



416TH ENCOM ASSOCIATION



"past and present serving together for the future"

Volume 11, Number 1 – April 2011

WARRIOR OF THE YEAR

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf
Quotes

"I am quite confident that in the foreseeable future armed conflict will not take the form of huge land armies facing each other across extended battle lines, as they did in World War I and World War II or, for that matter, as they would have if NATO had faced the Warsaw Pact on the field of battle."

"As far as Saddam Hussein being a great military strategist, he is neither a strategist, nor is he schooled in the operational art, nor is he a tactician, nor is he a general, nor is he a soldier. Other than that he's a great military man-I want you to know that."

"We need to destroy not attack, not damage, not surround. I want to destroy the Republican Guard"

"I feel that retired generals should never miss an opportunity to remain silent concerning matters for which they are no longer responsible."

"If we do go to war, psychological operations are going to be absolutely a critical, critical part of any campaign that we must get involved in."

"The mothers and fathers of America will give you their sons and daughters...with the confidence in you that you will not needlessly waste their lives. And you dare not. That's the burden the mantle of leadership places upon you. You could be the person who gives the orders that will bring about the deaths of thousands and thousands of young men and women. It is an awesome responsibility. You cannot fail. You dare not fail..."

From a speech in Eisenhower Hall Theater to the Corps of Cadets on 15 May 1991 by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf

"Yesterday at the beginning of the ground war Iraq had the fourth largest army in the world. Today they have the second largest army in Iraq"

Attributed to General H. Norman Schwarzkopf at a news conference during Desert Storm

H. Norman Schwarzkopf
Retired US Army four-star
General. Commander of the
Allied Invasion of Iraq 1991

ON January 21, 2011, Colonel (R) Dewayne Nelson presented the ENCOM Association plaque and a \$250 check to SSG Mathew Hall, who won the NCO Best Warrior Competition, 2010. The presentation was made during the annual NCO conference held in New Orleans.

Colonel Nelson's opening remarks were, "The 416th ENCOM Association is composed of former members of the 416th."

Our purpose is to promote, foster and improve the well being of Army Reservist, to engage in activities beneficial to the Army Reserve and National Defense and to engage in social, patriotic, charitable, educational, benevolent and civic activities. In the past the association has provided scholarships to perspective engineer students.

More recently we have provided an honorarium to warriors who have distinguished themselves and bring recognition to the 416th.

He continued with a background of the competition. In the spring of 2010, twenty Army Reserve Warrior Citizens were cast for the 2010 Regional Best Warrior Competition.

The 2010 competition was wrenched up a couple notches with more surprises; more physically demanding events; a competition where the book smart Soldiers didn't have the advantage over Soldiers that were physical beasts and vice versa. Today's warrior is one that not only can think on his or her feet but is also physically capable.

To name a few events returning from last year was the Army Physical Fitness Test, the appearance board, weapons qualifications and Warrior Training Tasks. New to this year's starting line up was a 10 kilometer road march with candidates carrying over 100 pounds of gear, Army modern combatives, and three mystery events.

The new Medical Simulation Training Center introduced candidates to a dark and foggy room, with flashing lights and blaring heavy

metal music playing in a confined room. On the floor was a dummy that was programmed to bleed, breath, go into convulsions and blink. These horror films like special effects were utilized to simulate real world combat conditions. Once candidates were inside the room, they had to evaluate a casualty and administer first aid.

The three mystery tasks were reflexive fire, route clearance and the physical conditioning course. The physical conditioning course was on the final day before the combatives tournament and all candidates were pushed to their physical limits to overcome every obstacle as fast as they could.

Tired from the course and other events from the week, candidates pushed themselves and each other one last time to compete in combatives.

It was down to the last event on the last day to determine the winners of the Regional Best Warriors.

For the 416th Theater Engineer Command, the winning Soldier of the year Best Warrior Competition was SPC. (now Sergeant) Joshua Ahn. Sgt. Ahn is assigned to the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 476th CM Battalion, 493rd MP Company.

