

5th Signal Command

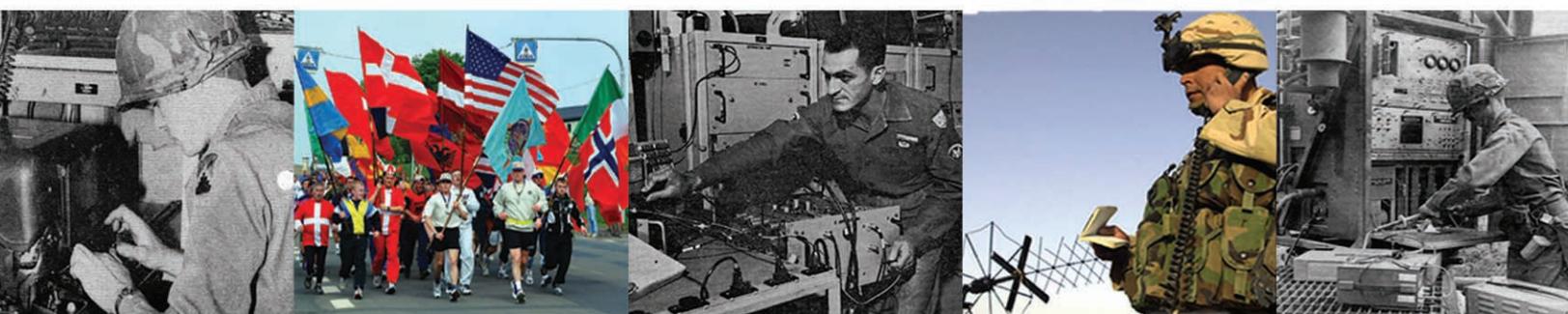
ECHO



DRAGON
WARRIORS



Joint, Combined, Transforming,
and Ready



Fall-Winter 2004

40th Anniversary congratulations



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, and SEVENTH ARMY
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

December 1, 2004

I want to congratulate and thank all communicators in Europe, past and present, who have transformed the way we provide battle command communications on the battlefield and in our operational base infrastructure.

Over the past 40 years, 5th Signal Command has provided joint and combined communications to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and our coalition partners, revolutionizing the way we do business -- all evident in the battle command systems we use today. From a backbone of tube radios to a fiber infrastructure and from analog telephones to video teleconferencing, the Signal transformation has had a positive impact on our ability to meet today's challenges. Real time, we can go eyeball to eyeball with our ground commanders and coalition partners, while seeing the battlefield via satellite communications, enabling sound decisions to defeat the enemy while minimizing casualties.

The evolution of communications within 5th Signal Command has been phenomenal, and I am proud that communicators are continuing to evolve by becoming smaller, lighter, and deployable, while at the same time increasing the capabilities to the warfighter. I challenge communicators worldwide to continue their tremendous efforts in support of this global transformation. I know I can count on the Soldiers and Civilians in 5th Signal Command to be ready to support Any Mission, Anywhere.

Congratulations on this superb milestone and thanks for your sincere commitment to the USAREUR and Joint team. Happy 40th Anniversary, 5th Signal Command.

Sincerely,

B. B. Bell
General, US Army
Commanding

DER OBERBÜRGERMEISTER



STADT MANNHEIM²



Grüßwort

Das Europäische Fernmeldekommando feiert in diesem Jahr sein 40-jähriges Bestehen. Ich beglückwünsche General Pollett sowie alle Soldaten und zivilen Angestellten der amerikanischen Streitkräfte – auch namens des Gemeinderates und der Verwaltung unserer Stadt – sehr herzlich zu diesem erfreulichen Jubiläum.

Ich bin stolz, dass unsere Stadt seit 1996 Sitz des Hauptquartiers des „5th Signal Command“ ist, welches Streitkräfte in 91 europäischen Ländern, dem Mittleren Osten und Afrika, mit moderner Kommunikationstechnologie unterstützt. Die US-Army und ihre Angehörigen sind zu einem nicht wegzudenkenden Teil der Stadt geworden. Gutnachbarschaftliche Kontakte und zahlreiche freundschaftliche Verbindungen zwischen „unseren“ Amerikanern und der deutschen Bevölkerung – aber auch den vielen Menschen anderer Nationen – sind längst Tradition in unserer Stadt.

Das Jubiläum ist mir ein willkommener Anlass, allen Angehörigen des „5th Signal Command“ für die gute Zusammenarbeit mit der Stadt Mannheim zu danken. Ich freue mich, das vertrauensvolle und konstruktive Miteinander auch in Zukunft fortzusetzen.

Mannheim, im Juli 2004

Gerhard Widder
Oberbürgermeister

Translation on page 38

DER OBERBÜRGERMEISTER DER STADT



Grüßwort

Das 40-jährige Bestehen des 5. Fernmeldekommandos der US-Army in Europa ist für mich ein willkommener Anlass, alle ehemaligen Kommandeure und den amtierenden General und seine Offiziere im Rathaus zu begrüßen. Darüber hinaus habe ich gerne unsere „gute Stube“, das Schloss Herrnsheim, General Pollett für einen Empfang zur Verfügung gestellt, um dem Jubiläum den gebührenden Rahmen zu geben.

Ich freue mich sehr darüber, dass viele ehemalige Kommandeure der Einladung nach Worms gefolgt sind.

In den 22 Jahren, in denen das 5. Fernmeldekommando in der Taukkunnen-Kaserne untergebracht war, entstanden viele Verbindungen, die auch den Wegzug nach Mannheim überstanden haben.

Aus früheren Gegnern wurden Freunde, Freunde, an die wir uns immer gerne erinnern werden. Ich hoffe, dass die Verbindungen zum 5th Signal Command noch lange erhalten bleiben und wir sie noch oft als Gäste in unserer Nibelungenstadt begrüßen dürfen.

(Michael Kissel)
Oberbürgermeister



HEADQUARTERS
Network Enterprise Technology Command/ 9th Army Signal Command
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

1 July 2004

I would like to express my congratulations to all our European communicators, past and present, who continue to provide quality communications to the warfighter and throughout the European Command area of operations. You are revolutionizing the way the entire force communicates with our allies and sister servicemen and women. In this effort, you are globalizing command and control communications systems and getting the message down to the tip of the spear.

Since your inception in 1964 as the Strategic Communications Command and later renamed the 5th Signal Command, the USAREUR signaleers have transformed our Regiment and our Army to meet ever changing global communications challenges. European communications have evolved beyond anyone's imagination of 40 years ago into a vibrant fiber infrastructure providing high bandwidth and improved quality of service to commanders on the battlefield reaching back into their base infrastructure.

The dedication of the 5th Signal Command team of professionals is commendable. Today our Soldier, DA Civilian and Contractor workforce is providing communications on the training fields, at the logistic bases and on the battlefields across Europe, Africa and the Middle East in support of peace keeping operations and the Global War on Terrorism. I am confident your efforts to evolve communications throughout Europe and to deployed forces will set the standard for future generations of signal professionals. I challenge the 5th Signal team to remain vigilant and innovative in finding communication solutions that provide warfighters with the tools and combat multipliers they need to fight and defeat our nation's enemies.

Happy 40th Anniversary, Communicators!

James C. Hylton
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Translation on page 38

The cover pages highlight 5th Signal Command's area of operation in Europe and are dedicated to Soldiers, civilians, and family members, both past and present. Concept designed by Christine Petersen, VISE Media.

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From the Commander



Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett

"Our uncompromising goal is to be better and more relevant joint warfighters, while taking care of our Soldiers and families."

*Gen. B.B. Bell,
Commander General, United States Army,
Europe and 7th Army*

Combat ready and transforming

As 5th Signal Command celebrates 40 years of dedicated service to our nation and U.S. Army Europe, we must not forget that each day American Soldiers remain vigilant against the Global War on Terrorism, ensuring and protecting our American values and beliefs in freedom.

Throughout this issue of the ECHO Magazine you will meet several of 5th Signal Command's unsung heroes: Spc. Sean Vineyard, 72nd Signal Battalion; Ms. Francis Jordan, 43d Signal Battalion; and Staff Sgt. Daniel Taveras, 44th Signal Battalion, who enable joint and combined operations while continuously transforming to enhance and ensure information dominance to the warfighter.

Combat readiness is our number one priority; leaders must ensure rapidly deployable satellite communications with Soldiers who are trained and ready to operate in any environment with an expeditionary mindset. This must be coupled with an aggressive expansion of the operational base infrastructure to leverage the Global Information Grid and to enable extension to the objective area, while providing reach back to sanctuary command posts.

As the Soldiers of 7th Signal Brigade, led by Col. Jennifer Napper, transition operational con-

trol of the network in Operation Iraqi Freedom to the 160th Signal Brigade, I must recognize their exceptional performance in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait in direct support of United States Central Command. Ten months ago, the brigade, under the 335th Theater Signal Command, assumed this tremendous signal mission. They focused on enabling the joint and coalition warfighters with reliable, robust communications while steadily transforming the network from a highly tactical operational flexibility to a commercial infrastructure, which was enhanced by the successful integration and expertise of over 800 Army Reserve and National Guard communicators. 7th Signal Brigade earned a reputation throughout the theater as the "go to" team for any technical challenge or critical mission. The brigade has once again established itself as the **"Voice of Freedom!"**

The 2nd Signal Brigade, under a new commander, Col. Robert Ferrell, has remained engaged, providing the critical operational base infrastructure for the European theater, while assuming operational control to resource, man, equip, and train Soldiers and civilians of the 44th and 509th Signal Battalions for their upcoming mission in Afghanistan. The 2nd

Brigade and its operational battalions are the executing arm for implementing theater-wide initiatives, serving as the foundation to transform USAREUR into a network-centric, knowledge-based enterprise system. While transforming the enterprise and enhancing capabilities, the **"Brigade of Excellence"** remains focused on continuously upgrading the network to meet the increasing requirements in this high OPTEMPO theater.

Though very proud of our 40-year heritage, we, the Soldiers and civilians of 5th Signal Command, must now ensure our focus and thrust are clearly aligned for the future. We will continue to meet new challenges through transformation, while setting the conditions to meet our joint and combined requirements. Taking care of Soldiers, civilians, and families is essential to our force well being. Knowing families are safe and cared for is a combat multiplier, allowing Soldiers to focus on their mission. Our command will continue to transform to ensure reliable cutting edge communications throughout Europe and beyond, with well-trained, motivated, and dedicated Soldiers, civilians, and supportive families. We are the Dragon Warriors of 5th Signal Command!

**"Dragon Warriors,
Any Mission, Anywhere!"**



From the Command Sergeant Major



Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell

"I just reacted, and the training took over," said Pfc. Jessica Nicholson, after single-handedly apprehending a man twice her size trying to get into the Green Zone in Baghdad.

*Pfc. Jessica Nicholson
HHC, 40th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division*

Achievements while transforming

Happy Anniversary, 5th Signal Command! This year marks 40 years of dedicated men and women who have served in this command. Our anniversary celebration events reminisced on the past and brought about excitement for the future. We were fortunate to have some of the past commanders, chiefs of staff, and command sergeants major join us to share this time. A visit to Worms, the original home of 5th Signal Command; an open house; a tour of the historical collection; and a retreat ceremony were some of the events that marked this important time in our history. 5th Signal Command's Soldiers and civilians have played a vital role in transforming Europe into a healthy continent and our Army into the power it is today; be proud of that heritage.

The European Theater Signal Ball was a great success. With 2nd Signal Brigade as the lead coordinating agent, the ball's theme was 'Sergeants Enabling Victory.' It was a great tribute to the noncommissioned officers (NCOs). The NCO Corps planned and executed this memorable evening. Our guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Gravens, command sergeant major, United States Army Europe (USAREUR), contributed a special touch as the guest speaker, and

many of our top senior enlisted leaders provided comments through video clips. We were even able to get a few words from our quiet and unassuming Regimental Sergeant Major from Ft. Gordon, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry.

On my recent visit to 7th Signal Brigade in Kuwait, I had the opportunity to spend time with our deployed Soldiers and civilians. Despite the intense heat and family separations, their dedication and pride in accomplishing the mission were evident. Significant in their efforts to support the warfighter were the teamwork and partnership between Active, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers in our goal toward a Total Army.

Our Army is transforming. You often hear the acronyms and terms: Unit of Action (UA), Unit of Employment - Division Level (UeX), Corps/Army (UeY), modularity, joint, and combined. Change has always been a constant in our Army. The changes coming will provide for more cohesive and combat-ready formations, stabilization allowing for more predictability for our Soldiers and their families, and rebalancing of our force between the active duty, the Army National Guard, and the Army Reserve. I encourage you to accept the changes and challenges,

and be an active part of transforming and improving our Army. We are an Army at war, and each and everyone contribute to the success of our mission.

For the first time in 5th Signal Command's history, we achieved both NCO and Soldier of the year at the Network Enterprise Technology Command. Staff Sgt. John Manning from the 43rd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, and Spc. Mary Lynn Villafane from the 72nd Signal Battalion, 7th Signal Brigade won the prestigious recognition this year. This is a great accomplishment for them and our command. This challenging competition requires the NCO and Soldier to be at the top of their class in areas of physical fitness, land navigation, common tasks, and world events knowledge as well as military appearance. Congratulations to both of them; we are proud to have these fine Americans on our team.

Keep our deployed Soldiers and civilians in your thoughts and prayers. Maintain your vigilance and support our efforts in providing the best force protection for our communities.

**"Dragon Warriors,
Any Mission, Anywhere!"**





Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Williams and Col. Jennifer Napper case the colors of the 7th Signal Brigade in a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Doha. The 160th Signal Brigade takes over operations from the departing unit.

7th Signal Brigade completes mission

Ceremony marks historic transfer of authority in theater communications

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait (Oct. 30) - The 7th Signal Brigade marked the end of its historic deployment with a transfer of authority ceremony here today. After 10 months in theater, the unit handed over its mission to the 160th Signal Brigade. The event marks a major transition in theater communications as the 160th assumed operational oversight of missions that both units shared over the past year. The changeover allows for a significant reduction in tactical signal equipment and Soldiers required in theater.

Brig. Gen. Donna Dacier, 335th Theater Signal Command (Forward) deputy commander, was the guest speaker at the event and said the transfer indicates that we've passed from major combat operations into the security and stability

phase of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

"You've made a seamless transition between the tactical side of the signal community to the strategic side of the signal community," she added.

During its deployment, the 7th Signal Brigade, from Mannheim, Germany, played a critical role in the transition of the tactical communications network to an operational base network. The brigade brought together units from the National Guard, Reserve, and Regular Army into a single signal communications force that supported a variety of organizations and missions, from Marines in Iraq to multinational forces in Afghanistan.

"You have made history," said Col. Jennifer Napper, commander, 7th Signal Brigade. "You have fulfilled my vision of making this one team, one network."

The unit will now begin redeployment operations as the Camp Arifjan-based 160th takes over operational oversight of the network. The 160th Signal Brigade was reactivated just over one year ago, and organized with a largely civilian workforce specifically for this unique mission. The takeover marks a positive change in Operation Iraqi Freedom as fewer Soldiers will be needed to continue the communications transformation process in theater.

After the colors of the 7th Signal Brigade were cased, Col. John Wilcox, commander, 160th Signal Brigade, closed the ceremony by thanking the departing Soldiers for their "hospitality, professionalism, and friendship."

"The 7th Signal Brigade, and the 11th Signal Brigade before them, in their roles as expeditionary signal brigades, have done a great job in laying the groundwork as well as miles and miles of cable for this historic day, and 160th Signal Brigade...stands ready to accept the challenge of continuing their tremendous service," he said.

For stories covering 7th Signal Brigade's deployment, see pages 39-57.

5th Signal Command units designated for OEF6

**Information compiled from
USAREUR Press Releases**

MANNHEIM, Germany - Two 5th Signal Command units have been named among the more than 60 United States Army Europe (USAREUR) units scheduled to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 (OIF3) or Operation Enduring Freedom 6 (OEF6).

44th Signal Battalion in Mannheim, Germany, and a platoon from 509th Signal Battalion in Vicenza, Italy, are scheduled to deploy in spring of 2005.

Elements of Charlie, Alpha, and Headquarters Companies of the

44th Signal Battalion redeployed from OIF last April.

USAREUR commander, Gen. B. B. Bell, commented on the OIF/OEF missions during Land Combat Expo 2004 in September saying, "The United States Army Europe remains deeply engaged in both these missions. We will remain deeply engaged, and we will continue to provide trained and ready forces for these missions as they are called upon."

USAREUR has sent more than 50,000 troops over the last few years to participate in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Approximately 4,600 troops made up

of a task force from the United States Army Southern European Task Force, including the 173rd Airborne Brigade, along with aviation, engineers, and signal and logistics support elements will support OEF6.

Additionally, approximately 2,600 troops mainly from the 18th Military Police Brigade with engineering, signal, and air ambulance elements will go to Iraq for OIF3.

"Many have predicted (the GWOT) will be a 50-year fight," Bell said. "One thing for certain is that this will be a fight of like-minded nations banding together formally and informally to win this war, so that our grandkids and their grandkids can live in a world that is free from this kind of insensitivity to the human dimension."

44th Signal Battalion equips itself for the fight

Story by

2nd Lt. Drew Q. Abell

(S-2 Staff, 44th Signal Battalion)

MANNHEIM, Germany - The 44th Signal Battalion has just become one of the newest owners of the Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade and Below. FBCB2 is a global satellite communications system that provides real-time situational awareness for commanders, staff, and Soldiers.

It offers text messaging and vehicle-tracking capabilities for the area of operation and provides the ability to track the location and present battlefield situation for friendly and enemy unit locations.

The system allows the user to communicate with near real-time

messaging and to quickly respond to convoy requests for assistance.

The system also eliminates the need for big bulky maps. It can

store numerous maps and satellite images on its 40-gigabyte hard drive and can search through them in a matter of seconds. The integration of this new system into the 44th Signal Battalion arsenal will greatly increase 44th ability to move and communicate while supporting the Global War on Terrorism.



Photo by Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano

General Dynamics contractor David Paynter installs the FBCB2 in an HMMWV.

44th Signal Battalion trains for the fight

Story by

Maj. Bernadette Hanley

(S-3 Staff, 44th Signal Battalion)

MANNHEIM, Germany - Training the way they'll need to be able to fight during an upcoming Operation Enduring Freedom 6 (OEF6) rotation in Afghanistan, 44th Signal Battalion put its Soldiers to the test late summer during a situational training exercise (STX). Almost 200 Soldiers participated in the realistic, scenario-based, three-day exercise at the Lampertheim Training Area (LTA) in Mannheim, Germany.

Leadership carefully planned the convoy reaction lanes to familiarize the Soldiers with six critical drills: reaction to improvised explosive device (IED), sniper fire, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG), direct and indirect fires, landmine, and ambush.

Battalion commander Lt. Col. Mark Churchwell stressed the importance of such training while addressing a group of Soldiers.



Photos by Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin

44th Soldiers scramble to take up a defensive position during exercise.

"I want your last days to be spent sitting on a porch with your loved ones, not at some intersection in Afghanistan because you didn't know how to react!" Churchwell asserted.

Eight battalion noncommissioned officers (NCOs) served as instructors. They began day one with classroom instruction about convoy operations and battle drills. By afternoon Soldiers were establishing standing operating procedures and practicing newly acquired skills during a rehearsal drill.

The NCOs became coaches on day two of the STX. Soldiers conducted the walk phase mission rehearsal with vehicles. Procedures and techniques taught in the classroom were called into play. One training scenario based on key points captured by the Center for Army Lessons Learned guidebook led convoy commanders to rehearse with their groups

44th Signal Battalion Soldiers work on slingloading during STX training.

SOPs such as on the use of light signals to communicate within the convoy when using the radio would not be an option. The guidebook records that keying a radio within the vicinity of an IED may actually trigger the explosive.

On the third day of the STX, the same NCO team of instructors worked as observer/controllers to evaluate the performance of each convoy as it encountered various threats. Each platoon received a mission to conduct a convoy from a specified grid location. At various points, the opposing force (OPFOR) Soldiers activated simulated IEDs and sniper fire, and conducted blocked ambushes with a M2.50 gun truck to test the reactions of the convoy members.

