1SG Andrews and I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Soldiers of the Dive Company have continued to do great work during the fall months of this past year. We would like to say thank you to the great Soldiers for their hard work and dedication and to the families for their exceptional support throughout all of 2007.

A very busy year came to a close for the Dive Company with a few missions and the Change of Command. In September, the 86<sup>th</sup> supported USACE repairing Table Rock Dam in Branson, Missouri. In October, 544<sup>th</sup> deployed to Lake Rawlings Quarry in Rawlings, Virginia to conduct remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and underwater scooter training. The Dive Company recently received X-Scooters, a type of underwater diver propulsion vehicle, to allow divers to travel further and faster underwater than just from kicking with fins. In December, 511<sup>th</sup> deployed an ROV team in support of USACE to conduct an inspection of the John Day Dam near Rufus, Oregon. Also in December, the Dive Company bid farewell to CPT Inskip and welcomed the new commander, CPT Denike to the team. The Dive Company is very thankful for all of the hard work that CPT Inskip put into this excellent company and wishes him and his family the best in the future. I am honored to command this excellent company and am looking forward to the upcoming year of great missions.

74<sup>th</sup> has spent the past quarter preparing their equipment for shipment and getting ready for deployment. The time is finally upon them. They depart mid-January for Kuwait to relieve the 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team who has been there for the past 15 months. We know the 74<sup>th</sup> is going to do an exceptional job while deployed and we could not be prouder. We wish them the best and look forward to their safe return.

The Dive Company is heading to Ft. Pickett in January for our annual range week to qualify on our weapon systems and conduct a demolition range. After range week, the schedule of missions for the company gets full quickly. 86<sup>th</sup> departs for Roguish Buoy, a joint training exercise in Canada, followed by a reconnaissance in Ketchikan, Alaska for a possible mission later in the year. 544<sup>th</sup> and 511<sup>th</sup> both will deploy soon on missions in support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to marine sanctuaries in Georgia, Florida, and California. The Dive



1SG Andrews, Steven Andrews, SGT Galbreath, and SGT Hayes. Castle architects at the DET.



Company is looking forward to these and many other great missions throughout the upcoming year.

Thanks again to everyone for the exceptional support throughout 2007. This year is sure to be great and I am always proud of the great work by every Soldier in the Dive Company. HOO-YAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!

*CPT Charles Denike  
ISG Patrick Andrews*

## 569<sup>th</sup> HOO-YAH!!!

Hello and Happy New Year from the "Headshed". 569<sup>th</sup> ended the mission season and began our holidays with the outgoing of CPT Inskeep and the arrival of CPT Denike as our new Company Commander. We would like to thank CPT Inskeep for his hard work and dedication to both the Dive Company and the 569<sup>th</sup> Dive Team. We would like to wish him good luck in all of his future endeavors. Welcome also to CPT Denike and good luck as you lead the most unruly bunch of Deep Sea Hoo-yahs in the Army.

This fall has been full of activity due to the holiday season and the entire Dive Company being home from missions. During this time we slow down to ensure all teams are up to date on training, medical, maintenance, and supply readiness. 569<sup>th</sup> will also be looking forward to a busy 2008 where we will be supplementing various teams as they conduct missions in the United States and abroad.



Captain Charles Denike swims the length of the pool underwater before standing in front of his company for the first time

The 74<sup>th</sup> dive team will deploy early this year and the 569<sup>th</sup> would like to wish them a productive and safe deployment. We are confident that their seemingly never-ending preparation and outstanding group of Soldiers will be more than enough to ensure mission success. Good luck.