Sgt. Ahn was not present because he is preparing to deploy with his unit. The plaque and check for SGT Ahn had been forwarded to SGT Ahn's unit for presentation at the mobilization station.

For the 416th Theater Engineer Command, the winning noncommissioned officer of the Best Warrior Competition was Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Hall. SSG Hall is assigned to the 372nd EN Brigade, 397th EN Battalion 372nd EN Company.

A veteran of Iraq, he is Drill Instructor Certified along with significant other credentials. SSG Hall owns his own construction company and now is Warrant Officer Candidate Hall.

The de Fleury Medal



THE de Fleury* Medal, as most of you know, is issued by the Army Engineer Association (AEA) in recognition for exceptional service to the Engineer Regiment over extended periods of time. It is awarded at four levels.

One Gold medal is awarded each year for outstanding career achievement. The silver is awarded for exceptional service over a period typically of twenty years or more, and the bronze for ten years or more.

Recently, the AEA added the steel medal, to recognize more junior engineer Soldiers and civilians for outstanding achievement.

The 416th ENCOM Association is proud to be able to recognize some of the outstanding Soldiers in the 416th through sponsorship of awards for an officer and an enlisted Soldier each year. We are currently working with the 416th senior leadership to select our nominations for 2011, and plan to award the de Fleury medals at our annual dinner in November.

If anyone has suggestions on appropriate nominees, please submit the names to the 416th TEC Command Sergeant Major or the Chief of Staff, and advise an Association board member.

*The medal is named for a French Engineer Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury who volunteered to serve with the American Army in its fight for independence from Britain during the American Revolutionary War.

Article Contributed by

MG (R) ROBERT HEINE

ASSOCIATION

NOMINATIONS DUE 1 JULY

This is a reminder that 416th ENCOM Association Person of the Year Award nominations are due 1 July. You can send your nomination information to COL (R) William Hawes via email (wjhawes@sbcglobal.net) or USPS mail (1915 Sunnydale Ln., Lisle, IL 60532.) This will be the 6th consecutive year for the Award. Previous recipients include in order from 2006: Ted Winters; Jack Kotter; Joanne Sova; Bill Hawes; and Fran Straus.

The criteria for award nominations can be found on the Association's website, www.encomassociation.info. The individual selected by the Association Board will be announced by 1 September. We strongly encourage readers to consider submitting their nomination.

COL (R) JIM MARTIN

LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT . . .

Greetings. As I write this, there is great Engineer weather just outside my window. The calendar says Spring is here, yet we are experiencing an ice storm.

Of course, this is a minor inconvenience compared to some of the recent weather related tragedies around the world, especially the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

We all know that great Engineers, both military and civilian, are doing heroic work to abate the effects of these events, and will be in the lead on repair and reconstruction for years to come.

Our 416th Theater Engineer Command remains heavily engaged in the fight. The Command has over 3,000 Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, and will remain at that level for the foreseeable future.

Much of the focus is on ensuring that the deploying units are ready to do their jobs, and that the families left behind are properly cared for.

The Command is still operating without a deputy commanding general, has the senior full time civilian (and USAR COL) in the G3 shop dual-hatted as the chief of staff, and has an acting commander at the 420th Engineer Brigade. That puts quite a load on the senior leadership.

Our prayers continue to be with our deployed Soldiers and their families.

ESSAYONS!!!

MG (R) ROBERT HEINE



416th ENCOM ASSOCIATION



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“Send Me!”

THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8).

On September 11, 2001, Americans watched in horror as planes slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Time seemed to stop and most people can remember where they were when those images flashed over the airwaves. Many members of the 416th Engineer Command also remember calling the reserve center, echoing the words of Isaiah 6:8, “Send Me!”