1st Lt. Tamisha Norris, Bravo Company platoon leader, 44th Signal Battalion, noted that the biggest challenge of the training was communicating on the battlefield as a convoy commander during an engagement.

"It was a real eye-opener to experience what can possibly happen downrange," she said.

The training exercise proved that the noise and confusion created

Continue on page 9



Dragon Impact 2004 MRX

"This exercise really sets the stage for success..."

*Lt. Col. Mark Churchwell,
Commander, 44th Signal Battalion*

Story by

Lt. Col. Lewis C. Naumchik

(Command Group, 2nd Signal Brigade)

MANNHEIM, Germany - Dragon Impact (DI) 2004 was action-packed training at its best. While the primary focus was preparing the units for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom 6 (OEF6) in Afghanistan, a secondary intent was to refine and improve network operations (NETOPS) drills for 5th's operational battalions. From Oct. 12, starting with a command-wide recall, to the end of the exercise on Oct. 15, the mission rehearsal exercise honed in on 5th Signal Command's and 2nd Signal Brigade's training. Soldiers and civilians received first-hand experience in rail- and air-loading procedures, personnel actions, and intelligence preparation.

DI's scenario for the first two days concentrated on preparing the units for deployment while the last two days simulated operations

and coordination actions in theater with the 509th. The 509th Commander, Lt. Col. Richard Price, and his staff served as the Joint Task Force J-6. Lt. Col. Mark Churchwell and Soldiers of the 44th Signal Battalion simulated operating tactical and strategic networks in Afghanistan. Churchwell, was extremely pleased with the support his unit received saying, "this exercise really set the stage for success as we move into Lion Challenge at Grafenwöhr, Germany and our follow-on de-ployment for OEF6."

Over the same time frame, each of the six operational battalions fielded nearly a 100 NETOPS exercise "injections" through their network operations and security centers (NOSCs). The NOSCs served as a forcing action to focus attention on command priorities including finalizing Common Access Cards and Public Key Infrastructure fielding, network accreditations, and readiness of the command's deployable communication packages. The culminating event was a simulated shut down of 5th Signal Command's Army Network Operations and Security

Centers-Europe (ANOSC-E). The "shut down" entailed a comprehensive rehearsal of concept (ROC) for the continuity of operations plan supporting all systems managed by this theater network center. Bruce Lewis, chief of the ANOSC-E, said, "the ROC drill forced us to take a hard look at vulnerabilities and the priority of some of the actions we have underway." Maj. Dwight Morgan, who led the NETOPS portion of DI, stressed, "While this year's exercise was really focused at the ANOSC-E and NOSC level, it also set the stage for us to drill down to the command's next level of emphasis, the network service centers for DI 2005."

Planning for DI 2005 begins shortly and is expected to engage all members of the command.



Photo by William Triplett

Soldiers and a civilian monitor network operations in the 5th Signal Command's ANOSC-E.

"44th trains for the fight"

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by more than 16,000 blank rounds, green smoke, artillery/hand grenade simulators, minefields, and heavy weapon simulators were realistic enough to weaken battle command capabilities of a convoy.

This was for many Soldiers a first experience with the chaos that inevitably follows a hostile en-

counter. Still, they worked together to assess casualties, provide 360-degree security, mitigate threats, negotiate obstacles, submit enemy contact reports, and speed out of the kill zone in order to regroup in a safer area. Media awareness, civilians on the battlefield, and rules of engagement were also introduced during the exercise.

Lessons learned from this training will be incorporated into

other training opportunities scheduled in November.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Taveras, one of the training NCOs, views the STX as invaluable, saying, "These Soldiers will be better off...at least they will have an idea what to expect. With this training, these Soldiers will have a taste for survival."

Communications and Simulation Operations Center enhances expeditionary training

Story by
Lt. Col. Gregory Brierly and
Lt. Col. Rick Kempf
(G-6 Staff, USAREUR)

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany - In the past, commanders across the Army, rehearsing for real-world missions, not only "fought the battle," but were also forced to fight the simulation. There was no integration or synchronization of the stove-pipe information or communications systems. Simulation feeds and tactical interfaces were not always transparent to the commander in the field. Exercise pauses were common and disrupted training, making it difficult to train for the operating tempo and intensity of real-world operations.

One year ago, the United States Army Europe (USAREUR) Commanding General faced these challenges while conducting the mission rehearsal exercise (MRX) prior to 1st Infantry Division's (1ID) deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The division fielded many

new battle command systems before its deployment, and many new procedures were developed to replicate the real-world environment for the rehearsal. USAREUR needed an organization focused on commanding and controlling the exercise simulations and communications. It must be able to orchestrate a "stress test" early in the exercise schedule to identify potential break points and develop "just-in-case" solutions for worst-case problems. Lastly, it had to monitor all of the simulations, communications networks, the division's tactical Battle Command Systems (BCS), and Collaborative Information Environment (CIE), and be able to



Photo provided by VISE Media

CSOC enabled USASETAF joint operations center battle command and collaborative information environment.

rapidly identify, isolate, and fix faults anywhere in the exercise network.

To meet this challenge, 7th Army Training Command and Expeditionary Training Center (7th ATC and ETC) partnered with 5th Signal Command, USAREUR's theater network command (TNC), to form the Communications and Simulation Operations Center (CSOC). The mission of the CSOC is to enable more realistic training by minimizing simulation- and communications-induced distractions to the training audience. This partnership is a critical piece in better preparing our expeditionary forces to operate in Army, joint and coalition environments that have become the norm as our nation fights the Global War on Terrorism.

The CSOC is a task force combining elements of 5th Signal Command, 7th ATC Directorate of Simulations (DOS), USAREUR G-3 Information Management Division (IMD), and the Central Test and Support Facility (CTSF). From les-

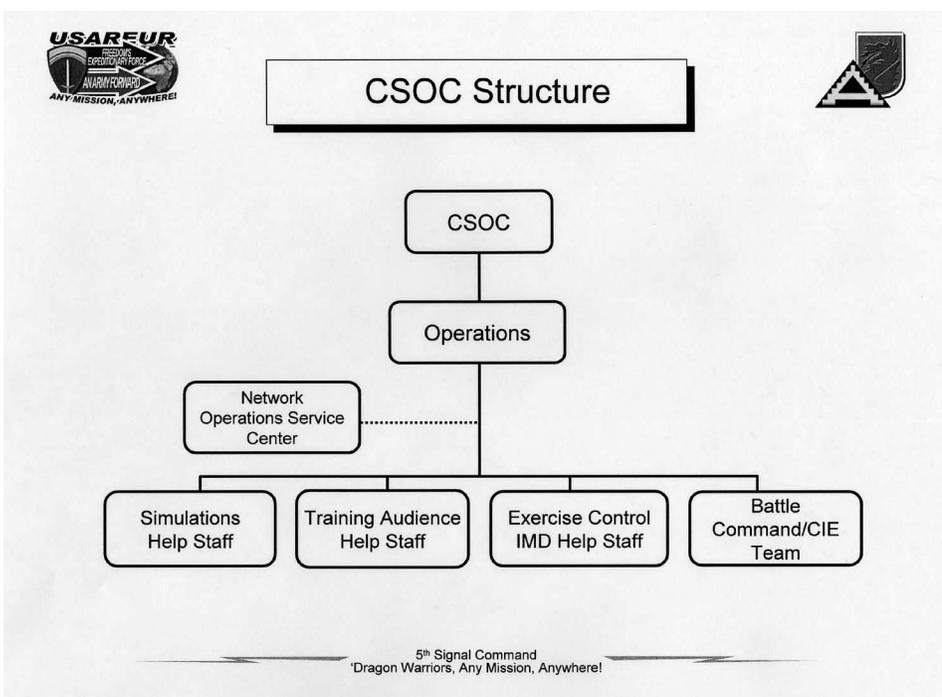


Chart provided by CSOC

Continued on page 19

Operationalizing battle command NETOPS

Story by

Lt. Col. Michael Kell

(Command Group, 69th Signal Battalion)

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany - The battle command, simulations, and communications communities are blending together to create a powerful capability to train elements of the United States Army Southern European Task Force (USASETAF) as they prepare to assume the mission of Combined Joint Task Force-76 (CJTF-76) in Afghanistan. The 2nd Signal Brigade and United States Army Europe (USAREUR) G-6 have the overall responsibility for linking communications and simulations with warfighter platforms to provide an integrated training enabler. The USAREUR G-6 controls this effort through the Communications and Simulations Operation Center (CSOC). Entering the CSOC, you pass into a world where the integration of battle command, simulations, and communications give the exercise director full visibility of CJTF-76 operations in

real-time. As the incoming Soldiers of CJTF-76 rehearse their mission during Lion Challenge 2005, a group of information warriors are making sure, from a virtual perspective, that everyone thinks they are in Afghanistan.

The battle staff from the 7th Army Training Command (7th ATC) Directorate of Simulations - Forward (DOS-F), USAREUR G-3, and 69th Signal Battalion analyze screens showing the status of simulations and command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems for any signs that the simulation infosphere has problems. The 10 positions in the CSOC provide full visibility on the status of the various simulations, networks, and battle command systems.

The CSOC does not respond to problems - it anticipates them. The synergy provided by a multi-functional staff allows them to correct problems in any of the systems before they can affect the training. If there is a failure, the CSOC quickly dispatches the proper team to fix the problem. Leveraging the Program Manager for Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Pro-

Dietmar Banasch (operator), and Waldemar Hassfurt (in bucket), of the 6981st Civilian Support Group, 2nd Signal Brigade, pull fiber optic cable from the joint operations center to "Lego Land" in Grafwöhr, Germany.

Photos by Melvin D. Tarpley, Jr.

gram (I3MP) and DOS-F's new joint operations center at Camp Aachen, Grafenwöhr Training Center, 5th Signal Command created the operational network required to support the Lion Challenge 2005 exercise.

Combined with the new DOS-F training facility, another major undertaking completed was the fiber infrastructure that created a permanent training network for units. The original plan called for completion in January 2005, but a quick change of mission forced an acceleration of building and fiber installation. The Program Manager for I3MP reallocated resources to support the new requirement and provided fiber to all the permanent facilities on Camp Aachen.

Once the fiber and buildings were connected, a new challenge arose in building a miniature-city in one of the motor pools. In less than seven days, over 300 temporary buildings were positioned, powered, and wired to form "Lego Land." The 6981st Civilian Support Group, from the 2nd Signal Brigade, ran over 10 miles of cable, fiber, and wire to support over 300 users with LandWarNet (Unclass), LandWarNet (Class), and coalition networks, along with secure and non-secure voice communications.

The final part of the overall support to USASETAF was the movement of the 69th Signal Battalion Network Operations and Security Center (NOSC) to Camp Aachen for the exercise. The NOSC move was the first for the command, but an essential element of establishing the CSOC. The NOSC provided network monitoring information to both the CSOC and CJTF-76 Joint C4 Control Center (JCCC), while at the same time providing training on

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RTSC students wait for a classmate to execute a class assignment to take their turn at hands-on learning.

32nd Signal Battalion Soldiers (l-r), Staff Sgt. David Vaughn and Spc. Robert Serigne, partner in their studies.

Training for readiness

**Story and Photos by
Monica Tullos**

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany - It has been a year since the Regional Training and Support Center opened its doors as Europe's information technology center. The evolving strategic environment and the broad range of tasks the U.S. Army performs require signal professionals to review and periodically update the way Soldiers are educated, trained, and developed professionally.

Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Holloway, automation noncommissioned officer in charge, 7th Signal Brigade, is an instructor for one of the three training programs at the RTSC -- Deployed Communications Capabilities Systems training. The school held a beta class in July. Contractors observed the teaching

techniques in order to develop a virtual curriculum program.

Holloway understands well the challenges of keeping Soldiers adequately trained, and subsequently ready.

"We're going to teach Soldiers how to operate certain components of the tactical data package and how to put it all together. In the end we're going to take them out and do a live exercise over a live satellite. We'll give them a chance to experience what a data Soldier experiences." Holloway explains.

"The reason for our existence is that we have automation Soldiers that come out of the schoolhouse at Fort Gordon or wherever else they may come from in the world, and they have a certain knowledge base. We take that knowledge and put it on steroids. We fire so much information at these guys and we make them

much better (communicators) than they were." he said.

An additional benefit to the class is that the curriculum is living, meaning that the curriculum is constantly expanding and adjusting to account for lessons learned from the utilization of deployed packages.

Weeks into the training, Soldiers attested to the valued worth of the experience.

Staff Sgt. David Vaughn redeployed from Iraq with the 22nd Signal Brigade last spring. His unit, the 32nd Signal Battalion, inherited a mission with the data package already operational and its Soldiers found themselves unable to perform a lot of the skills he has learned at the DCCS training.

Vaughn said he could not bring up routers and stats, tear down the equipment, or bring up all the equipment and make it work. The class has since changed all that.

The RTSC's other two training programs are the Information Technology and Management Training and Telephony Training. For more information, call DSN (314) 381-8858 or civ. (49) 621-730-8858.

5th Signal Command goes to Land Combat Expo 2004

Story by

Capt. Eric Petrowsky

(G-3 Staff, 5th Signal Command)

HEIDELBERG, Germany - 5th Signal Command Soldiers, civilians, and family members were among the hundreds of international participants at Land Combat Expo (LCE), September 2004.

Billed as the premier professional development symposium for warfighters, the various events and exhibits told the story of United States Army Europe's support in the Global War on Terrorism during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Department of Defense and Department of the Army vendors offered spectators

hands on experience with the latest military technologies.

Dragon Warriors tried on new Army uniforms, tested simulators, and climbed in helicopters and tanks from North Atlantic Treaty Organization Allies.

Underpinning the overall exposition theme, "USAREUR... At War and Transforming," various 5th Signal Command organizations coordinated exhibits demonstrating the support they provide warfighters.

Passersby learned about tactical support, enterprise, and infrastructure initiatives, in addition

to the functions and services provided by the Regional Computer Emergency Response Team Europe, Army Network Operations and Security Center Europe, the Regional Training Center, and Visual Information Services Europe (VISE).

5th Signal Command's Soldiers and civilians were also integral to the execution of LCE 2004. The 6981st Civilian Support Group, a subordinate unit of 2nd Signal Brigade, laid the cable at Heidelberg's Village Pavilion, where the expo was staged. VISE provided audio and video support for the guest speaker forums. The Network Service Center Heidelberg provided control of the data and voice lines.



Photos by Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano

2nd Signal Brigade Soldiers, Spc. Miguel Rodriguez (center) and Spc. John Luft (r), discuss a data communications package with Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald J. Desjardins, command sergeant major, NET-COM/9th Army Signal Command.



Master Sgt. Bonalyn Harris takes the driver's seat in a helicopter cockpit at Land Combat Expo 2004.

Mission-minded telephone operators

Story by

Monica Tullos

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

HEIDELBERG, Germany - Most would agree that nothing satisfies a deployed Soldier like a telephone connection between a remote location and home.

Communications is everything when you cannot be with your family and friends.

Francis Jordan, an operator at Dial Service Assistance at Campbell Barracks here, understands these matters of the heart and takes her job seriously.

"I think that my job is very important. Knowing that Soldiers are so far away from home and they can communicate with their families through us is important. We try to

give our Soldiers the best customer service possible," she stated.

Jordan has worked for the Heidelberg DSA for 14 months. She was hired to help process the increased number of calls resulting from more USAREUR deployments.

According to Marion Laragy, Heidelberg DSA chief, operators processed approximately 40,000 morale and welfare calls for Soldiers and other personnel deployed forward just between January and June of this year. The DSA receives about 4,500 official and morale and welfare calls daily. It services customers in Baumholder, Darmstadt, Hanau, Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern, Mannheim, and Wiesbaden 24 hours daily. Additionally, calls from Chièvres,

Belgium; and Schinnen, the Netherlands, are transferred to the Heidelberg DSA after duty hours.

"The operators have a very delicate mission...they must be able to react to whatever type of phone call is coming in, which could be anything from a happy to an emergency situation. We expect a lot from them," said Janice Frutiger, Heidelberg Network Service Center chief.

Frutiger oversees Heidelberg DSA operations and reports to 43rd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, 5th Signal Command. She commented that DSA activity will increase even more by the year's end when the Heidelberg DSA becomes the only facility of its type operating around the clock daily. The operation settled into a new Campbell Barracks facility in July that is better designed to accommodate the expansive workload of its operators.

5th Signal Command, USAREUR's lead agent for communications, conducted a consolidation study two years ago that resulted in a reduced number of DSAs throughout the theater. The job done by 15 facilities is now done by four. By late December, there will be only two DSAs in Europe. Frutiger credits the installation of Elektronisches Wählsystem Digital, a modern digital switching system by Siemens, for the ease in the transformation.

Frutiger said the efficiency of the EWSD switches allows DSAs to support larger geographic areas than the older systems common to Europe.

5th Signal Command has monitored these transformation and consolidation efforts closely to avoid any possibility of degraded customer service.



Photo by Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano

Francis Jordan (forefront) and other switch operators process telephone calls.

Internet Café

CE-2004

**Story and photo by
Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano**

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

LAGER AULENBACH, Germany - Being in a different country and away from family can be hard. Combined Endeavor found a way to make it a little easier. The men and women supporting Combined Endeavor 2004 found refuge in the U.S. European Command-sponsored Internet Café, one of the morale and welfare offerings at CE-2004, Lager Aulenbach, Germany.

The Internet Café has been part of Combined Endeavor for six years. In 1998, because Internet capabilities were unavailable at the test site, a café was established for participants to contact their home nation. This year 20 computers and four telephone lines allowed free communication to family members back home. Over 500 people accessed the Internet during the 16-hour daily operation.

Manning and operating the Internet Café was the responsibility of the 5th Signal Command, 216th Signal Brigade, and personnel from Camp Smith, Baumholder. Friendly National Guardsman Master Sgt. Marva Jean Downing, 216th Signal Brigade, greeted and helped military personnel sign in. The Dover, Delaware, resident is fluent in French and Spanish and took on a personal challenge. She mastered the greetings in several languages of countries that were part of Combined Endeavor.

"Many of the eastern European Soldiers were often uncomfortable when they walked through the door. I tried to greet them with a warm hello in their language and help them relax, so they could speak with fellow Soldiers from different countries."

A testament to her ability to communicate easily with people is evident by the number of pins displayed on the lanyard around her neck. In a few short days, she had collected more than 25 pins depicting different nations, organizations, and military units.

"I enjoyed having access to the computers because I could keep current with events that were taking place back home," said. British Maj.

Chris Ssentgr. "It allowed me to keep in contact with my family -- all for free."

If talking to a loved one is what was wanted, there often was a wait, but well worth it. "Before I got here I was wondering how I was going to call my family," said Turkish Maj. Saykehn Hance. "I didn't know if there were pay phones on the German post. It made it much easier to work on an exercise like this (after) I had spoken with my wife and daughter."

More than 1,000 Soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines from 41 countries and organizations participated in the U.S. European Command-sponsored exercise. In its tenth year, CE-2004 was designed to plan and execute testing and documentation of communications information systems. Through information-sharing and interoperability, this year featured a forward-deployed site in Burgas, Bulgaria, with eight countries participating.



Master Sgt. Marva Jean Downing (center) joins two Soldiers from Armenia using the Internet Café to keep in touch with family and get updates on home news.

“Operationalizing”

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network management tools. As USASETAF has worked through its training objectives, the Soldiers of the 69th Signal Battalion, USAREUR G-6 and 7th ATC have managed the underlying support structure. The network operations vision of tomorrow -- fully integrated battle command, communications, and network services, has been realized in the CSOC. The CSOC has become the prototype operations center to synchronize communications and simulations support for the warfighter's various battle command platforms.



Spc. Christopher L. Stewart, HHD, 69th Signal Battalion, troubleshoots the Deployable Communications Package for connectivity. The battalion was supporting the exercise “Lion Challenge” in Grafenwöhr, Germany.

