

## The 101st Engineer Battalion Takes a Look Back

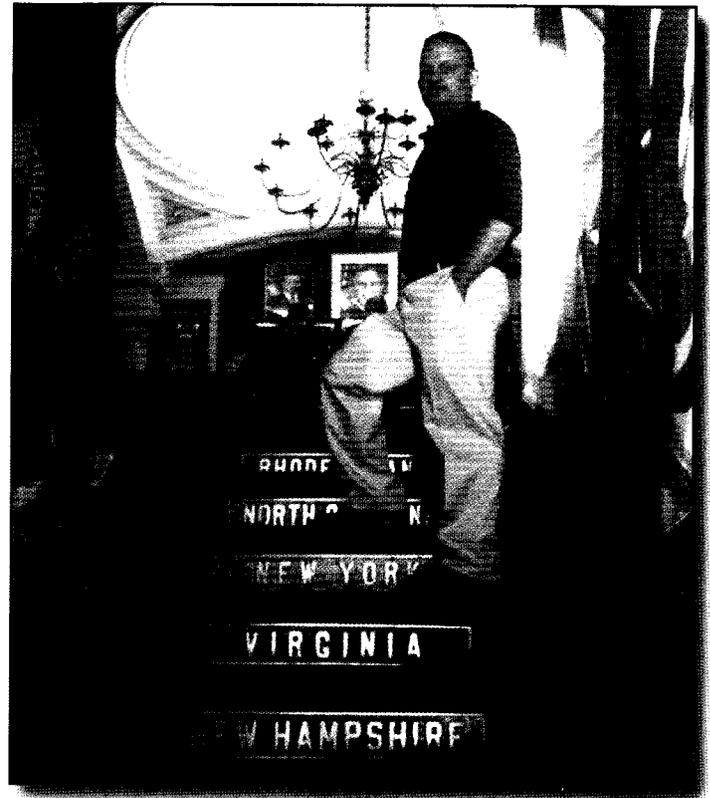
By Army 2nd Lt. Ben Smith, 101st Engineer Battalion

**BOSTON** – Soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion, bound by a strong sense of esprit de corps, gathered in Boston's Faneuil Hall, Sept. 11, 2008, to conduct professional development training by celebrating the battalion and its distinguished history. The event was designed to study the profession of arms; increase regimental cohesion; and spark an interest in the heritage of one of the nation's oldest units. The 101st Engineers proudly carry the lineage of the East Regiment, which was one of the three original militia units created in 1636 to defend the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Hosted by the Massachusetts Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, this gathering of the successors of the East Regiment Minutemen highlighted the recent overseas service of the 182nd Engineer Company – (Sapper) – in Iraq. Those in attendance recognized veterans of all conflicts and observed a moment of silence for the fallen warriors from The Global War on Terror.

Seven years earlier, on Sept. 11, America marked one of the darkest hours in her history. Since that day, Soldiers of the Massachusetts National Guard have shown their devotion to duty and patriotism as Guardsmen have shown in every conflict since 1636. East Regiment Minutemen have proudly served the commonwealth of Massachusetts and the nation for 372 years in both foreign and domestic calls to arms.

Members of the battalion's leadership held professional discussions about the common past and shared experiences back to colonial times with members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. Brig. Gen. (Mass.) Emery A. Maddox delivered a historical lecture about the colonial American military from the First Muster to the end of the



*Army Command Sgt. Maj. Peter K. Chase, 101st Engineer Battalion, stands on the steps leading to the meeting room for the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in Faneuil Hall, Boston, Sept. 11, 2008. Chase's ancestor, Pvt. John Chase, was a survivor of the Bloody Brook Battle in Deerfield, Mass., May 18, 1676. Courtesy photo*

Revolutionary War. He pointed out many interesting facts about the lineage of the 101st Engineers, notably that Gen. George Washington had chartered Col. John Glover's East Regiment Militiamen to cross the Delaware River. ★

designed to simulate what their Soldier encountered during Soldier Readiness Processing prior to deployment. Sponsored by the state youth coordinator and supported by the unit youth volunteer and the unit's rear detachment, stations are provided for children to experience everything from camouflage to survival tactics. Teens are encouraged to participate and expand their leadership experience by supporting many of the OYD stations which present information on topics such as physical fitness, health values and the American flag. The kids can also write letters to their loved ones.

Gear UP and Gear UP Jr. are programs designed to help Guard Youth build leadership skills in a fun and interactive way. Have you ever wanted to be a leader? Have you ever thought of what kind of leader you may be? As you meet new friends, experience challenges, work as a team, laugh and enjoy yourself, you will find the answer to those questions and more.

The National Guard Youth Program partners with Operation Military Kids, a national program which interacts with local communities to support military children. OMK is instrumental in supporting our unit family readiness group youth by sponsoring field trips, parties and activities. They

join with our state coordinator and youth volunteers at many Guard events such as Gear Up training, summer camps and pre- and post-deployment briefings. Their latest initiative, a Mobile Technology Lab, has been extensively used by our Guard Youth. The MTL consists of multiple laptops and a digital and video camera. The technology lab is transported to youth events and used to create greeting cards as well as to record messages for deployed loved ones. It is indeed a high-tech experience for our Guard Youth.

Speak Out for Military Kids is a program designed for military and non-military teens to talk about what it is like to be a "military kid." SOMK is often produced at a public television studio where Guard Youth experience television fame and learn the ins and outs of film production. This is their opportunity to reach out to non-military youth and express their feelings and educate their peers about military life.

The State Youth Program values the importance of our youngest generation and understands that today's Guard Youth are facing unique challenges. If you would like to learn more about the Guard Youth Program, please call (888) 301-3103, ext. 7290. ★