And, it didn’t take long. In October 2001, the 416th Forward element from Fort McPherson deployed to Kuwait in support of the ARCENT headquarters. Led by COL Gerald Fontenot and supplemented by members of the 416th Main, the forward engineer team began executing war plans in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan. Shortly afterwards, engineers deployed forward to Afghanistan to coordinate engineer operations at former Soviet Air Bases at Bagram and Kandahar. In addition, as the senior ranking officer at Bagram, LTC Phil Temple became the base commander until ARCENT deployed a Colonel from G-3. Upon return from Afghanistan, LTC Temple and LTC Dan Deeter became the first 416th soldiers to receive bronze stars since DESERT STORM.

As engineer requirements increased at the forward air bases, Facility Engineer Teams (FETs) began deploying to Kuwait, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan. These unique self contained teams provided critical base engineering services as early as February 2002. Early teams remember building base camps as troop levels surged for OPERATION ANACONDA pursuing Osama bin Laden into the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. Active army leadership from such elite units as the XVIII Airborne Corps raised an eyebrow as reserve and National Guard engineers began arriving in theater. Quickly proving their worth, the active units were soon saying, “Send more!”

As the forces expanded in preparation for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, the 416th Main advanced party arrived in Kuwait in December 2002 followed by the remainder of the Command in January 2003. With the execution of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM in March 2003, the 416th had constructed base camps, logistics staging areas, Patriot missile battery sites, airfields, port facilities, oil pipelines, developed utilities and many more missions, the list too extensive to mention here. In fact, in January 2003, as engineers built LSAs along the Kuwait-Iraq border, the 416th was the most forward deployed element in theater. Further, as combat units crossed the border at the beginning of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, an engineer element followed close behind to set up forward operations at Tallil Air Base.

With the redeployment of the 416th in July 2003, elements remained, providing continuous presence of the 416th in theater through current operations today. The 416th Theater Engineer Command remains relevant in the fight against terrorism because of the dedication of its soldiers who continue to say, “Send Me!”

COL (R) JOHN GESSNER

416th Theater Engineer Command, 1995-2007,
deployed to SWA 2002-2003.



416th Engineer Command Forward Element,
April 2002.



Facility Engineer Team commanded by LTC Garth Anderson, April 2002. Shown here in Hawaiian suits, team was scheduled to deploy to Hawaii, but diverted to Kandahar, Afghanistan.



Fort Drum and Denver Facility Engineer Teams
comprise the Bagram, Afghanistan base engineer,
August 2002.

Report on Ft DeRussy

AN article in the September 2010 Association newsletter about the Army Reserve Soldiersø (from the 416th Theater Engineer Command, 420th Engineer Brigade and the 980th Engineer Battalion) annual training project at Ft DeRussy perked my interest. Lana and I had visited the museum during our last two vacations in Hawaii (Sep 2008 and Jan 2010). This February, Lana and I had the pleasure of meeting with the director, Judith Bowman who gave us a tour of the newly built offices and storage rooms.

She was very complementary about our engineering soldierø dedication, perseverance and quality of work accomplished in record time. The museum staff is very grateful and appreciative for the construction that has made the museum a better place to visit.

The museum operates with two full time personnel and several volunteers. The average age of volunteers is 72 years young!

The US Army Museum of Hawaii is one of the most frequently visited Army museums in the country, having over one hundred thousand visitors each year. The museum contains over 4000 artifacts and 20,000 photographs.

The Army Museum is housed in Historic Battery Randolph, a coastal defense fortification that was completed in 1911 and built to protect Honolulu and Pearl Harbor from an attack by enemy ships. The huge 14 inch guns could sink a ship 11 miles off shore. After the advent of airpower, Battery Randolph was augmented with anti-aircraft guns located on the beach. Immediately following WWII the guns were cut up and sold for scrap. The Coastal Artillery was officially disbanded by the US Army on June 28, 1950. Fort DeRussy was designated as an Armed Forces Recreation Area in the 1960s. Today this large, beautiful park located in Waikiki pays tribute to all branches of the United States Armed Services.