Initial stages of Army enterprise infrastructure transformation in Europe

Story by

Lt. Col. Thomas Mahoney

(Command Group, 39th Signal Battalion)

CHIEVRES, Belgium - The United States Army Europe G-6 and 5th Signal Command have initiated Task Force Enterprise to develop and implement a coordinated effort for the future infrastructure to be operated and maintained by the 2nd Signal Brigade. This effort includes server consolidation, active directory, and recovery capability; call centers, Break/Fix Centers (transformed 'Help Desks'), and fiber infrastructure. Leveraging the resources of the Army, USAREUR, and Network Enterprise Technology Command, Task Force Enterprise (TFES) is creating architecture to benefit the operational base and deployed warfighters. An integral part of this effort has begun in Belgium with assistance from the 39th Signal Battalion.

The 39th Signal Battalion is

the first area of operations for implementation of server consolidation and the first Area Processing Center (APC) and Break/Fix Center in Europe. Launching the APC and Break/Fix centers are essential steps toward achieving Army Enterprise Infostructure transformation goals within USAREUR.

TFES will transform the way we do business today with a centrally managed, enterprise solution for USAREUR. The consolidation of servers and new service procedures relies upon the Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP), which improves the bandwidth within facilities. The initiative depends upon the migration to Active Directory to remotely administer computers, enabling changes in support procedures. For customers within the 80th Area Support Group, TFES improves customer support by replacing local

help desk functions with an enterprise service support desk in Germany that provides initial Tier I support remotely, while establishing Break/Fix Centers at Chievres, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Brussels, and Schinnen to provide Tier II support. Finally, server consolidation in the APC in the Benelux provides enhanced anti-virus protection, consolidated backup of data, and improved continuity of operations procedures.

The 39th Signal Battalion is overlaying these initiatives with the Army's strategy to transform into a network-centric, knowledge-based enterprise system. Combining technologically advanced hardware, software, and infrastructure architecture with fine-tuned business practices and personnel support systems, the 39th Signal Battalion is a leading element in the transformation of network and enterprise services.

Home computer protection

Stay safe when Internet surfing

Story and photo by

Earl Pray

(G-6 Staff, USAREUR)

MANNHEIM, Germany - The Internet is a great place to find just about anything, whether it is for educational research, searching for information, online shopping, or just fun. But, it is not all fun and games. There are people out in cyberspace who want to steal your personal information or try to trick you into giving it to them. Here are some tips on how to stay aware and keep your information safe while surfing the Web.

Are you paying too much for personal firewall and antivirus software?

The Department of Defense (DOD) antivirus contract allows members of the armed services and DOD civilian employees and their family members free use of antivirus and firewall products available from the contract. So if you are paying anything, you are paying too much. The products are available from:

www.mcafee.com/dod;

www.cert.mil/antivirus/symantec.htm; and

www.cert.mil/antivirus/trend.htm.

Spyware, Adware, and Malware?

Spyware and Adware, also called "Malware," are files made by publishers that allow them to monitor your browsing activity, see what you purchase, and send you "pop-up" ads. Like most Internet users, your computer has probably been infected with these files. While surfing the Internet, reading e-mail, or downloading music or other files,

your computer can be easily subjected to infection without you knowing. Symantec™ and McAfee™ both have Spyware-detection capabilities.

Patch Your Operating System!

You do not drive your car without changing the oil and performing routine maintenance, do you? Your computer's operating system requires maintenance as well. Are you doing it? Software companies often find problems with their products after they are released to the public and offer patches available for download over the Internet.

* If you are using Microsoft® products, look here for updates and news: www.windowsupdate.microsoft.com; and

office.microsoft.com/OfficeUpdate/

* Windows® ME, 2000, XP, and 2003 can be configured to retrieve updates automatically. For more information go to:

www.microsoft.com/security/protect/update.asp

Want to learn more?

Here are additional resources to consider:

www.cert.org/tech_tips/before_you_plug_in.html;

www.staysafeonline.info/



Thieves are not only outside the Internet, but inside as well.

Changing organization in a transforming theater

Story by
Judith Reid

*(Information Systems Management, 2nd
Signal Brigade)*

BENSHEIM, Germany - How big is 39,000 feet of paper files? If stacked atop one another, it would reach more than seven miles high, and it keeps six archives technicians fully employed. That's the USAREUR Command Records Holding Area (UCRHA), under 2nd Signal Brigade, located in Bensheim, Germany, home to archived records from throughout the European theater.

"Current records" are those hand-carried during a permanent change of station (PCS). They often include medical and personnel records, school records, and various financial documents. Current records are papers and electrons that are actively in use. Archived records are past active use but may be needed. Like our own personal records, Army archived records have information the Army wants to keep for a long time; information it may need in the future for medical research, legal

cases, or lessons learned. They are the building blocks of Army history.

The Army keeps a lots of records, and in Europe around 39,000 boxes of paper and an uncountable amount of bits and bytes of electrons. What kind of records are these? What is in this archive library? Lets use Operation Joint Endeavor (OJE), as an example. In 1995 a Warning Order (WARNORD) came from the Pentagon to the United States European Command (USEUCOM) to move the 1st Armored Division (1AD) into Sarajevo, Bosnia. After that, USEUCOM produced the first Operation Order (OPORD) to 1AD and others in Task Force Eagle. From that moment on, lots of electronic and paper-based records were generated by a host of Soldiers, civilians, and contractors: fragmentary orders (FRAGOs) and their supporting documents. Somewhere a unit administration noncommissioned officer created a personnel roster and transport orders for troops. In another office, a contractor created supply movement orders for equipment, while at the hospital, a civilian was

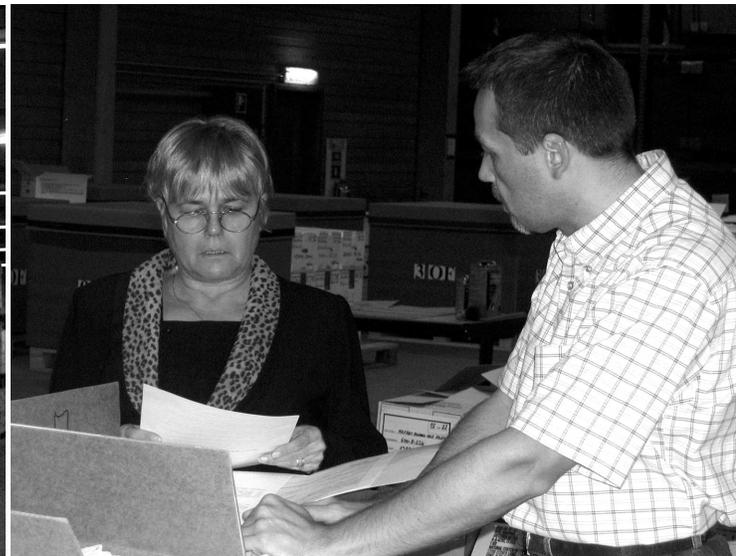
reviewing and updating shot records. The personnel roster, the transport and supply orders, and the updated medical records are all now in the UCRHA.

Then there were the financial documents. Funding to support the OPORD came from a mix of operational funds, unfunded requirements (UFRs), and contingency operations funds. Count at least three different sets of records in the system to pay for the efforts of OJE. All three sets of financial records are housed at UCRHA.

When 1AD moved into Sarajevo, it set up camp. Can you hear the FRAGOs a comin'? Every day . . . every action . . . more documentation created. 1AD engaged the enemy, they used supplies, and performed maintenance; Soldiers evacuated, prisoners taken, forms filled out . . . paper, paper, and more paper! Electrons, bits, and bytes! All documents, all records. The unending documentation, even when done electronically, seemed overwhelming. And to what end?

For history. For posterity. For research. For the ability to know what happened from the first sound-

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Photos provided UCRHA

Photo left: Records shelves in Bensheim. Photo right: Christa Lavagnini and Andreas Schork check shipping documents.

Pirmasens DTH processes last message

Story by

Maj. Stephen Molseed

(Command Group, 43rd Signal Battalion)

PIRMASENS, Germany *(April 2004)* - The Pirmasens Defense Message System (DMS) and the Defense Transition Hub (DTH) processed their last Automatic Digital Network message this year when the operations chief entered the computer's stop command and the lights were turned off for good.

During its 36 years and three months of continuous operations, the Pirmasens DTH provided vital messaging support for U.S. military forces in Europe and southwest Asia during the Cold War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, operations in the Balkans, and the war in Iraq.

The facility served as the European gateway for messaging traffic. Its primary mission was to provide interoperability support to customers who had not yet transitioned to the DMS interface.

Since the advent of the Internet, the military has moved toward Internet-based messaging with DMS and other systems.

Representatives from the 43rd Signal Battalion, the Pirmasens DTH, the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Directorate of Public Works, and the United States Army Medical Materiel Center of Europe oversaw the final inspection and closing of the site.

"CSOC enhances training"

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sons learned primarily from the IID MRX, the CSOC has evolved into a more robust organization that now fully supports a distributed training environment, includes an Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS) and CIE training capability, and operates a comprehensive suite of tools to monitor and defend simulation systems and the ABCS.

The CSOC's BCS Team now provides much more comprehensive ABCS and CIE support in addition to its troubleshooting capabilities. It now includes ABCS and CIE operator and leader training, and ABCS and CIE battle staff training to teach commanders and their staffs how to fight their systems by customizing views and combining products from multiple systems to meet their unique operational requirements. With today's expeditionary forces,

the MRX may be the first time that task force units have an opportunity to train together before deployment. The BCS Team's operator training gives the joint task force commander the ability to quickly establish an ABCS and CIE training baseline across the task force, with initial or refresher training as appropriate.

7th ATC is helping USAREUR transform into a more modular, expeditionary force. Maintaining overall control of the CSOC, 5th Signal Command, plays the critical role in this transformation. The CSOC provides the centralized battle command of the simulation and communications aspects of the network. This synchronization has provided the United States Army Southern European Task Force commander the ability to rapidly integrate new units and systems in preparation for their deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom 6.

"Changing organization"

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ing of the bugle to the final battle. The ability to reconstruct the engagement from its historical records has proven critically important. It is the foundation for our "lessons learned" and the way the Army retools itself after each operation. Information is gathered from operational records, analyzed, then plugged into the planning process for future improvement. Data from the 39,000 archived boxes.

Every day brings new inquiries from lawyers, medical professionals, and researchers for information from that collection. Every day six "document warriors" receive, catalogue, store, search, retire, and destroy critical information the Army holds dear. One does not often think of that box of documents in the base-

ment until the Internal Revenue Service calls or an old back injury flairs up. Unlike those forgotten boxes in the basement, the records holding facility in Bensheim is here, active, and answering questions. The Army is transforming and so is UCHRA. Right now there is a move to place the records holding area under the operational control and oversight of the United States Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region Office. The transfer from a signal to installation management function, and pending automated changes in the records management arena will link records management with publications, simplify the archival process, and streamline retrieval processes for all users.

UCHRAs Document Warriors, serving Soldiers across the European Theater.

NCO professional development forum

Story by
Command Sgt. Maj.
David Fleming
(Command Group, 43rd Signal Battalion)

HEIDELBERG, Germany - The 43rd Signal Battalion hosted a leadership-based training session for Signal Corps noncommissioned officers (NCOs) throughout 5th Signal Command and United States Army Europe (USAREUR). The NCO Forum provided an extraordinary opportunity for informational exchange between Soldiers of vary-

ing levels of responsibility and experience.

The event provides participants critically viable "tools" illustrated by scenario, theory, practice, lecture, and doctrine that they will use in the execution of their duties, in garrison, in training, and in the most important of environments: combat.

The forum also gave junior NCOs a greater appreciation for what they do within their units, for their Soldiers, and ultimately their country.

Speakers addressed an array of subjects, including Army leadership, the nominative selection process, team building, NCO power and authority, conflict resolution, and operational overviews of both 5th Signal Command and USAREUR.

Among the list of keynote speakers were USAREUR's senior NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gravens, and 5th Signal Command's senior NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell.

"This information will greatly assist me in doing my job and training junior NCOs," said 1st Sgt. Andre Topp, Headquarters, USAREUR.

The next NCO Forum will be hosted by the 52nd Signal Battalion in Stuttgart.



Photo submitted by 43rd Signal Battalion

USAREUR's senior NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gravens, addresses NCOs at NCO forum.

NCOs lead war on accidents

Story by
Billy Neal

(Safety Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany - 2nd Signal Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Terry L. Braddock challenged 28 senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) from 5th Signal Command units to take what they learned about safety in the classroom and apply it to the daily "War on Accidents."

Braddock delivered remarks during the three-day Senior NCO Safety Orientation Course at Sullivan Barracks, Mannheim, in late September.

The course gave participants insight on how safety fits into the business of Soldiering. Since its inception in 1993, more than 650 NCOs have completed the training.

The command's safety office operates on the premise that safety is sergeant's business, and affirms that this senior NCO-level training inspires enlisted leaders to take ownership of the matter and ensure that it is fully integrated as part of mission accomplishment.

As a testament to NCO support of the command's emphasis on safety, 24 separate Department of the Army (DA) and United States Army Europe (USAREUR) safety awards were distributed to 5th Signal Command units for their records of accomplishment and extended periods of accident-free operations.

44th Signal Battalion's Alpha Company led the group, receiving the

DA Award of Excellence in Safety for completing 132 months without any Class A-C accidents. The category includes accidents involving fatalities, permanent disabilities, lost-time injuries, or more than \$20,000 property damage.

The next Senior NCO Safety Orientation Course is scheduled for 13-15 December 2004. For additional information, contact the 5th Signal Command Safety Office at 380-5119 or visit the 5th Signal Command Safety Web site.

SAFETY AWARDS

DA Award of Excellence in Safety (36+ months without Class A-C accidents)

- * A Company, 44th Signal Battalion
- * B Company, 44th Signal Battalion
- * C Company, 72nd Signal Battalion

- * 587th Signal Company
- * 509th Signal Battalion
- * HHD, 39th Signal Battalion
- * HHD, 52nd Signal Battalion
- * 11th Signal Detachment
- * HHC, 72nd Signal Battalion

DA Award of Honor in Safety (24 months without Class A-C accidents)

- * HHC, 44th Signal Battalion
- * 181st Signal Company
- * 52nd Signal Battalion

DA Award of Accomplishment (12 months without Class A-C accidents)

- * 39th Signal Battalion
- * 128th Signal Company
- * HHC, 5th Signal Command
- * HHC, 2nd Signal Brigade

USAREUR Certificate of Merit for Safety (12 months DUI/DWI-free)

- * HHC, 5th Signal Command
- * HHD, 43rd Signal Battalion
- * 11th Signal Detachment
- * HHD, 52nd Signal Battalion
- * HHD, 509th Signal Battalion
- * HHD, 102nd Signal Battalion
- * HHD, 2nd Signal Brigade
- * 587th Signal Company



Photo by Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano

Senior NCOs to include 1st Sgt. John Womble, HHC, and Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell, 5th Signal Command (center, front row), attend safety class.

Soldier uses family tragedy to fight drunk driving

Story by

Monica Tullos

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany - Nothing could have prepared Pfc. Paige Butkus for the condition she found her brother in last February. The 44th Signal Battalion Soldier was called home to Southbury, Connecticut, from Germany to find 17-year-old Peter recovering from serious injuries sustained in a drunk-driving accident.

Butkus vividly remembers the looks on her family members' faces. They waited outside the intensive-care room where her brother was recovering from 20 hours of surgery and two blood transfusions. He had been unconscious for three days before she arrived.

"Peter couldn't move and he was just lying there and tears were rolling down his cheeks. He couldn't even move his head. He was just lying there and you could see that he was upset," Butkus recalled.

With legs, some ribs, and a wrist broken, metal plates and rods where he once had bones, the younger Butkus was forced to delay plans to attend Advanced Individual Training after high school graduation. This Army National Guard reservist had already completed basic training the summer prior and could not wait to start his adult life; but today, more than eight months after the accident, he is still not yet able to run.

For as much misfortune that may have come from her

brother's drunk-driving accident, Butkus is convinced she can use the circumstances to work for another Soldier's good. She has a no-tolerance attitude toward drunk driving. If there is a chance to save a life, she is quick to make her family's tragedy an open book.

"My family has never experienced anything like this before," she said. "My brother did not even think anything of it before. He told me that (the night of his accident) he had a shot before he left a party and it had not hit him. I think he blacked out."

Butkus details the events of that night as though she were there herself.

"It was only about 10 p.m. Peter was only going 40 miles per hour. He was only a mile from the house," she said. "He wrapped the car around a telephone pole. The transformer fell down, shorted out, and could have electrocuted him...he could have died. The police called it in as dead on arrival, before they realized there was someone still alive in the car."

Recalling how her family and their countryside town were affected by the incident, Butkus is motivated all the more to spread the word to people in Germany about how high the price is for driving under the influence (DUI).

"One of my friends complains about his extra duty and how he lost rank because of a DUI. I always tell him that he's lucky he only got that!" Butkus exclaimed.

She counters such attitudes with candid stories of how her brother needed rehabilitation to



Photos provided by Pfc. Paige Butkus

Photo above: Peter Butkus. Upper Right photo: Pfc. Paige Butkus visits brother Peter in hospital. Photo below: What is left of Peter's car after the accident.





learn how to move his toes and how insurance limits made it necessary for her family to bring him home. She shares pictures of the mangled vehicle and the renovations her father made to their home to facilitate Peter's needs. She talks about how her aunts and uncles came over to cook meals and how her dad and stepmom had to work half-days to take care of Peter.

"Truly the accident turned everything upside down to the point that not to drink and drive is what this whole thing is about," she says.

As both a Soldier and a safety advocate, Butkus is serving her country well. In upcoming months she will deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism. She plans to remain equally committed to the effort to prevent drunk driving as she has been in Germany.

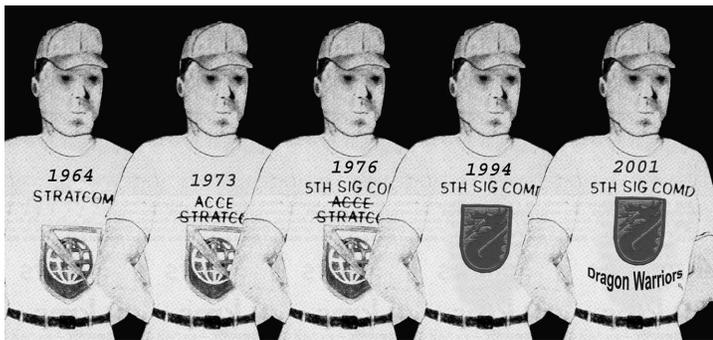
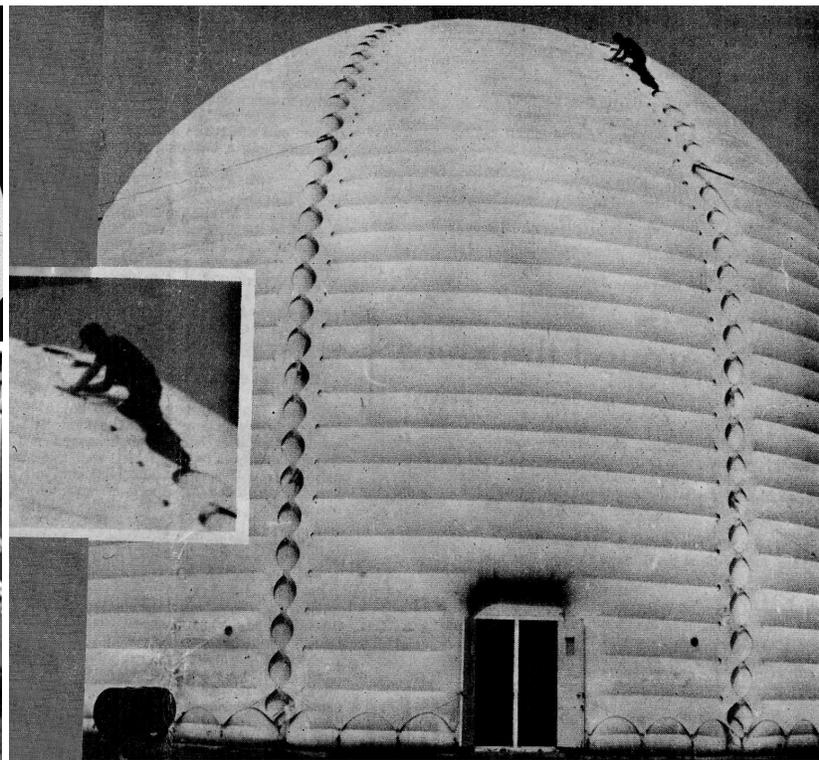


Photo above: Original illustration modified to include the additional name redesignations and the shoulder patch change occurring during the past 40 years to ultimately become the 5th Signal Command Dragon Warriors.



