



416TH ENCOM ASSOCIATION



"past and present serving together for the future"

Volume 10, Number 1 – March 2010

• God of our fathers, who by land and sea have ever lead us to victory, please continue your inspiring guidance in this the greatest of all conflicts. Strengthen my soul so that the weakening instinct of self-preservation, which besets all of us in battle, shall not blind me to my duty to my own manhood, to the glory of my calling, and to my responsibility to my fellow soldiers. Grant to our armed forces that disciplined valor and mutual confidence which insures success in war. Let me not mourn for the men who have died fighting, but rather let me be glad that such heroes have lived. If it be my lot to die, let me do so with courage and honor in a manner which will bring the greatest harm to the enemy, and please, oh Lord, protect and guide those I shall leave behind. Give us the victory, Lord."

—General George S. Patton
(American General in World War I and II, 1885-1945)

• "People grow old only by deserting their ideals, MacArthur had written. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope as old as your despair. In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber. So long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer and courage, so long are you young. When your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and then only, are you grown old. And then, indeed as the ballad says, you just fade away."

—Douglas MacArthur
(American General who commanded the Southwest Pacific Theatre in World War II, 1880-1964)

• "Don't one of you fire until you see the whites of their eyes"

—Israel Putnam, at the Battle of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill, June 1775

The rest of the quote, according to Putnam's lower-ranking officers was:
"Powder is scarce and must not be wasted. Fire low!

You are all marksmen and could kill a squirrel at a hundred yards. Reserve your fire and the enemy will all be destroyed."

WARRIOR OF THE YEAR

DALLAS, Texas: On January 22, 2010, The 416th ENCOM Association, represented by COL (R) Dewayne Nelson, recognized Sergeant Shiloh Becher for his selection as the Warrior of the Year for the 416th TEC.

SGT Becher received a plaque, an ENCOM Association coin and a \$500 honorarium in recognition of his outstanding achievement. Not only did SGT Becher win the Warrior of the year distinction for the TEC, he also was recognized as the USARC Warrior of the Year, competing against thousands of other outstanding Non Commissioned Officers.

He also went on to win the USARC title as 2009 USARC Best Warrior. He then competed at the DA level competition. He didn't win, but was thought to be among the top finishers due to his individual scores on events throughout the competition.

SGT Becher is a heavy equipment operator as well as an electrician for 461st Engineer Company, Fargo, ND . His short term goal is to attend Sapper School as well as Ranger School and obtain his next promotion. He is married with one child and hopes to grow the family soon.

With the growth of a family, he is looking forward to owning his own home. COL Nelson suggested the \$500 honorarium might be the seed money for that home.

The presentation was made during the annual NCO conference with many of our best NCO's present. The 416th ENCOM Association salutes SGT Becher for his selection as the Warrior of the Year.



THE 416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION is planning its Eastern reunion for August of this year at Valley Forge. The Committee consisting of Palmer Geist, Jim Ferrara and Fran Strouse is exploring the following activities:

At Valley Forge National Park:

- Seeing an eighteen-minute film, "Valley Forge: A Winter Encampment."
- Taking a 40 minute ranger-led tour.
- Taking a 90 minute guided trolley tour departing from the front of the Welcome Center and traveling throughout the Park with extended stops at Muhlenberg's Brigade and Washington's Headquarters.
- Listening to living history interpreters at the Muhlenberg Brigade.

Dinner at a local historical inn:

- Enjoying good food and fellowship.
- Possible dinner speaker.

Lodging at a local hotel:

- Renewing friendships with a Friday evening mixer.

Please send an email to any of the Committee members advising us of your interest and ability to attend.

Palmer Geist: geistpe@epix.net,

Jim Ferrara: p.james.ferrara@verizon.net

Fran Strouse: fran.strouse@lrkimball.com

LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT . . .

Greetings. This is my first opportunity to address you as Association President. I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to work with you all again, and to ask that each of you provide me with your input on how the ENCOM Association can better support you as alumni as well as to support all of our Soldiers.

Our engineer community continues to respond to many challenges today. Many of you have deployed with the ENCOM in the past, especially for Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom. And Enduring Freedom, and we still have Soldiers deploying today. An element of the 416th recently returned from Iraq, where MG Mike Eyre commanded the USACE Gulf Regional Division. The next major element, led by the ENCOM DCG, BG Eddie Chesnut, will deploy to Afghanistan this summer, to lead the Joint Force Engineer Command there. Additionally, the 416th has many of its downtrace units deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. The 416th also just assumed command of several units whose parent headquarters deployed to Haiti.

