



**18th Engineer Brigade  
United States Army  
Unit 29060  
APO AE 09081**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RELEASE: 2010-11-22-06**

**November 22, 2010**

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**18<sup>th</sup> Engineers Tackle the Field**

Story by Pfc. David Huddleston, 18<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

**18th Engineers finish flag football season with 8-4 record, good memories**

HEIDELBURG, Germany – Soldiers from the 18th Engineer Brigade tackled the flag football field at Patton Barracks here as part of the 2010 Heidelberg unit-level flag football league competition season.

The 18th Eng. Bde. participates in unit sports such as flag football with the intention of providing Soldiers with an active way to get out of the barracks, have fun, and build stronger relationships with other units and with each other. The 18th Eng. Bde. Soldiers challenged various teams from around the Heidelberg area during the flag football league season.

The soldiers played well as a team as a result of getting along on and off the field, and the team won several games before its first loss.

“We started off strong,” said Spc. Mark Grabow, a technical engineer specialist with the 18th Eng. Bde. and a native of New York Mills, Minn.

A key piece of the 18th Eng. Bde.’s playing method involved everyone on the team receiving playing time.

“The morale, motivation, effort and cohesion were great,” said 1st Sgt. Thetus Roberts, the first sergeant of HHC, 18th Eng. Bde. and the team’s manager, who is from Detroit.

This allowed the engineer Soldiers a chance to bond outside of the work atmosphere and create a stronger team. With the intense team spirit and motivation, every person – players and supporters alike – had fun, despite a few losses.

Grabow said a big part of their success was the result of a play called “wing it” where everyone did what they wanted. Plays such as this kept the game fun, the team motivated and the opposing team guessing.

The team finished the season with eight wins and four losses in the regular season, giving the team a 3rd place finish. Their one win and two losses in the double elimination post season playoffs ended their season.

CUTLINES:



Sgt. Rennato Lopez, a maintenance noncommissioned officer from Houston, jumps to catch the ball during a flag football game against U.S. Army Garrison-Heidelberg Oct. 13 at Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. The 18th Eng. Bde. ended the season with an 8-4 record. (Photo by Pfc. David Huddleston, 18th En. Bde. Public Affairs)



Pfc. Frank Rienzi, an 18th Engineer Brigade mechanic from Warren, Ohio, makes a touchdown reception during a flag football game against U.S. Army Garrison-Heidelberg Oct. 13 at Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. The 18th Eng. Bde. finished the season in 3rd place overall. (Photo by Pfc. David Huddleston, 18th En. Bde. Public Affairs)



1st Sgt Thetus Roberts , the HHC, 18th Engineer Brigade first sergeant, from Detroit, motivates the Soldiers of the brigade flag football team Oct. 25 during a game at Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. (Photo by Capt. Kathryn Werback, 18th En. Bde. Public Affairs)