Photo above(l) (taken by Melvin Tarpley): The Landstuhl site today. File photo above (r): Sgt 1st Class Curtis H. Elseth checks a section of the inflatable 60-foot dome housing one of the two antennas at STRATCOM, Europe's satellite communications site at Landstuhl, Germany, 1972.



A brief history of 5th Signal Command

The 5th Signal Command began 40 years ago as the Strategic Communications Command - Europe, or STRATCOM, which was established on July 1, 1964 in Schwetzingen, Germany.

In 1974, STRATCOM-Europe was deactivated and the 5th Signal Command was formally activated at Kilbourne Kaserne in Schwetzingen. In the same year, 5th Signal Command moved to Taukkunen Barracks, Worms, Germany, where it remained until 1996 when the command moved to its current location at Funari Barracks, Mannheim.

Throughout its history, 5th Signal Command and its subordinate elements were involved in various command reorganizations. One

of STRATCOM-Europe's initial major subordinate commands was the 22nd Signal Group, now the 22nd Signal Brigade of V Corps in Germany.

The 7th Signal Brigade was activated in 1970 from assets of the Seventh Army Communications Command. In 1981 the 7th Signal Brigade was assigned to 5th Signal Command. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, tactical elements of the 7th Signal Brigade were deployed to the Persian Gulf to support this massive military build up and operation. The 7th Signal Brigade now consists of the 44th and 72nd Signal Battalions located in Mannheim, Germany, and the 509th Signal Battalion located in Vicenza, Italy.

The 2nd Signal Group was activated in 1974 as part of the STRATCOM organization and became the 2nd Signal Brigade under the 5th Signal Command. The 2nd Signal Brigade now consists of the 39th, 43rd, 52nd, 69th, and 102nd Signal Battalions located throughout Germany and Belgium.

Additionally, the 6981st Labor Service Group, now the 6981st Civilian Support Group, was activated in 1974 and has remained a valuable asset to the command under the 2nd Signal Brigade.

Today, 5th Signal Command is a forward-deployed, trained, and ready force. It provides a responsive connectivity to the global information grid to support a full-spectrum Army, as well as joint and multinational operations in the European theater. Soldiers from 5th Signal Command are currently deployed to Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

5th Signal Command celebrates 40th anniversary

Story by

Monica Tullos

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany (June 16-18, 2004) - Soldiers, civilians, family members, and friends traveled by plane, automobile, and bus, and used video teleconferencing to participate in 5th Signal Command 40th Anniversary events in Worms and Mannheim.

Participants rekindled old friendships and honored the command's transformation into what commander Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett called "the largest, most powerful, and capable command-and-control provider in the world."

Retired Maj. Gen. Leo M. Childs flew in from Alexandria, Virginia, to see what had become of the organization he commanded 20 years ago in Worms. After viewing the newly produced command video with fellow alumni and Pollett's primary staff, Childs was motivated by news of the command's progress and ongoing initiatives.

"I'm ready to re-up!" he shouted.

Today, 5th Signal Command, consisting of 2nd and 7th Signal Brigades, is a forward-deployed, trained and ready force. Its Soldiers and civilians are supporting Army, joint, and multinational forces in the United States European Command and the United States Central Command. They are installing high-speed fiber optic cables to connect command centers in Europe with high-speed transmission while posturing for future military needs. The command's Soldiers and civilians



Photo by Harald Baumgartner

Col. Stephen L. Walker, deputy commander, 5th Signal Command, and Lt. Col. Holvin Galindo, commander of troops, inspect the troops at retreat ceremony.

are working and training to remain on the cutting edge of technology with projects such as active directory, Public Key Infrastructure, server consolidation, and video teleconferencing.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Alvin Ingram and other alumni were escorted by 2nd Signal Brigade commander Hubert "Herb" Newman through the command's Regional Training Center, which allows students to access information technology and management classes anywhere they have Web availability. The facility is Europe's information technology training center.

Soldiers in the 44th Signal Battalion also guided the guests through a tour of a tactical data communications package.

"I'm impressed with how technologically advanced the equipment we have today has become," said Ingram. "I'm impressed with

how our Soldiers are dealing not only with the challenges here, but also in Iraq and Afghanistan... not just from a communications perspective, but also from a unit perspective in how families are being cared for in their absence."

5th Signal Command gave Ingram and other guests a real-time example of the command's far-reaching impact on the military and their families during the open house.

Col. Jennifer Napper, 7th Signal Brigade commander, delivered an anniversary message by video teleconference from down-range. Her husband, Mark, and the rest of the 5th Signal Command family were able to see with their own eyes that the brigade Soldiers deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism were doing well.

Retired Maj. Gen. Charles G. Suttin, Jr., who led the command from 1992-1995, commended



Photo by Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano

Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett and Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell unveil commemorative print (see story on page 30).

Napper and her troops on the job they are doing.

"I had a chance to spend time with both Herb [Newman] and the 44th Signal Battalion. I've got to tell you, you are light-years ahead of where we were when I was here. I've often felt that this organization sets the standard inside the Army with regard to doctrine, technology, tactics, techniques, and procedures," said Suttan.

A retreat ceremony staged at the 5th Signal Command Parade

Field, Funari Barracks, officially culminated the anniversary activities. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Signal Command; and the 11th Signal Detachment, 43rd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade participated.

Col. Stephen L. Walker, 5th Signal Command deputy commander, served as the reviewing officer and Lt. Col. Holvin Galindo, from the Office of the G-6, United States Army Europe (USAREUR), served as the commander of troops.

Worms and Mannheim city flags draped opposite ends of the headquarters building signifying the longtime former and current homes of the command. Leadership, alumni, family members, and other special guests watched the event from a balcony adorned with a welcome banner.

Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell, the command's senior noncommissioned officer, unveiled a commemorative print commissioned especially for the occasion.

Artist Susanne Hesler drew the work depicting Soldiers and civilians in various signal work environments.

The print captured the heart of Pollett's keynote address. He emphasized the high value of people in the command and the military's record of historical success. He highlighted four decades of accomplishment and hard work in direct support of USAREUR.

"As I look out among you," he said, "I see the faces behind the force of transformation and mission accomplishment."



Photos by Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano

Col. Jennifer Napper, commander, 7th Signal Brigade (center), in Kuwait, talks to retired Maj. Gen. Charles G. Suttan, Jr., using VTC.





All photos by William Triplett except where noted

Retired Maj. Gen. Leo M. Childs drinks from the traditional Worms utensil (wooden shovel) as Backfish Bride Miriam Bonifer and Lord Mayor Michael Kissel watch.

A model of German-American friendship

Story by
Monica Tullos

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM and WORMS, Germany (June 17-18, 2004) - Over the course of two days, scores of host nation friends joined 5th Signal Command in celebrating its 40th anniversary. The command has established lasting friendships with many German politicians, dignitaries, and public figures.

"When I think about the bond 5th Signal Command has with the German community, certain things come to mind," said Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, commanding general, during a reception at Herrnsheim Castle in Worms on June 17. "Democracy...liberty...freedom...family...and friendship. We share a common value system that binds us even in times of disagreement."

Pollett noted that through all the military operations 5th Signal Command has supported over the years, including the Global War on Terrorism, German friends reached

out and supported American Soldiers and families when needed.

Worms Lord Mayor Michael Kissel and Mannheim Mayor Mechthild Fürst-Diery were among the castle guests to whom Pollett offered special thanks. The command was stationed at Taukkunen Barracks, Worms, for 22 years before it relocated to its current home at Funari Barracks, Mannheim, in 1996.

As a token of appreciation for the enduring friendship between Worms and the command, Pollett presented Kissel with an engraved pewter plate bearing the command's dragon insignia. The dragon insignia proudly worn by the command's troops was inspired by a legend associated with the Worms area.

Kissel also presented the general with a token of appreciation, a framed print of various Worms landmarks photographed by Henry Angermueller.

The castle reception was not only an opportune time for present and former command staff to reacquaint themselves with old German friends,





but also a time to test their memories. A large screen presentation displayed photographs from 40 years of community activities.

Retired Major Generals Leo M. Childs and Charles G. Suttin, Jr., both former commanders, were given the opportunity to re-live moments from their past when Backfisch Bride Miriam Bonifer presented them the traditional Worms utensil, the Handnirscht. Neither spilled a drop

while drinking from the infamous wooden shovel.

The closing anniversary activity, a retreat ceremony at the 5th Signal Command Parade Field on June 18, also recognized the command's good relations with the host nation. The Mannheim and Worms city flags were draped on opposite sides of the headquarters building.

Mannheim Lord Mayor Gerhard Widder attended the event and commented on the command's history and relationship with the German community as a matter of tradition.

"Reunification of Germany would not have been possible without the support and contribution of the United States of America. Men and women of the U.S. Army and their families have become an integral part of our citizenry since the end of the World War II...I believe that we inseparably belong together," Widder said.

The lord mayor went further to say that the past 40 years entail a tradition of excellent relations and interaction between the city and the U.S. Army, a tradition of many decades of close cooperation.



Photo by Harald Baumgartner

Top photo: (l-r), Carlo Esposito, Marianne Winkler, Worms retired Lord Mayor Gernot Fisher, and Karin Fisher chat with friends; Center photo: Lt. Col. Holvin Galindo talks with Bauer and Barbara Unnewisse; Photo above: Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett and Mannheim's Lord Mayor Gerhard Widder look over parade field after ceremony; Bottom photo: German Command Sgt. Maj. Karl-Heinz Alles and Lt. Col. Lewis Naumchik talk Army.



Right Photo: With more than 125 years of service to their country, top enlisted Soldiers of 5th Signal Command, pose together: l - r, 1st Sgt. John Womble, Command Sgt. Maj. Donna Mitchell, Command Sgt. Maj. (retired) Elridge James, Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Braddock, and Command Sgt. Maj. (retired) Alvin Ingram.





Artist Susanne Hesler, seated, autographs commemorative prints for 5th Signal Command Soldiers. Standing (l-r) are Sgt. 1st Class Gerald D. Holloway, Maj. Timothy Holloway, Staff Sgt. Daniel Cole, and Sgt. Billy Ward.

Artist captures command history

**Story and photo by
Monica Tullos**

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany - 5th Signal Command commissioned an artist well known throughout European military communities to capture 40 years of history in a single work of art.

Susanne Hesler, owner of Suzybears Inc. and a Department of the Army civilian, is the creator of the pen-and-ink collage that tracks the technological progression of Army communica-

tions through the eyes of the command.

Comprised of nearly a dozen black-and-white images, the commemorative work captures Soldiers and civilians at their best.

"I was not at all familiar with the signal community before creating this piece," said Hesler. "Through this experience, I learned to appreciate the effort involved in a signal unit."

The effort to which Hesler refers is classically displayed in her work. She took two months of working nights and weekends

to complete the collage. Each image bears its own realistic quality.

Starting with an image of an early signal Soldier carrying his flag, spectators are reminded how much Army communications has developed -- from flags and torches to computers and satellites operating in strategic and tactical environments.

Hesler's original work, which was unveiled during the anniversary retreat ceremony in June, is currently displayed in the lobby of 5th Signal Command headquarters.

Abbreviated Service Statements / Campaign Participation Credits

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

5th Signal Command

Constituted 1 July 1974 in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Signal Command, and activated in Germany

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

2nd Signal Brigade

Constituted 24 October 1944 in the Army of the United States as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 3348th Signal Service Group, and activated in France

Campaign Participation Credit World War II

European-African-Middle Eastern Theater, Streamer without inscription
Vietnam
Defense

Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase II
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase IV
Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase VII
Consolidation I

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

7th Signal Brigade

Constituted 15 February 1970 in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Signal Brigade
Activated 24 February 1970 in Germany

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

39th Signal Battalion

Constituted 11 December 1944 in the Army of the United States as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 3907th Signal Service Battalion, and activated 17 January 1945 in France

Campaign Participation Credit World War II

Rhineland
Central Europe
Vietnam
Advisory
Defense

Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase II
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase IV
Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase VII
Consolidation I
Consolidation II
Cease-Fire

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

43rd Signal Battalion

Constituted 7 February 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 43rd Signal Construction Battalion, and activated at Camp Crowder, Missouri

Campaign Participation Credit World War II

Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Vietnam

Counteroffensive, Phase II
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase IV
Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI

Tet 69/Counteroffensive

Summer-Fall 1969

Winter-Spring 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase VII
Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait
Cease-Fire

44th Signal Battalion

Constituted 3 February 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 44th Signal Construction Battalion
Redesignated 14 April 1944 as the 44th Signal Light Construction Battalion, and activated at Camp Forrest, Tennessee

Campaign Participation Credit World War II

Rhineland
Central Europe
Asiatic-Pacific Theater,
Streamer without inscription
Vietnam

Counteroffensive, Phase II
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase IV
Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Consolidation II
Cease-Fire
Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait
Cease-fire

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

52nd Signal Battalion

Constituted 18 October 1927 in the Regular Army as the 52nd Signal Battalion, and Activated 10 February 1943 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Campaign Participation Credit

Continued on page 38

Photos by Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

Former Commanders and



COL.
I. R. OBENCHAIN, JR.
JULY 1, 1964 - OCT. 1, 1965



BRIG. GEN.
WALTER B. BESS
OCT. 1, 1965 - JULY 20, 1966



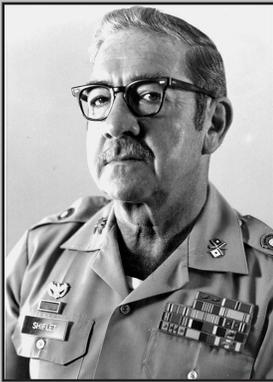
BRIG. GEN.
JOHN E. KELSEY
JULY 20, 1966 - JULY 1, 1968



BRIG. GEN.
THOMAS K. TRIGG
JULY 1, 1968 - NOV. 24, 1969



BRIG. GEN.
CHARLES R. MYER
NOV. 24, 1969 - MAY 8, 1972



COL.
KENNETH E. SHIFLET
MAY 9, 1972 - JUNE 16, 1972



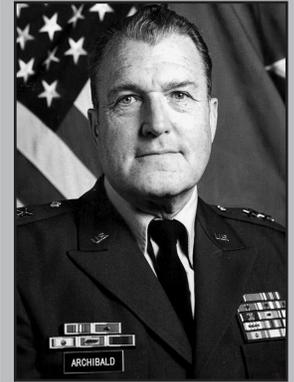
BRIG. GEN.
RIGHARD W. SWENSON
JUNE 17, 1972 - AUG. 11, 1975



BRIG. GEN.
JOSEPH C. RACKE
AUG. 11, 1975 - DEC. 4, 1978



MAJ. GEN.
CLARENCE E. MCKNIGHT, JR.
DEC. 5, 1978 - SEPT. 21, 1980



MAJ. GEN.
NORMAN E. ARCHIBALD
SEPT. 22, 1980 - AUG. 3, 1984



BRIG. GEN.
LEO M. CHILDS
AUG. 3, 1984 - JUNE 22, 1986



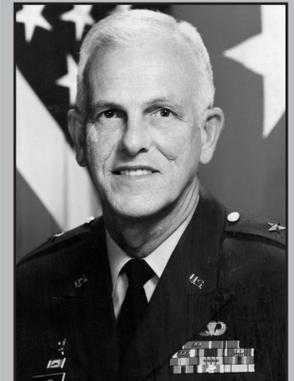
BRIG. GEN.
JOSEPH D. SCHOTT
JUNE 23, 1986 - SEPT. 4, 1987



BRIG. GEN.
SAMUEL A. LEFFLER
SEPT. 4, 1987 - NOV. 7, 1989



BRIG. GEN.
ALFRED J. MALLETTE
NOV. 8, 1989 - JULY 6, 1990



BRIG. GEN.
DAVID E. WHITE
AUG. 2, 1990 - JULY 7, 1992



BRIG. GEN.
CHARLES G. SUTTEN, JR.
JULY 7, 1992 - JULY 13, 1995



COL.
DALE E. PEYTON
JULY 13, 1995 - NOV. 22, 1995



MAJ. GEN.
ROBERT L. NABORS
NOV. 22, 1995 - AUG. 14, 1998



BRIG. GEN.
JOHN P. CAVANAUGH
AUG. 14, 1998 - JUNE 27, 2000



MAJ. GEN.
MARILYN A. QUAGLIOTTI
JUNE 27, 2000 - MARCH 4, 2003

Command Sergeants Major

Photos are not available for command sergeants major:

Herman Zouza
Henry J. Kida
James P. Weaver
Oliver W. Saulsby
Samuel Thompson
Roscoe Burnett
Oscar Cunningham, Jr.
B. Hal Reeves
George B. Mott II
Herman E. Elzey, Jr.
David Magdaleno



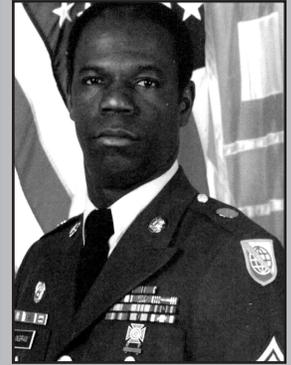
COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
JESSE TOLSON
JULY 1968 - (DATE UNKNOWN)



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
ELRIDGE JAMES
SEPT. 1986 - SEPT. 1988



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
SAMUEL P. THOMPSON
SEPT. 1988 - SEPT. 1990



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
ALVIN INGRAM
SEPT. 1990 - AUG. 1992



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
L. H. LITTLE
AUG. 1992 - MARCH 1994



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
ERNEST CHANEY
MARCH 1994 - AUG. 1998



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
STANLEY DAVIS
AUG. 1998 - AUG. 2000



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
MICHAEL TERRY
OCT. 2000 - OCT. 2002



Dragon Warriors united



Photo by Harald Baumgartner

Alumni take time out for a group photo with Brig. Gen. Carroll F. and Dayna Pollett (2nd and 3rd from left in first row), and Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell (2nd row on right). 1st row: Retired Maj. Gen. Leo M. Childs, Sharon Suttan, Retired Maj. Gen. Charles G. Suttan, Jr.; 2nd row: Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Elridge James, Ingrid James, Col. Joseph P. Hollenbeck; 3rd row: Retired Col. William Ritchie, Debbie Ritchie, and Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Alvin Ingram.

BRIGADE AND BATTALION LEADERSHIP 2004



COL.
ROBERT FERRELL
2ND SIGNAL BRIGADE



COL.
JENNIFER NAPPER
7TH SIGNAL BRIGADE



LT. COL.
THOMAS MAHONEY
39TH SIGNAL BATTALION



LT. COL.
PHILIP HOYLE
43RD SIGNAL BATTALION



LT. COL.
MARK CHURCHWELL
44TH SIGNAL BATTALION



LT. COL.
JOHN BEUKENS
52ND SIGNAL BATTALION



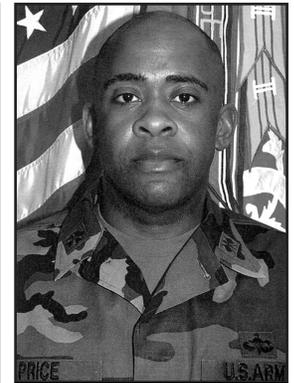
LT. COL.
MICHAEL KELL
69TH SIGNAL BATTALION



LT. COL.
JEANNIE TIBBETS
72ND SIGNAL BATTALION



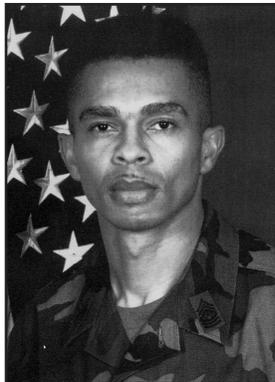
LT. COL.
KIMBERLY CARDEN
102ND SIGNAL BATTALION



LT. COL.
RICHARD PRICE
509TH SIGNAL BATTALION



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
TERRY BRADDOCK
2ND SIGNAL BRIGADE



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
KENNETH WILLIAMS
7TH SIGNAL BRIGADE



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
JAMES LESTER
39TH SIGNAL BATTALION



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
DAVID FLEMING
43RD SIGNAL BATTALION



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
VERNETTA LEWIS
44TH SIGNAL BATTALION



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
KEVIN THOMPSON
52ND SIGNAL BATTALION



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
GERRY TULL
69TH SIGNAL BATTALION



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
PAUL RODRIGUEZ
72ND SIGNAL BATTALION



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
ALEX SMITH
102ND SIGNAL BATTALION



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
SHERRY SCHEEL
509TH SIGNAL BATTALION

HISTORY HEADLINES

(JULY 1, 1964)

STRATCOM-EUROPE BECAME THE FIRST SUBCOMMAND OF STRATCOM.

