

5th Signal Command



ECHO

Summer 2009

Dragon Warriors





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Summer 2009



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Year of the

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GRAFENWOEHR, Germany Sgt. Dannie Weston (left) and Spc. Carl Brock (right), 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, reach the last stage of closing a Satellite Transportable Terminal during the 2009 Austere Challenge exercise. *Photo by Kristopher Joseph*

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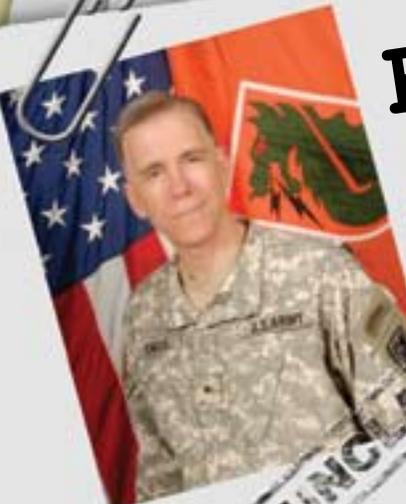
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THE NCO

FROM THE CG



UNCLASSIFIED

Soldiers, Civilians, Contractors, and Family Members,

The first half of 2009 has been a challenging and rewarding time for every Dragon Warrior. We have come face to face with Army transformation, deployments and unique support missions, while at the same time we have pursued the vision of becoming the single IT provider in Europe. All of you have performed valiantly, and I personally thank you for your dedicated service to this command.

One of our most compelling successes occurred during Austere Challenge 2009 where we validated the first fully functional Network Service Center. The top leaders in the signal regiment were on hand to witness this crucial endeavor towards developing the Global Enterprise Network Construct that will seamlessly deliver data, information and communication services to warfighters in a way never seen before.

I am also most proud of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade and the mighty 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion for their swift and brave deployments into Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively. Both of these fine signal organizations and their Family members need our constant prayer and support while they perform vital communication missions to key combatant commanders in areas of conflict.

Whether it is here in Europe or in a deployed environment, the single force ensuring every mission is accomplished is our outstanding noncommissioned officer corps. With 2009 being named the "Year of the NCO," we especially recognize the extraordinary qualities, leadership and professionalism of all our NCOs. They truly are the reason for our command's overall success.

Finally, I also want to take a moment to thank everyone for the tremendous efforts made to ensure our Dragon Warriors experienced a smooth transition to the U.S. Army's Garrisons of Wiesbaden and Schweinfurt. Moving to new locations always presents new challenges but I am confident in your ability to continue to drive this command to new heights, from any location.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of the ECHO magazine. In it you will find stories of our recent successes as an organization as well as personal stories from some in our Dragon Warrior Family. Thank you again for all that you do for this command, the Army and our country.

DRAGON WARRIORS - ARMY STRONG!

Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr.
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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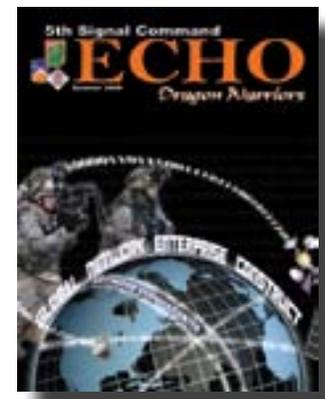
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Front cover | 5th Signal Command is moving into the future with the Global Network Enterprise Construct, seamlessly allowing each Soldier data access and communication command and control no matter where they are in the world. Graphic illustration by Sgt. Edgar Morales



Back cover | Members of the 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade install a satellite on a building in Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Spc. Ida Tate and graphic illustration by Sgt. Edgar Morales

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BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan | Col. Randall W. Bland, commander, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, and 7th TTTSB Command Sgt. Maj. Terence Farmer, uncased the brigade colors June 18 in representation of their official presence at the Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. The Soldiers of Task Force Freedom are committed to the victory of Operation Enduring Freedom with the support of 5th Signal Command and the HHC, 7th TTTSB rear detachment.

Photo by Kimberly D. Cole



7TH TTTSB *in the* **fight**



GRAFENWOEHR, Germany | Spc. Vanessa Garcia-Rincon, a chemical biological radiological nuclear specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade, conducts vehicle security during pre-deployment convoy live-fire training at the Grafenwoehr Training Area March 19 - 22.



Story and Photos by Spc. Ida Tate

7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade

With only 60 days notification, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade successfully deployed nearly 100 Soldiers to Afghanistan in May in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Their official presence, known as Task Force Freedom, is unique in two ways. They are the first TTSB deployed to Afghanistan and have been asked “to perform a rather unique mission of providing command and control for the 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the 25th Signal Battalion,” said Col. Randall W. Bland, commander, 7th TTSB.

Task Force Freedom is comprised of 7th TTSB, the 25th Signal Bn., based out of Qatar, and the 57th ESB serving in Kandahar, based at Fort Hood, Texas. The 57th ESB is expanding to the south and is being used by the 7th’s Joint Network Operations Control Center (JNCC) as the tactical support for the smaller forward operating bases.

“7th TTSB is not only managing two units, but all communication within the theater including other organizations that have organic communication built in,” said Capt. Richard Lehmann, 7th TTSB Deputy S3. “The JNCC will also help support those units that don’t have the ability, facilities or knowledge to accomplish the bigger things, such as create firewalls or manage data command systems.”

“In the coming year, Task Force Freedom will set the standard for signal support in every environment from the largest enduring base to the smallest, most austere outpost,” said Bland.

Bland said there is no distinction between operation-based missions and tactical missions.

“We have units assigned that traditionally have expertise in each area,” Bland said. “Their missions are blended and very similar at this point. The brigade headquarters works hard to design solutions and provide guidance that follows the path that leads to the best answer, not a path that is predetermined by artificial boundaries of tactical versus strategic/operational base.”

The biggest challenges in supporting such a large area are “related to the start-up of a new mission,” Bland added. “Resources, specifically human capital and facilities, are tough to come by in this resource-constrained environment.”

Although Bland said that actions move slower in Afghanistan, the Soldiers are adapting well to the each challenge in this deployment.

“I am proud of all the Soldiers that are working really hard to get a good grasp of all the duties and responsibilities of managing a full-control JNCC,” said Sgt. Maj. Roy S. Deville, 7th TTSB, alpha commander of the JNCC.

The road to Afghanistan

In preparation for their deployment, Soldiers led by noncommissioned officers from 7th TTSB, loaded supplies and signal equipment into storage units at their motor pool on Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim, Germany.

“NCOs coordinated the storage and security of all items necessary for the deployment,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael Wallace, 7th TTSB logistics sergeant major. “Senior NCOs engaged in reconnaissance as well as giving guidance and knowledge of deploying to all Soldiers,” he said.

Specially-trained officers and NCOs called unit movement officers oversaw and organized a myriad of deployment

logistic processes and instructed the signal Soldiers on how to properly load, secure and ship their supplies. “The Soldiers are positive and don’t hesitate to take directions from the UMO, who ensured every Soldier took all necessities for a successful deployment,” said Sgt. Sylvester Grady, 7th UMO.

“Time restraints, being one of the most imperative elements to a smooth deployment, were not issues for the NCOs of the 7th TTSB because of their support and efficient methods of preparing their Soldiers,” said Wallace. “And, if it wasn’t for the Soldiers hard work, the load-up would not have been the success that it was.”

Once the packing and loading was complete, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th TTSB conducted pre-deployment training at the Grafenwoehr Training Area March 19-22 -- another step forward on their road to war.

“Convoy live-fire was chosen to prepare the Soldiers of HHC, 7th TTSB,” said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel L. Brown, a signal manager in the 44th ESB. “The Afghanistan terrain is so open that convoying is the primary means of travel,” Brown added.

The field training was based on different scenarios such as reacting to sniper fire, near and far ambushes, clearing obstructed roads and vehicle recover, which could all present themselves in the theater of operations, said Master Sgt. Shane M. Layo, 7th’s signal engineering branch theater spectrum management chief.

“After the live-fire integration, you could see the look of satisfaction and motivation in the faces of all the Soldiers,” said Layo. “I saw a lot of teamwork in all three scenarios, and the Soldiers were able to safely navigate through the training and be successful.

Despite the short notification of deployment, 7th TTSB successfully deployed to execute a mission outside their scope of normal daily operations.

“The accomplishment of this very important mission does not come without cost. The Families of our brigade are proud of their Soldiers, and they will miss them. I realize that in many cases the jobs of our Families may be more difficult than ours. Despite your feelings, let me remind you and you please remind them, you are not alone. The 7th Signal Brigade team is strong and committed to your well being and your development,” said Bland.

72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion heads for the desert

Story and Photos by
STAFF SGT JONATHON GRAY
5th Signal Command, PAO

72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion had the unique experience of preparing to deploy while supporting their usual European support missions throughout 2008 and 2009.

“We weren’t able to isolate the battalion as a whole to conduct our training and prepare,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Ginn, commander, 72nd ESB. “This brought about a series of challenges.”

Ginn talked about some of the challenges in training and preparation, “We had to train the Soldiers on their equipment while the equipment was in system. For instance, you can’t just shut the equipment off for initialization training, so that limits it to training on theories and on paper. Because of the missions, some equipment was even shipped directly from Israel to Kuwait.”

The Soldiers’ Families also had to be taken care of while the Soldiers prepared for the deployment or simultaneously supporting a mission such as Joint Task Force – East, Immediate Response in the Republic of Georgia and Austere Challenge.

“This is also representative of what we’re going to find in Iraq. We might not be responsible for that particular link on a remote installation, but those are still our Soldiers and we will take care of them and their Families,” said Ginn.