Next to the park is the high-rise hotel Hale Koa (meaning house of the warrior), which opened in 1976 and is available only to active and retired service personnel of the uniformed services. One of the battery facilities from the original Fort was turned into the US Army Museum of Hawaii and is situated inside the park.



<http://www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org>

Article submitted by
CSM (R) BILL LAKE

 HAWAII ARMY MUSEUM SOCIETY

VISIT THE MUSEUM

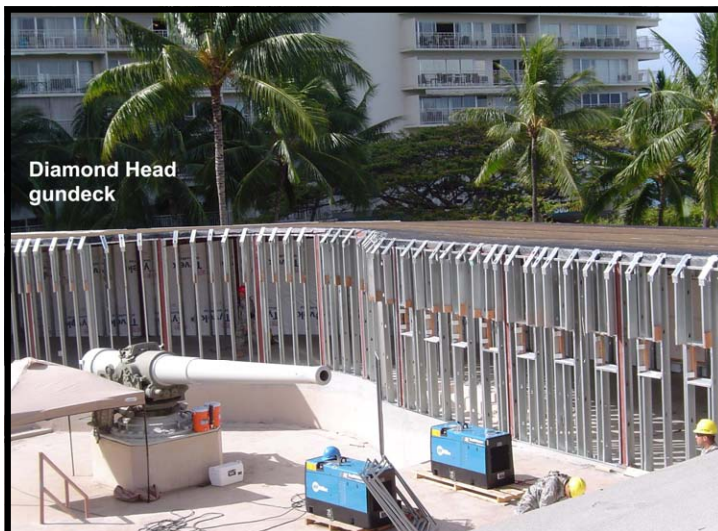


MUSEUM HOURS
OPEN TO PUBLIC: 9 AM - 5 PM
DAILY: TUESDAY TO SATURDAY
CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY



Audio Tours Now available
in English & Japanese for \$5

DIAMOND HEAD HAWAII GUN DECK INSTALLATION



416TH ENCOM Association Northeast Reunion Friday & Saturday, June 10-12, 2011

The 416th ENCOM Association is planning a full day of activities for our 2011 Northeast reunion on Friday through Sunday morning, June 10-12, 2011 at Carlisle, PA. Friday evening kickoffs with a reception at the Carlisle Hotel which also is our lodging for the weekend.

Saturday morning the golf enthusiasts will play a scramble at the Carlisle Barrack ϕ Golf Course while others will be escorted on a tour of Historic Carlisle by the Carlisle Historical Society. On Saturday afternoon we all tour the Army Heritage Museum (AHM) and travel the Army Heritage Trail (AHT.) Newly opened, the AHM interprets the art and artifacts of the United States Army and the men and women who served in that Army at home and abroad. Through exhibits and interpretation, the AHM educates the American soldier about Army History.

The AHT is the outdoor museum with thirteen individual exhibits including a full scale reconstruction of a French and Indian War way station, Redoubt Number 10 from the Revolutionary War siege of Yorktown, a section of the Antietam battlefield, a Civil War winter encampment with cabins, a WWI trench system, a WWII company area, a replicated Omaha beachhead scene from D-Day, a Current Operations HESCO Bastion barrier checkpoint, and an interpretation of the Vietnam helicopter air assault at Ia Drang that includes a period Fire Support Base. Additionally, the Cold War era exhibit features a Bell AH-1 Cobra helicopter and an M-60 Patton MBT (Main Battle Tank.)

Saturday evening we dine at the Carlisle Barrack ϕ Letort View Community Center. Jack Giblin, AHM is our guest and will introduce through pictures and stories, %Civil War 150+, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War.

For those staying until Sunday, we plan a group guided tour of Historic Carlisle Barracks. This promises to be good fellowship, and a very informative and entertaining weekend. Hope to see you there.

ESSAYONS!