(NOVEMBER 1965)

THE DUAL-HATTED ROLE OF COMMAND AND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES FIRST ESTABLISHED WITH BRIG. GEN. WALTER B. BESS.

(APRIL 1, 1966)

STRATCOM-EUROPE BECAME INVOLVED IN THE NEWEST MODE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, SATELLITE SYSTEMS. AN AN/MSC-46 SATELLITE TERMINAL WAS INSTALLED AT LANDSTUHL, GERMANY.

(ECHO, JUNE 2, 1970)

1ST FIELD-TESTING OF DSTE SUCCESS.

A RECENT ARMED FORCES CENTRAL EUROPE TRAINING EXERCISE, "FRONT AND CENTER" PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FIRST FIELD-TESTING OF TRANSPORTABLE DIGITAL SUBSCRIBER TERMINAL EQUIPMENT (DSTE).

"STARS AND STRIPES"

(PAGE 9, OCTOBER 30, 1970)

ANTENNAS PASS REFORGER II TEST. TWO OF THE NEWEST ITEMS TO SUPPORT THE NATO MANEUVERS ARE A PAIR OF STRATCOM-EUROPE TROPO-SCATTER ANTENNAS PROVIDING A STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN BREITSOL AND A SIMILAR SITE ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS. THE FIRST OF THEIR TYPE TO GO INTO THE FIELD, THE TRAILER-MOUNTED ANTENNAS ARE A MERE 10 FEET IN DIAMETER.

"SIGNAL MAGAZINE"

(FEBRUARY 1971, PAGE 62)

STRATCOM-EUROPE'S NEW, SMALLER ANTENNA HANDLES NEARLY 40 VOICE AND DATA CHANNELS.

"STARS AND STRIPES"

(MAY 11, 1971, PAGE 8)

THE ONLY ARMY-OPERATED CRYPTOGRAPHIC REPAIR SCHOOL IN EUROPE IS OPENED UNDER THE COMMAND OF STRATCOM-EUROPE.

"ARMY TIMES"

(OCTOBER 6, 1971)

UNIQUE 43 TRACK 'BIRDS' NOVEMBER 1967, STRATCOM-EUROPE'S LANDSTUHL SITE IS DECLARED OFFICIALLY OPERATIONAL. IT IS ONE OF THE FIRST TERMINALS DESIGNED FOR THE MILITARY SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM, AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANNING A DUAL TRUNK LINE.

"STARS AND STRIPES"

(OCTOBER 3, 1972)

WAC SCORES USAREUR 'FIRST' KATHERINE HERNEY IS THE ONLY FEMALE SERGEANT MAJOR IN USAREUR AND THE FIRST TO BE PROMOTED TO THAT GRADE WITHIN THE U.S. ARMY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMAND-EUROPE.

(OCTOBER 1, 1973)

STRATCOM-EUROPE IS REDESIGNATED THE U.S. ARMY COMMUNICATIONS COMMAND-EUROPE BY ORDER OF THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GEN. CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS. USACC-EUR IS SHORT-LIVED, ONLY NINE MONTHS, PENDING BIRTH OF THE 5TH SIGNAL COMMAND.

(MARCH 1974)

USAREUR HEADQUARTERS ANNOUNCES THAT THE COMMAND WILL MOVE ITS HEADQUARTERS FROM SCHWETZINGEN TO TAUKKUNEN BARRACKS IN WORMS, GERMANY.

(JUNE 17, 1974)

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 5TH SIGNAL COMMAND IS OFFICIALLY ACTIVATED AT KILBOURNE KASERNE IN SCHWETZINGEN, GERMANY.

"ECHO"

(SEPTEMBER 3, 1981)

MAJ. GEN. GERD S. GROMBACHER, COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY COMMUNICATIONS COMMAND, VISITS GARLSTEDT, GERMANY, TO OPEN THE FIRST DIGITAL TELEPHONE SWITCH (KN101) OF THE NEW EUROPEAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM (ETS).

"ECHO"

(JUNE 1988)

NEW STORE SPEEDS COMPUTER ACQUISITION TIME. THE 5TH SIGNAL COMMAND IS PIONEERING A QUICKER METHOD TO GET SMALL COMPUTERS INTO THE HANDS OF THE USER. THE NEW SMALL COMPUTER ISSUE ACTIVITY, ALSO CALLED THE COMPUTER STORE, WILL CENTRALIZE THE ACQUISITION OF SMALL COMPUTERS FOR THE ARMY IN

"ECHO"

(SEPTEMBER 1988)

STU-III DOORWAY TO SECURE CONVERSATIONS. WITH THE COMPLETION OF TU-III) IN EUROPE, THE 5TH SIGNAL COMMAND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SECURE TELEPHONES BEING FIELDIED IN SEPTEMBER.

(JUNE 1996)

HQ, 5TH SIGNAL COMMAND MOVES FROM TAUKKUNEN BARRACKS, WORMS TO FUNARI BARRACKS, MANNHEIM ALONG WITH THE 11TH SIGNAL DETACHMENT, WHICH MOVES TO COLEMAN BARRACKS, MANNHEIM.

(MARCH 4, 2003)

BRIG. GEN. MARILYN A. QUAGLIOTTI PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL BY GEN. B.B. BELL, COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY EUROPE. QUAGLIOTTI IS THE FIRST FEMALE TO ATTAIN THIS RANK IN THE SIGNAL CORPS.

Task Force Signal Supports the Greatest Generation

Story by

2nd Lt. Dan Zisa and

2nd Lt. Ted Perry

(Command Group, 44th Signal Battalion)

NORMANDY, France - On June 6, 1944, Allied forces combined resources and manpower to conduct history's greatest sea invasion. One hundred fifty-six thousand American, British, Canadian, and French Resistance troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, successfully liberating France and initiating a movement to bring an end to World War II. Thousands of men bravely fought and died on beaches with the code names Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Today, tourists and beachgoers swarm the waters on the coast of Normandy, but memories of great sacrifice linger in a view of the white marble crosses and memorials that dot the shorelines.

This year on the 60th Anniversary of D-Day the world watched while World War II veterans and their families returned to the battlefield in remembrance of fallen comrades. Alongside those veterans of the Greatest Generation were Soldiers of the Next Greatest Generation -- Task Force Signal -- a communications element comprised of the 44th Signal Battalion and the 2nd Signal Brigade.

The 5th Signal Command Soldiers and civilians provided communication and visual information support for the numerous commemorative events, which occurred throughout the Normandy region on the beachheads of Omaha, Point Du Hoc, and Utah. The Task Force was

overwhelmed by the unique experience of working on the same cliffs and battlefields taken by 1st Infantry Division 60 years earlier.

From walking sections of Omaha Beach to interacting with men who seized those stretches of sand back from the Nazis, 44th Signal Battalion commander Lt. Col. Mark Churchwell said that Normandy provides "a better understanding of the commitment" it takes to be a U.S. servicemember.

On top of the remnants of bunkers built into the cliffs of Courville Sur Mer, tactical satellite dishes and aerial antennas silhouetted against the sky, assisting with the implementation of region-wide communication. A combination of six strategic and tactical data contingency packages were deployed across the region to provide secure and nonsecure Internet connections, video teleconference capabilities, and voice support. Task Force Signal also integrated a foreign commercial trunk, provided by French Telecom, into a United States military system. This capability allowed commercial worldwide service through an existing Defense Switch Network (DSN) and tactical telephone network.

Visual Information Services

Europe (VISE) was another critical member of Task Force Signal. The organization provided audio and visual support for the events. VISE videotaped reenactment activities and speeches and produced over 600 information signs at a "makeshift" shop it deployed. Its engineers laid over 5 kilometers of video cable, enabling disabled veterans an opportunity to watch live video on plasma screens. VISE also supported the



Photo below: Pfc. Coty Doward installs communications cables for satellite and telephones.

Photo by Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin



White House Communications Agency in its endeavor to provide optimum support to the President of the United States. Both Soldiers and civilians worked around the clock to ensure that the Task Force Signal mission was accomplished during this historic event.

In addition, 44th Signal Battalion and VISE, 5th Signal Command, and some of its other subordinate units provided support in the execution of events for the anniversary, including the 39th, 43rd, 52nd, 69th, 102nd, and 509th Signal Battalions.



United States President George W. Bush (l) salute as French President Jacques Chirac stands at attention during the playing of anthems before speaking at Normandy American Cemetery June 2004. France celebrated the 60th Anniversary of D-Day this year, honoring U.S. and allied troops who fought and died on the beaches of Normandy liberating Europe during World War II.

Photo by Melvin D. Tarpley, Jr.

Photo below by Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin



Sgt. Chad Merfeld and Spc. Justin Hunsacker setup an AN/TSC-93 satellite dish on Utah Beach.



Photo by Melvin G. Tarpley

Five of the original "Band of Brothers" from Easy Company, 509th PAR, 101st Airborne Division (l-r), Paul Rodgers, Swifty Powers, Earl McClung, Buck Taylor, and John Agnew, take time to pose for photographs in the Roosevelt Restaurant on Utah Beach, June 6, 2004. They later attended the dedication ceremonies on Utah Beach with other members of their unit.

Raising the U.S. Flag in France

Story by
2nd Lt. Dan Zisa and
2nd Lt. Ted Perry

(Command Group, 44th Signal Battalion)

ISIGNY SUR MER, France - Ten Bravo Company Soldiers from the 44th Signal Battalion shared the honor of raising an American flag in the courtyard of a French high school during the 60th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy.

Alain Gatto, principal of the College Du Val d'Aure High School, requested the ceremony that provided the American Soldiers an opportunity to meet and talk with French youth.

The ceremony took place in the small

town of Isigny Sur Mer, on an early June morning. Gatto and 30 of the school's students presented the flag to Capt. Donald Reeves, commander, and Sgt. 1st Class Frank Reggero, first sergeant, of Bravo Company. Reggero presented the flag to the Soldier detail that included Pfc. Kevin Jorge, Spc. Kwadwo Bland, and Sgt. Chad Merfeld. Soldiers in the detail proudly saluted as the first U.S. flag to fly in the schoolyard rose to the apex of the pole.

Afterward, Reeves and Reggero presented Gatto the Bravo Company's coin of excellence in appreciation for the opportunity to be part of the special event.



Photo by Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin

Students watch as Sgt. Chad Merfeld and Pfc. Kevin Jorge unfold the first U.S. flag to fly in the schoolyard.

German congratulations letters translated

Lord Mayor Gerhard Widder

Greetings

The European Signal Command is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. On the occasion of this pleasant jubilee, I cordially congratulate Brig. Gen. Pollett and the Soldiers and civilians of the U.S. forces on behalf of the city council.

I am proud that our city has been home to Headquarters, 5th Signal Command since 1996, a command that supports troops with modern communications technology in 91 countries in Europe, the near East and Africa. The U.S. Army and its members have become an integral part of our city. Good neighborly contacts and many friendly ties between "our Americans" and the local citizens have long become a tradition in our city.

This Anniversary is a welcome opportunity for me to thank all members of 5th Signal Command for the good cooperation with the city of Mannheim. I am looking forward to continuing the trustworthy and constructive interaction in the future.

Mannheim, July 2004

Lord Mayor Michael Kissel

Greetings

The 40th Anniversary of 5th Signal Command in U.S. Army Europe is a wonderful opportunity for me to greet all former commanders, the current commanding general, and his staff in Worms City Hall.

It is pleasure for me to have Brig. Gen. Pollett host the reception at Herrnsheim Castle, the "living room" of our city that will provide a most appropriate ambience for the anniversary celebration.

I am very pleased that many former commanders have accepted the invitation to come to Worms. During the 22 years that Headquarters, 5th Signal Command called Taukkunen Barracks home, many ties were established, that have even endured the move to Mannheim.

Former opponents have become friends -- friends who we shall always gladly remember. I hope that the contacts with 5th Signal Command will continue for a long time to come so we can welcome you as guests in our town of the "Nibelungen."

Translations by Jozsef Wetzl, Command Group, 5th Signal Command

"Campaign Participation Credit"

continued from page 31

World War II

New Guinea

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

Vietnam

Counteroffensive, Phase II

Counteroffensive, Phase III

Tet Counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase IV

Counteroffensive, Phase V

Counteroffensive, Phase VI

Tet 69/Counteroffensive

Summer-Fall 1969

Winter-Spring 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase VII

Consolidation I

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

69th Signal Battalion

Constituted 13 August 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 69th Signal Battalion, and Activated 15 December 1942 at Camp McCain, Mississippi

Campaign Participation Credit

World War II

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Vietnam

Defense

Counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase II

Counter offensive, phase III

Tet counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase IV

Counteroffensive, Phase V

Counteroffensive, Phase VI

Tet 69/Counteroffensive

Summer-Fall 1969

Winter-Spring 1970

Consolidation II

Cease-Fire

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

72nd Signal Battalion

Constituted 8 May 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 3186th Signal Service Battalion, and Activated 15 May 1944 at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

Campaign Participation Credit

World War II

Rhineland

Central Europe

Asiatic-Pacific Theater,

Streamer without inscription

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

102nd Signal Battalion

Constituted 11 December 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 102d Signal heavy Construction Battalion, and Activated 1 March 1945 in Italy as the 102nd Signal Light Construction Battalion

Campaign Participation Credit

World War II

North Apennines

Po Valley

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

509th Signal Battalion

Constituted 11 December 1944 in the Army of the United States as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 3906th Signal Service Battalion, and Activated 17 January 1945 in France

Campaign Participation Credit

World War II

Rhineland

Central Europe

Vietnam

Counteroffensive, Phase II

Counteroffensive, Phase III

Marker Baby

Story and photos by

Monica Tullos

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany - Tatiana Prestridge can expect a first birthday party with all the fanfare of a tickertape homecoming parade.

The daughter of Sgt. William Prestridge, A Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, and Shelly Prestridge, Tatiana was born last January at the start of the unit's deployment to southwest Asia in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Family readiness group members have marked the passing months of deployment with her growth.

"The bigger (Tatiana) gets, the happier the family readiness group (FRG) members are because

the guys (and gals) are closer to coming home," said Prestridge.

As a former enlisted Soldier, Prestridge is no stranger to the hardship deployment can cause a family, nor is she quick to fall into self-pity.

Hoping to encourage other spouses left in the rear during deployments, she says, "Take advantage of the things that are out in the community. Don't sit home and whine that they're not coming home or that you have nothing to do. This is Germany. There is always something to do. Do not stay on post and sit in the house and do nothing."

Prestridge quit her job when she learned that she was pregnant with Tatiana. The former postal supervisor has been challenged by the demands of deployment from the moment of her daughter's caesarean birth. Her husband's departure was delayed a few weeks to facilitate her recovery, but she still required more help from neighbors and community services after he joined his unit.

Prestridge says she depended on her neighbor to do her laundry because she could not lift anything. She found a true support system in

the FRG with which she was once doubtful of getting involved. Prestridge said she called the New Parent Support Group, sometimes at 3 a.m. in the morning when Tatiana was screaming, and someone was always there to help. Military community friends, Pfc. Kyle Kramer and his wife, Farrah, helped with Prestridge's 2-year-old son, Drake.

Prestridge also has two other children at Fort Hood, who live with her deployed ex-husband and his wife. She is counting on the Army to take care of its families in exchange for her family members' sacrifices.

There are countless other stories like the Prestridges's among Army families. The Army Campaign Plan (ACP) details current transformation initiatives and considers the integral role families play in fulfilling the nation's strategic commitments.

To learn more about how the ACP will reduce the stress of deployments and improve unit and family stability, family members should speak to their FRG leaders about the ACP Family Briefing or visit www.army.mil/thewayahead/acp.html.



Infant Tatiana Prestridge enjoys a lift in the air by her mother, Shelly.



Shelly Prestridge takes a break at the neighborhood playground with son, Drake, 2, and infant daughter, Tatiana.

Rolling into Baghdad

Platoon leader reflects on convoy mission north

Ammunition: "Check." CLS
Bags: "Check." Flares:
"Roger!" IED markers:
"Hooah!" "Synchronize your
watches. SP time is in 10
minutes."

Story and photos by
1st Lt. Gemma Ferrick
(Command Group, 72nd Signal Battalion)

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The A Company Renegades are ready to roll out to Baghdad. The Soldiers made the convoy possible with hard work and determination. As the serial commander, I watched a hasty mission to Baghdad come together piece by piece with help from Soldiers who were focused on the mission and knew what had to get done for us to be successful and safe.

The convoy consisted of A Company's "2nd to None" Platoon Heavy Data Package, A Company's 1st-Platoon-93-Satellite-Communications-team, and B Company's 85-Satellite-Communications-team. We were our own serial within 57th Signal Battalion's seven-serial convoy. Our gun truck, a deuce with "Ice Cream 50 cents" spray-painted on the side, took the lead. With four M-249 squad automatic weapons and a ".50 cal" machinegun, everyone knew this convoy was ready to rock.

The first day we drove about two hours before stopping at Navistar, where we slept on cots alongside our vehicles. Navistar is right at the border of Iraq and Kuwait. We only drove a short distance so we could get a good feel for driving on the foreign roads and have time to conduct a thorough after-action review.

Our next day started at 0100. We got our briefing from the security officer at Navistar and we were ready to go. They call it "crossing the berm" when you go into Iraq. There is an actual berm that you cross, and when you do, weapons are readied. The jolt of adrenaline that went through our bodies is something none of us will ever forget. All of our training and hard work was going to pay off right here. It would pay off these next two days of driving, ensuring every single person made it safely to Victory Base in Baghdad.

The border of Iraq has a barrier on the road (which satirically reminded me of a toll booth on the New Jersey Turnpike) that is covered with signs that say, "You are now in a war zone" and "Watch out for children in the road." What I couldn't stop thinking about was the Soldiers who first entered Iraq a year ago and what it must have felt like for them. But now my platoon was becoming a part of that history.

It was a long drive into Baghdad. My driver, Spc. Jones, broke up the monotony by singing some Johnny Cash songs. And Spc. Chen in the back seat, who I designated as my map man, was intensively studying the maps, down to details like the terrain around us. I had radio communications with my noncommissioned officer in charge, Staff Sgt. Said, who was controlling the back and also driving the Renegade Single Shelter Switch (SSS). I also had a radio with my rear vehicle, the Renegade mechanics, who were ready to expeditiously recover any breakdown that might occur. They had Spc. Richard mounted on the deuce with his M-249, ensuring and informing me that the convoy was all together. A huge asset

was my lead Soldier in the front, Pfc. Rawlings, who was my eyes for the entire convoy. He kept me informed of all civilians and suspicious acts he saw, and therefore I was able to give my rear vehicles a "heads up."

Each and every person was imperative for the overall success of the convoy. Everyone pulled together as a team, and we will always have that bond with each other. Each vehicle that drove past our convoy knew we meant business. We had our weapons pointed down and we were ready to react to any attack that might have occurred. We were successful because our heads were in the game; we took care of each other and watched our buddies' backs.