569<sup>th</sup> would also like to welcome PFC Bryan Acton to the team. He will be a good addition to our maintenance section. We would also like to congratulate all Dive Company members who will be welcoming new members into their families in the next few months. Once again happy New Year and

**HOO-YAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!**

*SGT Jonathan Lisenby  
Operations Sergeant, 569<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team*

## 74<sup>th</sup> POSEIDON

The New Year is upon us and 74<sup>th</sup> is out the door. The past three months were spent preparing our equipment for our deployment this January. Now that everything is shipped we are spending as much time as possible with our loved ones and finishing up the last of our immunizations and deployment briefings. Our mailing address while deployed will be:



*Soldier's Name*  
*74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team*  
*APO-AE*  
*09337*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the spouses and our fellow Soldiers for all the support and help that they have provided to the team these past few months. As for other news; 2LT Martin is now 1LT, SGT Kneipp is now SSG, SPC Palmer and Kuhn are now SGTs, – good job guys on your hard work and dedication to the dive field

*I would also like to apologize for this article being so short and to the point but as you may have guessed we are deploying and I really did not want to sit around in the office typing up a bunch of flowery and colorful paragraphs to make 74<sup>th</sup> look busy.*

*SFC von Keyserling*  
*Platoon Sergeant, 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team*

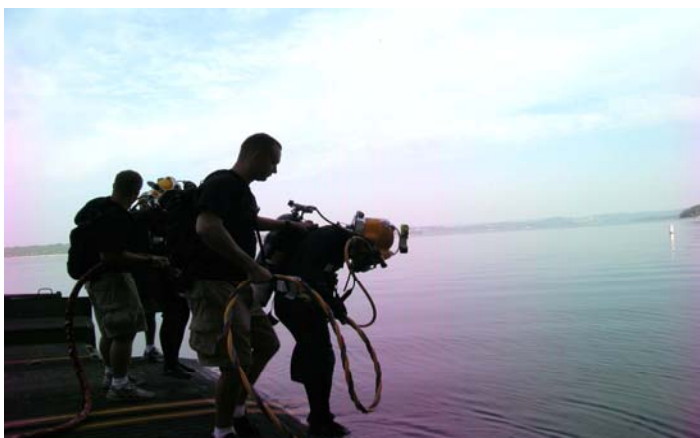
## THE MIGHTY 86<sup>th</sup>

The 86<sup>th</sup> finished out a non stop year of missions with a return trip to Table Rock Dam, in Branson, MO, where we worked on the dam earlier in March 2007. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of September the 86<sup>th</sup> linked up with the 50<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Multi Role Bridge (MRBC). The 50<sup>th</sup> deployed from Fort Leonard, MO to support the diving mission, supplying a six bay float bridge section for a working and diving platform. The 86<sup>th</sup> Dive Team worked continually for four days alongside the 50<sup>th</sup>, and USACE engineers and operators to fix the dam. The divers installed a 200 lb patch that was fabricated by USACE, utilizing underwater hydraulic drilling equipment and bolting it onto the face of the dam covering the holes. The patch was equipped with fittings to pump in a two part expandable grout that would complete the fix, reacting as it came into contact with the frigid 45 degree water and expanding to fill the voids in the concrete that the water was leaking through. After diving evolutions were completed, dam operators reported that flow into the inspection gallery of the dam had completely stopped.

Following this successful mission it was time to prepare for the change of command inventories and service all of our equipment, and prepare it for the heavy use to come in 2008. SSG Rohde ensured the change of command ceremony was flawlessly executed by setting up and running the side.

The 86<sup>th</sup> has added to its already impressive ranks with three stellar new Soldiers, PV2 William Gehry, PFC David Pulver, and PFC James Vahl. These Soldiers will be crucial in our success over the busy months to come and onward into the future. We are anticipating a busy calendar this year, testing and honing our diving skills and certainly the ability to multitask, organize, execute, and lead.

A small team will be deploying to conduct international training, Operation Roguish Buoy, sponsored by the Canadian Army Dive Team in British Columbia this January. The Canadian Army's Diving Centre of Excellence conducts this annual combat diving collective training event. The goal of the exercise is to assist in preparing divers to effectively execute diving tasks in support of operations. We hope to exchange techniques and procedures and foster international relationships within the diving world.