COL (R) FRAN STROUSE

416th ENCOM Treasurer's Report

Submitted by COL (R) William Hawes

Opening Balance		\$5,449.83
DS/DS Reunion		
Income	\$4,700.00	
Expenses	\$3,645.48	
Net Profit.....	\$1,054.52	\$1,054.52
Valley Forge Outing		
Income	\$1,150.00	
Expenses	\$1,150.00	
Net Profit.....	\$ 0.00	
416th TEC Soldier of the Year Awards		
Year 2010.....	\$ 500.00	
Year 2011.....	\$ 500.00	
Total Cost.....	\$-1,000.00	(\$1,000.00)
2009 Annual Meeting		
Net Profit.....	\$ 81.59	\$ 81.59
deFleury Awards to 416th TEC		
Net Cost	\$ -110.00	(\$ 110.00)
Postage		
Expenses	\$ -14.85	(\$ 14.85)
Memberships		
10-BiAnnual.....	\$ 100.00	
6 Life.....	\$ 600.00	
Net Income.....	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Sale of Shirts and Coins		
Net Income.....	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00
		=====
Closing Balance		\$ 6,306.09



**416TH ENCOM Association Northeast Reunion
Friday & Saturday, June 3-4 (10-11), 2011**



The 416th ENCOM Association is planning a full day of activities for our 2011 Northeast reunion on Friday and Saturday, June 3-4 (10-11), 2011 at Valley Forge, PA. To help us finalize our plans, we need your assistance in completing this registration form.

1. Registration (Filing Deadline: May 4, 2010. However, we encourage you to reserve your room and file immediately.)

2. Attendee Information (Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____ Email: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Name: _____ Email: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



3. Events You Wish to Attend (Show number)

Friday Evening

7:00 PM Reception & Cash Bar (Hotel Carlisle Bar & Lounge w/optional dinner at Embers)

Saturday Morning

Option: Carlisle Barracks Golf Outing-Scramble

8:00 AM Carlisle Barracks Golf Course _____ @ \$ _____ (includes green fees & cart)

Option: Historic Carlisle

9:00 AM Guided Tour of Historic Carlisle _____ @ Free

Lunch: On your own. (Lunch at the Heritage Museum Cafe or one of the many quaint restaurants.)

Saturday Afternoon

Option: Carlisle Barracks

1:30 PM Army Heritage Museum (AHM) _____ @ Free

The AHM acquires, exhibits, and interprets the art and artifacts of the US Army. Through exhibits and interpretation, the AHM educates the American soldier and the general public about US Army History.

3:00 PM Army Heritage Trail (AHT) _____ @ Free

The AHT serves as the outdoor museum. It covers about one mile and highlights nearly every era of Army history with different exhibits and large artifacts. Designed to allow the visitor to walk into each period.

4:00 PM Time On Your Own

Saturday Evening

Option: Carlisle Barracks' Letort View Community Center

6:00 PM Reception and Dinner _____ @ \$35.00 = \$ _____

Speaker: Jack Giblin, AHM "Civil War 150" _____

Sunday Morning

Option: Historic Carlisle Barracks

9:00 AM Group guided Tour of Historic Carlisle Barracks _____ @ Free



4. Lodging

Lodging is available at our Hotel Carlisle, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle 800-692-7315 for our group at \$75 until May 11. I have provided the hotel with our initial room requests but you will have to contact them with your personal information and credit card.

5. Send Registration Form & Payment to:	6. Email Registration Form:
Bill Hawes	Fran Strouse
1915 Sunnydale Lane, Lisle, IL 60532 Phone: 630-369-9560	Phone: 717-689-3590 (Home) Cell: 717-808-4824
Email: wjhawes@sbcglobal.net	Email: fran.strouse@lrkimball.com

RETIREE BENEFIT SEMINAR

Your 416th ENCOM Association is planning a Retirement Benefit Seminar on Saturday, 25 June at the Parkhurst Army Reserve Center, 10S 100 South Frontage Road, Darien IL. The invited attendees are any former service members of all services from the southern and western suburbs who find it difficult to attend the Retiree Appreciation Day event at Great Lakes Naval Station.