During the convoy many people came to the roadside to watch us drive by. They came out of their small clay huts to watch us. Some people were happy to see the U.S. Army. They were waving to us and dancing so freely. They gave us the peace sign, thumbs up, and most of all they blew kisses. It seemed like all the young children came out to greet us and blow us kisses.

They weren't thanking me, 1st Lt. Ferrick. They weren't thanking my driver, Spc. Jones. They were thanking the entire United States military for what it had done and how it freed them from the tyrant who ruled them for so many years. For the first time I experienced real world gratification for the U.S. Army. Then and there we learned what true pride felt like.

72nd Signal Battalion deploys in support of OIF2

Story by

Capt. A. R. Wiersgalla

(Command Group, 72nd Signal Battalion)

CAMP UDAIRI, Kuwait - The Soldiers of the 72nd Signal Battalion deployed to Kuwait in the dark of night in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 2. Arriving in theater in three waves, billeting was the first obstacle we faced. Sixty tents were a far cry from the barracks rooms we left behind in Mannheim, Germany.

"If I roll over, I will roll right into Sgt. (Joseph) Johnson's cot," said Spc. Bonnie Leksrisawat, the headquarters and headquarters company armorer, when asked about how living conditions were in the tents.

However, after a few days, Johnson found the accommodations downright cozy.

The next task was picking up our equipment from the sea port of debarkation (SPOD) and transporting it to camp. The Soldiers were bussed to the SPOD where they picked up the vehicles and trailers. The trip back to Camp Udairi took about two hours.

What many of us did not know prior to arrival is that winter is

the rainy season in the desert. And when it rains in the desert, it floods!

The conversation overheard between two Electronic Maintenance Section (EMS) Soldiers in the convoy addressed the unwelcome conditions.

"Yeah, I thought we were deploying to the desert, who the heck ordered the rain?" one Soldier asked.

"I know what you mean. I just got my deuce stuck in the mud," the second replied.

Once the equipment arrived at camp, it was time to begin our mission. We knew that we would be relieving the 63rd Signal Battalion; however, beyond that, much was speculation.

We soon learned that a portion of Alpha and Bravo Companies would move forward into Iraq to provide Switching and Satellite support to Coalition Joint Task Force-7.

Most of Bravo Company remained at Camp Udairi to provide communications support throughout the surge of transitioning forces between OIF1 and OIF2. They also operated and maintained Camp Udairi Telecommunications Facility.

Charlie Company was responsible for the many reception

and staging nodes throughout Kuwait. This included Camp Arifjan, Camp Doha, and Camp Victory, to name a few. Headquarters and Headquarters Company remained at Camp Udairi to maintain battle command of the battalion throughout the area of operations. Additionally the electronic maintenance teams provided support to Alpha Company in Iraq.

Soon after our arrival, two additional companies were also attached to 72nd Signal Battalion -- the 301st Cable and Wire Company, a Reserve unit headquartered in Fort Picket, Virginia; and a National Guard company from Grand Junction, Colorado, the 143rd Signal Company (Heavy Troop).

After a few months, most of the battalion had settled into a routine of shift work and force-protection duty. They were surprised to learn they would perform similar duties at the camps here as in Mannheim.

For the most part, the Soldiers adapted well during the first five months in theater. They survived almost daily wind and sandstorms. Communications support is consistent and reliable. We have even conducted great training while performing our day-to-day operations.

Most of the Soldiers are completing drivers training so that they will be licensed on all of the vehicles in the battalion. We are also conducting military occupational specialty and nuclear, biological, and chemical training, as well as mission-essential task list focused training.

We are all anxiously awaiting to see what the remainder of the deployment brings the 72nd Signal Battalion.

Truck is stuck in mud during convoy to outlying area.

Inset Photo: A group of 72nd Soldiers posing during convoy.

Photos provided by 72nd Signal Battalion





Spc. Charles Hayden makes adjustments to the line-of-sight antenna.

Signal Soldiers link up Marines on the move

“We find more commonalities than differences between the services.”

*Marine Col. Greg Dunlap
Commander, BSSG1*

**Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald**

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait -
When the U.S. Marines needed tac-

tical communications to launch their movement operations, the 7th Signal Brigade stepped forward and took on the mission.

"The response was quick and professional," said (Marine) Col. Greg Dunlap, commander, Brigade Service Support Group 1 (BSSG1).

The BSSG1 is responsible for the movement of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (1st MEF) equipment and personnel into

Kuwait and throughout the wide theater of operations. To coordinate its efforts, a communications link was vital. Two line-of-sight (LOS) antenna teams, a data team, and a cable team from A Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, were called on to establish this link. One group set up at a site outside Kuwait City that the Marines are using as their staging area. The Soldiers made a shot to another antenna set up at a nearby facility to provide the communications link.

"Having the Army here to do this tactical shot is essential to what we're doing," Dunlap said. "We need to provide voice and data back to our headquarters (at BSSG1 and 1st MEF)."

As the Marines prepare to move all their equipment and personnel into theater, the communications link will facilitate the flow of information.

"It's going to help production and efficiency," said (Marine) Capt. Michael Wagner, BSSG1 communications officer. "Because of the volume of equipment (and personnel), we needed the help of 7th Signal Brigade. It's an important mission, so to be able to send data this way really helps us out."

For Soldiers operating LOS equipment, the mission is a rare opportunity to exercise their skills and equipment in a real-world setting. More often, satellite teams are the ones called on for such tactical missions.

"We're all pretty excited to actually get to support a Marine unit. This will be an experience we'll never forget," said Sgt. Mark Fourie, LOS team chief, A Company, 72nd Signal Battalion.

Continued on page 55



The team assembles the antenna on the KROC roof.

Photo by Capt. Thomas Hooper

KROC gets connected by 72nd Soldiers

Line-of-site teams make adjustments, get shot in

Story by

Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait - Moving convoys throughout the theater of operations requires the coordinated efforts of several entities. In order to keep convoys moving, communication between these entities is vital.

"Without good, stable communications, we can't do movement coordination," said Lt. Col. David King, Coalition Forces Land Component Command C9 staff officer and the officer in charge of the Kuwait Rear Operations Center (KROC).

KROC personnel arrange escorts for U.S. convoys moving throughout Kuwait. Working with the Kuwait Ministry of Defense (KMOD) and the Kuwait Ministry of the Interior (KMOI), they help get per-

sonnel and equipment to the right places. KMOD officials organize bus escorts, establish checkpoints, and provide area security, while KMOI personnel escort wheeled vehicles and help facilitate route management.

7th Signal Brigade was called on to help these two entities communicate. The brigade provided a voice and datalink for KROC.

"We needed to get connectivity between KROC and Camp Arifjan," said King. "The solution was to get a tactical shot to provide secure communications and bring stability to our communications."

Soldiers from the brigade's C Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, stepped up and took on the mission. Two line-of-sight (LOS) antenna teams set up the shot that provided the communications link.

"It's a good mission," said Staff Sgt. Michael Virtue, LOS team chief, C Company, 72nd Signal

Battalion. "It gets us out here doing what we were trained to do in a real-world environment."

No longer in a training situation, the Soldiers had to contend with real-world challenges. At the KROC site, the Soldiers had to hoist an entire antenna up to the rooftop and get it grounded.

"We're used to setting up in the field. Here we have an urban environment on top of a building. It slowed us down a little, but we got it done," said Spc. Ryan Folkmann, transmission systems operator-maintainer, C Company, 72nd Signal Battalion.

Once the antenna was up, the teams worked to bring the shot in. Their first attempt didn't work and the Soldiers from the outlying site had to make a jump to another location.

"A jump happens in the field, and it happens in the real world," said Virtue. "Out here we have to adapt and overcome."

Staff Sgt. D. J. Roeder, mission noncommissioned officer in charge, C Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, said the initial shot met with difficulties because they had to shoot through the city. Once they made their adjustments, however, the shot came in.

"The shot is solid," he said. "We had a lot of interference going through the city, but now we have a direct line of sight. It's a lot more reliable."

Roeder credits his Soldiers for their perseverance in getting the shot in and enabling KROC to communicate.

"The brigade never had a configuration like this," he explained. "This is the best group of Soldiers I've had. They're very knowledgeable and (KROC) is definitely glad to have them out there."

Automation Excellence

Story by

Capt. Brion Johnson

(S-6 Staff, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait - The job of the 7th Signal Brigade automation - or S-6 - section is to manage a part of the tactical automation network in the southwest Asian theater. But how do you manage something that is changing so fast as the use of computer networks? You can adapt to the ever-increasing changes or get left behind. Another option is to take a position as the driving force behind the winds of change. When a war is being fought and lives are at stake, and adapting does not seem quite good enough, then all that is left to do is to innovate.

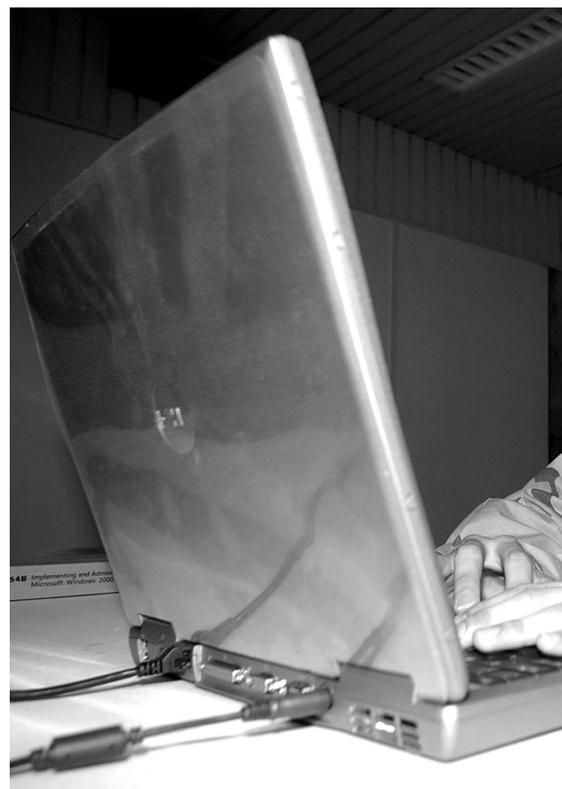
From the moment it arrived, the brigade S6 Tactical Wide Area Network (WAN) team began the daunting task of mapping a logical network diagram from a hastily pieced together network spanning two countries. To begin, the team had to have a firm understanding of the network's architecture. Only then could it proceed with securing, analyzing, and constantly re-engineering the network to serve an ever-changing customer base.

The tactical WAN team implemented a software-engineered bandwidth-monitoring tool as a means to analyze the data transmission between links to the various camps throughout theater. It configured the core routers to transmit statistical network data back to a locally managed server. This provided the brigade commander with specific network trends and the information necessary to formulate sound improvements to the network design.

Now that the team had a method for monitoring bandwidth use, it needed to see the specific composition of that use. Nothing existed that could meet its needs, so the team was left with inventing a tool to do the job. It combined a built-in router feature that tracks statistics, a locally written Practical Extraction and Report Language (PERL) script, and a custom-made Web page to graphically track network traffic use in a way that is completely unique.

"Being able to truly understand how the services that we provide are actually being utilized gives us many advantages," explained Sgt. Nicolas Marriott, WAN engineer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Signal Brigade. "One advantage it gives us is the ability to provision the services to the locations and users that need them most. This not only applies to the planning process for the future of the network; we also apply this information to make changes to the current structure if it is required. Another advantage gained from proper network monitoring is verification of the network configuration. Constantly monitoring that these links are doing what they are supposed to be doing is crucial to make sure that the users are getting the most service possible from the network. The final advantage from detailed network monitoring is network usage policy enforcement and abuse detection."

The S-6 Local Area Networking section has also developed some innovative tools, including the design of the 7th Signal Brigade operational Web site. It is the central point where all operational information is gathered and distributed for the



Staff Sgt. Carmelo Munoz, brigade webmaster, works to update the 7th Signal Brigade Web site.

brigade. To accomplish this goal, Sgt. Carmelo Muñoz, the brigade webmaster, incorporated a multitude of programming technologies into the Web site.

A well-designed, well-managed network is nothing if it cannot be secured. The brigade's S-6 Information Assurance section has taken steps to ensure that the innovations of the other sections are protected and used by the right people. Cooperation with both the Regional Computer Emergency Response Team - Southwest Asia (RCERT-SWA) and subordinate technical control facilities (TCFs) is key to this objective - a concept known as "Defense in Depth." Working in conjunction with RCERT-SWA, the brigade Information Assurance team has conducted numerous staff assistance visits both in Kuwait and Iraq. During these visits the team conducts a network scan



Photos by Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

to determine the level of vulnerability mitigation, and assesses both physical security measures and operational procedures, to include patch management, virus definition deployment,

administrative procedures, and training status.

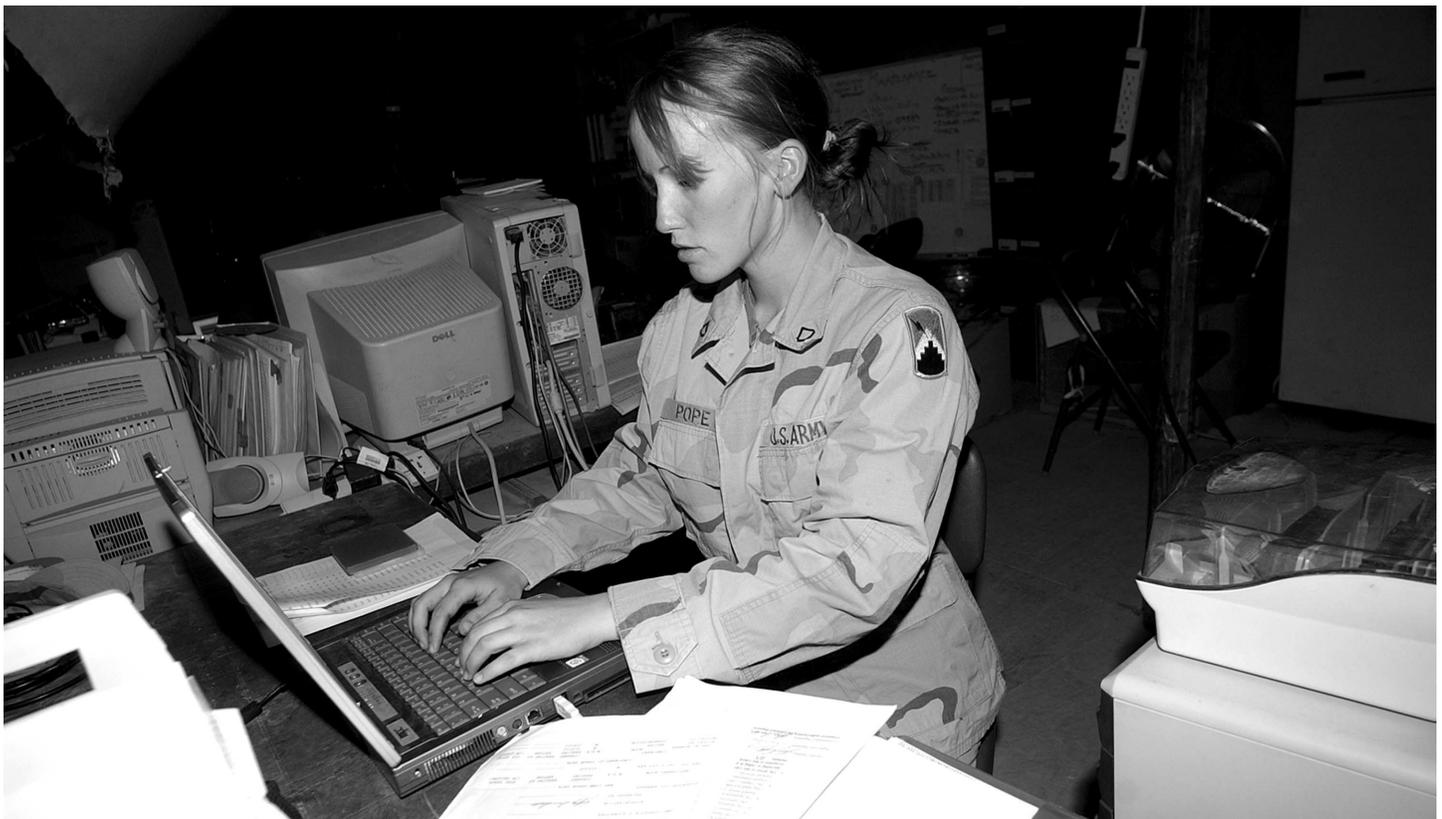
Monitoring the network for malicious code and penetration occurs around the clock using an intrusion-detection system (IDS). Strategically placed sensors throughout the network help detect attacks and provide real-time notification.

Each TCF has its own IDS sensor, which is monitored at both RCERT-SWA and 7th Signal Brigade. When suspicious traffic is detected by the IDS, the TCF is immediately notified and an investigation is started. Monitoring IDSs is common for RCERTs worldwide, but this mission required quick incident response times. In the future, TCFs across the theater will have access to this data, further improving the "Defense in Depth" model implemented by the 7th Signal Brigade.

An effective patch-management plan is also critical to keeping information systems updated and protected from intrusions and malicious

code. One such method of deploying patches to the machines of users is through a new tool developed by Microsoft, known as the Software Update Services (SUS). The SUS server located in the TCF pulls patches tested and approved by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) from Department of Defense (DOD) Web sites, and then automatically distributes these updates to the client machines. This is accomplished while being transparent to the user. In such a dynamic environment as southwest Asia, having the right tools for the job makes a world of difference.

Would the network still run without all these innovations? Yes, but it would not be running at the highest level of efficiency. And in a Department of Defense network like this one, where lives are on the line, improving efficiency is one of the primary objectives. It is what drives the 7th Signal Brigade S-6 section to constantly innovate.



Pfc. Jessica Pope processes part requests for 72nd Signal Battalion motor pool.

319th Signal Battalion National Guard in Iraq

Soldiers take over mission far removed from their civilian lives

**Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald**

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq - They may be a long way from Sacramento, but Soldiers of the 319th Signal Battalion here are excited about the opportunity to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It's good to put into practice what I learned at AIT (Advanced Individual Training)," said Spc. Lily Ruiz, cable systems installer-maintainer, B Company, 319th Signal Battalion.

Back at home, Ruiz worked as a preschool teacher. Deployed in support of OIF2, she is part of a cable platoon for the 319th, a Reserve unit from Sacramento, Ca. The battalion arrived in theater in March and began working in various sites throughout the theater, including Camp Virginia and Camp Victory in Kuwait, and Camp Bucca in Iraq.

"So far it's been a good adjustment," said Ruiz. "This is a good place compared to some of the other sites I've seen."

Camp Bucca is the site of enemy prisoner-of-war operations. The signal unit provides communications for military police and medical services Soldiers located here. It also supports operations at the Iraqi port of Um Qasr and the border control point located in Navistar.

"We're the communications link for southern Iraq and northern

Kuwait," said Capt. Renato Medina, B Company commander.

The unit took over operations from the 151st Signal Battalion, a National Guard unit from Greenville, S.C. In theater, both units fall under the operational control of the 7th Signal Brigade. Over the past month, they have been engaged in changeover operations. To make the transition smoother, the 151st provided the incoming troops with lessons learned from their deployment.

"Maintenance is a key issue out here," said 1st Lt. Harry Tomlin, A Company executive officer, 151st Signal Battalion. "Dust control of equipment like power generators is critical, especially in the hot months."

With the benefit of 151st's experiences, the 319th Signal Battalion got right to work on its mission.

"We've been busy with the changeover," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Wallen, platoon sergeant, cable platoon. "We took what we learned from 151st and have been adapting it to our system and how we operate."

Wallen said his platoon has been actively clearing the area, policing up cable, and identifying active and inactive lines.

"It will make troubleshooting easier if some-

Sorting out this bundle of wires is no problem for Spc. Lily Ruiz.

thing goes down. We'll know where to look," he said. "This has been good for my Soldiers because we're finally getting to do what we were trained to do."

Quickly adapting to active-duty status, the Soldiers understand they have new roles, far removed from their civilian lives. For Medina, bringing Soldiers together from all walks of life to accomplish one mission is a challenge he is looking forward to.

