



May 2006



Issue Number 50

The "BULL SHEET"

Published by:
107th Engineer Association
900 Palms Avenue
Ishpeming, MI 49849

Greetings and salutations to all members of the 107th Engineer Association. The 107th has always enjoyed a long, colorful, and very successful history. As we prepare to celebrate this 45th Annual Reunion of our beloved Association, let us wish for continued success for the 107th for many years to come.

AN INVITATION:

WELCOME TO THE 45TH ANNUAL REUNION

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 107th Engineer Battalion, Ishpeming Michigan, cordially invite you to the Annual Reunion of the 107th Engineer Association. Your mission this year is to conduct a recon and regrouping at the Ishpeming Armory on July 21st, 22nd and 23rd 2006 to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of our historic Association!

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

On Friday 21 July 2006, beginning at noon, we encourage you to take advantage of the early registration and socialize a little bit. The bar will be open (of course). The festivities will kick-off at 1900 with hors d'oeuvres and some entertainment. This is a great time to catch up with old friends.

Saturday will be packed like an 80 pound rucksack. The day will start at 0800 with a breakfast of eggs to order and all the fixings. SSG Jim Koval and the crew will ensure that you all have a filling meal to start your day. The cost will be minimal so plan to attend.

At 1100 we will form up at the flagpole for the Memorial Service honoring all of our departed comrades.

Lunch on the lawn will be at noon. SSG Koval will be serving burgers, dogs and some picnic favorites out of the Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT).

MSG Gary LaFreniere has arranged 25 Casino packages featuring free tokens and a lunch voucher. First come, first serve. The bus will leave the Armory at 1300. Pick up your packet when you register.

The Annual business meeting will be conducted in the newly renovated FMS at 1300 also.

The day's events will culminate with a formal banquet at the armory. There will be a brief social beginning at 1730. The colors will be posted at 1800. The meal will be served immediately after the introduction of the Reunion Committee and honored guests. The cost is \$12 per plate. SFC Louis Eiseman's band will be providing music for your listening and dancing pleasure.

The weekend will conclude on Sunday morning with a delicious brunch from 0930-1100. This is a terrific opportunity to reflect on new friendships made, old ones renewed, and a chance to say "See ya next year, eh!"

1SG Darrell J. Wagner
Reunion President

THANK YOU

To A Co 107th Engineers, Calumet, Michigan, SFC Jim "Da Finn" Turunen and his committees and personnel for the excellent 44th Annual Reunion of 2005. The Reunion was the first event staged in the new Calumet Armory.

2005 Reunion Attendees

Abramson, Amanda	A/HHC/107NG	Calumet, MI	Koski, Ozzie	A/107NG	Houghton, MI
Anderson, Jim	HQ, Engr Bde	Dewitt, MI	Kupari, Clint	A/107NG	Marquette, MI
Antonich, Vincent		Spring Lake, MI	LaCourt, Michelle(Stephen)	A/107NG	Hancock, MI
Babb, Carleton		Grand Ledge, MI	LaFreniere, Gary	HHC/107NG	Ishpeming, MI
Bammert, Ralph	A/107NG	Laurium, MI	Lanczy, Tibor	A/HHC/107NG	Dewitt, MI
Banovetz, Matt	107NG	Houghton, MI	LaRochelle, Gene	A/HHC/107NG	Calumet, MI
Bastion, Cyld		Redford, MI	Larsen, Pat	HHC/107NG	Big Bay, MI
Bastion, Herb	107/112/254	Clawson, MI	LeClaire, Mitchell	HQ, Engr Bde	Kalkaska, MI
Battisfore, Joye(Joe)	A/107NG	Hancock, MI	Lembo, Lewis		Maple Grove,