The session is open to all military retiree grades: enlisted and officer; all services: Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force; õgray areaö reservists; and any interested military personnel along with their family members. The session is free for all personnel to attend. Attendee registration begins at 8:30am with complimentary coffee. There is easy entry to plenty of parking and seats on the drill floor.

We are planning to have presentations on the medical services available at the new Captain James Lovell Federal Medical Center, which is the combined operations of the Great Lakes Naval Clinic and the North Chicago VA Hospital; TRICARE, Basic, Prime, and For Life; Delta Dental; and Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. Also, a guest speaker has been invited.

We are planning to provide ID card and DEER services, blood pressure and blood sugar screening, along with the appropriate information and handouts from our presenters.

You may contact Jack Kotter, bgkotter@sbcglobal.net or (815) 932-1022 for any additional information that you might require.

ESSAYONS
BG (R) JACK KOTTER

SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER 5, 2011

The 416th ENCOM Association's Annual Dinner Meeting.

Those of you who have previously attended can attest to the good time and camaraderie of the past dinners the ENCOM ASOCIATION has had. Those of you who have yet to attend, SAVE THE DATE! Sign up, be counted, and have a grand time and grand dinner treat with old and new friends. We will keep you advised of the exact dinner plans at a later date. It will definitely be held in the South-West suburbs — convenient to any and all forms of transportation with great venues of shopping and entertainment in the surrounding areas for the whole day or just the evening dinner. See you at the dinner.

LTC (R) LARRY CZEPIEL

NEWS FROM 416TH TEC PAO

Editor's note: The 372nd Engineer Brigade returned from a deployment to Afghanistan in September, 2010. While in country, the 372nd oversaw combat effects operations that among other things included route clearance missions covering more than 175 thousand kilometers of roadway, and detection and disabling of 787 IEDs. They were responsible for more than 400 separate construction projects at combat outposts (COPs) and forward operating bases (FOBs) in both eastern and northern Afghanistan.

The unit's time in country coincided with a White House directed upsurge in the U.S. force presence in Afghanistan to include an exponential increase in both contractor and military populations. Because of this, the unit's responsibilities increased tremendously. From its original strength of 2 battalions (approximately 1700 soldiers), the unit grew to about 4,600 personnel to include "five Army battalions, a [Navy Engineer] Seabee battalion, and...two Air Force Squadrons...spread out in an area about the size of Texas," said 372nd Engineer Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Stanek, summarizing the 372nd's mission in Afghanistan.

The story below was written by SGT Spencer Case, 304th PAD, while the 372nd Engineer Brigade was still serving in theater.

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan—Since arriving in Afghanistan last November, reservists of the Fort Snelling, Minn.,-based 372nd Engineer Brigade have overseen a multi-faceted and evolving mission over a large swath of rugged territory.

The stateside headquarters component includes about 130 people from across 42 states, with the majority from Minnesota, Wisconsin or Iowa. In Afghanistan, they oversee engineering operations such as construction, road repair, counter-IED patrols and training Afghan civilians and military members in engineering skills.

At the time of their arrival to Forward Operating Base Sharana, Paktika province, the unit had about 2,500 troops, including two subordinate battalions. Over the next several months, the number of troops under 372nd command swelled to more than 4,000, as three additional Army battalions, one naval mobile construction battalion, and two Air Force expeditionary squadrons joined the 372nd family. As a part of this expansion, the number of platoon-sized anti-IED route clearance packages beneath 372nd command grew from 15 to more than 30 and continues to grow.

"Literally, we're spread over 40 different [combat outposts and forward operating bases] across the country, which makes it extremely difficult to manage," said U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Stanek, the command sergeant major for the brigade, who hails from Lino Lakes, Minn.

As their mission expanded, the command structure had to adapt. Initially, the 372nd was subordinate to Regional Command-East, then run by the 82nd Airborne Division. As the 372nd became responsible for assets in RC-North, the brigade came directly under the command of the Afghanistan-wide International Security Assistance Force.