"It's a special unit," he said. "The reservist mission dramatically changed with the Global War on Terrorism. We're making history here as reservists and as Army Soldiers."



Virginia upgraded

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait - For Soldiers of C Company, 319th Signal Battalion, the commercial communications equipment rolling into Camp Virginia was a welcome sight.

"I was happy to see it," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Lee, technical control facility (TCF) noncommissioned officer in charge. "With the equipment here, it means commercialization is a reality."

Since arriving in theater the 319th Signal Battalion has been an

integral part of 7th Signal Brigade's commercialization mission. The process involves replacing military equipment with commercial products and turning over control of communications operations and maintenance to civilian contractors.

"Once we have the network established, it's up to the civilian contractors to take over," said Capt. Louis Nagel, brigade commercialization officer.

Nagel led a team of Soldiers to Camp Virginia in August to install a USC-60 commercial satellite terminal and a Redcom (secure) telephone switch. Placed at the TCF, the new

equipment will mean a number of improvements for the Kuwaiti camp.

"The benefits include increased reliability and increased capacity while requiring less manpower," said Capt. Daniel Hicks, commander, C Company, 319th Signal Battalion.

Such an increased capacity, it will allow C Company to take the tactical telephone switch out of the network.

"This is also an opportunity for Soldiers to work on commercial equipment," added Hicks.

The Soldiers of C Company are responsible for running the TCF, the communications hub of Camp Virginia. They also provide a help desk and a wire and cable section that takes care of telephone lines. Working alongside these Soldiers is a team of civilian contractors.

"We have a great working relationship with (them)," said Hicks. "They bring a level of expertise Soldiers don't have."

Tyronne Quinn, a contractor with Information and Telecommunications Technology and a former switch operator in the military, works as a switch technician on commercial systems.

"I enjoy it," he said. "It's been good working with these Soldiers. They are go-getters, ready to absorb everything you throw at them. That is a plus."

Working together, signal Soldiers and civilian professionals have contributed greatly to the increasingly commercial face of theater communications.

"The more we have commercialized, the less need we have for tactical capabilities," said Nagel. "We can recover and wait for the next mission."

Staff Sgt. Jeff Lee works with the lines on the new Redcom switch.



Overcoming language barriers to meet mission

Story by

Spc. Tyrone J. Marshall,

Spc. Colin Tracey, and

Capt. Daniel Hicks

(C Company, 319th Signal Battalion)

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait - Soldiers of C Company, 319th Signal Battalion, have proven themselves capable of managing more than the routine tasks while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Help Desk is one of the services the company provides for the base camp. Soldiers here supply technical support to personnel who use laptop or desktop computers to access military networks. They also make service calls to troubleshoot various computer or network problems.

Baselining computers in accordance with military security regulations and using anti-virus software to safeguard the network are among their regular duties. Baselining is the process of loading security patches to close holes in Microsoft Windows that make the system vulnerable to hackers.

Among the base camp clientele C Company supports are non-English speaking coalition forces. Help Desk personnel were challenged to overcome language barriers for the sake of meeting their mission.

When members of the Japanese Coalition Force moved into Camp Virginia, they needed Internet access to communicate



Photo courtesy of C Company, 319th Signal Battalion

Spc. Scott Tyler (l) works with Japanese and American laptops side-by-side to complete the baselining as Spc. Tyrone J. Marshall takes note of the procedure.

home and with other coalition forces in theater. The Help Desk team had trouble baselining a Japanese laptop with the entire operating system written in Japanese. None of the Help Desk staff spoke or understood Japanese; nor did the laptop owner understand English.

"No one at the Help Desk knew what to do," said Spc. Scott Tyler, Wire and Cable Platoon, C Company.

Dedicated to meeting the customer's need, he used a rough-edged "Rosetta stone," a language learning software, to decipher the foreign operating system (OS).

"After a few minutes of staring at the foreign computer, I realized that it would help if I had a

guide to walk me through the processes of the baseline. So I grabbed an English computer and set it next to the Japanese computer so I could visualize what its OS was displaying. Fortunately, most of the steps are identical for both English and Japanese versions of Windows," He said.

Tyler first performed each step in the baselining process on the English laptop, then repeated the step on the Japanese laptop. The process took most of a day, but eventually the Japanese computer was baselined and ready to be put on the network. Good training and some creative thinking helped to get a member of the coalition forces on the Internet in support of the greater war effort.

Rocky Mountain signal in the desert!

Story by

1st Lt. Ryan Richard

(Command Group, 143rd Signal Company)

CAMP BUERHING, Kuwait - Army National Guardsmen from the Rocky Mountain state of Colorado have been providing echelon-above-corps (EAC) signal support in Kuwait and southern Iraq since last spring. Life in the desert at Camp Buerhing has been a big departure from the wondrous environment 143rd Signal Company (Heavy Troop) was accustomed to at Grand Junction.

According to Spc. Jeffrey Cook, mesas, mountains, and snow are part of the typical scenery back home, so the desert landscape and climate have taken some getting used to.

"Working force-protection duty gives you the opportunity to see quite a lot of the local animals. I have very good pictures of camels, lizards, snakes, and scorpions. I still do not have a good picture of a hedgehog, though." With a laugh, he mentions, "We are in country for one year, so I guess I still have time to get one."

The positive attitude and morale displayed by guardsmen like Cook is common throughout the unit. Strong support systems back home help the unit stay focused on its mission.

"We have strong ties to our hometown and local community in Colorado," says the Capt. Brad Rhodes, company commander.

"Community groups such as Home Front Heroes and retired National Guard members have been helping out the spouses with things such as home and car repairs."

The local hometown groups are also sending care packages, he adds.

One maintenance noncommissioned officer was especially appreciative of Colorado's Army National Guard (ARNG) headquarters, saying that officials went to great lengths to ensure the 143rd Signal Company deployed well equipped. The unit deployed with enough primary load list parts and petroleum, oil, and lubricants to remain self-sufficient until it could get the supply chain working. The headquarters also provided board games, sports items, televisions, DVD players, and other recreational items for the Soldiers.

While in Kuwait, the 143rd Signal Company is under the operational control of the 72nd Signal Battalion, an EAC signal battalion from Mannheim, Germany. The ARNG unit has not only been operating communications linking the northern Kuwait desert camps to southern Iraq, but has also been tasked to refurbish and rebuild several heavy troop shelters belonging to the 385th Signal Company, an active duty unit posted at Camp Doha, Kuwait.



Snow-covered mountains in the Rocky Mountain National Park in the state of Colorado

File photo

What 'right' looks like

72nd Signal Battalion maintenance competition improves deployment readiness

**Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald**

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait
- When the 335th Theater Signal Command (Forward) deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Donna Dacier, recently visited the 72nd Signal Battalion motor pool here, her comment was that it looked better than some garrison motor pools.

"We've seen a lot of improvement since January," said Master Sgt. Terry Finch, battalion maintenance supervisor, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 72nd Signal Battalion.

When the unit arrived in January, maintenance personnel knew they would be facing the extreme heat, dust, and sandstorms of a desert deployment. It would be their job to keep the mission going by overcom-

ing the severe environmental conditions.

"Operations may be more difficult out here, but you still have to make everything work. You just have to be more innovative," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Gregory Packer, battalion maintenance technician, HHC, 72nd Signal Battalion.

To ensure the unit maintained its preparedness, the battalion maintenance team came up with an innovative way to keep its motor pools running efficiently and effectively -- it established a monthly competition.

The 72nd Signal Battalion Monthly Maintenance Competition was begun in April as a way to raise readiness rates, mentor maintenance personnel, and ensure files stay updated, explained Packer.

"We came up with it to get to where we needed to be," he added.

The competition involves the battalion's four company motor pools, along with the motor pools of the 143rd Signal Company and the 301st Signal Company. The battalion maintenance section inspects 10 areas



From l-r: Spc. Steven Machuca, Spc. Arnez Garcia, and Pfc. Jesse Delacerda work together to conduct maintenance on 72nd Signal Battalion vehicles.

every month and assigns points to each motor pool. Everything from maintenance reports and job orders to equipment care and service completion is looked at. In addition to an assessment on Environmental Protection Agency compliance and safety, the motor pools are also inspected each month by the battalion commander and command sergeant major.

"We get down to the nuts and bolts of it," Packer said. "The idea is to teach them what 'right' looks like."

Apparently, the motor pools are finding that out through the competition. Since it began, all the units are reporting operational readiness rates above 90 percent.

"It's very competitive, so they fight for each point they can get," Packer continued. "They all want to be the best."

Being named best maintenance team of the month earns a motor pool a plaque and a day off in theater, though to these Soldiers the competition is more about pride.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Levins, motor sergeant, 301st Signal



Pfc. Corey Edmon (l) and Spc. Jennifer Ewerds work on a vehicle.



Company, said his Soldiers were not sure about the competition at first. After taking the best maintenance team title twice, however, it is something they look forward to now.

"This lets people know I've got people who take a lot of pride in what they do," he said.

The 301st, a Reserve unit from Fort Pickett, Va., and the 143rd, a Colorado National Guard unit, both fall under the active duty 72nd Signal Battalion in theater. Being together on this deployment, they have all formed a professional working relationship while enjoying a little healthy competition.

"It's been good," Levins said. "We help each other out and learn from each other."

Taking in lessons learned has been key to the battalion's maintenance planning. The experience of past units has been especially beneficial in dealing with the desert conditions.

"It's different out here," Finch said. "We don't have pits or lifts. These Soldiers are out there on their backs in the sand. Things get really dirty and the heat is tough on equipment, especially electrical components. We've taken the experience of

units before us and made it battalion policy."

Using those lessons learned, along with signal and Army maintenance checklists, the battalion maintenance section developed guidelines for the monthly competition. As a result, all the motor pools have specific standards they can shoot for each month.

"It opens your eyes to different parts of the regulations and keeps the companies focused on maintenance," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael

Green, motor sergeant, B Company, 72nd Signal Battalion.

That has been the goal of the monthly maintenance competition, Packer explained.

"Everybody wants to win, so they're doing all the right things," he said. "This is setting us up for success."

Out here under these harsh conditions, these Soldiers understand the importance of keeping on top of maintenance. They understand what 'right' looks like.



Photo top: Pfc. Sean Vineyard changes the gearbox oil in the motor pool.

Photo bottom: Sgt. Kimberly Sligh updates files in the motor pool.



235th Signal Company runs a joint network

Story by

Capt. W. Scott Kelly

(235th Forward Detachment Commander)

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait - The 235th Signal Company (Tactical Satellite - TACSAT) from Fort Gordon, Georgia, begins its second consecutive year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) with a new twist - 24 Airmen augmentees from the United States Air Force (USAF). During OIF 1, the 235th Signal Company Soldiers manned all eight TACSATs. When the company was extended for OIF 2, the Joint Staff agreed to attach 24 Airmen from across the Air Force to relieve 235th Signal Company's high operating tempo.

Since this was the first time that USAF TACSAT operators have worked on U.S. Army satellite equipment in a combat zone, it presented some unique challenges. In order to get Soldiers and Airmen to work seamlessly together to meet the 7th Signal Brigade commander's philosophy of "One Team...One Network," the Airmen were sent initially to Fort Gordon to begin training with the Army under the supervision of the 56th Signal Battalion. The goal was to build a joint service team with both Soldiers and Airmen learning their roles and responsibilities on the satellite team side by side.

Training covered site setup, link configuration, basic troubleshooting, and Soldier skills, to include driving Army vehicles and conducting a lane training exercise to react to different convoy scenar-



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Whitney

U.S. Air Force Master Sgts. William Young (I) and Phillip Hoxsey installing equipment with the U.S. Army 235th Signal Company in Iraq.

ios. Finally, the training concluded after their arrival in theater with a team convoy live-fire exercise at the Udairi Range complex in Kuwait.

"The training we have received from the 235th Signal Company has been invaluable in preparing us to complete our mission. The knowledge we gained focused on specific requirements for the theater," said USAF Staff Sgt. Danny Fidler.

After completing this training, the Airmen were integrated into teams consisting of an Army noncommissioned officer (NCO) and an Air Force NCO counterpart, with a combination of Soldiers and Airmen filling out the required manning. The newly trained joint TACSAT teams then deployed to different locations throughout the United States Central Command area of operation. During opera-

tions in a combat zone, it was imperative that in every respect the Airmen were treated equally with their Soldier counterparts.

The joint-service mission has been a great experience for both Soldiers and Airmen. It has been a win-win situation for the 235th Signal Company by allowing it to support both OIF and its mission at Fort Gordon. More importantly, members from both services have expanded their knowledge about their job and the other service. Army Staff Sgt. Donnie Hathaway, 235th team chief, summed it up best saying, "It's been an exciting experience to merge the two services to achieve a common goal and mission." The Soldiers and the Airmen have proven that the success of the military's future as a joint force begins at the lowest level.

Eye opener

Soldiers provide vital video communications support

Story by

Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait - Keeping an eye on the enemy is key to battlefield success, and troops from the 7th Signal Brigade recently played a vital role in military video communications operations in Iraq. A team of Soldiers flew from Kuwait to Iraq in May to install a commercial communications terminal to support the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) mission there.

"(Our work) enables the battalion to provide live video, taken from the Hunter and I-GNAT (Army UAVs), to various military and intelligence-gathering agencies," said Capt. Thomas Hooper, network operations and plans officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Signal Brigade.

Along with a communications terminal, a commercial telephone switch and associated data package were installed to replace the military equipment that was in use. The equip-

ment provides video feeds that directly support battle command operations in theater, and further intelligence-gathering missions around the world.

Getting the equipment installed presented a number of challenges for the team. With an ever-present enemy actively engaging the compound with mortar attacks, the team had to perform the mission in a specified timeframe. To keep the video feeds coming in, the installation had to be completed between the time one UAV landed and the next one was due to take off.

"The enemy mortar attacks hampered our efforts, but the team worked through the night to complete the mission," said Hooper.

Capt. Robert Nettles, battalion signal officer, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, said the brigade Soldiers performed well under difficult conditions.

"There were a few obstacles, but they worked at it until the job was done. The team beat the deadline by two hours, allowing us not to miss a single mission," he said.

Despite the particular challenges, the team members said they got a lot out of the mission. Working under time constraints, high temperatures, and scattered mortar attacks,

even veteran Soldiers found it a learning experience.

"Every time I do an install I learn something new," said Sgt. 1st Class William Norton, mission non-commissioned officer in charge.

After working long hours to get the communications link installed, the team was able to see immediate results of their efforts. They even watched live video of someone carrying an AK-47 rifle into a mosque.

"It was very interesting to see how much they can see from so far away," added Norton.

With the mission complete, Nettles stressed the importance of this support to the intelligence community.

"It allows units to get video footage in near real time," he said. "Without it, this combat multiplier would be lost."

The mission had the added benefit of relieving military personnel and furthering the commercialization effort in Iraq. Civilian contractors will take over the operation and maintenance of the equipment, freeing up Soldiers from 269th and 69th Signal Companies, some of whom have been in theater for more than 400 days.

1st Lt. James Kalinowski, a platoon leader from 385th Signal Company, headed the redeployment effort of these troops and said the Soldiers were excited about the installation.



Photo left: From l-r, Staff Sgt. Grover Norton, Sgt. 1st Class William Norton, Capt. Thomas Hooper, and Sgt. Guy Cooper work to get the shot in on a mission in Iraq.

Photo right: The Hunter UAV waits for its next mission. The Hunter is an Army version of the Predator UAV.



Photos by Capt. Thomas Hooper

Signal Soldiers study the Promina

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait - Despite busy schedules and ongoing mission requirements, Soldiers of the 7th Signal Brigade have made time for advanced technical training while on deployment.

"We should always be training, whether we're in system or not," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Riedmueller, network engineer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Signal Brigade.

Riedmueller and a team of instructors have been training Soldiers on the Promina 800 Series multiplexer system. The system is capable of consolidating a diverse amount of traffic onto a single platform, combining several circuits into a single trunk. The Promina is the latest in signal technology, providing communications packages with greater capability and enabling greater efficiency.

"The entire signal community is moving away from the older FCC-100 to the Promina," explained Riedmueller. "As the network requires more bandwidth, this system allows us to meet user demands and gives us a more robust, efficient, and stable tactical network."

Data packages that aren't already fielded with the Promina system will soon be. The current training is preparing Soldiers with hands-on instruction on how to use the equipment.

Sgt. Karl King, data team, C Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, came to the course because his team is getting fielded with the Promina

system. After getting familiar with the equipment, he agreed with the improvements over the older system.

"We finally had a chance to sit down and go over the equipment step by step and it's excellent," he said. "This is going to bring much more reliable mission capability."

Spc. Ronald Rigdon, data team, C Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, had never touched a Promina system before and didn't know what to expect of the training.

"I was very surprised to get a class like this (on deployment)," he said. "It's not your typical classroom, but the instruction is very detailed and we learned each part of the system."

Set up in a warehouse bay across from the brigade Tactical Network Operations Security Center, the classroom is essentially "Voice of Freedom Regional Training and Support Center" for-

ward. Riedmueller and fellow instructors, Warrant Officer 1 Jon Bates and Staff Sgt. Michael Howard, have been offering two separate classes on the Promina. A weeklong course is given to operators so they can actually run the system and troubleshoot when necessary. The instructors also teach a two-day familiarization course intended for controllers and battle captains.

Though scheduled for only a limited duration, demand for the training has been heavy. In addition to training brigade troops, the instructors have also received many requests from outside units, including 160th Signal Brigade and 335th Theater Signal Command. As efforts to commercialize continue and new equipment arrives in theater, the instructors anticipate scheduling more courses.

"There is demand for more training and we recognize the need," said Riedmueller. "This is the direction the Army's taking, so we have to get these Soldiers trained."



Sgt. Michael Craig, A Company, 72nd Signal Battalion (l), has a question about the Promina 800 Series for instructor Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Riedmueller, HHC, 7th Signal Brigade.

Warrant officers don branch insignia

Event marks end to long-standing 'Eagle Rising' tradition

**Story by
Chief Warrant Officer 4
Jerome Paul**

(Command Group, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait - July 9 marked a significant turning point in the 86-year history of the warrant officer corps, and members of the 7th Signal Brigade observed the occasion in a ceremony at Camp Doha. In the ceremony, the brigade's warrant officers gathered together to ceremoniously remove their "Eagle Rising" insignia and don branch insignia worn by the Army's regular officer corps. Similar ceremonies were held throughout the Army to welcome warrant officers into the various branch corps of the U.S. Army.

Warrant officers are commonly known as "Quiet Professionals." But on the 86th anniversary of the corps, the brigade's most technically proficient officers took time from their hard work in their career fields to

"sound off" at the 7th Signal Brigade Warrant Officer Change of Insignia Ceremony.

Warrant officers from the 67th Signal Battalion, 72nd Signal Battalion, 319th Signal Battalion, 143rd Signal Company, and 321st Signal Company assembled to take part in the ceremony. Several branches were represented, including the Ordnance Corps, the Quartermaster Corps, and the Signal Corps.

To welcome them to their specific branch corps, the warrant officers each received a ceremonial pinning of their respective branch

insignia on their collars. Col. Jennifer Napper, 7th Signal Brigade commander, welcomed the commander of troops, Quartermaster Corps warrant officers, and Signal Corps warrant officers into their respective branches. Maj. Jeffrey Coleman, brigade logistics officer, welcomed the Ordnance Corps warrant officers into their branch.

Although many warrant officers will miss wearing the "Eagle Rising" on their collar, this change is just another step in the Army's transformation process. Though many changes took place July 9, one thing that remains constant is that this memorable event will always be part of the 7th Signal Brigade and U.S. Army history.



Photo by Spc. William Garreans

Warrant officers from across the brigade gather at Camp Doha for the historic change-of-insignia ceremony.

"Signal Soldiers Link Up"

continued from page 42

For 1st Lt. Billy Wright, A Company platoon leader, the mission was an opportunity to see his Soldiers work together as a team.

"They're getting to do the job they were trained to do," he said. "That motivates them and helps build team unity."