PFC James Vahl and SGT Russell Bingham tend their divers as they prepare to step off of the ramp of the float bridge and enter the water to begin work on Table Rock Dam

These Soldiers will follow on with a breakwater inspection and reconnaissance for a possible follow up mission in support of U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Alaska District) in Ketchikan, AK. These two floating breakwaters serve to protect the Ketchikan shoreline and a nearby marina. They have sustained considerable storm and tidal damage and the state of these breakwaters needs to be assessed.

On behalf of SFC Brett Boyer and myself, I hope you and your families had an enjoyable holiday season and wish you a safe and prosperous new year. I would like to thank all of the families of the Soldiers of the 86<sup>th</sup> for supporting us this last year and would like to thank you ahead of time for your continued devotion to the team and the U.S. Army. HOO-YAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!

*1LT Russell Destremps  
Platoon Leader, 86<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team*

## 511<sup>th</sup> TRIDENT

Greetings from the 511th as we close out 2007 and look forward to the coming year. The last few months have been a time of recuperating from the busy spring and summer seasons, spending time with family during the holidays and beginning planning for 2008. This quarter we bid welcome to three new members to the team: SSG Wayne Owens, SGT Viktor Polivka, and SPC Justin Wallace. We also look forward to further additions to the family as SSG Travis Kaufman with his wife Jamie and SGT Michael Tucker with his wife Brenda expect their first children in the coming weeks. SSG Kaufman stayed busy



SGT Tucker, 1LT Sann, and SSG Harrison strike a pose

throughout the winter months by winning the Battalion, Brigade, and Post NCO of the Quarter Boards, as well as becoming the only Soldier on post to be inducted to the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. We celebrated the promotions of several members of our team: SGT Steven Key, SGT Christopher Kratsas, and SGT Adam Heidrick. We are also proud to announce the re-enlistment of two members of our team: SPC William Behr and SPC Wallace.

The month of October found the 511th fresh off the busy summer season and settling into training and maintenance of our equipment. Our Soldiers were busy taking inventory of all our equipment to ensure our readiness for next year's abundance of missions. Even in the down season it's never a bad time to train and develop ourselves, as SGT Nicolas Marr and SPC John Hyre graduated the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. Members of the 511th took part in several events, such as a free trip to Busch Gardens and numerous barbeques on the back porch, which helped lighten the mood and allowed our soldiers a well-deserved opportunity to relax and have fun.

In December we sent a team of three Soldiers across the country to Portland to help with an inspection of John Day Dam near Rufus, Oregon. Their efforts provided great video images of deficiencies throughout the facility, which should result in work for the Dive Company in the near future. Several of our Soldiers also participated in a train-up program for the Sapper Leader Course. They conducted weekly road marches, challenging PT sessions, and a three day Field Training Exercise which included land navigation, patrolling, and freezing in the woods of Fort Pickett.

As we prepare for the year of 2008, many exciting and challenging missions lie ahead for the 511th. In January our team will take part in Range Week, training in events such as weapons qualification, convoy and zodiac live fires, and a demolitions range. Soldiers will also get a chance to train on the Army Warrior Tasks and sharpen their basic soldiering skills. In February and March the 511th will conduct missions in Santa Barbara and Monterey for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Sanctuary Program. Tasks will include removal of

maritime debris as well as inspection and maintenance of buoys throughout the sanctuaries. As the tempo picks up, I encourage all our Soldiers to spend time with their families and to start getting pumped up for what will undoubtedly be a memorable year. HOO-YAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!

*ILT Scott Sann  
Platoon Leader, 511<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team*

## 544<sup>th</sup> SEA MONKEY

As the year comes to a close and we begin to welcome a new year in Fort Eustis, we look back at the last few months.

In October the team deployed to Lake Rawlings twice to train on Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV), underwater weight handling techniques, underwater scooter familiarization, and underwater navigation. Lake Rawlings is located an hour south-west of Richmond and is an old rock quarry that has been flooded and now exists as a civilian SCUBA recreation spot. The lake offers excellent visibility (30'-60') and a maximum depth of 65'. Something brand new to the Dive Company are the underwater scooters that the team tested out for the first time. The scooters enable a diver to travel farther distances and use less air because of the reduced workload. The scooters worked reasonably well with the battery life being the limiting factor, about 1 hour.