These are challenging times, and it is gratifying to me, and I hope to you as well, to see our ENCOM leading from the front.

In closing, I want to thank you again for your confidence in me, and to ask for your support and input throughout my tenure.

ESSAYONS!!!

BOB HEINE
MG (R)



416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION

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IT'S ALMOST THERE!

THE WIDER VIEW: Taking shape, the new bridge at the Hoover Dam



Creeping closer inch by inch, 900 feet above the mighty Colorado River, the two sides of a \$160 million bridge at the Hoover Dam slowly take shape. The bridge will carry a new section of US Route 93 past the bottleneck of the old road which used to twist and wind around and across the dam itself. When complete, it will provide a new link between the states of Nevada and Arizona.

In an incredible feat of engineering, the road will be supported on the two massive concrete arches which jut out of the rock face.

The arches are made up of 53 individual sections each 24 feet long which have been cast on-site and are being lifted into place using an improvised high-wire crane strung between temporary steel pylons.

The arches will eventually measure more than 1,000 feet across. At the moment, the structure looks like a traditional suspension bridge. But once the arches are complete, the suspending cables on each side will be removed. Extra vertical columns will then be installed on the arches to carry the road.

The bridge has become known as the Hoover Dam bypass, although it is officially called the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, after a former governor of Nevada and an American Football player from Arizona who joined the US Army and was killed in Afghanistan.

Work on the bridge started in 2005 and should finish next year. An estimated 17,000 cars and trucks will cross it every day.

The dam was started in 1931 and used enough concrete to build a road from New York to San Francisco. The stretch of water it created, Lake Mead, is 110 miles long and took six years to fill. The original road was opened at the same time as the famous dam in 1936.

Fort McCoy Cuban Fence Reunion

SSG(R) Dave Pawlus is organizing another **Fort McCoy Cuban Fence Reunion** to be held on 4-6 June at Ft. McCoy, WI. This event is open to all former 416th ENCOM soldiers even if they were not part of the mobilization to construct facilities for the Cuban refugees during that annual training period.

If anyone has not received mailings from Dave and are interested in attending this reunion, please contact him at (815) 218-0598 or by email at engrdaveret@aeroinc.net to be placed on his distribution list. As the planning progresses, he will keep everyone informed about the activities for the weekend reunion.

Desert Shield/Desert Storm Reunion

PLANNING FOR A DESERT SHIELD / DESERT STORM (DS/DS) deployment reunion in September of 2010 has continued. Many of the final plans for the activities on Friday and Saturday have not been completed.

The reunion will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Oak Brook, Illinois on September 10th and 11th. Arrangements with the hotel have been made for a special room rate for us. Rooms can be reserved for Friday and Saturday at a rate of \$93.00 plus tax per night. This rate includes the breakfast buffet at the hotel (gratuity is additional). Reservations can be made by calling 800-222-TREE and referring to the 416th Engineer Command Military Reunion. 15 Double and 15 King rooms have been blocked for us. Reservations should be made by 8/20/2010.

The planned schedule of events will include a reception on Friday evening, at 7:00 pm in the hotel, and dinner on Saturday evening, at 6:00 pm in the hotel. An informal breakfast on Sunday is planned at the hotel's buffet. Plans for a picnic on Sunday are still being developed. During the day on Saturday there will be several informal events to include a shopping trip to Oak Brook Center, golf, tour of downtown Chicago, etc.

The Friday reception will have a cash bar with no additional charge. An area for mementoes is planned so bring pictures or other items to share. The Saturday dinner will have a cash bar and a charge of \$40 per person for E1- E7 and O1-O3 or \$50 per person for all others. Dress for Friday night is casual while dress for the Saturday dinner is Dress Blue.

Presently the planning committee includes, Jack Kotter, bgkotter@sbcglobal.net, Bill Hawes, wjhawes@sbcglobal.net, and Dan Lopatowski, lopat416@sbcglobal.net. Anyone interested in helping with this event should contact any of the people referenced above. While we are looking for additional people to work on the committee, any ideas would also be very welcome. As plans are firmed up, they will be posted on our web site (<http://www.encomassociation.info/>).

416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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The current membership drive seems to be off to a slow start

I have processed one lifetime membership and sixteen two-year memberships

We now have 77 lifetime members

If you have not sent in your 2009- 2011 membership renewal (\$10.00) you can contact Tom Ryterske LTC (Ret) at thomas.ryterske@il.usda.gov or access the membership renewal application form at the Association website: <http://encomassociation.info/> This membership application form may also be used to request a lifetime membership (\$100.00).