To keep abreast of the changes and to support the deploying battalion, 72nd stood up their rear detachment April in what Ginn called, “One of the best things we did. The rear detachment is the biggest single entity that has enabled us to deploy.”

In comparison with their sister battalion’s past deployment, the 44th ESB, 72nd was on-hand to help push the deploying 44th, but 44th was unavailable for help due to battalion reset their move to Schweinfurt, Germany.

Thus, the rear detachment was responsible for the daily operations and training that 72nd needed to prepare, such as the convoy live fire and mission rehearsal exercise or MRX. This enabled deploying Soldiers to focus on the training, briefings and taking care of their Family so they could deploy for 12 months without leaving behind major problems.

“The rear detachment postured the battalion to move and allowed them to focus on deployment,” said Cpt. Rob Leicht, 72nd ESB rear detachment commander.

The rear detachment also conducted three family pre-deployment briefings to give family members the resources and contact information for agencies that could help them during the deployment. A mission and pre-deployment briefing was given to the Soldiers immediately following the casing of the colors ceremony on July 7.



warriors

MANNHEIM, Germany | Soldiers and Family members with 72nd Exp

Any future incoming Soldiers are automatically assigned to the rear detachment, where they will be trained and prepared to deploy. Once trained and ready, they will be sent forward to Iraq to help 72nd. “We are also prepared to deal with any Soldier and

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A lot of hard work has been done and a lot of dedicated Soldiers and Families have stepped forward to do their duty.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mathew Acome
72nd ESB

”

Family member issues that come back this way,” said Leicht.

To further help the Soldiers and Families, 72nd’s rear detachment is operating its own storage lot where Soldiers will store their personally owned vehicles for the duration of the deployment and coordinated the morale phone call personal identification number.

They also have setup a pre-order program for Soldiers to buy flowers for their loved ones to be automatically delivered

deploy



ditionary Signal Battalion pray prior to their deployment.

throughout the deployment on specific dates. “This flower pre-order program will help loved ones remember that they are loved and missed. The rear detachment is here to support and help where we can, understanding that the Soldiers are deployed and are away from loved ones,” said Leicht.

“You have to feel the pain when you choose a rear detachment command team. You need to decide who you want as your right-hand when you deploy, and once you realize that, you have just picked your rear detachment commander. We definitely picked the right folks,” said Ginn.

During the deployment, 72nd will be applying what they have learned throughout their training on their tactical equipment, such as the Joint Network Node and Command Post Nodes, and will also be filling positions in a help desk environment and working with strategic equipment. “We will be using to use skill sets that 72nd does not have internal to our organization,” said Ginn.

A training challenge was the fact that 72nd has received over 100 new Soldiers directly from Advanced Individual Training, and they have never seen the equipment 72nd is currently working with or they have seen the equipment but not the newest model which is being deployed by 72nd.

A hands-on commander, Ginn details during one of his walks, “I was talking with a young Soldier directly from AIT, and he was explaining a problem he encountered with his equipment. He knew the equipment from training, but during the last system upgrade a vital component inside the system had been moved and he couldn’t adjust it because at first he didn’t know where it was relocated.”

To help bolster their training, 72nd sent Soldiers to U.S.

Army Europe information assurance training in Schwetzingen and will have a small group of key personnel trained at the Army Central Command Signal University, hosted by 335th Theater Signal Command in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. This will allow the battalion to have personnel trained or retrained on equipment and signal theories that may not have been utilized by a Soldier recently or ever at all, with special focus on strategic equipment that will be used throughout the deployment.

The current plan is for 72nd to retrain personnel whose equipment is currently designated to remain in Germany. Once the initial group’s training is complete, 72nd will continue to rotate Soldiers through the CLFC Signal University throughout the year, to increase their Soldiers’ training and the battalion’s overall readiness. The equipment will remain in the theater of operations as operational spares to be used in case of system failure or the tactical network has to grow because of new, changing or expanding missions.

“I expect to see constant changes in our mission requirements while we are in the Southwest Asia theater. We have already seen changes to the mission and we haven’t even arrived as a battalion,” said Ginn.

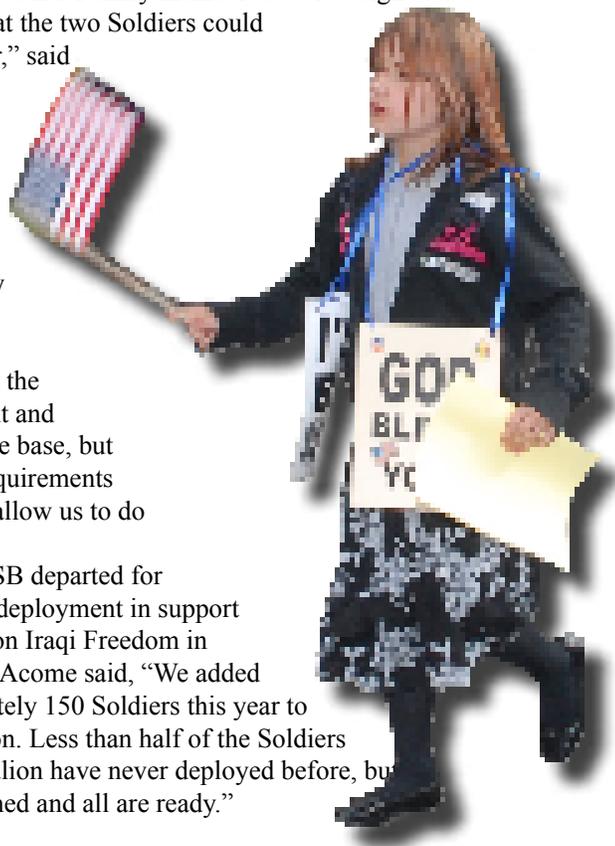
72nd also sent a robust torch and advance party of approximately 60 personnel, heavy with logistical military occupation specialties that started the movement, testing and validating the signal equipment that had arrived in Kuwait before the main body of the battalion had even left Mannheim.

“A lot of hard work has been done and a lot of dedicated Soldiers and Families have stepped forward to do their duty,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Mathew Acome, 72nd ESB.

72nd also has a total of seven dual military couples deploying together. “5th Signal Command supported us, and allowed the other Family member to be reassigned to 72nd so that the two Soldiers could be together,” said Acome.

“We tried as best as we could to keep the two Family members together throughout the deployment and on the same base, but mission requirements might not allow us to do that.”

72nd ESB departed for their third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in July 2009. Acome said, “We added approximately 150 Soldiers this year to the battalion. Less than half of the Soldiers in the battalion have never deployed before, but all are trained and all are ready.”





Installing light under the earth

Story and Photos by
KRISTOPHER JOSEPH
5th Signal Command, PAO

Everyday, Soldiers and civilians are driving down the Army's information highway known as the LandWarNet. Whether they are checking their email from their home installation desktop computer or going over navigation coordinates on a battle command system laptop in the middle of Afghanistan or Iraq, they rely on the availability of the network to accomplish their missions.

The Army has employed various state-of-the-art communication technologies to keep warfighters on the cutting edge of

information exchange. Of all the "data warriors" the Army procures, there is one that has remained relatively unheard and "underground" until now.



The Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program can be considered one the dirtiest jobs in the Army. A typical scene of I3MP at work is contracted construction workers wearing yellow safety hard hats manning tractors, digging trench-like ditches, laying long strands of duct pipe and drilling holes in cement fixtures deep in the ground.

When most people envision a network of data being delivered from point A to B, they might think of high-powered satellites, hub nodes and racks of servers and switches with blinking lights that seem to go on for miles. While all those are necessary cogs in transferring and storing data, some argue the most crucial part is the one that plugs right into your computer. Deep in the I3MP ditches is where the network finally gets to the end user.

"I3MP is the unsung hero of the network," said Lt. Col. Joseph Dupont, the product manager for Defense Communications Systems – Europe under the Program Executive Office Enterprise

SUNG PROJECES



Information Systems, who also manages I3MP projects in Europe.

The current “sung” hero of the network is the Network Service Center construct that synergizes the capabilities of Area Processing Centers, Theater Network Operations and Security Centers and Regional Hub Nodes. Each plays an assigned critical role in modern military communication. The APC houses and transports the data, services and applications, the TNOSC protects, defends and operates the network, and the RHN connects the data from one location to another through satellites. The NSC, once connected to other regional NSCs across the globe, will give birth to the Global Network Enterprise Construct that will allow one seamless network to deliver constant, unfettered communication and

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For years now, we’ve been upgrading the installations in Europe with fiber optic networks (FONs) to help increase the overall bandwidth here.

Lt. Col. Joseph Dupont

**Product Manager,
Defense Communications - Europe**

”



Grafenwoehr, Germany | I3MP construction workers drilling and digging in trenches prior to inserting a fiberoptic network pipe.

fiber optics

I3MP projects have increased network connection bandwidth throughout Europe

information firepower to warfighters no matter where they are in the world.

“The NSC and the GNEC will not be as effective without I3MP,” said Dupont. “I3MP enables the strategic connect piece of the NSC down to the warfighter.”

I3MP projects, many of which occur in ditches, connect warfighters to the network through the use of fiber optic cables. Fiber optics is a method of sending information from one place to another by transmitting pulses of light through an optical fiber. Optical fibers have largely replaced electric copper wire communications in core networks around the world because of its ability to span longer distances and its inherently high data-carrying capacity, such that thousands of electrical links would be required to replace a single high bandwidth fiber cable.

This is one way that I3MP modernizes the core enterprise information infrastructure at Army installations across the globe. The main effort of I3MP is to replace the old, unsupported legacy systems with an integrated and secure information system that is capable of passing voice, data and video traffic at high speed.

“For years now, we’ve been upgrading the installations in Europe with fiber optic networks (FONs) to help increase the overall bandwidth here,” said Dupont.