The command has adapted to the situation in part by traveling. The brigade's commander, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Charles D. Martin, is one of the few American generals in Afghanistan not stationed at one of the three largest bases in the country: Bagram, Kandahar and Kabul. Martin, who hails from Little Rock, Ark., regularly flies to remote areas to visit his far-flung troops to present medals and decorations. So far, 80 Purple Hearts have been distributed to Soldiers under the 372nd command this deployment.

Stanek tries to divide his time evenly between staying at FOB Sharana and traveling, but said his command responsibilities keep him anchored in FOB Sharana more often than he would like.

"If I get too far away, I come back and there's a stack of this kind of paper-work waiting for me," Stanek said, holding his thumb and his index finger about three inches apart for demonstration.

The mission of the brigade is broad and difficult to summarize, but two areas of work under the auspices of the 372nd illustrate the scope of their work: the expansion of FOB Sharana and the partnership with Afghan civilians.

The 1,500-acre expansion of FOB Sharana will make way for an additional 4,000 Coalition troops as part of the "Afghan surge." The area will include a post exchange, a dining facility and other buildings. The responsibility for bringing this about has fallen on the shoulders of the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, a unit based out of Port Hueneme, Calif., currently under 372nd command.

At times, they have worked 24-hour operations for weeks on end, said U.S. Army Maj. LaTonia M. Mahnke, the brigade intelligence officer who hails from Sun Prairie, Wis.

"The Seabees have been a godsend to us in Sharana and up north, too. They really put them to work," Mahnke said.

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dennis O. Conner, a construction engineering technician for the 372nd who hails from Littleton, Colo., added, "We've been extremely busy with the western expansion."

Another main area of focus of the 372nd, the partnership with Afghans, comprises a number of projects. One of the largest of these is an engineer skills course taught by Soldiers of the 1092nd Engineer Battalion, based out of Parkersburg, W. Va., at FOB Sharana.

"We are focused on developing skilled laborers as well as promoting [the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan], and we do this by sponsoring engineer skills workshops," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Ben Slood, the brigade civil military operations officer from Minneapolis.

The three-month long classes teach Afghan civilians skills like carpentry, roadwork and plumbing. After the first two weeks of class work, the students work on various public work projects approved by the provincial governments. After the students graduate, a job fair is held to help them find long-term employment. Since the 372nd arrived, five classes of about 170 Afghan participants each have completed the course.

"Since I've been here, it's gone from being a provincial-level education program [to a point where] it's now going toward being a program on the national level," Slood said. "We're creating an exportable package so that other regional command teams can build their own skilled labor programs."

In total, the brigade has helped evaluate and approve approximately 3,000 public works and development projects each worth at least \$100,000, Conner said. These provide Afghan contractors with jobs and help beef up infrastructure.

The current deployment is now winding down, and the troops of the 372nd will leave theater around mid-September. Looking back since their arrival, Stanek is proud of what has been accomplished.

"I'm amazed at the progress we've made in-country, to the people of Afghanistan," Stanek said.

CPT JULIUS D. PENN, *Asst. Public Affairs Officer, HQ, 416th Theater Engineer Command, Darien, IL*

(Photo Art on the following page)

Soldiers from the 27th, 92nd and 372nd Engineering Battalions depicted here while in Afghanistan clearing routes and doing construction projects (Story on page 9)



SOLDIERS from a route clearance platoon in the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Fort Bragg, NC, receive a mission brief prior to conducting a route clearance mission.



SOLDIERS from the 92nd Engineer Battalion (construction) Fort Stewart, GA, construct SEA-huts at Forward Operating Base Sharana Paktika province, Afghanistan.



SOLDIERS from the 372nd Engineer Brigade survey and design team wait to perform a reconnaissance of a construction site.

SOLDIERS from the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Fort Bragg, NC, a part of the 372nd Engineer Brigade's downtrace in Afghanistan, work on constructing footers during the building of the Saracha Bridge in Nangahar Province, Afghanistan.