MN

Bausano, Don	A/107NG	Laurium, MI	Lienau, Jim	HHC/107NG	Green Bay, WI
Bessner, Todd	HHC/107NG	Hancock, MI	Little, Toccara	A/107NG	Houghton, MI
Bracco, Gregory	A/107NG	Calumet, MI	Luokkanen, Dave	A/HHC/107NG	Mohawk, MI
Bracco, Paul	A/107NG	Calumet, MI	Luokkanen, Linda	A/107NG	Mohawk, MI
Bramble, Matt	A/107NG	Laurium, MI	Lutz, Ed	A/107NG	Kearsarge, MI
Brisson, Joe	A/107NG	Greenville, MI	Manchester, Jake	A/107NG	Green Bay, WI
Brown, Gary	A/107NG	Laurium, MI	Manninga, Fred	A/107NG	Ahmeek, MI
Burgan, Tom	A/254E	Bradenton, FL	Marcotte, Gary	A/C/HHC107NG	Hubbell, MI
Bussiere, Don	A/107NG	Ontonogon, MI	McGuire, Robert		Centerville, MI Sault Ste. Marie, MI
Bykkonen, Bill	A/107NG	Calumet, MI	Metro, Tiny		
Bykkonen, Bob	A/107NG	Lake Linden, MI	Miller, Gary	A/107NG	Lake Linden, MI
Calcaterra, Jack	A/107NG	Iron Mountain, MI	Mohar, Paul	A/107NG	Calumet, MI
Campbell, Erik	A/107NG	Calumet, MI	Monette, Holly(Mike)	A/107NG	Hubbell, MI
Carlson, Steve	A/HHC/107NG	Nisula, MI	Moulds, Jim	B/D/HHC/107NG	Munsing, MI
Chartre, Ray	HHC/107NG	Negaunee, MI	Negrete, Faustino	254E	Gary, IN
Corrigan, Stacey(Tim)	A/107NG	Lake Linden, MI	Nelson, Chad	C/107NG	Houghton, MI
Crnkovich, Tony	254E	Ishpeming, MI	Neno, John	H&S/254E	Ithaca, NY
Cummings, Dennis	C/107NG	Escanaba, MI	Nichola, Howard	A/107NG	Dodgeville, MI
Dahlgren, Eric	C/107NG	Appleton, WI	Niemi, Don	A/107NG	Hancock, MI
Dahlgren, Fern	C/107NG	Gladstone, MI	Oja, Dick	HHC/107NG	Republic, MI
Denoo, Kerry	B/D/HHC/107NG	Vulcan, MI	Patrick, Joe	HHC/B/C/D/107NG	Wells, MI
DeRoche, Don	HHC/107NG	Ishpeming, MI	Peterson, Jim	A/107NG	Laurium, MI
Derouin, Kallie	A/107NG	Houghton, MI	Revello, Roland		Vulcan, MI
DeVerney, Butch	HHC/107NG	Midland, MI	Revello, Ron	HHC/107NG	Appleton, WI
Dougovito, Jim	A/HHC/107NG	L'Anse, MI	Roberts, Mike	A/107NG	L'Anse, MI
Durion, Bryan	A/107NG	Ishpeming, MI	Rowe, Jim	A/107NG	Lake Linden, MI
Dushaine, Bob	A/107NG	Baraga, MI	Rowe, Joshua	A/107NG	Calumet, MI
Eckloff, Bill	HHC/107NG	Ishpeming, MI	Roy, Justin	A/107NG	L'Anse, MI
Emerson, Chuck	HHC/107NG	Manassas Park, VA	Rule, Larry	A/107NG	Laurium, MI
Erva, Gerald	A/107NG	Houghton, MI	Ryan, John	A/107NG	Calumet, MI
Etelamaki, Scott	HHC/107NG	Negaunee, MI	Schmitt, Julie	A/107NG	Calumet, MI
Floriano, Mike	D/HHC/107NG	Kingsford, MI	Schwab, Steve	A/107NG	L'Anse, MI
Ford, Jake	C/107NG	Escanaba, MI	Sever, Darriell	A/107NG	Lake Linden, MI
Fredrickson, Jim	HHC/107NG	Livonia, MI	Sheldon, Bill	HHC/107NG	Ishpeming, MI
Garceau, Fuzzy	HHC/107NG	Negaunee, MI	Sheldon, Jim	A/HHC/107NG	Baraga, MI
Hall, Joe	107E	Wyoming, MI	Short, Chris	RRC, MIARNG	Marquette, MI
Hansen, Dan	C/D/B/HHC/107NG	Escanaba, MI	Simmons, James	B/107NG	Ironwood, MI
Hansen, George	HHC/107NG	Marquette, MI	Small, Don	HHC/107NG	Marquette, MI