He explained that I3MP projects in recent years in Europe have increased network connection bandwidth from one gigabyte per second to 10 gigabytes per second to support the influx of new technology and application requirements of the Army.

“The trend is going to ‘Everything over IP (Internet Protocol),’ meaning your telephone, computing and video services will all be run through the network connection on your computer,” Dupont said. “All these new requirements cause a significant strain on the available bandwidth of a given network.” Dupont said that without these fiber-optic upgrades, the network would be a virtual “traffic jam” not allowing data, applications and services to function or move at a tolerable rate.

In Europe, the majority of the I3MP requirements for infrastructure upgrades come from 5th Signal Command, who has also been charged by Network Enterprise Technology Command / 9th Signal Command to implement the Army’s first fully functioning NSC.

“I3MP is here to support 5th Signal Command in every way possible by giving them the bandwidth and standardized architecture that will allow the NSC to be a success,” said

Dupont.

He also made the point that funding I3MP in Europe has been a challenge due to decrements, through the transformation of the USAREUR/7A footprint and the Army’s networks into a single enterprise must continue.

“I fully understand there are priorities of what programs get resourced and when,” said Dupont. “Although, there needs to be an understanding that if projects such as the GNEC get funded, there also needs to be adequate funding for I3MP to build a powerful enough infrastructure to enable it.”

I3MP is essentially responsible for creating a warfighter’s computing environment and experience through its projects, said Dupont. He said it doesn’t matter how fast a RHN and APC can deliver the network because if the virtual “pipes” feeding the data to the end user through the FON are not big enough, then the user gets a sluggish and unresponsive experience.

“More use of the network is going to happen,” said Dupont. “With technology now, users are multitasking like never before, so when they have five or six applications running at the same time on their computer, pulled from an APC and try to VTC (video



teleconference) and use their VOIP (Voice over IP) phone all at the same time, they are trying to use a ton of bandwidth that may not be available at their location.”

Edward “Skip” Mallang, a Department of Defense quality assurance contractor, currently working on Grafenwoehr’s main Army installation FON, said there are many visionaries who set a clear path for the future of the network, but without I3MP, the user won’t feel any difference.

“Fiber optics are the future,” said Mallang. “The sky’s the limit, especially with DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing).”

DWDM is the process of taking multiple data inputs or channels and merging them to create a single data stream. Dupont said this technology is scalable to speeds of up to 400 gigabytes per second. “Once DWDM is in place, we will be able to easily support EOIP services across Europe.” A visual depiction of DWDM would be like the movie “Ghostbusters” where the heroes ‘crossed the streams’ of their power packs giving them one single, powerful stream that was able to take down the ghost in the final scene.

“DWDM will give us virtually unlimited bandwidth capability,” said Dupont.

Since 2000, I3MP upgrades in Europe have also created a unique fiber optic infrastructure in Europe. A birdseye view of the FON in Europe looks like multi-curved race track that flows through key installations in 5th Signal’s footprint with the highest

concentration of personnel.

“There is no other Army FON like this in the world,” said Dupont. “There is so much redundancy built into the backbone of this network that if any section of the ring goes down, it will still always be connected on the other side.” Dupont went on to say that once DWDM is implemented into this FON it could potentially be the most powerful self-contained network in the world.

In the Information Age, computers have become a critical weapon system in the Army since the advent of the internet. For the warfighter, the seamless availability of data, information and communication systems will be supplied by the NSC and the larger GNEC. But according to Dupont, the unseen enabler of it all is, through the efforts of I3MP, building fiber optic mazes underground interconnecting thousands of buildings, at an installation near you.



DIGGING COMMS

The Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program can be considered one of the dirtiest jobs in the Army.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany | A construction worker puts the final touch on ground just above an area where fiber-optic cable was placed.



A NEW PARADISE

Leaders gather, discuss future **Signal** Regiment

Story and Photos by
KRISTOPHER JOSEPH
5th Signal Command, PAO

Tucked away in a small German hamlet called Schlagenbad – which means “snake bath,” the Army’s top signal leaders gathered during the first week of May to discuss the present and future of the signal regiment.

A catalyst of the summit was U.S. Army Europe’s annual Austere Challenge exercise that validates USAREUR’s ability to successfully deploy a joint task force into a deployed environment. USAREUR’s communication arm, 5th Signal Command, provides the network services and capabilities for the exercise, but the command was also doing its own operation validation on behalf of the signal regiment – testing the Network Service Center construct.

Signal leaders such as the Army Chief Information Officer / G6 Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson and Network Enterprise and Technology Command / 9th Signal Command leader Maj. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence were on hand at the Grafenwoehr Training Area in Germany to

oversee the NSC OPVAL with 5th Signal’s commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr.

Seizing the opportunity, other key signal commanders and leaders were invited to Germany to not only hear about the progress of the NSC construct, but also look at the signal regiment as a whole and discussed what augmentations would be necessary to better support today’s and tomorrow’s warfighters in a fast-paced and constantly deployed military.

“We have to make the network as expeditionary as our combat formations,” said Sorenson, who has the mission of fulfilling the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George Casey’s order to build what is called the Global Network Enterprise Construct.

“The GNEC will allow every warfighter to see the exact same network, data and information in a deployed environment that they had at home base,” said Lawrence. “The network they are used to and trained on will be waiting for them once they plug into their area of operations.”

Some of the signal leaders in attendance were Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Foley, the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, Maj. Gen. Dennis



L. Via, the Communications and Electronics Command commander at the time, Maj. Gen. Nickolas Justice, the commander of the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical, and former Army CIO/G6 retired Lt. Gen. Peter Cuvillo.

On the senior enlisted side were Army CIO/G6 Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald J. Desjardins, NETCOM/9th Signal Command Command Sgt. Maj. Donald G. Manley and 5th Signal Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Washington.

The major point of discussion during the summit was figuring out if the current organizational structure of the regiment is properly tailored to support the GNEC and deploying forces and what new structures would have to look like in the future.

Under the current structure, signal battalion and brigades typically operate as either a



DIGM

SCHLANGENBAD, Germany | Army Chief Information Officer / G6 Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson (left) gives opening remarks to key Signal commanders and leaders. (below) The Program Executive Office, Command Control and Communications-Tactical commander, Maj. Gen. Nickolas Justice, and Network Enterprise and Technology Command leader Maj. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence share information during the signal summit.



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., commander, 5th Signal Command, explains his full spectrum battalion model through a rehearsal of concept drill to signal leaders during a signal summit the first week of May to discuss possible changes to the overall organization and structure of the Signal Regiment.



(left to right) Command Sgts Maj. Donald G. Manley (NETCOM), Marilyn Washington (5th Signal Command), Ronald J. Desjardins (CIO/G6) and Maj. Gen. Nickolas Justice discuss network concepts during the conference.

tactical unit that trains and deploys on a regular basis to provide signal support to expeditionary forces; or as an operation-based unit that remains in a garrison environment serving as a DOIM or Director of Information Management providing communication and network services in a fixed location such as Fort Bragg.

Sorenson said that military is moving to a more “modular” set-up where units will act much like Lego pieces and fit and form together to meet the needs of any given mission in a joint environment.

“One of the benefits of this meeting was to see how we as a signal regiment can reorganize and modularize our formations to meet the needs of the warfighter,” said Sorenson.

For the summit, Smith organized a rehearsal of concept team to present a model to the signal leaders of what signal units could look like while operating under the NSC construct. Smith and his team’s presentation hinged on two new concepts: full spectrum battalions and the Network Command Center.

FULL SPECTRUM BATTALIONS

Smith argued that in an expeditionary military with modular units all operating within the GNEC, the signal battalions would have to fundamentally and doctrinally change their roles, functions and organization structure.

“We have to establish a signal battalion that can ensure timely communication for a theater’s warfighting commands in any environment (operational base or tactical),” said Smith.

He also said that fusing the services of the two types of signal battalions into a hybrid modular structure, allows any battalion at any time the ability to simultaneously support a deployment mission, an exercise, and contingency operations while maintaining its full DOIM obligations such as computer, network and help desk support to its fixed location customers.

This will also diversify the skill sets of all signal Soldiers who will then be able to seamlessly operate in a tactical or operational-

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., commander, 5th Signal Command, explains the full-spectrum battalion model to the signal audience.

based environment because they will be working within a modular battalion that exposes them to the full spectrum of signal missions.

This full spectrum model was also echoed by representatives of the CONUS-based 7th Signal Command (Theater).



The Network Command Center is a structure that doesn’t currently exist in doctrine, but 5th Signal Command created a prototype during AC09. The NCC has many functions but mainly

it will be a blended organization that directs the missions and operations of the NSC through the orders process, essentially acting as the NSC’s “cockpit.”

It will coordinate long-term activity on behalf of the network and a module within the NCC will prepare itself for deployment as the core of a Joint NCC where it performs similar functions in support of a JTF. The JNCC then performs theater-level responsibilities that exceed the experience level of most brigade-level staffs.

The NCC is designed to provide situational awareness and advise a commander of the past, present and future operations of the network so that the NSC can better support the commander’s assigned missions and more efficiently protect and defend the network.

Currently, without an NCC, a theater commander has many NOSCs (Network Operations and Security Centers) in his or her footprint that protect and defend the network for various DOIMs and locations. The NCC, since it streamlines the orders process into one organization, will put reins in the hands of a theater commander for those NOSCs to better achieve goals, missions and objectives for the warfighter.

Some of the other functions of the NCC fall into the realms of Knowledge Management, Cyber coordination, technical interoperability and operational integration across echelons of command.



“

We have to establish a signal battalion that can ensure timely communication for a theater’s warfighting units in any environment.

**Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr.
Commander, 5th Signal Command**

”

PARADIGM SHIFT

Smith said that these concepts would constitute a paradigm shift in how signal units operate from a doctrinal perspective.

“This is where the rubber meets the road,” Smith said. “We’ve got to understand the consequences of these proposals.”

By consequences, several of the signal leaders felt that the current structure of the signal regiment is not properly manned, outfitted and trained to see some of these concepts to fruition. Some concern was that with Operation Iraqi Freedom winding down, forces and resources will naturally be drawn down which would also be problematic for creating a new, modular signal regiment.

Smith said that a mitigating solution is to have empowered signal commands with full training authority in a given theater. He offered that 5th Signal Command would serve as a prototype



for future forces providing network command and control, tied to the battle rhythm of mission centers, while supporting a 24/7 GNEC.

Since 5th Signal’s current major customers in Europe work jointly, it would set the standard for leveraging the capabilities of full spectrum battalions, the NCC and the NSC in a joint, expeditionary theater. If successful, this model could then be implemented across the globe to support warfighters wherever they may be.

While the summit adjourned with solutions, it also raised many questions about the way forward. But overall, everyone agreed that in order to properly and successfully support the warfighters communication needs, the GNEC and NSC construct can only be successful with a reorganized signal regiment.

(Left) Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson (with pointer) talks through a scenario with other signal leaders. (Above) Sorenson and Desjardins talk through a Signal concept using the leader’s conference manual.



A warfighters ne

Validating the Network Service Cent

KRISTOPHER JOSEPH
5th Signal Command, PAO

A warfighter’s success on the battlefield is defined in large part to the long-standing creed: “train as you fight.” For U.S. Army Europe / 7th Army, the annual exercise Austere Challenge 2009 served to train personnel to deploy and operate as a joint task force on the front lines of a major military engagement. USAREUR / 7th Army’s communication arm, 5th Signal Command, used AC09 to test a new capability or “weapon” designed to give warfighters something they never had before – a seamless expeditionary network.

This capability is harnessed under what is called: The Network Service Center Construct.

Partially designed by 5th Signal’s commander, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith,

Jr., prior to arriving in Germany, the NSC is a trinity of synergy between three signal enablers: the Regional Hub Node, which provides the global transport of data between ground and space satellites; the Area Processing Center, which stores and stages the data and applications for projection; and the Theater Network Operations and Security Center that provides technical oversight, situational awareness, information assurance and security of the network among other services.

The NSC is the result of lessons learned from units going through all phases of a deployment and how those units were delivered their data, information and services over whatever network they operated under.

“Since our military became more modular and expeditionary with brigade combat teams, we found that there were significant gaps in how those formations

were able to communicate under our current construct,” said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, U.S. Army Chief Information Officer / G6.

The Network Enterprise Technology Command / 9th Signal Command leader Maj. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence said in a conversation with Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George Casey, that there were multiple networks in Iraq and Afghanistan and none of them could share information, making them what she called, “silos within themselves.”

An example of what deploying units were going through is as follows: A unit sitting at their home base is tasked to deploy. As they begin to organize and outfit their formations, they are using the same computers, software and services that are on their desktops. Then there comes a point where they leave their home base and enter a pre-deployment / training environment. There they find



GRAFENWOEHR, Germany | Communication dishes, antennas and communication wire were a vital part of the tent city during the 2009 Austere Challenge exercise. *Photo by Kristopher Joseph*

network:

ter construct

themselves using “field” computers and train using different servers, different e-mail addresses, phone numbers and usually operate under a secure network using a chosen battle command system and software. After completing their pre-deployment phase, the unit then deploys into an area of operations. Once they arrive and settle into their location, they are immediately expected to pick up the fight were their predecessors left off only to find that their AO is using a completely different network, another new set of e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and different battle command systems and services. After making the adjustment, the unit is eventually sent back to home base where it has to get re-acclimated to their desktop computers, network applications and services that are nothing like what they had during the deployment.

What this translated to warfighters



was basically going to war with a different “weapon” than the one they trained on, said Lawrence. “Soldiers train with their M-16 and they go to war with their M-16,” she said. “The network is the warfighters’ weapon just like a rifle, so we need to give them the same network and services throughout all phases of an operation.”

This is where the NSC construct steps in. To validate it on an operational level, 5th Signal Command, along with NETCOM, 7th Signal Command and other signal organizations, joined forces to create a virtual scenario within AC09 that would show the seamless ability of the NSC to provide the exact same network, services and applications to a deploying unit going through all phases of a joint operation.

In the scenario, the 18th Fires Brigade out of Fort Bragg was chosen to be the test unit for the NSC Operational Validation. When the 18th virtually deployed, all of their data was beamed simultaneously through a CONUS-based hub node to a spaced-based satellite and then down to the Landstuhl RHN in Germany where the data then finally resided in the Grafenwoehr APC also in Germany.

“When the 18th Fires plugged into their virtual deployed environment at a Fort Bragg, they saw the exact same network, had the exact same identity and were able to immediately ‘fight upon arrival,’ even though all of their information was sitting in Germany,” said Smith.

“This new construct represents a dramatic paradigm shift in how we provide communication support to the warfighter,” said Smith.

With all parties involved citing a success for the NSC OPVAL, it was also revealed that this is just the first step toward a larger goal.

“The next step is to expand this capability globally,” said Sorenson. “Once we have NSCs placed in various key locations all connected, then we will have arrived at our end-state capability called the Global Network Enterprise Construct.”

It was shortly after Sorenson and Lawrence presented Casey with the GNEC concept that he quickly moved to release a memorandum dated March 2, 2009 that spelled out the GNEC strategy implementation. In it, Casey said the Army is “transforming to become a ...versatile, expeditionary force capable of full-spectrum operations.” He then goes on to say that to support this new Army, all of its institutions have to fundamentally change including the LandWarNet – the Army’s portion of the Global

Information Grid.

“We will use the GNEC as the network enterprise strategy,” wrote Casey in the memo. “All Army generating force networks will be managed by a single command (NETCOM) organizing Army information to make it globally accessible, useful and secure for Soldiers deployed anywhere.”

Security is another major factor driving the birth of the GNEC. Smith said that different networks



controlled by different NOSCs under different commands “seriously degrades our ability to swiftly protect and defend the network.” “Under a single, unified network construct we will be able to establish joint network security doctrine that includes all the services so we are always on the same sheet of music when an incident occurs.”

The White House is already moving in this direction with its recent announcement to create a U.S. Cyber Command. This command, set to be based adjacent to the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland, will be in charge of overseeing network and cyber defense for not only the DoD but also for most national government organizations.

“Once the GNEC is operational, our expeditionary formations will always be connected to the same network and services no

matter where they are in world,” said Sorenson. “They will be getting a ‘Blackberry’ experience when they leave their bases and enter a training or deployed environment.”

“Our warfighters are afforded the best uniforms, weapons and training in the world,” said Smith. “It goes then without saying that they should be communicating on the best network that we can provide them.”

5th Signal Command in Europe is leading the charge to the GNEC as the first to establish an operational NSC. For the foreseeable future, 5th Signal will remain the consistent test bed for developing the NSC and GNEC constructs.

The tests and validations will continue as the construct grows. An NSC OPVAL 2 is already on the table for 2010.

“Our main mission is delivering the right kind of network to meet the needs of our forces,” said Smith. “It has to be reliable, secure, expeditionary and full spectrum: It’s a warfighters network.”

“Our warfighters are afforded the best uniforms, weapons and training in the world. It goes then without saying that they should be communicating on the best network that we can provide them.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr.
Commander, 5th Signal Command

SPORT
Training Center

Photo illustration by Sgt. Edgar Morales





Year of the Noncommissioned Officer

An editorial by
Staff Sgt. Jonathon Gray

Call me Sergeant. Twelve years ago, having an eye for adventure, and a desire to serve, I joined the United States Army. In 2002, I was reluctantly pushed into the promotion board by my noncommissioned officer supervisor, which turned out to be one of the most important events of my life. In preparing for this board, I realized I had a passion for learning, leading, and guiding. Upon graduation from the subsequent Primary Leadership Development Course, now named the Warrior Leader Course, my father, a retired Sgt. 1st Class, came to Fort. Bliss, Texas to pin on my first set of chevrons in one of the proudest moments of my life.

It's because of NCOs that we as Soldiers see the good in ourselves and achieve the best results in everything we do.

2009 was named as the Year of the NCO with the intent of highlighting our contributions and enhancing the training

and education of the NCO. This year, NCO's are receiving greater exposure for what they do for the Army. We are not just leaders and supervisors, we are, as stated in the NCO Creed, "the Backbone of the Army," providing support and working as the nerve-center of all operations.

It's NCOs such as Sgt. Alvin York, who received a Medal of Honor in World War I for leading an attack on a machine gun nest that resulted in the capture of 132 German Soldiers, that show us all the true meaning of courage under fire. It's not just during combat that courage is needed, but it is courage that should be drawn upon whenever you need to step outside your comfort bubble and make leadership decisions and corrections, defend what you believe in, or take care of your Soldiers.

It's NCOs such as Sgt. Audie Murphy, who left behind a legacy of actions that made him one of the most decorated Soldiers during World War II, receiving 33 military citations, to include the Medal

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers.

of Honor. In early 1986, the U.S. Army established the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club at Fort Hood, Texas, to honor NCOs who have acted in a manner consistent with the actions of Audie Murphy. Since 1994, the SAMC spread Army-wide, to all commands with installations retaining the selection process for their own NCOs. NCOs are inducted in the club after competing in several selection boards, where they are asked difficult situational questions to test their leadership, and this membership and accompanying medallion is truly a reward to well-deserving NCOs who have earned it.