Through November the team, along with the rest of the company, prepared for change of command by conducting 100% inventories. With inventories completed, the Change of Command ceremony was conducted on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December and was a success.

The holiday season was slow as usual and provided time for everyone to spend with family and take leave before ramping up again immediately with a field problem the second week of January. The field problem will encompass M-16/M-4 qualification, demolition range, convoy live-fire, land navigation training, and zodiac live-fire and will be conducted at Fort Pickett.

The slow time around the holidays is also used for planning and preparing for our upcoming missions in the spring. Currently being planned are two missions for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Specifically the 544<sup>th</sup> will be working at two different locations, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary in Savannah, GA, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The work to be completed will encompass boundary marker surveys, salvage operations, environmental surveys, and buoy maintenance.

As always, there have been a few personnel changes on the team. MSG Marlo Mendoza who has been platoon sergeant for the last two and a half years has moved up into 569<sup>th</sup> and will take charge of the company as first sergeant later this spring. SSG Kurt Langley has stepped into the

*Lake Rawlings*



platoon sergeant position after five years and two deployments with the 544<sup>th</sup>. SSG Langley and the team also welcome SPC Daniel Sears who joined the team in early December and hails from San Diego.

2008 looks to be one of the busiest yet for the dive company and the 544<sup>th</sup>. We wish everyone happy holidays and good luck in the New Year. HOO-YAH!!! DEEP SEA!!!

*1LT Matthew Kozlowski  
Platoon Leader, 544<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Team*

## Delta Company U.S. Army Engineer Dive School

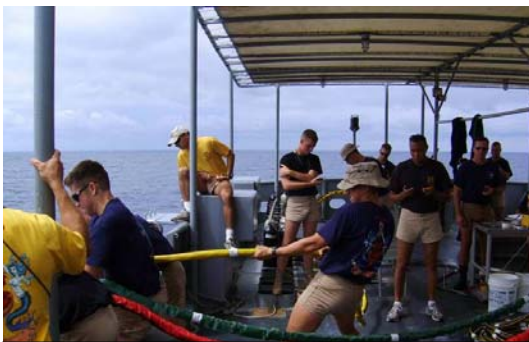
*CPT West*

Delta Company started off the new Fiscal Year well by taking on three classes simultaneously and graduating one AIT class just before the Thanksgiving Holiday. During the first quarter of FY08, Delta Company trained and graduated four Army Second Class Divers, eight Navy Sea Bee Divers, and five Coast Guard Dive Officers. With a total of 24 Soldiers, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen and Civilians remaining in the Dive Courses, we expect the next quarter to be as challenging and productive as this past quarter as we continue to train the best military divers in the world.

October was a great month in which we saw



Students prep for dive during U/W construction phase of training



Army, Sea Bee, and Coast Guard Students out to sea on the YDT

both an Army First Class Diver Course (BNCOC) and an Army Second Class Diver Course (AIT) begin. Not only did we take on these two new classes but we were able to conduct a Company Organizational Day at St. Andrews State Park, Combat Life Saver Training for the permanent party instructors, a Diver Conference, and Diver Officer Selection. All of this took place without a hitch as the fine Non-Commissioned Officers of Delta Company handled all situations in a professional manner. The Company Organizational Day was headed up by SFC Guy Lohman who set up a first rate day at the beach which saw about 30

Soldiers, Sailors and family members have a great day away from work and school. It was also the first day that Delta Company got to meet the field's newest Deep Sea Diver, Hazen Baumgartner, who was born to Scott and Christa Baumgartner on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

November tested our resourcefulness as we had a need for a lot of instructors simultaneously stretching the limits of Delta Company. Once again, Delta Company rose to the challenge and handled both Pool Week and the week long FTX without an issue. With the completion of the FTX comes the graduation of the Engineer Second Class Diver Course that produced eight Sea Bees and four Army Divers to the joint dive community. The best news of this graduation was that PFC Gehry, a 19 year old AIT Soldier, was awarded as the Class Honor Man. That is an outstanding job considering he was competing against Soldiers that had far more life and military experience. Way to go PFC Gehry!

