

In Case You Were Wondering?????

Do you ever wonder who takes care of things while BG Welch is on R&R?? We did a little investigating from the home front and checked in with the office while he was away. This is what we found out. Thanks Wyoming National Guard for all your help.



Pistol Pete is on the job!!!



It was great to see so many of our military family and friends. The Diamond Jaxx event was a great tribute to our troops serving and those of us that support them. A BIG THANK YOU and hats off to the folks responsible for all their hard work.

I also want to thank all the support people from the 194th for their dedicated work. Three ladies that need special recognition are: Kim Brantley, Tracey Moore and Linda Norwood and there are no words that express what these folks have done and are still doing for our troops.

Karen Hoffmeister

A Military Wives Prayer

At night when I crawl into bed;
 My lonely pillow 'neath my head;
 I close my eyes and say a prayer;
 "God keep him safe way over there;
 And make me strong so I won't cry;
 It's kind of hard to be alone;
 To teach the kids when there half grown;
 With out the strength of a father's hand;
 To guide them in this troubled land;
 And God will you please let him know;
 How much we love and miss him so,"
 And then I feel across the bed;
 To where he use to lay his head.
 And whisper to the evening air;
 "Good night my darling way over there."
 Author Unknown

Linda,

On behalf of myself, my daughter and son-in-law, we would like to commend all of you who made the Diamond Jaxx night a memorable success. We know a lot of hard work, planning, and organizing was essential for the great evening. We were given the "red carpet" treatment and also a tasty meal. The recorded messages from the soldiers home were priceless. It was a night of great pride for all the families of our deployed soldiers. The friendships and camaraderie we have formed will never be forgotten. We miss our loved ones terribly and are experiencing and dealing with many of the same issues, but we all are looking forward to their safe return soon. My husband assures me constantly, "this is not forever, we are two-thirds the way done, and I'll be home soon". We are looking forward to that day... when all our loved ones are once again home.

Thank you again,

Debbie Hopkins

194th



August Issue

KARS

194th Engineer Website
www.194engineers.com



Kids Awaiting Returning Soldiers

FUN AT THE PARK !!!!

Thank you to our soldiers for allowing us to have the freedom to enjoy days like these.



As you can see July 29th was a great success for the families and soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard at the Diamond Jaxx game. The camo baseball jerseys were outstanding and the Diamond Jaxx really showed their pride for the National Guard. General Hargett threw out a great first pitch and the children enjoyed the field of dreams and running the bases. It was a nice time to relax and enjoy the game with family and friends. Throughout the entire evening families enjoyed their messages being played from their soldiers. Thank you for all your participation and hard work for making this a reality for all of us.

Andy came home on July 24th for his R&R and our house finally felt like a home again after 8 months. It was great having him home. He got to visit with both of our families and we had dinner with his sister to celebrate both his and her birthdays. Garrett's 3 year old preschool class presented him with a flag they had made with their handprints and we really appreciate Ms. Juanita and Ms. Amber and all of the JCS staff for taking time with Lauren and Garrett to ask about their dad. It has really been a blessing knowing they are with people who really care. We also took Garrett to Andy's Great Uncle Warren's barber shop to get a haircut like dad. Uncle Warren always asks about the soldiers of the 194th. Lauren couldn't wait to go to the bookstore with Andy and go swimming. Those two really love their daddy. It was hard letting him go back but we know the sooner the job is done the sooner everyone will be home. Lauren made me promise not to cry but that was just one promise I wasn't able to keep. A few days have gone by now since he has gone back and we are almost back in our routine again. We pray for all the soldiers and their families every night and know we aren't alone. Andy, be safe-we love you and we miss you and we're proud of you!



CD Project of Our Troops

A CD is being compiled of pictures taken throughout the deployment. It has started with the day the soldiers left the armory in November and will end on the day they come home. Please submit pictures you would like me to use to wamtlm@charter.net We will have enough CD's for all families to have as a keepsake when they return.

Pictures At Home

Email pictures from your soldiers R&R time at home along with the information to wamtlm@charter.net and I will include it in the upcoming newsletters. Don't forget-as long as you can present a valid military ID you can meet your soldier at the gate when they get home.