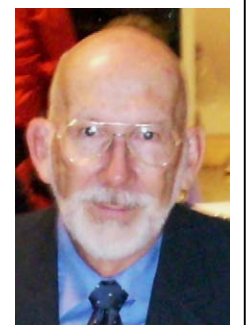
416th ENCOM Association Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance (July 31, 2009)		\$5,199.83
Income		
	1 Life Memberships	\$100.00
	16 Bi-Annual Memberships	\$160.00
	'09 Annual Meeting Net Profit	\$121.59
Expenses		
	Bank Charges	- \$ 10.00
	16th TEC Enlisted Award	- \$500.00
	Deposit on DS/DS Reunion	- \$500.00
	Refund for Annual Meeting	- \$ 40.00
		=====
Closing Balance (February 28, 2010)		\$4,531.42

COL (R) WILLIAM HAWES SELECTED AS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 2009

COL (R) WILLIAM HAWES, current Treasurer for the ENCOM Association, was presented with the Associations' Person of the Year Award at it's annual dinner on 4 October 2009.

Colonel Hawes was selected for the 2009 Award for both his long standing contributions to the ENCOM Association and his alma mater, the University of Illinois-Chicago.



COL (R) WM HAWES

During the past decade he has tirelessly served the Association as both President and Treasurer, and has been responsible for initiating and facilitating a number of innovations which have directly contributed to the growth and advancement of the organization.

However, it is his contributions over the past five years of his time, talent, and treasure to the UIC-Alumni Association that stands out. He has chaired both the UIC-Alumni Association Advisory Board and the Board's Executive Committee and currently chairs the Alumni Associations' Heritage Task Force.

During his multiple-office tenure the Alumni Association conducted a number of highly successful activities/programs which included Alumni Association-City of Chicago Partner Dinner, Legacy Learning Luncheon, and Preserving Our History Project.

As a graduate (both bachelor and masters degrees) of the University's College of Engineering, he has participated in numerous seminars focused on helping current students enhance their learning experience and guiding them in their preparation for future careers in the field of engineering. Congratulations Bill!!!

**UNITED STATES
DIVISION – CENTER**
Media Release

HQ, USD-Center
Camp Liberty
Baghdad, Iraq
APO AE 09344
Commercial: (703) 253-9053

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE No. 20100211-06

February 11, 2010

Engineers awarded for safety

By Sgt. Brian Moore
317th Engineer Company, USD-C



20100208-A-8953C-006

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from 317th Engineer Company stand at attention to receive awards at a Feb.8 ceremony hosted by 16th Eng. Brigade. From left are Pfc. Ryan Ristow, Chicago, Spc. Alex Novak, Naperville, Ill., Micky Marra, Joliet, Ill., Eric Bolyn, Elwood, Ill., Spc. Ryan Hollendonner, Tinley Park, Sgt. Justin Sikma, Bourbonnais, Ill., Andrew Werner, Duluth, Minn., and Steve Balamut, Duluth, Minn. Sikma was recognized for discovering an unexploded ordnance Jan. 12, after it was uncovered by a scraper. He safely shut down the project site, ensuring no Soldier was injured or killed. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joel Condra, 317th Eng. Co., USD-C)

UNITED STATES DIVISION – CENTER

Media Release

HQ, USD-Center

Camp Liberty
Baghdad, Iraq
APO AE 09344

Commercial: (703) 253-9053

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE No. 20100117-01 January 17, 2010

317th Engineers improve safety at test fire range

Sgt. Brian Moore
101st Eng. Bn. UPAR, 16th Eng. Bde., USD-C



20100106-A-70690-0295

BAGHDAD– Spc. Chris Forrest, a Downs, Ill. native, operates the hydraulic excavator (HYEX) to fill dirt into a Hesco barrier that will reinforce the test fire range, on Camp Victory, Jan. 6. Forrest serves as a heavy construction equipment operator with 317th Engineer Company in 2nd Platoon. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Richard



20100106-A-70690-0313

BAGHDAD– Dusk falls on the engineers as they work hard to finish filling Hesco barriers that will reinforce the test fire range at Camp Victory Jan. 6. Spc. Jeff Miller of Rockford, Ill., Spc. Peter Trost of Downers Grove, Ill., Ronald Carlson of Tinley Park, Ill., Sgt. 1st Class William Kenes of Mechanicsburg, Penn., and Spc. Andrew Strickler of Wakefield, Minn., work on leveling the dirt in the barriers while Spc. Chris Forrest, Downs, Ill., operates the HYEX. These Soldiers serve as heavy construction equipment operators with 317th Engineer Company. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Richard Olson, 101st Eng. Bn. UPAR, 16th Eng.