Soon after they got the mission, the Soldiers could see it was no longer a field training exer-

cise. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) was found at the depot site and an explosive ordnance disposal unit had to be called in to destroy the UXO before work could begin. The Soldiers also had to set up sleep tents and provide their own force protection for the first few nights. Through it all, teamwork was the key to getting the site set up and the communications link installed.

"We have fun, but when it comes to work we really buckle down and get the job done," said

Pfc. John Hunt, multichannel systems operator, A Company, 72nd Signal Battalion.

With the shot in, the Marines arrived and began their movement operations alongside Army signal Soldiers.

"It's outstanding," Dunlap said. "The more we do these (joint missions), the better we get. We find more commonalities than differences between the services. It truly is one team."

Combat patch

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait - Six months after its Soldiers first arrived in theater, the 7th Signal Brigade marked the occasion with a July 7 patch ceremony at the Camp Doha gymnasium.

"More than 1,600 Soldiers, plus the over 600 who have already redeployed, have earned the right to



Soldiers serving under the 7th Signal Brigade wear the unit patch on their right sleeves.

wear the 7th Signal Brigade insignia on their right shoulders," said Col. Jennifer Napper, brigade commander.

At the ceremonial gathering, Napper placed the shoulder-sleeve insignia for former wartime service - or "combat patch" as it is often referred -- on a representative squad of Soldiers.

"I am proud of each and every one of you and your continued service in this Global War on Terrorism," she told Soldiers.

The 7th Signal Brigade, from Mannheim, Germany, deployed this past January. The unit provides an array of communications services throughout the theater of operations in Iraq and Kuwait. The brigade also plays an integral part in the ongoing commercialization efforts in Iraq. Subordinate units of the brigade are made up of active duty, Reserve, and National Guard troops. They come from a variety of places, including

Germany, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico. All of these Soldiers who have served under the brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom can now wear the brigade insignia.

1st Lt. Edneris Aponte is a reservist from the 35th Signal Battalion in Puerto Rico. For this deployment, however, she was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 319th Signal Battalion, as a personnel officer. She now wears the 7th Signal Brigade patch.

"This is good for Soldiers. It gives them some motivation," she said.

For Chief Warrant Officer 2 Gregory Packer, battalion maintenance officer, HHC, 72nd Signal Battalion, the patch is a symbol of the unit's role in the overall mission.

"It represents the service we've given to the warfighter," he said. "This is our piece in fighting the war on terrorism."

The Silent Soldier

By
Delia B. Ginete
(G-7 Staff, 5th Signal Command)

I am a silent Soldier
Unknowingly drafted by
marriage
Serving a common cause
Freedom of this land

I am where my Soldier is
Standing firm, standing tall
Serving at any capacity
Providing comfort on behalf of
our native land

I am my Soldier's home
I am my Soldier's heart
I am his strength and wisdom

I am the fort

I am the inspiration that
breathes life into his existence
I am the sentry to our family
and children
Force to reckon with, watching
over all
The other side that makes him
one

I am his light when darkness
falls
I am his ears when the sound is
null
I am his eyes when sight is no
more

For I am in his heart and in his
soul

For in God we both believe
The same God we both serve
The same God that bound us
one
The same God we both have
faith

As each day I quietly serve with
pride
Committed to serving my
family, God, and country
Serving my Soldier in any
plight, without any trophy in
sight
Just acting as one, a silent
Soldier by his side!



Officers from 72nd Signal Battalion take first place in the team category.

Marine Capt. Michael Johannes crosses the finish line first for the men.

Running through the desert

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald
(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

CAMP UDAIRI, Kuwait - The desert is a big place. Runners found this out as they braved sun, sand, and wind in the 72nd Signal Battalion's 7.2 Mile Run. The event

featured a demanding course that took participants around the confines of Camp Udairi. Along with testing their endurance, the run brought participants from a variety of units together to enjoy a day of athletic challenge.

"It was a lot of fun, a good event," said Marine Corps Capt. Michael Johannes. "Everyone out here was great. They had tremendous support for this."

Johannes, Marine Corps Systems Command staff officer, took first place in the men's category with a time of 44 minutes, 30 seconds.

Used to training for 5K and traditional distance runs, Johannes said the 7.2 mile course was different, but enjoyable.

"It's not a standard distance, but I like running and the temperature was perfect - sunny, but cool," he added.

Pfc. Rachael Sather took first place for the women with a time of 1 hour, 59 seconds. A Soldier with B Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, Sather said it was nice to represent her unit in such an event.

"This was something different and it got a lot of people involved," she said.

Maj. Seena Tucker, battalion executive officer and event coordina-

tor, said she was pleased with the turnout.

"It's super," she said. "It really brings esprit de corps to Camp Udairi and lets units come together and have some fun."

A number of units participated in the event, represented by teams as well as individual runners.

Sgt. 1st Class Harry Gonzalez, platoon sergeant, C Company, 448th Engineer Battalion, said his unit was happy to take part in the event.

"We said, 'Let's participate and show everyone we're out here,'" he said. "They should have more of these activities. It helps to take the pressure off and gets different units involved."

Gonzalez's battalion entered a team that finished second. Teams consisted of three runners, with the best overall time of 52 minutes, 53 seconds, going to a group of officers from 72nd Signal Battalion. Third place went to a team from B Company, 72nd Signal Battalion.

Other top placers included Sgt. Aaron Kennedy, 368th Finance Battalion, in second; and 1st Lt. Lawrence McKiernan, 926th Engineer Battalion, in third for the men. For the women it was Sgt. Debbie Lindsey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, in second; and Spc. Mary Lynn Villafane, B Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, in third.



Pfc. Rachael Sather on her way to taking first place for the women.

Wilson Brings Home Gold



All Army Women's Softball Team
Fort Indiantown Gap, PA
2004

U.S. Army photo

Story by
Connie Weekley

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany - Sgt. Janet Wilson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Signal Command, has proven herself a champion softball player three times over. Her most recent victory came in October when her combined armed forces team won the Amateur Softball Association Championship of the West in San Antonio, Texas.

Sgt. Janet Wilson, pictured in inset photo, is second from right standing in group.

Wilson says her rise to increasing levels of competition began with the simple intent to have fun. She started as a player with the community women's softball team in Mannheim and impressed her coach so much that he recommended her as a player for the All Army Softball Team.

Voted as the most valuable player for that team at the end of the season, the skilled pitcher helped her

teammates capture the 2004 Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, in September.

The victory helped the Army reclaim a championship it has lost to the Air Force the last two years.

Wilson also played on the 5th Signal Command team that won the 2004 United States Army Europe Softball Championships in Heidelberg, Germany.



Photos (l and r) show Alpha Gators Soldiers competing for a four-day pass and respect of their fellow Soldiers for being the best team in the Iron Mike physical and mental abilities competition.

Photos submitted by 44th Signal Battalion

Iron Mike

Story by
Cadet Christopher Jannace

(Cadet Troop Leader Program, West Point)

MANNHEIM, Germany (July 29, 2004) - Need a change from routine physical fitness? Try it Gator style! 44th Signal Battalion Alpha

Gators tested the physical and mental abilities of their Soldiers in an Iron Mike training competition. Competing teams of four earned points for performance in a two-mile run carrying their rifles, a five-mile ruck march, a shelter push, sprints, three-on-three protective mask basketball, and a written knowledge test based on common-task training skills and board questions.



5th Signal Command -- USAREUR softball champions

Story by

Maj. Phil Ayer

(G-1 Staff, 5th Signal Command)

HEIDELBERG, Germany (August 5-8, 2004) - After an amazing run through the loser's bracket ended with a second-place finish in the 2003 United States Army Europe (USAREUR), Softball Championship, the 5th Signal Command "Dragon Warriors" used a combination of power, outstanding defense, and steady play to win it all in 2004.

While the season started on a sour note with a loss to the 208th Finance Battalion, the Dragon Warriors went undefeated in the regular season and staged a furious comeback to defeat the 208th Finance Battalion and win the 293rd Base Support Battalion championship for the third consecutive year. After another second-place finish at the 26th Area Support Group Championship, they again advanced to the USAREUR championship.

"We talked to each other after the area support group tournament and said that this is probably the last chance for us to win the whole thing," said first baseman Mark McKaig. "I think our veteran presence was a big advantage over the younger teams. They looked out at us and saw a bunch of old guys," said Kelly Stitzel. Indeed, the average age of the team was 35 and three players were over 40.

The Dragon Warriors avenged last year's second-place finish by going undefeated through the tournament with consecutive wins over 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry; 17th Signal Battalion, 502nd Engineer Company, and 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry.

"It was much easier to stay in the winner's bracket this year; it made a big difference," said outfielder Steve Kramer. Over the five games, the Dragon Warriors outscored opponents 75-23, hitting 11 home runs while allowing none.

After not playing in the first two games of the tournament due to an injury, shortstop John Johnson hit four home runs in three games and was named the tournament's most valuable player. After hitting no home runs all season, second baseman Anthony Norton found his power stroke by crushing three tape-measure shots onto the rooftop of the Patton Barracks Gymnasium.

Outfielders Troy Brown and Eli Mireles each hit two home runs over the tournament and played outstanding defense in the field. After crushing 1/1 Cavalry 18-1 in the championship game, the USAREUR Sports and Fitness Staff presented the top two teams with team trophies and individual medals.



Kneeling (l-r): Sgt. 1st Class Wallace Yellock, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Rodriguez, Sgt. 1st Class Todd Broeland, 1st Sgt. Steve Kramer, (Coach) Jason Gaudin, and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lewis. **Standing (l-r):** Staff Sgt. Anthony Norton, Sgt. 1st Class Mark McKaig, Spc. Randel Bell, Staff Sgt. Eli Mireles, Sgt. 1st Class John Johnson, Maj. Phil Ayer, Staff Sgt. Troy Brown, and Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Stitzel. **Members not shown are:** Capt. Donald Reeves, Master Sgt. Troy Vinson, Pvt. 1st Class Mykl Hendricks, Sgt. Kevin Poe, and (Coach) Rick Outenreath.

Other players who contributed to the team's success this year were Sgt. 1st Class John McCoy, Sgt. 1st Class William Gardner, Sgt. Janet Wilson, Mr. Brian Powell, and Mr. George Lovelace.

U.S. Army Europe R&R hotline information

<http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/rr/rnrhi/index.htm>

For more information call DSN (314)-370-3322 or (0800)-872-

7387), or email the helpdesk at: rrinfo@hq.hqusareur.army.mil

Dragon Warriors run up Zugspitze

Story by

Monica Tullos

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany (July 23, 2004) - An 11-man team from 5th Signal Command's Headquarters and Headquarters Company ran up Germany's highest peak this summer.

"(Running up the Zugspitze) was the most physically and mentally exhausting thing I have ever done, to include marathons and the Nijmegen March," said 1st Lt. Ashkok Deb.

Deb and his teammates ran and walked the 12.4-mile trail in 5 hours and 48 minutes. They faced rocky ascents and waist-deep sinkholes in the snow. When they started, the temperature was perfect at 75 degrees. By the time they reached the top of the peak, which sits about 8,500 feet above sea level, the temperature was a windy 50 degrees.

A deafening roar of cheers greeted the Soldiers as they crossed the finish line. They were the only military team participating in the international competition. More than 600 runners came from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States.

Sgt. 1st Class Brett Beliveau coordinated the team's training and participation in the 4th Annual Zugspitze Extreme Mountain Run, sponsored by "getgoing," a private German sporting events organization. He had hiked the trail several times previously and was enticed by the idea of running it in a race. His teammates began a rigorous training schedule in February that combined long-distance runs in Mannheim and incline training in the hills of the Odenwald. The Dragon Warriors logged more than 450 miles of training in addition to normal unit runs.

"You can't really prepare in Mannheim for the distance, slope, and lack of oxygen that you find on the mountain," Beliveau said. "[Still] it was everything I had expected and more. I'm proud of our team."

As finishers, the Dragon Warriors received medals. The team will continue to train throughout the year for upcoming challenges.



Photo by Susan Beliveau

Dragon Warriors on their way to the top of the Zugspitze.



Photo by Susan Beliveau

Posing for a group photo after making it to the top: kneeling (l-r): Capt. Sirianosac Thepsoumane, 1st Lt. Vic Esparza; standing (l-r): Sgt. 1st Class Brett Beliveau, Sgt. 1st Class Mark McKaig, Staff Sgt. Troy Brown, Staff Sgt. Charles Coker, Staff Sgt. Ernest Hess, 1st Lt. Ashok Deb (watch on left arm), Master Sgt. Fred Woehr (back of group), Staff Sgt. Todd Little, and Staff Sgt. Robert Rose.



Staff Sgt. John Manning (l) and Spc. Marylynn Villafane (r) have their weapons checked on range before firing in competition at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Photos provided by NETCOM/9th ASC Public Affairs Office.



NETCOM NCO and Soldier of the year

Story by
Eric Hortin

(Public Affairs Office, NETCOM/9th ASC)

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. - Long nights of studying and dozens of mock boards led 14 Soldiers from around the globe to arrive here for four days of rigorous competition. They were all here for the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command (NETCOM/9th ASC) Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Year (SOY) competition.

It was narrowed down to two Soldiers who represented NETCOM/9th ASC at the Army Forces Command competition in August, at Fort McPherson, Ga. Winners, announced at the Lakeside Activities Center July 15, were Staff Sgt. John Manning, 5th Signal Command - NETCOM/9th ASC NCO of the Year; and Spc. Marylynn Villafane, 5th Signal Command - NETCOM/9th ASC Soldier of the Year

Represented during the competition were all seven active component commands and one U.S. Army Reserve Theater Signal Command under NETCOM/9th ASC.

"The NCOs and Soldiers who participated in this year's competition rose to the occasion and conquered many adversities to make it this far in the competition," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Desjardins, NETCOM/9th ASC command sergeant major. "The 14 NCOs and Soldiers who participated in this year's competition will be the leaders of our future and will have an impact on the quality of the Signal Regiment and the Army."

Soldiers were tested in several areas to determine who would represent NETCOM/9th ASC at future competitions. Areas included Soldier common tasks such as communicating by tactical radio, evaluate a casualty, and conducting unmasking procedures; a mystery task, which consisted of filling out a range card; M-16 rifle marksmanship; day and night land navigation with both a compass and global positioning system; the Army Physical Fitness Test; a written test with essay; and the Sergeants Major board.

For the Soldiers, it was a team effort; because where every a Soldier went, a sponsor followed. Sponsors were also their coaches, helping them study, quizzing them

constantly, and making corrections or providing tips.

In the end, it was Manning and Villafane taking center stage.

"When they called my name, I kind of thought I was going to pass out there for a second," Villafane said. "My cheeks hurt from smiling. It's really exciting and I was really glad to represent 5th Signal Command, 7th Signal Brigade, all the way down, and now to represent NETCOM."

"The competition here at NETCOM was really great," Manning said. "This was my first opportunity to compete in a competition that required Soldiering skills, anything other than a board.

Both Manning and Villafane received several trophies, U.S. savings bonds, cash, and gift certificates from national and local organizations. They represented NETCOM/9th ASC at the FORSCOM NCO and Soldier of the Year competition in August. Neither advanced, and both returned to Mannheim, Germany, where 5th Signal Command hosted a grand ceremony honoring their achievements among the enlisted ranks.

AAME Winner for Fiscal Year 2003

Story by
Ken Wycoff

(S-4 Staff, 2nd Signal Brigade)

MANNHEIM, Germany - For the first time in the 11th Signal Detachment's history, it has won the prestigious Department of the Army (DA) Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) for Fiscal Year 2003 in the small Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) category. DA inspections occurred in 2003, but winners were announced in the spring of 2004. The detachment beat more than 20 other organizations from other major U.S. Army commands. The award affirms the special emphasis that Soldiers and civilians place on their commitment to mission operation, maintenance, and training.

DA held the ceremony in Washington, D.C. August 4, 2004, to recognize all AAME winners.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph Guevara, Sgt. Anthony Caraza, Sgt. Ryan Van Cleave, and Sgt. Michael Rineer represented the detachment's combined maintenance team and traveled to the nation's capital to receive the plaque.

Col. Mary Beth Shively, chief of staff for Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command, was also on hand at the ceremony to congratulate the members of 11th Signal Detachment, 43rd Signal Battalion.



U.S. Army Photo

Pictured from l-r: Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Wynne, Brig. Gen. Michael Lenaers, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph Guevara, Sgt. Anthony Caraza, and Lt. Gen. Claude Christianson pose with the 11th Signal Detachment's Army Award for Maintenance Excellence. Guevara and Caraza accepted the award on behalf of the 11th Signal Detachment.



U.S. Army Photos

Stevie Jones



Gianni Consolaro



Marinka Ritt



Mike Germer

Civilians of the Year

Story by
William Triplett

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany - Commanders and directorates throughout the Dragon Warriors command have chosen their outstanding civilian employees for the 5th Signal Command's Civilian of the Year competition. Some of the criteria considered for candidates are job complexity, consistency of excel-

lence, teamwork, initiative, and selfless service.

The four categories are GS 9-13, C 6A-8 (host nation equivalent), GS 1-8, and C 1-6 (host nation equivalent).

Winners are: in the GS 9-13 category, Stevie Jones, logistic management specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Signal Command; and Gianni Consolaro, information technology

specialist, 509th Signal Battalion in the C 6A-8 category. In the GS 1-8 category, Marinka Ritt, local official mail clerk, 509th Signal Battalion, has won; and Mike Germer, supply technician, 69th Signal Battalion, has won in the C 1-6 category.

Besides receiving an achievement medal, winners also get a cash award, the commanding general's Coin of Excellence, and their pictures displayed in the Hall of Honor in the Riley Leroy Pitts Hall, the command's headquarters building.

WISE Media garners two major commercial awards

**Story and photo by
Christine June**

(Public Affairs Office, 415th Base Support Battalion)

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany - "...And, the Telly for film or corporate video products goes to the Visual Information Services Europe (WISE) at Kleber Kaserne for their 'Driving in Italy' and 'Fallen Soldier Detail.'"

Comparable to Emmy Awards for corporate video presentations, the 25th Annual Telly Awards notified WISE, 2nd Signal Brigade, August 23, that these two entries were selected as "Winners" and would receive the Silver Telly in late September.

"Winners" is the highest recognition given by the Telly Awards, which is a national and international competition based out of Cincinnati. The annual award honors outstanding local, regional,

and cable television commercials and programs, and video and film productions.

"We were competing against major television networks, entertainment giants and some of the biggest advertising agencies in the world," said Robert A. Kramer, WISE director. "Our team has won several Army and Department of Defense visual information awards, but this is rare that they would go up against commercial industry and come out with these kinds of awards."

Produced in 2003, "Driving in Italy" is a 14-module, 34-minute training program shown at drivers testing stations in Italy to train military members, civilian employees, and family members. It is required viewing before testing for a U.S. Forces driver's license.

"It shows everything you need to know about driving in Italy, including what happens when you

come upon an accident, driving with your lights on during the day, and railroad crossings," said Dan Simmons, WISE chief of operations, who was the "Driving in Italy" director and producer. "And, it is designed so that instructors can clarify any misconceptions viewers may have."

"Fallen Soldier Detail" trains Soldiers on the proper honors rendered to fallen comrades on their arrival at Ramstein and other military installations. It was deliberately produced without narration or music, using silence to impress on Soldiers the solemn nature of their duties, and edited in real time -- 13 minutes -- to demonstrate the actual length of the detail.

"It's very moving to watch," said Denny McKell, WISE senior television producer, who was the "Fallen Soldier Detail" director and producer. "We shot four times from different angles to show every element of the detail, including the chaplains accepting the casket, the deep respect paid by the Soldiers and Airmen involved, and the reverence and decorum of the hearse."

As the theater-level visual information agency, WISE's video production has dropped from 50 in 2001 to 10 a year in support of the Global War on Terrorism and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The fact that these two products won this major award is pretty amazing with all the other support we are providing to USAREUR and the European Command," said Mr. Kramer. "It shows that we still take the time to put quality in our products."



Dan Simmons (l), Visual Information Services Europe's chief of operations, and Denny McKell, WISE senior television producer, review video that won award.