Hebert, Larry	A/107NG	Baraga, MI	Smith, John	C/107NG	Daggett, MI
Heikkila, Roger	A/107NG	Calumet, MI	Stevens, Ross	A/107NG	Calumet, MI
Houle, Tim	A/107NG	Skanee, MI	Testolin, Joe	D/107NG	Iron Mountain, MI
Hutcheson, Jim	HHC/107NG	Ishpeming, MI	Thomas, Patty	A/107NG	Hancock, MI
Ilenich, Hank	A/HHC/107NG	Laurium, MI	Toupin, Karissa	A/HHC/C/107NG	Laurium, MI
Injasoulian, Pete	HHC/107NG	Howard City, MI	Trevethan, Robert	A/107NG	Hancock, MI
Jachimski, Ed	HHC/107NG	Negaunee, MI	Turunen, Jim	A/107NG	L'Anse, MI
Johnson, Tom	A/107NG	Kenton, MI	Usitalo, Gordon	A/107NG	Calumet, MI
Jones, Bob	A/107NG	Calumet, MI	Van Abel, Paul		L'Anse, MI
Julio, Anthony	A/107NG	Laurium, MI	Vickstrom, Ed	H&S/254E	Ishpeming, MI
Julio, Don	A/107NG	Laurium, MI	Ward, Joyce	HHC/107NG	McClean, VA
Kesanen, Fred		Eagle Harbor, MI	Webber, Jim	B/HHC/107NG	Bessemer, MI
Kezele, Robert	A/107NG	Mohawk, MI	Wills, Dick	254E	Negaunee, MI
Kohn, Ed	A/HHC	Calumet, MI			

TODAY'S 107th ENGINEER BATTALION:

The 107th Engineer Battalion had the pleasure of welcoming home 5 separate entities from overseas deployment, along with numerous individual deployments.

On 16 December 2005, the 40 Soldier Assault & Obstacle Platoon led by 1LT Thomas LaFave and SFC James Wallis returned home after nearly 15 months of duty with the 224th Engineer Battalion from the Iowa Army National Guard. The A & O was attached to A Co, 224 EN BN. LT LaFave had this to say about their mission:

“The first mission that we had for A&O was a school mission in Najaf. We sent out some of our equipment operators out to do some repairs and beautification for a local school. We sent out different people with the Bobcat and the SEE’s. They were there for about a week. While that was going on we also had some FOB projects going on for Camp Duke, we were digging for showers and latrines.

Form there we started getting ready for the move up north to Ramadi. This also largely included our equipment operators driving our 916’s hauling the tracks and dozers. Once we got to Ramadi we were split up. The Assault squads were separated in to the line platoons. And Obstacle was left to do the FOB projects and run equipment to TQ as well and other places in Iraq. The line plts were set up for convoy escorts. We started running convoys all over Iraq. Shortly after getting to Ramadi we were selected to run a MOAG (Mother of all generators) mission which consisted of the whole battalion. That took nine days to finish that mission. When we got back from that we started running Task Force Ironhawk and convoys. First Platoon with our second squad did convoy escorts and the Second Platoon did Ironhawk missions. It stayed that way for most of the time over there. We switched some time around July. 1st Platoon was sent out to do cache sweeps and 2nd Platoon took over the convoys. When 1st Platoon got route clearance they also got the Meerkat and Husky so they started doing mechanical route clearance which was the first time we as A Co had that equipment. The company switched back again in September. And that is how we finished out the rest of the time there.

While this was going on the Obstacle crew had jobs that took them to other FOB’s such as Shark base to make a pad for additional troops as well as ripping up a landing pad for the helo’s. They had another mission

that brought them to Al Quim on the Syrian border there they made a parking lot and a garbage dump. They also had one mission out side the FOB to reduce a berm that was being used by insurgents to place IED's in. there were some special missions that they were included in as well such as bull dozing houses that were out side Blue Diamond. They also had to go to check points along route Mobile to help fortify them.