It's NCOs such as 1st Sgt. Pascal C. Poolaw, Sr., an American Indian posthumously awarded his fourth Silver Star after his actions in Vietnam, who show the true spirit of the Corps. Poolaw's unit was attacked by a numerically superior Viet Cong force, and under a hail of fire, Poolaw raced to the lead squad and deployed the squad there to lay down a base of fire. This action saved countless lives, but Poolaw continued moving among the troops, making sure they were positioned properly and pulled casualties back to the lines despite being wounded himself. He was mortally wounded as he pulled another casualty back to the lines.

It is NCOs such as Sergeant 1st Class

Keith Cade, 509th Signal Battalion, who take pride and honor to a higher level. Cade risked his own life to rescue a woman and her child from a burning car wreck in east Texas while on leave from Afghanistan in 2005.

NCOs also reflect two important features, such as guidance and caring. I have seen nothing but happy pride when an NCO receives a thank you letter or e-mail from a Soldier they used to lead. Even though the letters or e-mails are valuable to those who receive them, it's not the reward that motivates us. The reward falls in knowing we took care of a Soldier and their Family and accomplished the mission in the best way that we could, seeing everything through to the end.

I have received a few thank you e-mails in my career, and can say that I've read each one of those with delight and a deep feeling of satisfaction and pleasure, reinforcing the knowledge that I had done my job as an NCO and a person as well.

Through my 12 years of experience, I have also learned to share my knowledge and understanding of how things in the Army work, to help groom my Soldiers to be my replacement. Some of my answers came through observation, learning and discussion while others came through my own trial and error. Regardless of how my

expertise was earned, I always work to use my knowledge for the greater good, both for the Army and for my fellow Soldiers.

And regardless of how people learn how to, or not to, be a good leader, I ask that all NCOs take their schooling and street-education and put it to good use. For it's not just what you know, it's what you do with what you know. And remember, it's not just teaching your Soldier the right way to do something, it's also showing every Soldier the right way to do everything, as actions speak much louder than words.

This year has reinforced many things about NCOs that I have taken for granted throughout the years. The sacrifices and contributions that NCOs make throughout the world on a constant and daily basis astound me.

It's through constant perseverance that NCOs can continue to lead the U.S. Army to success.

To all the Soldiers, don't be afraid to ask for assistance and that extra push forward. To all the leaders, don't be afraid to do the pushing, whether or not the Soldiers ask.

I'm thankful for the Army allowing me to hone my leadership skills and to lead many Soldiers to become successful as our future NCO leaders. It's the hardest job in the Army, and I do it with pride. Call me Sergeant.



NCO fact

The first statue named for an enlisted Soldier was dedicated to Sgt. John Ordway, the 1st Sgt. on the famed Lewis and Clark Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery. The statue was dedicated on Sept. 23, 2006, marking the 200th anniversary of the Corps of Volunteers (completing the mission and arriving at St. Louis, Missouri). The Sgt. Ordway statue is located at Fort Lewis, Wash.





Year of in history

NCO AWARD

Sergeant 1st Class Keith Cade, 509th Signal Battalion, receives the Soldier's Medal for risking his own life to rescue a woman and her child from a burning car wreck in east Texas while on leave from Afghanistan in 2005.



“Being a good NCO is like seatbelts to a Soldier. You don't realize how much they do until ‘the accident.’”

Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam
U.S. Army Europe /
7th Army

A HEROES M Y



Sgt. Alvin York



NCO facts

The lozenge or diamond used to indicate 1st Sgt. is a mark of distinction and was used in heraldry to indicate achievement and was first authorized for wear for 1st Sgt. in the Army in 1847.

NCO creed

The NCO Creed was developed to give NCOs a “yardstick by which to measure themselves” and was ultimately approved in 1974 at Fort Benning. It was not formalized by an official Army publication until 1985.



Sgt. Audie Murphy



1st Sgt. Pascal C. Poolaw, Sr.

I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!

the NCO in 5th Signal Command

NCO INDUCTION

MANNHEIM, Germany | Sgt. Michael Morehead, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, pauses Mar. 12 before passing through the arch of responsibility during a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony held at the Schuh Theater on Sullivan Barracks. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathon Gray*



NCO TRAINING

MANNHEIM, Germany | Staff Sergeant Walter Scarborough, watches over Sgt. Michael Horton, both 5th Signal Command, while Horton utilizes the Laser Marksmanship Training System Mar. 6 during Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction held on Funnari Barracks. The LMTS used during the PMI helps Soldiers increase their familiarization with their assigned weapons and reiterates basic marksman fundamentals for greater confidence in firing during the qualification range. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Sheridan*



NCO FORUM

MANNHEIM, Germany | 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Mathew Acome leads a noncommissioned officer forum Mar. 11 at the Top Hat Club on Benjamin Franklin Village for newly inducted NCOs as part of a formal mentorship program and to promote 2009 as the Year of the NCO.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathon Gray



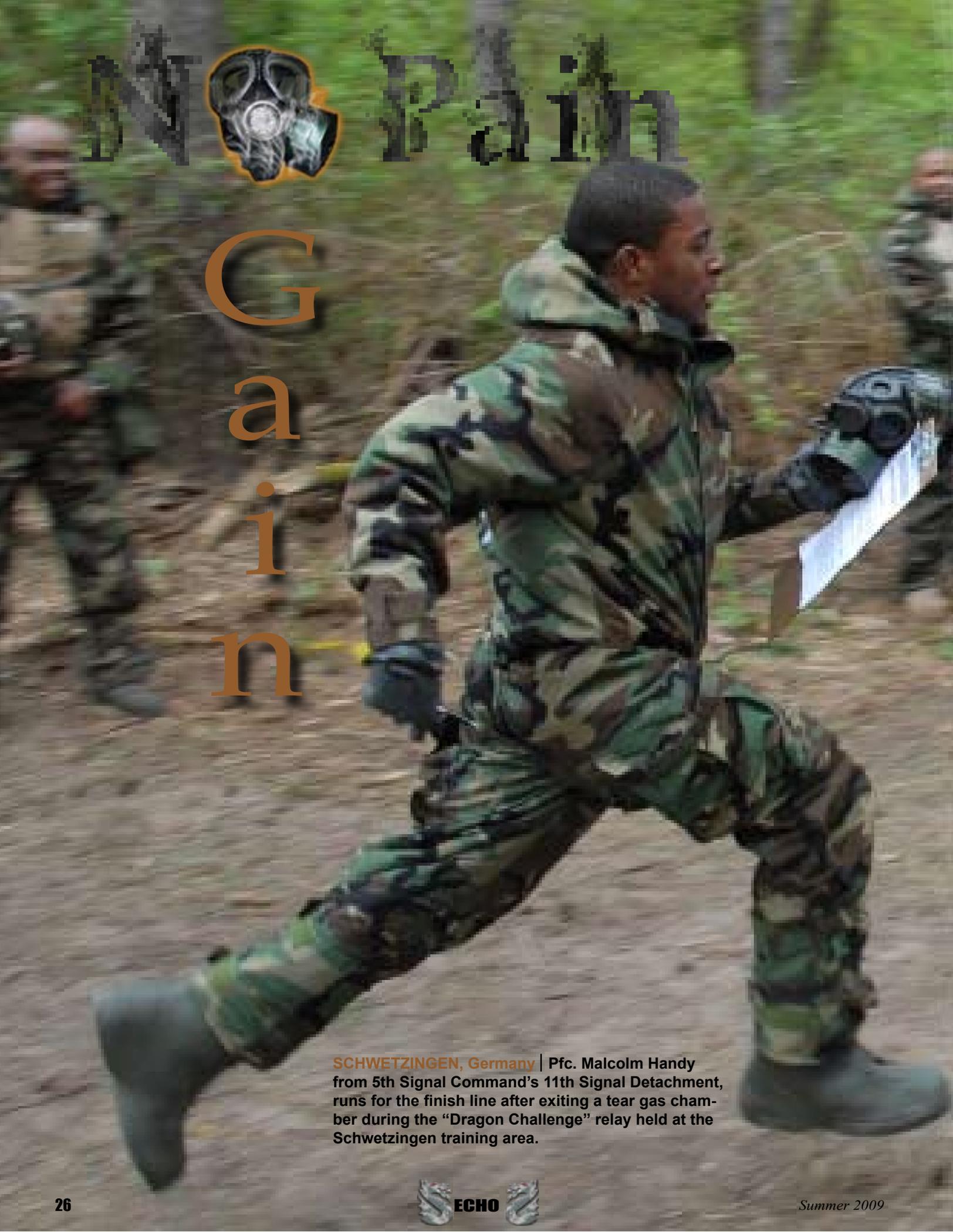
NCO LAUNCH

MANNHEIM, Germany | Sgt. 1st Class Dolores Rivera, 52nd Signal Battalion, Sgt. 1st Class Keith Cade, 509th Signal Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Gabriel Burkman, Staff Sgt. Beau Martindale, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Wagner, and Sgt. Nathan Williams of the 720th EOD Company, are honored Feb. 23 for their accomplishments and bravery during the Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer launch held at Schuh Theater, Sullivan Barracks. Throughout 2009, named The Year of the NCO by Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey, the U.S. Army recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of the NCO Corps. *Photo by Sgt. Brandon Sprajins*

No Pain



Gain



SCHWETZINGEN, Germany | Pfc. Malcolm Handy from 5th Signal Command's 11th Signal Detachment, runs for the finish line after exiting a tear gas chamber during the "Dragon Challenge" relay held at the Schwetzingen training area.

Dragon Challenge

43rd Signal Battalion push through **severe** obstacles

Story and Photos by
STAFF SGT. JONATHON GRAY

5th Signal Command, PAO

Close to 100 Soldiers within 5th Signal Command's 43rd Signal Battalion gathered for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear, or CBRN training, during a battalion training day held in the Schwetzingen training area.

The Soldiers were first presented with a CBRN reconnaissance demonstration from the 18th Engineer Brigade's Emergency Management Assessment Team out of Heidelberg, Germany. The EMAT demonstratively surveyed and entered an unknown, potentially deadly, area wearing chemical protective suits, vapor-tight total encapsulation suit that provides a high level of protection against direct and airborne chemical contact.

The EMAT walked through the complete decontamination process that involved using a knife to cut them out of their suits allowing those inside to safely exit the contaminated area without injury. Soldiers from the 43rd were also able to see the EMAT's equipment up close with small group classes and a full static display.

"The EMAT showed Soldiers another important side of the CBRN job specialty and gave us a live demonstration about CBRN operations," said Sgt. Horatio Patterson, 43rd Signal Battalion CBRN noncommissioned officer. "This is an experience that Soldiers of the 43rd can carry with them throughout their military career."

After the EMAT demonstration, the Soldiers began the CBRN rodeo, or round-robin CBRN training. The tasks and training ranged from donning the protective masks to administering buddy-aid to a CBRN casualty and even decontaminating a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle or Humvee.

"This isn't just about the training. It's about the team building and ensuring Soldiers have the confidence in their training and their leaders," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Wallace, 43rd Signal Battalion.

The day's events finished off with the CBRN Dragon Challenge, a relay race in which CBRN teams from each unit under 43rd was able to compete. The four events consisted of donning their mask, putting on their chemical protective suit, drinking from a canteen through their mask, and finally, entering the tear gas chamber to find some written test answers posted on the wall. The final dash was made from the gas chamber to the start line without the protective mask and then tagging the next person on the team.

Team members were cheering on their teammates while trying to distract the other teammates from their tasks "The team level



competition really brought us all together," said Pfc. Malcolm Handy from 43rd's 11th Signal Detachment.

The 43rd plans to continue the CBRN training and the Dragon Challenge next year, making this an annual event. "We do the best with the equipment we have and make the most realistic training possible for our Soldiers," said Wallace.

"I love my job, and I love my work. I will continue to train Soldiers in CBRN to help them visualize real life CBRN events that could save their lives," said Patterson.



Staff Sgt. Mark McClanathan, 43rd Signal Battalion, exits the tear gas chamber during the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Dragon Challenge relay. The CBRN training finished with a team-level competition and is an annual event hosted by 5th Signal Command's 43rd Signal Battalion that's designed to give Soldiers confidence in their CBRN training and equipment. (Top) Spc. Zachariah Blankenship, 181st Signal Company, dons his protective gear during the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Dragon Challenge relay.

Married HEADLINES GAC Y



Story by
LAWRENCE TORRES III
5th Signal Command, PAO

The moment White House Social Aide then Maj. Jay K. Chapman had been thinking of for more than seven years was about to unfold while enjoying an Independence Day celebration night on the White House lawn. He stared at the woman he loved, fellow aide then Maj. Ann Kristene Kramarich, as she watched the fireworks over the Washington Monument. When the national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner” played, Chapman proposed.

The celebration of our nation’s independence for them would be a night they remember as a start of dependence on each other for the past eight years since their marriage in July 2001. This dependence was further enhanced during the past two years as they both led Signal battalions in 5th Signal Command -- Lt. Col. Chapman as commander of 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion and Lt. Col. Kramarich as commander of 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

As commanders, “One of us, on any given night, would come home excited about something that happened in our battalion while the other one was exhausted,” Chapman said. “One of us would say, ‘Hey, I’ve got to tell you what happened today.’ The other person was probably listening saying ‘I’ve got it’ or, ‘You know what, I can’t listen to this right now. I need a break.’”

But that’s pretty rare. We’re there for each other most of the time,” Chapman added as he stared at his bride.

If one battalion had expertise that the other didn’t have they were quick to tap into each other’s resources.

“We’d do that for any commander,” Kramarich said. “I don’t think there’s another commander out there who wouldn’t help another commander in need.”

That sharing went beyond the normal work week as they noted their weekends were spent with each other while other commanders would “go home to their Families and have their world.”

“Our world, a lot of times, is still the Army,” Chapman said. “Our brain is always racing.”

One symptom of the race included the cell phone. As one phone would ring at 2 a.m., they would ask each other, “Is that your cell phone or mine?”

HOW THEY CAME TOGETHER

“We were four doors away from each other in the Pentagon ... 17 miles of corridors and we end up four doors apart,” Kramarich continued, “Somebody was trying to tell us something.”

Those words sprang out with a hint of relief as Kramarich was referring to the time “it all came together” as both Chapman and Kramarich were stationed in Washington D.C. in 1999, five years after they met for the first time.

The road to this relationship seemed long and eventful. In order for the Army couple to meet, they both committed to staying in the Army longer than originally planned, met in a training school, and then placed the priorities of the Army and Soldiers ahead of their own personal ambitions.

The beginning of the thread to this strong, humble marriage goes back to World War II when Chapman’s father was a Signal Corps corporal with the 926th Signal Bn. and later part of the Germany occupation forces stationed in Bad Kissingen. Chapman, a Madison, Conn., native, had dreams of attending West Point, but enrolled in Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Richmond. Chapman, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, felt that this college choice was better as he had “a blend of college life and military training.”

Kramarich’s parents were both in educational settings in her home town of Belgrade, Mont. -- her father a high school guidance counselor and her mom worked at the post office at Montana State University, where Kramarich ended up attending, only eight miles away from her house.

“Between both of them, they steered me towards applying,” said Kramarich, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. “What started out as something to do for the college benefit, evolved to staying in because of the people, job, and sense of service.”

Kramarich and Chapman both planned on fulfilling four years of active duty and four years in the reserves, using the military as a stepping stone to another career.

THE CHOICE TO STAY ARMY

“Then, somewhere along the way,” Kramarich said, “Jay decided he wanted to be a company commander. After that, Jay





compare/contrast

BOTH FROM LARGE FAMILIES

Kramarich – Oldest of four – five years between the four of them.

Chapman – Youngest of five – 16 years between the five of them.

COLLEGE

Chapman – “I wanted to go to West Point.”

Kramarich – “I didn’t know what West Point was.”

adjusted his goals and began to work towards a battalion command. I always kept an open mind.”

If they had simply served for four years, they were not likely to meet. Their choice to stay would bring 19 years of service in the Army and a legacy to 5th Signal Command. Just over a year following their initial four-year enlistment they ended up in Fort Gordon, Ga. at the Signal Corps Advanced Course and talked to each other for the first time during a St. Patrick’s Day celebration in Savannah, Ga.

“What did you say?” Kramarich asked her husband, wondering what his thoughts were when meeting for the first time. As she anticipated the answer with her wedding ring shining on her hand, which was tucked under her chin, he said his first thought was, “We are going to get married someday.”

“You did?” Kramarich exclaimed with excitement.

“Yeah, I said that to you a couple of times,” Chapman affirmed and added, “I knew it was going to work, it was a matter of how the Army was going to align our personal lives and our professional lives. When we both got to D.C. it started coming together.”

They left school in 1995 for assignments on different sides of the U.S. Chapman ended up in Fort Huachuca, Ariz., while Kramarich headed to Fort Bragg, N.C. The long distance relationship was difficult, especially when both were

serving as company commanders.

“When you are a commander you’re focused on your Soldiers, on that life, that Family,” said Chapman, who took command of the 269th Signal Company in Fort. Huachuca. “It’s hard to think of yourself, so you don’t really worry about your own relationships. So, we put ourselves second and our Soldiers first, and because of that, we were kind of on again, off again - we didn’t have time,” said Chapman, with a soft, apologetic tone.

“He had deployments to Haiti and Kuwait during that timeframe too,” said Kramarich, who was the Charlie Company commander, 51st Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps during her time in Ft. Bragg.

CHALLENGES WITH SUPPORT

“Having that embedded help desk really has been a factor to our successes over the years,” said Chapman.

As majors, Chapman and his new bride, Kramarich, were at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth when 9/11 happened. They were both able to attend night school and achieve their masters degrees in Telecom Management from Webster University. They were then sent to Fort Hood, both serving in the 4th Infantry Division as Brigade S6s – Jay with the 1st Brigade (Armored) and Kris



Funniest moment in the

I was so shy. I didn’t quite understand the ranks. All I knew was, ‘Shiny, not mine, I salute.’ I was petrified about doing the wrong thing. I remember walking outside on Ft. Huachuca and trying to get to my car without anyone seeing me. I would walk out about 10 steps and if someone was coming the other way, I would turn around and walk back in.

LT. COL. ANNE KRISTENE KRAMARICH

QUOTES

Kramarich – “Have fun at what you are doing.”

Chapman – “Work hard, play hard.”

FAVORITE MOVIES

Chapman – “Braveheart,” “The Gladiator”

Kramarich – “Age of Innocence,” “The Princess Bride”

with the 4th Brigade (Aviation). While in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, they both transitioned to be signal battalion S3s.

During the deployment, Kris was diagnosed with cancer and spent the next year having five surgeries, radiation treatments and chemotherapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and San Antonio Military Medical Center.

“Jay spent the end of his OIF 1 deployment with me,” Kramarich said. “I didn’t think I’d be allowed to stay in, let alone command a battalion someday.”

5TH SIGNAL COMMAND

In 2007, they would both end up as commanders. The thought of commanding battalions at the same time while married was tough, and “As you can imagine, we share stories and ask each other for advice regularly – two heads thinking as one sometimes,” Chapman said.

During their two years in command, Kramarich’s entire command time was centered around 44th ESB’s deployment, which lasted for 15 months. Chapman fielded new equipment to transform 72nd to an ESB and then covered most of the theater support missions including Bulgaria, Georgia, Kosovo and Israel. From January to June 2009, Chapman was ramping up his battalion for their OIF deployment before “handing off the reigns

to the new battalion commander.”

“One thing I certainly didn’t anticipate was the feeling of losing two battalions when Jay changed command in April. I felt a loss, and then followed up with mine,” Kramarich said.

“I was saying goodbye to a battalion that was heading off to the fight, so it was very emotional for me because I trained these Soldiers for two years and I was saying, ‘You have to go, but I am not going,’” Chapman said. “I’m usually pretty stoic, but it was tough, a very emotional time.”

But that loss is followed by an exciting future at the Navy War College in Newport, R.I., an assignment that was never “scripted out,” Chapman said.

“We thought there would be no way that they would select two Signal officers for the few slots that were available,” Chapman added. “We actually PCSd to Germany believing that we would be apart for most of three years with Kris deploying her battalion first followed by my deployment. As it ends up, after two years, we’re both going off to the War College together. The Army has really treated us well when it comes to the Army Married Couples Program.”

Chapman and Kramarich are leaving 5th Signal Command together, continuing their unscripted lives in the Army virtually nine years to the day after a scripted Independence Day proposal on the White House lawn.



ARMY

Chapman was reporting early to Fort Bragg before the artillery course. He reported on a Friday which happened to be a three-day weekend and he asked his commander, “What time are we coming in tomorrow?” The commander said, “I don’t know about you, but I’m not coming in til Tuesday.” He didn’t even bring civilian clothes, assuming he was in the Army 7 days a week for the next four years.

LT. COL. JAY K. CHAPMAN

European Regimental Signal Ball

Ball commemorates **Year of the NCO**,
displays history of **Signal Corps**



All Photos by Staff Sgt. Jonathon M. Gray

HEIDELBERG, Germany

The 2009 European Regimental Signal Ball celebrated the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer by making it the theme of the evening at the Patrick Henry Village Pavillion June 13. The entire organization and execution of the ball was done by NCOs in 5th Signal Command's 2nd Signal Brigade.

Kicking off the official portion of the ball was a color guard made up entirely of signal first sergeants from around 5th Signal. A video and stage production was shown to the audience with the theme "From Flag and Torch to Data Package: Getting the Message Through, End to End," and showed the progression of signal operations using NCO reenactors from the Revolutionary War to the modern era.

The guest speaker of the ball was United States Army Europe / 7th Army Commander Gen. Carter Ham, who praised the signal regiment for its many accomplishments over the centuries and said signal NCOs "are a vital weapon for the success of our future formations."



Flag and Torch to Data Package: Getting the Message though, End-to-



WILLINGEN, Germany | More than 75 single Soldiers from 5th Signal Command attended the pre-deployment single Soldier retreat in Willingen, Germany May 20 - 22.

Mountains of HOPE

RETREAT STRENGTHENS LIVES, FAMILIES

**Story and Photos by
SPC IDA TATE**

7th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade

More than 300 Soldiers and Family members from 5th Signal Command attended a pre-deployment retreat in Willingen, Germany May 20-24.

The retreat was held prior this summer's deployment of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, as well as subordinate 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. The purpose of the annual event is to provide help in areas that seem to form precedence in the average relationship of a Soldier while being deployed, said Lt. Col. Timothy Sowers, chaplain with HHC, 7th TTSB. Overall, 75 single Soldiers attended the first half of the retreat, with more than 200 married soldiers, their spouses and children filling the entire memorial day weekend.

The material covered during the retreat included Self Awareness, Myers-Briggs, Laugh Your way to a Better Marriage, Love and Respect, and Financial Peace - all deemed appropriate by five 5th Signal Command chaplains, said Capt. Patricia Nichols, chaplain with the 72nd.

Classes for single Soldiers addressed real issues that they deal with during their personal lives and at work.

Capt. Michael Frese, chaplain with 44th, chose to give a counter-cultural view of sex.

"My interpretation of our current 21st century sexual climate is one of

promiscuity, misguidance, dissatisfaction, and dangerous," said Frese, who became a pastor and chaplain to reach out to young men and women. "Sex outside the commitment of marriage is not fulfilling, safe, or emotionally healthy, yet that is the only side of this debate that fills our music, books, magazines, Internet sites, and television shows. I wanted to offer the other side of the debate. I wanted to share with a group of Soldiers that they will be healthier physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally if they do not lead a promiscuous life."

Spc. Delonta Cooper, HHC, 7th TTSB, said that the retreat helped him realize people can be addressed no matter what personality they have and this will help him in the future.

"Despite someone's response to your actions, you should know yourself and be willing to change if you feel it will help you," Cooper continued, "although the probability of change is low."

All married couples chose one of three classes; thereby, the individual relationships grew in diverse areas.

"I learned new languages of affection, and words to improve communication with my wife," said Staff Sgt. Gasner Pluvios, HHC, 7th TTSB.

Frese felt that his intent to make an impact on each life was met because of the enthusiasm from the Soldiers and Family members during his three-hour Saturday morning class. This influence became more apparent during one of Frese's

mountain biking trips past a reflecting pool at the top of a mountain.

"I saw one of the single Soldiers sitting there with a contemplative expression," Frese explained. "I rode over to him and said 'hi.' He did not recognize me in biking clothes, helmet, and protective glasses, so it took him a minute to respond. I asked him what he was choosing to do on his free afternoon.

"His response was very meaningful to me," Frese continued. "He said, 'Chaplain, you gave me a lot to think about this morning during your session. I have to figure out some things about my life. I am not happy about some things in my past.' To me, this was the most rewarding statement that I could have heard. I could tell that the intent was met by causing this Soldier to think about life and search for answers."

"The most important thing I learned in the Financial Peace class was to pay myself first and then place obtainable goals for saving money," said Cindi Grays, the spouse of Sgt. 1st Class Richard Grays with HHC, 72nd ESB. "Chaplain Robert Crawford prepared a very knowledgeable class that would benefit any Soldier or spouse."

Retreats create strong Family bonds and strong Family bonds are the primary key for successful relationships during deployments, thereby Families should not underestimate the power of spending time with each other, because it may be all the therapy needed, said Sowers.





strengthening bonds

in formation

2nd Signal Brigade Soldiers march in the streets of Wissembourg, France to celebrate Bastille Day with local French citizens. Bastille Day is a French national celebration day symbolizing the rising of the modern French nation during the French Revolution.

Photo by Frank SchleeHuber



WISSEMBOURG, France

in remembrance

Soldiers with 72nd Expeditionary Signal Brigade stand in front of Monument aux morts with Marechal-des-Logis Chef Didier Chipaux, French Gendarmerie de Wissembourg, prior to the 64th annual ceremony commemorating the liberation of the city of Wissembourg by the U.S. Army in 1945.

Photo by Frank SchleeHuber



nds



WORMS, Germany

in relationships

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., comander, 5th Signal Command, addresses guests May 29 during the command's Annual Reception speech at the Herrnsheim Castle. The reception brings together Family, friends and foreign partners of 5th Signal Command in a friendly environment. The reception honors 5th's founding in the city of Worms. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathon M. Gray*



OISE-AISNE, France

in honor

Brig. Gen. Jeffery G. Smith Jr. (right), commanding general, 5th Signal Command, together with Mr. Michael Lucich, representative of the American Battle Monuments Commission, place wreaths at the American cemetery in Oise-Aisne, France during a Memorial Day ceremony commemorating American Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in WWI. This ceremony was one of many recognizing the American contribution to the liberation of France in WWI. 40 Soldiers from across 5th Signal Command represented U.S. Armed Forces at this cemetery in the northeast of Paris. *Photo by Frank SchleeHuber*



in friendship

Sgt. Richard Barney, A Co., 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, talks with German citizen Johann Bachmann at the 2009 Hessentag. Every year, Germany's federal state of Hessen holds a week-long state fair that attracts a million visitors called "Hessentag," which means "Hessen Day" in German. Set up in the "Platz der Bundeswehr" or "military area," the 44th, who recently returned from serving a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, represented the sole U.S. Army presence at the annual event. *Photo by Kristopher Joseph*



LANGENSELBOLD, Germany

DRAGON WARRIORS



MANNHEIM, Germany | Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Washington (right), 5th Signal Command, and Sgt. Maj. Willie Scott, 5th Signal Command, lead 5th Signal Command's Noncommissioned Officer run June 12 held on Benjamin Franklin Village. The run commemorates the Year of the NCO and closed out 5th Signal's Regimental Week. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathon M. Gray*



BOEBLINGEN, Germany | 52nd Signal Battalion Soldiers practice small unit tactics during a Warrior-Training Exercise (WTX). The WTX was held at the Boeblingen Local Training Area (LTA) the first week of May 2009. *Photos by Eric Steen, 7th Army JMTC*



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MANNHEIM, Germany | Cpt. Jeffrey Byrd, commander, C Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, salutes during the Uncasing Ceremony held at the Benjamin Franklin Village Sports Arena on Feb. 12. The uncasing of the colors signifies the battalion's official arrival from their 15 month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The uncasing ceremony was followed by the homecoming celebration at the BFV Bowling Alley and BFV Community Center. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathon M. Gray*



WIESBADEN, Germany
Spc. Kebba Barrow (left) and Pvt. Deangelo Whitfield (right) from 5th Signal Command's 102nd Signal Battalion play tug-o-war with students during Aukamm Elementary School's Field Day. Approximately 15 Soldiers in the 102nd volunteered and assisted in the school's annual event that featured 10 various stations, including an obstacle course, potato sack relay race and a visit by the German fire department. *Photo by Kristopher Joseph*

TUG

Support



MANNHEIM, Germany | Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Manley, Network Enterprise Technology Command / 9th Signal Command, passes the noncommissioned officer sword of responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Washington, symbolizing her acceptance of becoming 5th Signal Command's new command sergeant major during a change of responsibility ceremony at the sports arena on Sullivan Barracks. *Photo by Spc. Ida Tate*



MANNHEIM, Germany | German Master Sgt. Martin Krause, 282nd Fuehrungsunterstuetzungsbataillon, walks through the arch of responsibility and the ceremonial arch of swords during the 102nd Signal Battalion's Non-Commissioned Officer induction ceremony held at the Wiesbaden Army Air Field Gym. The 102nd invited their German partners unit, the 282nd, to participate in the induction to commemorate 2009 as the Year of the NCO. *Photo by Kristopher Joseph*

NETCOM names NCO/Soldier of the Year

5th Signal Command receives both awards

Bill Hess

The Sierra Vista Herald

Two soldiers from the 5th Signal Command, walked off with the top Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year for the Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command (Army).

Staff Sgt. Brian Hong, an intelligence analyst with the 509th Signal Battalion in Vicenza, Italy, was named the noncommissioned officer of the year.

Runner-up in the category was Staff Sgt. Nathan Dunkelberg, NETCOM operations unit status report NCOIC, who represented the 11th Signal Brigade, which like NETCOM headquarters is located on Fort Huachuca.

The command's Soldier of the year is Spc. Daniel Justice, an automation specialist with the 2nd Signal Brigade.

The soldier of the year runner-up is Spc. Christopher Ramos, a personnel management clerk with the 21st Signal Brigade at Fort Detrick, Md.

The process of picking what NETCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Manley called "the best of the best," started with competitions at company levels up through battalions and higher command structures throughout the command.

For the 16 seeking to make the cut, the competition of soldier skills, writing and facing senior NCOs for an oral board started on the fort on Monday.

For 26-year-old Hong, who calls Schaumburg, Ill., home, the most difficult part of the NETCOM competition was the oral board.

"I don't like talking about myself," the more-than-four-year Army veteran said.

Easiest for him was the PT test, the first event, and if one of the candidates failed they were eliminated. This year there were no failures.

Hong, who is married and trained to be an intelligence analyst on the post, said he usually goes to the gym after every morning's PT.

As for Justice, 27, who also has been in the Army for more than four years, while most of the competition was physically demanding, there wasn't any one part more difficult than another.

The Vicksburg, Miss., soldier said what he enjoyed was being outside for most of the competition on the fort.

Both soldiers, and the runners-up will start a training program soon to prepare for the U.S. Forces Command competition in August. The winner in the two categories will then go on to the Army-wide competition later this year.

The runners-up will train with the winners in case the winner has to be replaced due to injuries or other duties.

Last year, Staff Sgt. Lisa Morales, of the 11th Signal Brigade won NETCOM's NCO competition and went on to be the first



FORT HUACHUCA, Arizona | The Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command (Army) Soldier of the Year, Spc. Daniel Justice of the 2nd Signal Brigade, 5th Signal Command, in Mannheim, Germany, is congratulated by the NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Brian Hong, also from 2nd. *Photo by Ed Honda, SV Herald.*

woman soldier to be named FORSCOM's NCO of the Year. At the time of her accomplishment in 2008 she was assigned to the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

Manley noted that all this year's competitors have between 18 months service and more than 10 years.

To all the competitors, Maj. Gen. Susan Lawrence, herself a former junior enlisted soldier and NCO, said those who are serving in today's American armed forces represent about 1 percent of the nation's population, compared to 9 percent who served during World War II.

The Army went through some trying times when she was an enlisted soldier, noting there was much disarray in the service after the Vietnam War, the general said.

But, it was the strong NCO leaders and seasoned officers who put the service back on the right track, Lawrence said.

And, today it is the NCO Corps that is keeping the Army strong.

"One of you could be standing here one day as the commanding general," she said. "I'm extremely proud of you."

The only thing she was glad she didn't have to do was to make the final decision on who would be named the two winners.

"I'm a soffee. I couldn't pick one of you," Lawrence said.

As the competitors lined up on the stage in the auditorium in Greely Hall, seven soldiers on one side and nine NCOs on the other, the process began of calling out names until there were only two in each category left. Each competitor received an Army Commendation Medal and other tokens of appreciation. The runners-up and winners received additional gifts with money value in excess of \$6,000 each.

FROM THE CSM



UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Dragon Warriors,

First of all I want to say it is my deepest honor and privilege to be your new command sergeant major. I feel truly blessed to stand in ranks with so many talented and hard working Soldiers, Civilians and Family members. My personal desire in joining the Dragon Warrior Family is to ensure every mission is accomplished by taking care of our command's most valuable asset - You!

2009 has been named the "Year of NCO," but I will tell you that this spirit is thriving every day of every year. This command would not be where it is without the diligence, discipline and leadership of our noncommissioned officers making it happen day in and day out. I charge every NCO in this command to set a standard of excellence and lead by example. The young Soldiers are this command's future so it is our responsibility to forge their road to success.

During this time of transformation, many of you will be expected to perform tasks and missions outside of your occupational specialties. You should know that leaders in the signal regiment are tirelessly working to make our doctrine, training and policies relevant to support today's warfighters. Your ability to support both operation-based and tactical missions will be critical to the expeditionary fight.

One main focus in the months and years ahead will be to support the implementation of the Global Network Enterprise Construct. Once in place, the GNEC will be one of the Army's most powerful weapon systems for our warfighters. This will only be accomplished with your ability to quickly adapt and overcome the challenges that lie ahead to complete this historic endeavor.

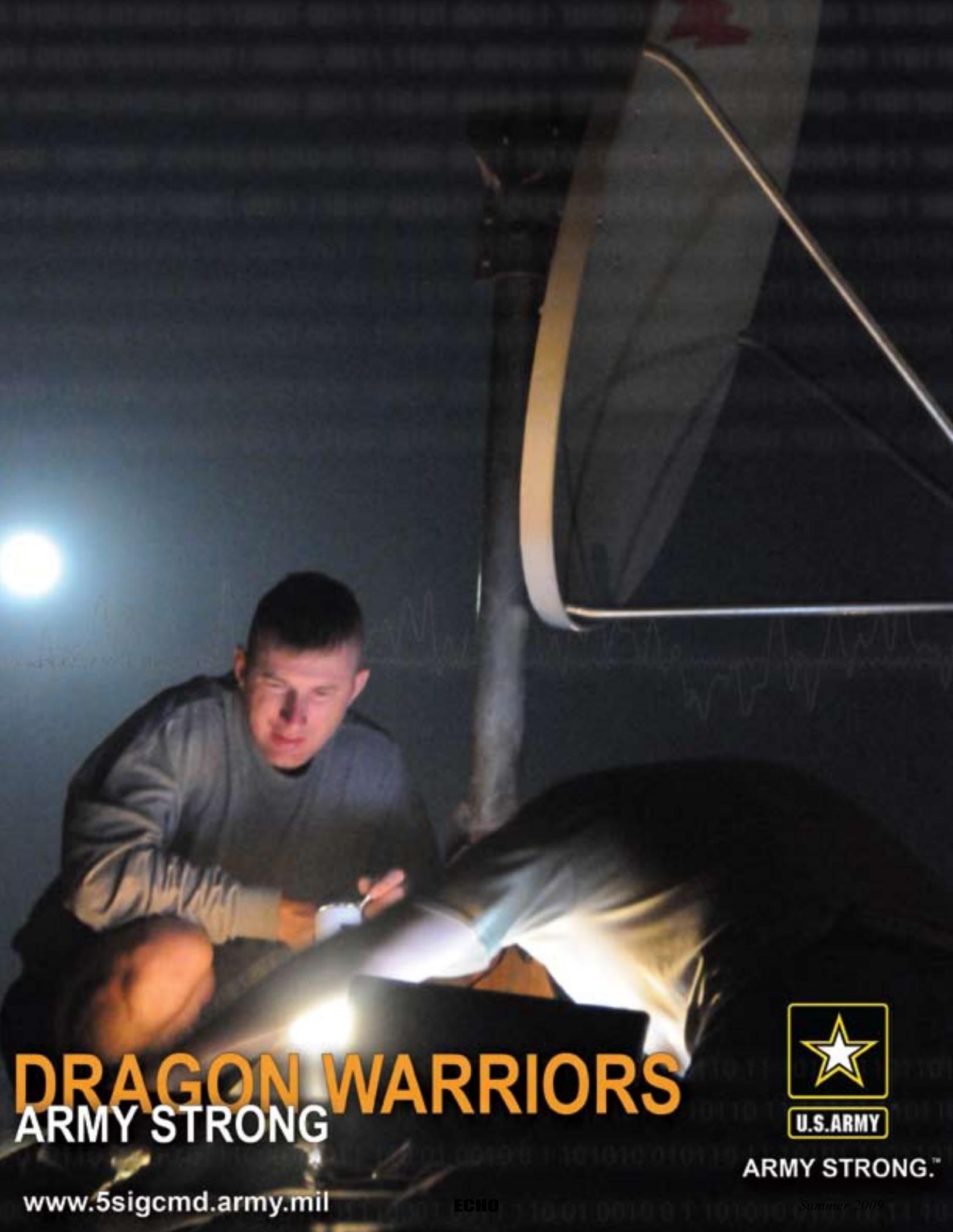
With all the missions that lie before us, I want to also stress the importance of spending quality time with your friends and Family. Your morale and motivation are products of the close-knit bonds you develop on and off duty.

Once again, I am extremely excited to be on the Dragon Warrior team. I look forward to seeing you all in action doing great things for this command. Your service to your country is a credit to your bravery and willingness to stand up and defend all our precious freedoms.

Marilyn Washington

Marilyn Washington
Command Sergeant Major, USA
5th Signal Command

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