Although we were very busy in November, we were able to take a few moments to enjoy the announced promotion of two of our Sergeant First Class to Master Sergeant. Both SFC Guy Lohman and SFC Scott Baumgartner were picked up for promotion to E8 and will, therefore, be leaving us within the next six months to do great things at Key West, FL and Hawaii respectively. This is great news for the field and I am sure they will both do us proud!



Christa Baumgartner and our newest Deep Sea Diver; Hazen Baumgartner



07-30-A2C/UCTB Grad Picture

our future as the temperatures continue to linger around 75 degrees.

Delta Company looks forward to returning from the holiday season to train more divers in our attempt to support the Engineer Regiment. HOO-YAH! DEEP SEA!

The month of December continued to be a busy month as we saw all of our classes going out to Sea two of the three training weeks in the month. During the week that we were not out to sea, we were able to get the Systems Approach to Training (SAT) and Automated Systems Approach to Training (ASAT) instructors from Fort Leonard Wood, MO to come down to Panama City, FL and teach our instructors. Delta Company appreciates the support from the Engineer School as these classes will help our instructors better perform their jobs. We look forward to the winter holidays, however, a white Christmas does not appear to be in

## Combat Developer

*SFC Gregory Burress*

*MDV*

Well as we close another year, let me reflect on it by first saying, I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and spent some quality time with their respective families. And to the families, thanks for your support, we can not do what we do without your support.

As we review the year, we made some significant steps in the area of combat development by getting requirements documents through the system. At the time of writing this, two of our documents are at the final stage of validation and two more are prepared to go through the staffing process. What does this mean for the individual soldier?

For supply, it will simplify the hand receipts and supply catalogs when the new sets are combined, re-procured and issued. For the diving soldiers, it will mean that they will have new and updated equipment that will better suit the mission for which it is designed. For the leaders, it will mean a smaller footprint to deploy with and will allow more individual protection for your soldiers and equipment. In addition to the above, this equipment is more modular and easier to move once you get on the battlefield. The entire requirement validation process for any one of our sets takes anywhere from 18 to 24 months to get a set written, staffed and approved. You can see things don't happen overnight and most people are lucky to handle only one of these sets during a year. We are attempting to handle two and in some cases three or more in one year. Please be patient with this process, the correct follow-through and documentation will get you the right equipment at the right time, not equipment that is outdated already!



Looking into the crystal ball for the first quarter, the New Year is very congested. The first new chamber will come off the assembly line and go through its testing. The "Joint" community will conduct the testing on the 55 HP multi-fuel engine outboard motor to get it material released and allow us to make this the motor of choice/record. An OIF AAR will be conducted with the 7<sup>th</sup> out in HI. MDV EVALS will be conducted in MAR/APR and will drain the FLW diving community (but yet bring us all together as one again in Panama City). In addition to what's on the horizon, we must keep



up with industry trade shows and writing requirements documents and send them through the staffing process. As with any dive unit the holidays being behind us mean, ramping up the tempo to get more done for the greater good of everyone.

Feel free as always to send me your AAR comments and lessons learned from training you conducted as far as new equipment. Emailing it to me at [gregory.burress@us.army.mil](mailto:gregory.burress@us.army.mil) will ensure I get it and it is filed away. Please try to understand that we will not always be able to please each and every person out there, but we will strive to put the best solution for everyone. Remember we are in the Army and there is a process and rules and regulations that we must follow with this process.

Finally in closing, I want to update everyone on where the one dive team concept is at in the big scheme of things. Currently we are submitting only one dive team for TAA 10-15 (Total Army Analysis) for the war fighting scenario. After that is complete, we will see what is resourced. I will keep you updated as things change.