The last mission we had was with the "Protector" which is an electrical IED hunting machine. This mission encompassed the whole platoon. The Obstacle Section was in charge of running the HEET's and the Assault Sections were in charge of the security.

As far as injuries, we as a platoon only had one and that was SGT Jannaush. He received the Purple Heart when a mortar hit the building he was in and threw him into another room. Other awards were given out as well such and the Michigan Legion of Merit, along with many ARCOM'S and AAM's."

A & O Platoon



Members of the platoon were:

PFC Stosh Benson (A Co); PV2 Jarod Besonen (A Co); SPC David Campbell (A Co); SPC James Devos (C Co); PFC Joseph Dezelski (B Co); PV2 Derrick Dumoulin (C Co); SPC Erwin Esterline (B Co); SPC Robert Freeze (A Co); SPC Mark Gates (A Co); SGT Joshua Geltz (C Co); SPC Christopher Gibson (B Co); PVT Cole Grace (C Co); SSG Michael Heikkila (B Co); SGT William Jannausch (HHC); SSG Kevin Jenshak (C Co); SGT John Jurecic (B Co); SPC Andrew Kohtala (C Co); SFC Jack Kotila (A Co); SPC Heath Krook (HHC); 1LT Thomas LaFave (A Co); SPC Melvin Lafrenier (A Co); PFC Nathan Lahti (A Co); SGT Dennis Latowski (C Co); SGT Carl Lavigne (C Co); SGT David Lindow (B Co); SGT James McClung (A Co); SGT Charles Mowitt (B Co); PFC Elwood Niemi (A Co); SPC Thomas Pascoe (HHC); SPC Steven Peterson (C Co); SPC Adam Pierce (HHC); SGT Louis Reitmeyer (B Co); SGT Ronald Rundell (B Co); PFC Jesse Solberg (A Co); SGT Stephen Stacy (A Co); SGT Courtney Timmons (A Co); SPC Daniel Turunen (A Co); SFC James Wallis (C Co); SGT Kevin Warm (C Co); and SGT Ronald Williams (C Co).

Also on 16 December 2006, a platoon of 33 Soldiers, mostly from B Company returned from nearly a year-long deployment to Kuwait. The platoon was led by 1LT Daniel Eady and SFC Michael Wheeler. LT Eady writes this synopsis of their mission:

“Our mission in Kuwait consisted of port security for a sea port called SPOD just south of Kuwait City. We got attached to the 227 Engineers out of Hawaii for the duration. After our mobilization we arrived in country and were supposed to get at least a few days to acclimate and get over the jet lag but hardly before a day was through our Michigan platoon was sent out on a detail. We were to construct single strand concertina wire obstacles to make a road boundary just outside the compound where we were staying. This did not bother us, for it was an engineer task we were all well versed on. At the time we didn't know that it would be the last engineer task that we would accomplish while we were in Kuwait. In the few following days we went out to more ranges to re-zero our weapons.

After all that we had become acquainted with the 227 Engineers and were to move out to where they were staying on SPOD. Once we were moved in, a normal day consisted of getting up and going to work at an ECP (Entrance Control Point) or riding in one of the roving patrols on some location around the port. Part of the job consisted of working with the KMOI (Kuwaiti Ministry Of Interior) which was the Kuwaiti police. If there was anything that happened involving suspicious individuals or vehicles the KMOI was contacted and they were allowed to take care of the situation by themselves as much as possible.

Working on an ECP consisted of checking ID's, searching TCN's (Third Country Nationals) raising and lowering gorilla arms, and just generally keeping a lookout. The ECP's worked directly with the BDOC (Base Defense Operations Center). If anything happened out of the ordinary or if any of the ECP's needed anything the BDOC was contacted and they would decide what to do about the problem. All the senior leadership worked in the BDOC.

In an attempt to give the sea port back to the Kuwaitis we could no longer live on SPOD and were relocated to another base west of SPOD. It was about a 15-20 minute commute to the SPOD every day after the move. We lived in big 58 man bays rather than the 8 man tents that we had previously been living in on SPOD. The new base that we were living on was quite nice. It had gyms, PX, outdoor food court, dining facility, outdoor stage for performances, and even a pool, not too far away from where the 58 man bays were located.

The only major injury sustained by a soldier was a torn ACL. All the Michigan soldiers really did an outstanding job and bring great credit to their unit back in Michigan. While deployed there were many awards presented to the solders.”

“Kuwait Platoon”



The Soldiers from the B Co Forward or “Kuwait” Platoon shown above with former 107th Engineer Battalion Commander, LTC Tom Perry were:

SSG Dale Allen; SPC Shawn Anderson; SGT Nathan Bouvette; SPC Joshua Brown; SGT William Campbell; SSG Jamie Chiapuzio; SPC Brandon Christian; PFC Joseph Clement; SPC Jeffrey Corullo; SPC Jason Cronkright; SGT Jason Davis; 2LT Daniel Eady (not shown); SPC Charles Flory; PFC Shad Hanson; SPC Nathan Hautala; SGT Bruce Hooyman; SPC David Hren; SSG Gregory Kendall; SFC Brian King; SPC John Livingston; SGT Trevor Mashak; SGT Craig Paynter; SPC William Pietila; SPC Matthew Prevo; SPC Aaron Richards; SPC Matthew Rooney; SGT William Rounsiville; SGT Ross Solberg; SPC Terrence Sordahl; SPC John Stachowicz; PFC Christopher Stanolis; SPC Steven Weber; and SFC Michael Wheeler.

The 107th celebrated the beginning of 2006 by welcoming home the Utility Detachments from A Company and C Company, both on 25 January.

The A and C Company Utility Detachments were re-organized in the fall of 2004 from Mechanized Engineers to Utility Engineers. The Utilities consisted of Plumbers, Carpenters, and Electricians. Each Detachment spent nearly 1 year in Iraq. The A Co Utility spent most of their deployment helping rebuild the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, while C Co built and improved the areas in and around Camp’s Liberty and Hope. The A Company Utility was led by CPT Mark McNeill and 1SG James Baker. C Company Utility was led by CPT George Rollins and 1SG John Smith.

Here is what CPT McNeill had to say about A Co's deployment:

"The A Company Utility Detachment mobilized through Camp Atterbury, Indiana and arrived at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait early in February 2005. After additional weapons and convoy training and adding armor to our vehicles most of the unit flew north into Iraq to our first assignment at LSA Anaconda near Balad. The rest of the unit convoyed the newly armored vehicles into Iraq. We fell under the 507th EN BN and were situated next door to the 1436th En Co, both Michigan National Guard units so there were a lot of friends and familiar faces. Our first missions were construction missions in support of LSAA.

At the end of March the unit received a mission to begin construction of a 400 man detainment facility called Redemption at the infamous Abu Ghraib Prison just west of Baghdad. This was a challenging task since the site was under water. An advance party began the task of draining the area and established what began a long and productive partnership with Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR). The 507th enhanced the unit with several augmentations of Soldiers and equipment from several units including the 1436th and the 463rd. Eventually the entire Det was relocated to FOB Abu Ghraib. About mid way through the project control of the A Utility Det was transferred to the 194th En Bde, an Army National Guard unit from Tennessee. The 194th continued to offer Soldiers and equipment from the 891st and 230th Engineer Battalions, to ensure the success of the project. The facility was completed in mid June.

A Co Det continued to support FOB Abu Ghraib with DPW support and additional construction improvements for detainee operations. A Co, with a lot of help, eventually built another 400 man facility called Remembrance, and 2 other "special holding facilities", along with hundreds of FOB improvement projects. A portion of the unit was involved in a project on Camp Victory, near where C Co Utility Det was located, so again we were close to familiar faces. One interesting meeting involved an old A Co squad leader, retired SSG Tom Sipe who was operating a wretch for KBR at a Class IV yard on Camp Victory. The 194th rotated home in December and the Det fell under the 130th En Bde for the remainder of the deployment. The Det came home at the end of January. Awards for the Soldiers included AAM's, ARCOM's, MSM's and BSM along with the Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Medal. Thankfully there were no Purple Hearts.

All the members of the unit would like to thank the community and the Family Readiness Group for their outstanding support throughout our deployment; we couldn't have done it with out you, Thank You."

Alpha Company Utility Detachment



Members of the A Co Utility Detachment were:

SPC Kurt Abramson; SPC Brian Amos; 1SG James Baker; SSG Kevin Bastian; SPC Todd Bastian; SPC Christopher Bates; SFC Joseph Battsfore; SPC Noah Beesley; SPC Benjamin Cadeau; SGT Christopher Carlson; SPC Chad Caudill; SFC Scott Cleary; SGT Timothy Corrigan; SGT Lee DeForge; SPC Perry Dutcher; SSG Thomas Dutcher; SFC Louis Eiseman; SPC John Gibson; SSG Gerald Harry; SPC Roy Holmstrom; SPC Rhyan Hongisto; SSG Frederick Hueter; SSG Charles Huhta; SPC Bruce Jackson; SFC Robert Jeannotte; SGT Keith Johnson; SPC Jason Juhola; SGT Ian Juntunen; SPC Kyle Kempainen; SGT John Kilpela; SPC Aaron Kratt; SGT Bradley Kuivinen; SPC James Lamson; SPC Randy Loveless; SPC Justin Massie; CPT Mark McNeill; SPC Michael Monette; SPC Darryl Niemi; SPC Jaren Paakola; SPC Robert Packard; SPC Nicholas Penegor; SGT Julie Schmitt; SPC Joseph Schwandt; SSG Henry Schwanke; SPC Nathan Taisto; SSG Darryl Tammelin; SGT Matthew Turunen; SPC Drew VanBuren; SGT Jackson Wells; SPC James White; SSG Marshall Wickstrom; SGT Mark Wiitanen; SGT Stephen Wilmers; SPC Thomas Wittliff; SSG Dean Wolter; and SSG Joshua Yaniskivis.

Charlie Company Utility Detachment



Members of the C Co Utility Detachment were:

SGT Daniel Atkins; SGT Duane Beauchamp; SFC Robert Beaudry; SGT Frank Bedient; SPC Evan Bergstrom; SPC Daniel Berryman; SSG Timothy Bishop; SGT Gregory Blahnik; SFC Bruce Broman; SPC Leo Burnett; SSG Clinton Carlson; SPC Joshua Chaney; SGT Matthew Charlebois; SGT Wayne Corwin; SGT Aaron D'Ambrosio; SGT Christopher Davenport; SPC Troy Davis; SGT Joseph Demars; SSG Robert Deno; SGT Daniel DeRoche; SPC Andrew Doutree; SPC Michel Dziergas; SPC Andrew Foster; SPC Aaron Hayward; SGT Jerry Hebert; SPC Vernon Hixon; SFC Donald Kelloniemi; SPC Michael LaCasse; SSG Brent Lynch; SPC John Makinen; SPC Andrew Marsicek; SPC Eric Miron; SPC Kevin Niemi; SPC Jessica Poe; SGT Benjamin Proehl; SGT Aaron Racine; SPC James Reynolds; CPT George Rollins; SPC Joseph Rose; SGT Carl Runstrom; SPC Daniel Schuster; SGT Nathan Slavin; 1SG John Smith; SGT Andrew Sovey; SSG Richard Strand; SPC

Nickilous Tardiff; SGT Michael Thode; SPC Justin Thorrington; SGT Karissa Toupin; SPC Benjamin Travis; SGT Joseph VanBrocklin; SPC Justin Verbigghe; SGT Jason Vermeulen; and SPC Jason Viau.

Finally, on 21 April 2006, the 107th welcomed home the 29 Soldier Sapper Platoon. The Sapper Platoon was deployed to Afghanistan for nearly a year with the 3-141st Infantry Battalion from the Texas Army National Guard. The Platoon was led by 2LT Jason Rolling and SFC Jeffrey Gibson. The Sappers were assembled with Soldiers from all 4 companies of the 107th, with most of them coming from B Co.

SFC Gibson tells us about his platoon's time spent in Afghanistan:

“The 107th Engineers mobilized a Platoon of 29 soldiers for deployment to Afghanistan on 07 March 2005. The platoon headed by SFC Jeff Gibson and 2LT Jason Rolling, mobilized from Company B, but was comprised of personnel from every armory of the 107th. After completing mobilization station activities at Fort Hood Texas, the Platoon arrived in Afghanistan on 10 May 2005.

Originally the Platoon (better known as the “Yoooper Platoon”) was designed to split up and support the 3/141 Infantry Battalion, performing Engineer missions at PRT’s (Provincial Reconstruction Teams) across the country. However, immediately upon arrival in Afghanistan the plans changed. The Yoooper Platoon was given orders to reconsolidate and take over Operations and Force Protection of the Kandahar PRT in Southern Afghanistan. This involved security, TOC operations, logistics, and even mess operations. In addition to PRT Operations, the Platoon performed over 500 missions outside the wire. Everything from escorting Civil Affairs teams to project sites, job site security, escorting and securing Generals and Ambassadors, to a 10 day mission with the Dutch Army. If this wasn’t enough... the Yoopers where ordered to ready the PRT for turn over to the NATO Forces (the Canadian Army in this case). This proved to be quite a challenge logistically. But, in fine Yoooper fashion, the Platoon performed all these tasks (originally performed by a Company size element) without fail.

After a short refit, the “Yoopers” where then assigned to Task Force Sword (Engineer Operation for Afghanistan) and attached to perform Force Protection for TF Pace Maker (864th Engineer Battalion). The task... Force Protection and Security for the TK (Taren Kot to Kandahar) Road construction project in Central Afghanistan. Due to numerous attacks on the Task Force, the Task Force Commanders instructions where, to ‘Keep the Bad Guy away, while we finish the Road’. This mission lasted about 2 months and required splitting the Platoon in half for Northern and Southern Security. After countless hours, missions, dust, windstorms, and escorts, the Platoon accomplished just that... zero attacks on the TF while the “Yoopers” controlled the road, allowing the road project to be completed ahead of schedule.

After completion of the TK Road project, the Platoon stayed with TF Pacemaker and moved to FOB Sharana (Eastern Afghanistan). The reputation and abilities of the Platoon continued to spread throughout the country. Now on the Afghanistan and Pakistan border, the Platoons Force Protection mission required numerous FOB (Forward Operating Base) tasks. Rebuilding the Entry Control Point (ECP), and “miles” of Triple Standard Concertina fence just to mention a few. Once again, the mission... ‘Keep the bad guy away, while the TF works on a road reconstruction project’.

After 1589 missions, 24/7 ECP/VCP operations, and countless miles of escorts, the Platoon arrived home on 21 April 2006. The Country of Afghanistan, many Active Duty Units and Coalition Forces, now know who the 107th Engineer Battalion and a “Yoooper” is. Your soldiers performed impeccably and represented you well!!!”

SFC Jeffrey A. Gibson
Yooper "7"
Platoon Sergeant



Members of the B Co Sapper Platoon were:

SPC Steven Aiuppy; SGT Michael Anderson; SGT Jason Arsenaault; SPC Joshua Bean; SPC Mark Elegeert; SGT Eric Erickson; SPC Benjamin Fleming; SFC Jeffrey Gibson; SSG Darryl Goodman; PFC Patrick Hendricks; SPC Michael Kapusta; SPC Ryan Knox; SGT Michael Knuutila; SSG Michael Krym; SPC Stephen LaCourt; SPC David Larson; SPC Ronald Lemire; PFC David Lucas; SGT Edward Matthews; SPC Grover Munn; SSG Robert Nault; SSG Steven Pietila; 2LT Jason Rolling; SPC David Ruppel; SPC Cyle Slater; SPC Joshua Smith; SPC Grant Theisen; SPC Thomas Wakeham; and SGT Garrette Wall.

Several Soldiers from the 107th were involved in individual mobilizations with other units in Michigan. These Soldiers and units were:

1436th Engineer Company (Montague)- LT Christopher Coy (A); SGT Benjamin Eskola (B); LT Christopher Graham (A); SPC Robert Kemppainen (A); CPT Michael Nemetz (A); LT Scott Priztlaff (C); SFC James Sullivan (A); LT Todd Taylor (B); and SPC Melissa Wascher (A).

1073rd Maintenance Company (Greenville)- SPC BillieJo Padilla (B).

HHD 507th Engineer Battalion (Grayling)- SPC Lindsay Gallino (HHC); SPC Lisa Irish (B); SGT Brian Jarvi (HHC); and MAJ Robert Sexton (HHC).

425th Infantry (LRP)- SPC Joshua Cadotte (HHC) and SPC Brad Gurski (HHC).

TAPS



*Day is done, gone the sun
From the lake, from the hill.
From the sky
All is well, safely rest. God is nigh.
Thanks and praise for our days
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars,
'neath the sky.
As we go, this we know. God is nigh.*



Doll, Charles	29-SEP-04	H&S, 254th
Duff, Herbert L.	30-JUN-05	B/107R
Smoley, Russell	15-AUG-05	
Schmitt, John W.	30DEC 2003	
Kiminki, Reino		A 254
Cummings, Murray H.	NOV 2005	112 th /254
Vickstrom, Marie C. (Ed)	11 DEC 2005	
Texmunt, Albert C.	29 APR 06	A 107 Rgt, 32 ID

Reunion Details

Dates:
21-23 July 2006

Location:
Ishpeming Armory, 900 Palms Avenue, Ishpeming, Michigan

For your convenience, here is a list of the motels/camping in our area for you to stay at:

Motels:

*Best Western Country Inn	850 US Hwy 41, Ishpeming	(906) 485-6345
*Jasper Ridge Inn		(906) 485-2378
*Wonderland Motel	Across from the Armory	(906) 485-1044
*Triangle Motel	US 41 West Ishpeming	(906) 485-5537
*Quartz Mountain Inn	791 US 41 E, Negaunee	(906) 475-4865
Brentwood Motor Inn	2603 W US 41, Marquette	(906) 228-7494
Lamplighter Motel	US 41, Marquette	(906) 228-4004
Value Host Motor Inn	US 41/McClellan Ave, Marquette	(906) 225-5000
Holiday Inn	1951 US 41 East, Marquette	(906) 225-1351
Super 8 Motel	1275 US 41 West, Marquette	(906) 228-8100
Cedar Motor Inn	2523 US41 West, Marquette	(906) 228-2280
Comfort Suites	2463 US 41 West, Marquette	(906) 228-0028
Days Inn	2403 US 41 West, Marquette	(906) 225-1393
Imperial Motel	2493 US 41 West, Marquette	(906) 228-7430
Ramada Inn	412 W Washington, Marquette	(906) 228-6000

Campgrounds:

*Country Village RV Park	1200 Country Lane, Ishpeming	(906) 486-0300
Van Riper State Park	18 Miles West of Ishpeming	(800) 447-2757

* Located within 10 Miles of the Armory

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: To Make or Cancel a Banquet Reservation, Please notify the individuals below:

1. **Before 1 July 2006** mail the below notice to: 107th Engineer Association, 900 Palms Ave., Ishpeming, MI 49849-1064
2. **After 1 July 2006** Call the Ishpeming Armory at 906-485-2520.
PLEASE RETURN THE BELOW SECTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, **WHETHER OR NOT** YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE REUNION, to ensure the information concerning you is correct. This will also help us a great deal in preparing for this years Reunion.

-----CLIP AND SEND IN BELOW INFORMATION / RETAIN THE ABOVE-----

1. I _____ be present for the 45th Annual Reunion of the 107th Engineer Association at Ishpeming, Michigan
(will or will not)
2. Reserve _____ place(s) for me at the banquet / dance on 22 July 2006, My guest(s) for this event will be
_____.
3. *(Please check one)*
____My association dues of _____ (\$5.00 per year or) are enclosed for _____ years;
-or-
____My association lifetime membership dues of \$50.00 are enclosed.
-or-
____I am a lifetime member.
(Optional)
____Enclosed are \$ _____ towards printing and mailing expense.

3. My name and address is _____

4. I joined the 107 / 112 / 254 / 522 at _____ year of _____

5. I left the _____ at _____ because _____

For Those individuals with **Internet Access** please complete the following:

6. My Email address is:_____.
7. _____(Please Check) I elect to receive future “Bull Sheet” editions at “<http://www.107thEngineers.org>”, the association web site.