Let Us Continue to Remember These in our Thoughts and Prayers...

230th McKenzie/Milan Company

Family of SSG Dustin Carroll

Family of SPC Christopher Lewis

1st Sgt Johnny Walker on the loss of his father

Mrs. Linda Welch on the loss of her father

Union City Company

(All 194th Soldiers)

All US Troops and Allied Forces

SSG Tony McNeil

Please send additions to wamtlm@charter.net

All soldiers and families of the 278th
LTC Jeff Gaylord serving in Afghanistan

HQ 194TH ENGINEER BRIGADE FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER



YOUR FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Tennessee National Guard Family Programs office has set up Family Assistance Centers at several armories all across the state to assist the families of our deployed soldiers during the soldiers' absence. These Family Assistance centers are staffed by full time civilian employees who are called Family Assistance Center Workers (FAC workers).

The Jackson FAC workers are myself, (Terry Black) and Dennis Moon. We are at the Jackson armory five days a week from 8:00 to 4:30. We are here for you as a family member of a deployed soldier. We are here to assist you in any manner in which we can. If you have problems or questions with Tricare, pay problems, legal problems, problems with the soldier's employer, emergencies, or anything else that you think we might be able to help you with, call on us. My phone number is 731-421-8617; Dennis is 731-421-8605. I also have a toll free number in my office which is 888-240-1155. Feel free to contact us, we are here for you.

I think the deployment has gone remarkable well for most of our family members so far, thanks to the determination and positive attitude that you, the family members have displayed. And most of all thanks to having wonderful, highly dedicated leadership in our Family Readiness Group, namely Jerry and Linda Norwood and Tracey Moore. I've never known a more caring person than Linda! In the past nine months she has dedicated her life to helping our families through the deployment. I hope each of you don't miss the opportunity to give Linda a hug and thank her for all that she is doing. (She'll kill me for putting this in the newsletter, but I'll have to take that chance)!

Pictures At Home....



Steve and his dad



Steve and some friends



Steve and his grandmother



Steve, Shelby, and Becca at the airport (going back to Iraq)

Steve came home on Wednesday June 29th for his 2 week visit. We had a wonderful visit and tried not to have his whole leave planned out so he could spend some time at home and just relax with his family. The first weekend of his visit, we were awoken early that Saturday morning to find out we were going to be an aunt and uncle again, so this day was fully occupied with the birth of our beautiful niece Maddie.

The next few days were spent just enjoying the weather, grass, flowers, and sand free air. Steve awoke early every morning just to spend a few moments watering the flowers. A couple days were spent cooking on the grill and eating with family and friends. We really enjoyed our visit and can't hardly wait until this year is over...

I have seen the individual family members of this unit merge into one big HHC 194th EN Bde family. I am proud to be a part of this family and encourage each one of you to enjoy the same pride that I have. Everyone has to handle deployment in their own way. Maybe you don't choose to participate in the meetings and scheduled events. That is your choice to make. But, please know that sharing time with other family members who are "in the same boat", can make coping with deployment a lot easier.

As we start counting the months and days, (I know lots of you have been counting for a long time already), until the soldiers return, let us all keep hoping and praying for their safe return and let's all get ready to celebrate their return as a family! There will be scheduled events to give us the opportunity as a group (family) to welcome them back and rejoice together. I encourage each of you to join in the excitement and be a part of the family!

Remember; call on Dennis or me anytime you need help. We're here for you, you are never alone!

Reunion Training Announced

There will be a Reunion Training session to be conducted by the state Chaplains' office at the McWherter Center of Jackson State Community College on September 20th. This will be a two hour training course to help prepare family members for dealing with reuniting with the soldiers upon their return. All family members are encouraged to attend this session. The briefing will be from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

In addition the Am South Bank of Jackson has graciously offered to provide a barbecue buffet meal for those attending this session. There will be hotdogs for the kids and recreational activities will be provided for the kids, (inflatable slide, jumper, etc.). The meal will begin at approximately 5:00 P.M. Weather permitting the meal will be served outside.

This can be an enjoyable as well as informational event and once again give family members of our different deployed units a chance to interact together. Please encourage everyone to attend. Let me know if you have questions.

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