Improvements to entry control point



091228-A-6557M-039

BAGHDAD – Soldiers of the 317th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion work on improvements to an entry control point, here, on Victory Base Complex, Dec. 28. The upgrades to the ECP will make the entry point safer for those who use it, as well as those who guard it. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brian Moore, 317th Eng. Co. UPAR, 101st Eng. Bn., 16th Eng., Bde,



091228-A-6557M-053

BAGHDAD – Sgt. German Burgos (right), of Bolingbrook, Ill., and Staff Sgt. Douglas Miller, of Plano, Ill., both of the 317th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion, secure concrete blast walls at a new state of the art entry control point, here, on Victory Base Complex, Dec. 28. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brian Moore, 317th [Eng. Co.](#)

416th Public Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC)

By SFC ANDY YOSHIMURA

DARIEN, IL – January and February were busy months for the 416th Theater Engineer Command and the Commander, Major General Paul E. Crandall.

The 416th Theater Engineer Command (416th TEC) was busy mobilizing units for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), taking command and control of new assets involved in Operation Unified Response and working with United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) to prepare contingency plans if ever the 416th TEC was called to assist federal, state and local authorities.

The 377th Theater Support Command (TSC), the largest Operational and Functional (O&F) Command in USARC, was directed by USARC to take command and control (C2) in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in response to the Haitian earthquake, Operation Unified Response.

As a result USARC has directed the 416th Theater Engineer Command to assume C2 of the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command (Des Moines, IA) and the 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (Indianapolis, IN) thereby nearly doubling the number of Soldiers assigned to the 416th TEC, increasing overall personnel numbers above 24,000 Soldiers, Civilians and Family members.

The 863rd Engineer Battalion (Darien, IL) began their pre-deployment readiness training at Fort McCoy Regional Training Center (RTC) in preparation for mobilization in late April in support of OEF.

Finally, the 416th Theater Engineer Command conducted a pre-planning Regional Joint Task Force or RJTF for over a month starting late November last year. The task force analyzed how to best use the 416th TEC's assets to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the event the President called on the Army Reserve to help in a national emergency as the result of a pandemic.

During the training exercise, US Army North and United States Army Reserve Command provided "war-gaming and national emergency" scenarios for the staff to practice implementing the use of "simulated 416th TEC resources" to best assist local, state and federal governments.



Major Andrew J. Harmon, 416th Theater Engineer Command's Headquarters Commander, train Regional Joint Task Force (RJTF) during an internal exercise in support of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Darien, IL in early January.

7 NOV 2009 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

GREAT Food! Great Drink! A Great Evening! And Great Companionship at the 416th Encom Association Annual Meeting which took place on Saturday evening, November 7, 2009 at the Argonne Guest House, Argonne, Illinois. If you were not there, you missed a great time with good friends and companions.

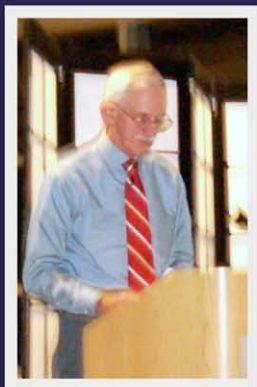
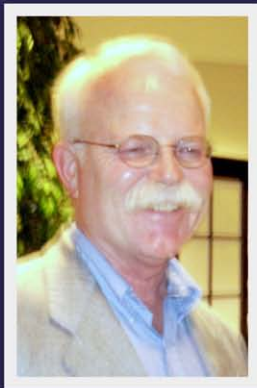
The guest speaker was Colonel (R) Robert Wood who discussed “Rebuilding Iraq” from the point of view of both a military and civilian engineering perspective. His discussion was liberally supplied with anecdotes and photographs of all the good and the bad. All agreed that it was timely, entertaining, and highly informative. He provided a keen insight to the trials and tribulations encountered in rebuilding a war torn nation of different factions and parties, as well as the financial and practical efforts and dangers involved in that rebuilding effort. It was information that you do not get in your local/national newsprint or newscast.

At the same time, our annual meeting and discussion was held. Among the major items was the election of MG Robert Heine as President for the next term.

The 416th Encom Association is always looking for you and your ideas. This is your Association. Your participation is a necessary and required item for the Association to reflect you, your ideas and your thoughts to make it better. Hopefully we will see you at our next annual meeting.



PRESENTATION OF AWARD “PERSON OF THE YEAR” TO COL (R) WILLIAM HAWES



7 NOV 2009
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING