



DEUCE LIGHTNING



2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER

"BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"



CSM Washington transfers the saber to CSM Weatherly during the 2d Signal Brigade Change of Responsibility Ceremony



Operation Solemn Promise

February is respect month

Respect: Treat people as they should be treated. In the Soldier's Code, we pledge to "treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same." Respect is what allows us to appreciate the best in other people. Respect is trusting that all people have done their jobs and fulfilled their duty. And self-respect is a vital ingredient with the Army value of respect, which results from knowing you have put forth your best effort. The Army is one team and each of us has something to contribute.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Message from the Command Team	3
6981st 	4
39th 	5
43D 	9
52d 	11
102d 	12
509th 	13
HHC 	15



COL Kilgo (left front) participating in the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Walk on Wiesbaden Army Airfield



Voting News:

Arizona: February 28, 2012
Michigan: February 28, 2012
GA, MA, OH, OK, TN, VT, VA: March 6, 2012
FVAP Mailing Deadlines:
Germany: Must mail No Later Than 11 days before election

BDE VAOs: Mr. Rambert, Ms. Garnish, MAJ Yamada

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

February 14th	Valentine's Day
February 15, 16th	African American History
February 17th	Training Holiday
February 20th	Training Holiday

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2D SIGNAL BRIGADE

Brigade Commander	COL Mitchell L. Kilgo
Brigade Command Sergeant Major	CSM Milton Weatherly
Deputy Brigade Commander / Managing Editor	LTC Van D. Jarrell
Civilian Deputy Brigade Commander	Mr John Baltich
Editor	MAJ Traci Yamada
Assistant Editor / Graphics Manager	SFC Damir Lisica / SSG Michael Metheny



OPSEC Reminder: All unit specific future events and personal individual information have been removed for OPSEC purposes (such as family member names and birth dates).

Stay Vigilant, Stay Safe!



MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM



COL Mitchell L. Kilgo CSM Milton L. Weatherly

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

We are well into the new year, and the holidays have offered a short time to reflect on our achievements this past year. The new year offers a chance to fine tune and improve upon what we've accomplished.

Operation Solemn Promise allows us to focus on the values that underpin our profession. I encourage the leaders and aspiring leaders in the brigade to conduct professional reading that complements our understanding of military leadership and values. The US Army Center of Military History maintains excellent reading lists geared toward the different stages of one's career at <http://www.history.army.mil/reading.html>

Most importantly, I want to thank my partner and battle buddy CSM Patrick Brooks and wish him all the best as the 7th Signal Command CSM. At the same time, I want to extend a warm welcome to my new battle buddy CSM Milton Weatherly.

2012 holds many challenges and much excitement such as the combined field training exercise and the Signal Ball, as well as many more changes coming up during the summer PCS season. Looking forward to an excellent 2012!

COL Mitchell L. Kilgo
Brigade of Excellence



Top right: COL Kilgo and CSM Weatherly after cutting the cake



Mid right: COL Kilgo congratulates CSM Weatherly after the Change of Responsibility Ceremony



Left to Right: CSM Brooks, COL Kilgo, and Mrs. Kilgo after the 2d Signal Brigade Change of Responsibility Ceremony

BG Patterson and CSM Brooks cutting the cake after Change of Responsibility Ceremony





MESSAGE FROM THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP



Hello Members, Friends, and Family of the 6981st,

December and January normally are months where business is slowing down because of the weather situation and the time of the year. But this time it was different. Winter has not started like the years before. We had no frost, not even cold weather nor snow in December which allowed us to continue our business without slowing down. As a result of this we could close out several projects sooner as expected.

On December 13, in the late afternoon we were called out to repair a FO-cable cut at a construction site at Vogelweh, Kaiserslautern. The cut was made in the assumption that this cable is not in use. But it supported several nodes at different locations and therefore caused a big network outage in the K-town area for several services. The repair teams worked around the clock to bring those services back. In the morning on December 14, all circuits were back and the services were restored. COL (P) Crawford visited us and recognized several members of our unit for this outstanding service to the community.

On 19 December we visited the Weihnachtsmarkt at Karlsruhe to start the holiday season and to come together offside the normal business. This closed out a busy year for our unit.

The coming year will be a special year for us as we will celebrate our 60th anniversary as unit and will have to plan another move this time from Mannheim to Germersheim in the coming FY.

In January we visited the Germersheim Army Depot, the future home of the 6981st CSG HQ's. We took a look on the build-

ings, housing, our offices, our warehouses and our motor pool. We are happy with the foreseen solution and look forward to move into our new home in FY13. But independent of where our HQ's will be, our service will stay the same!

We connect!
Gerd Drechsler



COL (P) Crawford recognizes Mr. Schmidt for his service



COL (P) Crawford with the 6981st Command Team



MESSAGE FROM THE 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Rodney L. Lightfoot

CSM Charles Miller

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

Twenty-three Officers, Senior Non-commissioned Officers, and Civilians of the 39th Signal Battalion conducted a staff ride to Bastogne, Belgium on 2-3 December 2011. The siege of Bastogne was fought from 18-26 December 1944 and stopped the German advance as Hitler tried unsuccessfully to drive his army to Antwerp and split the United States and British forces. This staff ride highlighted many of the leadership, tactical and logistical challenges faced by Allied Forces in the execution of the Battle of the Bulge, arguably the greatest battle in American military history. Commandant Johnny Bona of the Belgian Army acted as the tour guide and provided his expert knowledge of the history of the attack.

Lieutenant Colonel Rodney Lightfoot, the 39th Signal Battalion Commander, said: "I wanted to re-establish the Staff Ride as an integral part of our senior leader development. It's not every day that we get to walk the land where our brothers fought and died. These Senior Leader Development opportunities have been a vital ingredient to my personal success in the Army, as well as many other successful leaders. We freed up the time to conduct this invaluable event to further develop our Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Civilians with this staff ride".

Sites visited on the first day focused on the western side of Bastogne, where the German advance began. In places such as Noville,

Neffe, Bivory, and Marvie, the leaders of the 39th were able to see the land almost as it was 67 years ago. Of special significance were the German and Easy Company, 506th PIR foxholes, still visible today. These foxholes were barely 50 meters apart, but because of the heavy fog and snow, neither side knew just how close they were to each other. The day ended with a trip through McAuliffe's Cellar, where BG McAuliffe responded to the German request to surrender with "Nuts!"

Battalion Staff Ride to Bastogne

The second day included visits to the Roule Castle where 506th PIR headquarters was located and the 101st Airborne Museum. The museum contains articles from Commandant Bona's private collection of authentic World War II memorabilia. The attention to detail in this museum was beyond what anyone could have imagined going in. Everything is authentic, even down to the cigarettes in the hands of the lifelike mannequins.

In addition to providing the senior leaders of the 39th with an opportunity to study and

acknowledge the sacrifices and accomplishments of the 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne, the trip also allowed the attendees to interact and build camaraderie. It is doubtful that any of the participants will soon forget the sacrifices made by both sides of the battle.



All participants agreed one of the highlights of the staff ride was the great amount of insight provided by our guide. His lifelong study of the battle that took place in his home country contributed immensely to the knowledge that all participants gained. Despite the fact that most of the officers are themselves combat veterans; all stood in awe of the challenges faced, sacrifices made, and dedication to mission that was exemplified by the veterans who fought around Christmas 1944 in Bastogne, Belgium.





39TH SIGNAL BATTALION: HHD MERCENARY NEWS

HHD, 39th Signal Battalion had an awesome time over the last couple of months. The Company Commander and 1SG coordinated a team building event of bowling to increase morale

and esprit-de-corps while relaxing and enjoying time off work. One afternoon included E-4 SPC and below followed by another two weeks later with E-4 CPL and above. Our next stop was Bastogne in early December to learn more about and better understand the Battle of the Bulge. This event's winter timeframe was purely intentional in order to help those in attendance gain a better appreciation for the frigid climate and low-visibility conditions the Soldiers of that time had to endure. Although cold, damp and foggy, we realistically experienced nothing like they endured over the coldest winter on record – the winter of 1944-45. MAJ Taggart, the Battalion Executive Officer, planned and executed this amazing overnight SLD Staff Ride for all E-7 and above to include DA Civilians. We're now all looking forward to the next trip he's currently planning – Normandy!



Battle of the Bulge (Coldest winter on record)

insight at, the Company Commander/ First Sergeant Course. That week was capped off with another truly remarkable Battalion Holiday Party. The amount of effort and dedication by all those who helped prepare for this was outstanding and it all came together perfectly – it was simply an example of great teamwork. The children of the 39th were all then very well taken care of the following week at our FRG Children's Holiday Party. Santa was there too and he did a phenomenal job speaking individually with, and also providing a gift to, each and every child in attendance. Once again, the preparation that went into this event was just fantastic.

placed by a more capable individual. Although 1SG Jared Dowland has some pretty large shoes to fill, he likewise brings a wealth of knowledge and unique experiences to the table that will further mold and shape this exceptional organization.



After all the resolutions were made, it was back to business for this New Year of 2012. We started it off right with an ASU inspection that not surprisingly yielded great results.



Above & Right: Team Building Events - Bowling



1SG K. Greene



1SG J. Dowland

Then it was time to say farewell to 1SG Keith Greene and his wonderful family. Top's dedication and loyalty to all the Soldiers, Civilians and Families in this battalion has been nothing short of extraordinary. His efforts and sacrifices have left a profound mark on this unit – and he and his family will be sorely missed. 1SG Greene couldn't be re-

Take care until next time.
Mercenary 6 – Out

The following week, 128th and HHD conducted Commander's Prime Time Training together in order to validate our Soldier's Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills readiness and proficiency. During this same timeframe, our (at the time incoming) new First Sergeant – 1SG Jared Dowland – was also able to attend, and gain great



Left: Newly Promoted SSG Lusk & Family



39TH SIGNAL BATTALION: 128TH SIGNAL COMPANY NEWS

The Commander's Prime Time Training for the 1st QTR FY 2012 was held on 5 - 8th DEC 2012. The 1st CPTT of the Fiscal Year started the battalion out by focusing on the foundation tasks of Shoot and Move. The two companies were able to knock out a large amount of these tasks as well as a portion of Communicate, Survive and Adapt. Held locally at the Alliance Training Area at Chievres Air Base, we were able to



concentrate our logistics on the exercise as opposed to transportation to another area of operations for the training. This quarter's CPTT included classes that

reinforced the instruction conducted during the Warrior Focused Training which included the above mentioned tasks and battle drills. The exercise started with Classes on Movement drills, Maintaining and Employing assigned M16, Rules of Engagement, First Aid and Visual and Voice Communication. Highlighting this year's CPTT was the incorporation of the Soldier Readiness Program (SRP) for deployment. The SRP training brought a realistic addition to our training and checked the block for our semi-annual SRP requirement.

The CPTT culminated with a Tactical Foot March and Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes. The foot march verified the Soldiers' ability to move in a hostile environment and their reaction to direct and indirect fire. The STX lanes verified the WFT that our Soldiers learned this quarter. The Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) was also utilized during the CPTT. Scenarios were Shoot/Don't Shoot drills which

tested Soldier on ROE learned during the class portion of the exercise. Overall this CPTT was successful and gave us a foundation to work on for FY12 and with it a course that along with higher guidance has set the unit up for success.

With the end of December, another successful year has passed by the Bulldawgs calendar. The last month was both a busy and relaxing month. With Commanders

Prime Time Training, Quarterly Training Briefs, Battalion and Children's Holiday Parties and our everyday missions on the busy side and half day schedules on the



relaxing side. As 1SG and I visited the sections, we noticed no letting up by our Soldiers and Civilians at the end of the year. We went in to the month strong and

left the year even stronger. I am proud to be a part of this company and to call myself a Bulldawg. I say that because of the way our unit stood together and ensured everyone had places to go during this holiday season given our 24/7 Mission. Bulldawgs let's continue the year the way we started it, STRONG!! Bulldawg 6 - Out

**Commander's
Prime Time
Training
1st Qtr FY12**





39TH SIGNAL BATTALION: HOLIDAY & FRG KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

39th Signal Battalion's Family Readiness Group held their annual Children's Christmas Party December 16th at Daumerie Chapel. Families enjoyed socializing, a well prepared meal, and an overall fun and exciting evening together. In anticipation of Santa's arrival, the Children enjoyed crafts and cookie decorating for each to take home and enjoy. Finally when the time arrived for Santa to make his cameo, the children welcomed him with loud and thunderous cheers, running around in glee and pure exhilaration. SPC Jeremy Seals held the honor of pulling off such a gig and performed marvelously giving every child in the room a gift – provided by FRG – and a memorable experience they will reflect on for years to come. The Battalion's FRG is run by Mrs. Stapleton.

On the evening of the 9th of December 2011, the 39th Signal Battalion's Holiday Party was held at the enchanting and remarkable es-

music and the sweet aroma of Belgian delicacies placed out in an elaborate buffet along with a plethora of mouthwatering and diet-defying desserts. An open bar welcomed all in its midst to grab a drink and mingle whilst the pictures were snapping, capturing everyone in their semi-formal attire searching for the one who would be able to claim the fame of best dressed. 1SG Greene genially acted as the Master of Ceremony and ensured the timeline of events went as planned. SGT Faux, SPC Swett and CPL Lejune volunteered their time to paint wine glasses with a wide array of designs to include the inscription of the BN Holiday Party 2011 which were a gift to each and everyone in attendance from the Command Group. 1LT McGlothan constructed a well collaborated picture slideshow enhanced by inspirational music that captured the majority of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members from the past year's training, social, FRG, and fundraising events which was well received by all. Throughout the evening, various prizes were raffled off to include an IPOD Shuffle, GPS, XBOX 360, and the grand prize of a 42 Inch Flat-screen LED TV. PFC Connally, an outgoing member of the S1 team, remarkably held claim to the coveted winning ticket for the grand prize and left the party as a very happy young man.

This night was one to remember and has set the standard for all future holiday parties!



tablishment of Moulin de Hunelle in Chievres, Belgium. Organized by the senior leaders of HHD, every detail from the lavish decorations to the intricate centerpieces was structured to perfection as well as peace of mind given to all of the parents as child care was made available on site. As the Soldiers, Civilians and Family members arrived at the party, they entered in to the serenity of soft





43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM: NEWS



LTC John M. Demko

1SG Brent Smith
Acting CSM

Greetings from the Soldiers and Civilians of the 43D –Always Professional Signal Battalion.

Imagine you were tasked with the momentous responsibility of managing a critical high visibility mission that entails providing crucial video teleconferencing (VTC) services for the entire European theater. Yet, you are expected to provide this service with unreliable, out of life cycle equipment that is 13 years old with a new team. Most sane-minded professionals probably would reject such an uncanny proposition. Mr. Alan Dean, USAREUR VTC Chief and mastermind of the USAREUR VTC Hub Tech refresh enthusiastically accepted this challenge. In this article, I will detail how Mr. Dean did more with less by extending the life of the legacy VTC equipment, how he executed the transition to the Enterprise VTC Solution and provide a brief overview of the new capabilities of USAREUR VTC services.

The Legacy Equipment

The legacy VTC Hub was originally designed and built around ISDN technology that supported 144 ISDN lines that proved to be expensive in addition to the extended warranty costs required to maintain the VTC operation. Over time, the legacy VTC Hub incorporated IP Based Technology, but it was limited to 45 simultaneous connections at a low speed (256kbs) but was more reliable than ISDN. Prior to the long awaited and highly anticipated Enterprise VTC Solution, the legacy equipment, which was SIPR based only, experienced periodic malfunctions that led to session disruptions that negatively impacted all customers

A CHANGE YOU CAN SEE: THE VTC HUB TECH REFRESH

BY MR. MARION YOUNG JR.,
DEPUTY DOIM, 43D SIGNAL BATTALION

across Europe and the Atlantic. As the legacy equipment components began to fail more frequently, Mr. Dean and his crew worked tirelessly to maintain VTC services by substituting failed parts with other on-hand legacy parts in a futile effort to extend the life of the legacy equipment. Furthermore, he negotiated an extended warranty agreement with the vendor for emergency services. This temporary solution did extend the use of the legacy VTC Hub but eventually, the legacy equipment proved totally unreliable and became too expensive to maintain.

The Transition

Mr. Dean had to complete the tech refresh at two locations: Kaiserslautern and Heidelberg. The Kaiserslautern Hub transitioned first by transferring all VTC services and scheduled conferences to the Heidelberg Hub. Once that process was complete, the Kaiserslautern Hub went offline

for approximately three weeks. During that three week period, all VTC services in the European theater were performed from the Heidelberg Hub, all legacy equipment was replaced at the Kaiserslautern Hub and all Kaiserslautern VTC technicians were trained and certified. After a successful test period, the newly equipped Kaiserslautern Hub came back online. The Heidelberg Hub was next in line for the tech refresh, so all VTC services and scheduled conferences were transferred to the Kaiserslautern location and an identical sequence of events were repeated at the Heidelberg location. The VTC Hub Tech refresh was thoroughly coordinated and flawlessly executed with “Zero” downtime experienced for the USAREUR customer base. In addition, a reduction of ISDN lines to 16 represents a significant cost savings to the U.S. Government.



Mr. Alan Dean the USAREUR VTC Chief is all “smiles” now that the new fielding has been completed!



43D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS CONTINUED FROM PG 9

The Modern Era

If you've executed a VTC session recently, chances are you noticed some remarkable improvements. The new Enterprise VTC Solution equipped the VTC Hubs at Heidelberg and Kaiserslautern with modern and state of the art capabilities and virtually transformed VTC Technology in USAREUR from 20th Century to 21st Century technology overnight. Amazingly, Command and Control via VTC operations is now worldwide versus Europe wide. The Enterprise VTC Solution is built on IP technology operating at higher speeds (768kbs) that afford customers a High Definition resolution of 1080p quality that can support 80 simultaneous connections for both NIPR and SIPR conferences. The new Enterprise VTC Solution is Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) capable and has been designed to operate within a global market with worldwide call plans that can enable a customer to reach any DoD customer via a 7 digit number. Furthermore, the Enterprise VTC Solution is capable of tracking customer information, VTC session quality, and can utilize this information to troubleshoot itself to correct VTC errors. Most importantly, bandwidth utilization can be monitored to track customer experiences and identify how organizations are utilizing VTC resources; thus ensuring a more successful and positive VTC session for all participants. Lastly, the Enterprise VTC solution is capable of managing VTC scheduling, call setup, software updates and a phonebook for VTC endpoints that allow VTC technicians to coordinate between all Coder/Decoder (CODECs).

Conclusion

The capabilities of the new equipment highlighted above are just a brief overview of what is currently available. To gain an enhanced perspective on how your organization can benefit from the Enterprise VTC Solution and its numerous available technologies, units can attend the upcoming first ever VTC Workshop hosted by the 43D Signal Battalion. This grand event will include six alternate stations hosted by certified USAREUR VTC staff and leading industry vendors available to address VTC related technologies and questions. The location will be the Village

Pavilion on Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg, scheduled for 28 February 2012. This workshop is open to ALL personnel. This is a unique opportunity to gain insight into the latest trends occurring in the VTC arena and to meet Mr. Alan Dean, the VTC Mastermind.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9:
A CHANGE YOU CAN SEE:
THE VTC HUB TECH
REFRESH

BY MR. MARION YOUNG JR.,
DEPUTY DOIM, 43D SIGNAL BATTALION



Mr. Dean and Mr. Jerry Faustermann discussing the upcoming equipment installation of the new VTC equipment



MESSAGE FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Robert A. Vitt

CSM Nathaniel J. Jett

MAJ John Easler returned from a 6-month deployment to Afghanistan. We also prepared to say goodbye to CW3 Adams and SFC Williams as they depart for new assignments in Miami, FL and Fort Lewis, WA. In the coming months we look forward to welcoming new people to the organization while ensuring we provide departing personnel with a proper farewell.

To the Soldiers and Civilians of 52nd SSB, thank you for your hard work and dedication. The Battalion's success is your success. I look forward to continued success in 2012.

LTC Robert Vitt
"We Transmit"

Dear Members, Friends and Families of the 52nd Signal Battalion,

We entered the New Year re-energized and ready to take on the challenges that await us in 2012.

Our Battalion Christmas party allowed both the XO and the S3 to flex their singing ability while we celebrated the holidays with family and friends. The Command Team took advantage of the opportunity to recognize the contribution of spouses, both Civilian and Military. Coming together over a meal with family and friends improves our team and directly affects mission accomplishment.

52nd SSB continues to assist U.S. Africa Command with Joint Enterprise Network (JEN) migration, Windows 7 migration, and migration to Enterprise Email (EE). BG Brundidge recognized three Soldiers for their support to U.S. European Command's workstation life cycle replacement and Windows 7 migration. The training and experience has become an invaluable asset as the Battalion helps usher U.S. Africa Command into the Joint Enterprise Network (JEN).

587th Signal Company continues to train for the upcoming Brigade Field Training Exercise. This will be an incredible opportunity for the Soldiers to hone perishable basic Soldier skills. This also allows us to expose our Civilian workforce to the thought process behind such endeavors.



BG Brundidge presenting a coin to SPC Hart (S2) for support to EUCOM LCR



BG Brundidge presenting coins to SPC Johnson and SPC Tyner for support to EUCOM LCR



102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Eric E. Aslakson

CSM Robert A. Daniel, Jr.



Teammates, families, and friends of the 102nd,

During the past two months, the Net Ready Battalion welcomed CPT Benjamin Teater and his lovely family to the team as he assumed command of the headquarters detachment from CPT Brown. We wish all the best to CPT Brown and thank him for all he has done for the battalion.

Holiday celebrations allowed for much needed time with family and friends. The 102d Battalion enjoyed our Holiday Party with a visit from old Saint Nick which the kids and kids at heart especially enjoyed.

Holidays are only fun if they are safe, and to remind us to be sage, the USAG Wiesbaden hosted a Safety Showdown during which the Soldiers of the 102D Signal Battalion dominated for the fourth time.

Would you know the answers to common holiday safety questions such as which lights are safe for outside use during the holidays?

Thanks for all you do and look forward to a great rest of the new year.

Net Ready!
LTC Eric Aslakson,
CSM Robert Daniel





509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: 509TH MARKS A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY



LTC Kevin P. Romano CSM
SGM Samuel I. Cole

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends, and Family of the 509th Signal Battalion,

Christmas Eve is a very special day for a number of Soldiers and Civilians throughout 5th Signal Command. But, for the Sol-

diers and Civilians of the 509th Signal Battalion headquartered at Caserma Ederle, Italy, the 24th of December 2011 also marked one year of zero alcohol incidents in the unit.

The battalion's HHD Commander, CPT Lucas Cottrell, attributes the amazing record to leaders and Soldiers at all levels being proactive in taking care of Soldiers. Thorough and creative Safety Briefings developed by CPT Cottrell have brought a new approach that has helped Soldiers think ahead so that if they are impaired, they do not get behind the wheel of a vehicle.

The unit was formally recognized for this accomplishment during a recent Command Information Briefing. Besides accolades from the US Army Garrison-Vicenza Army Substance Abuse Prevent team, the unit received a streamer for the HHD guidon to show off the accomplishment.

The 509th Signal Battalion now has its sights set on going 18 months and eventually two years without an alcohol incident.

LTC Kevin P. Romano
509th Signal Battalion
Commanding

LIVORNO TEAM SAVES UNIT THOUSANDS

By Frank Maloney,
NEC Livorno Chief

US Army Garrison-Livorno is home to many units, including the 509th Signal Battalion. Civilians from the 509th Signal Battalion at Livorno have a long history of saving units' money through numerous projects and initiatives. The Battalion's recent project to support the 839th Transportation Battalion is just an example of this type of partnership that supports the customer while saving the command valuable resources.

The 839th Transportation Battalion is headquartered at Leghorn Army Depot, part of USAG-Livorno. The 839th serves as the single port manager (SPM) for military operations in over 180 seaports in 22 countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and North Africa. The headquarters building for the 839th was unable to be serviced with normal DSN phones based on a faulty 100 pair cable. In order to work around this problem, the 839th con-

tracted for commercial long distance service at a cost of \$40,000.00 a year. Given the 839th's wide area of responsibility, the number of long distance calls and the associated cost is significant. With increasing concerns on resources, the 839th was looking for help.

The 509th Signal Battalion's NEC Chief, Frank Maloney, approached the 839th with a solution to their problem. With help from 6981st Civilian Support Group, from the Germany based 2nd Signal Brigade, the faulty 100 pair cable was repaired. With the repair done, Mr. Maloney's outside and inside plant cable installers went to work. Through long hours, Mr. Maloney's teams were able to provide DSN service to the 839th headquarters. This initiative has already begun to save the 839th money and over the course of a year, will result in a savings of over \$40,000.00.

The 839th Battalion Commander, LTC Patterson, presented coins of excellence to those that made this effort possible. Those presented coins include Gary Khan, Augusto Ferretti, Daniele Crews and Mario Poropat.



LTC Patterson, the 839th Transportation Battalion Commander, presents a coin of excellence to Mr. Augusto Ferretti of the 509th Signal Battalion, whose hard work and ingenuity will result in a savings of over \$40,000 per year.



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICS: QUARTERLY TRAINING ACTIVITIES

By CPT Lucas Cottrell,
Commander,
HHD, 509th Signal Battalion

The 509th Signal Battalion recently had the opportunity to conduct a combined field training exercise with the 2nd Alpini Signal Regiment (Transmission) stationed at Bolzano, Italy. The Alpini are the elite mountain warfare Soldiers of the Italian Army. The training took place in the Dolomites and consisted of land navigation, mountaineering, communications and many other Soldier tasks. Much of the training was led and instructed by the Soldiers of the Alpini Regiment and focused on how to conduct basic Soldier tasks in mountainous terrain.

This unique training opportunity provided the Soldiers from the 509th a unique opportunity to interact with Soldiers from the Italian Army. For many Soldiers, this was their first experience in training

with a foreign military. The Soldier's in the 509th Signal Battalion had nothing but positive things to say about the training with some stating that it was the best training they had received in the Army.

The mountaineering training was the highlight of the week with the Soldiers traversing 12 kilometers of mountain trails covered in snow and scaling a mountain later on in the week. The training tested the resolve of the Soldiers as some of them had never trained in the snow previously. The successful completion of the hike was celebrated by all with a view of the Dolomites and the Alps.

This field training exercise was the first between the units with plans to continue this relationship well into the future. This relationship will provide the Soldiers of the 509th Signal Battalion realistic military training and further foster the relationship with the 2nd Alpini Signal Regiment.



Left: Members of the 2nd Alpini Signal Regiment and the 509th Signal Battalion take a short break while conducting cold weather mountaineering in the treacherous Alpine Mountains.

Right: Soldiers of the 509th Signal Battalion prepare to negotiate the intricate mountain pass along the Italian-Austrian border, guided by experienced members of the 2nd Alpini Signal Regiment.





MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Danielle T. Killian 1SG Jessie Davis

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family of HHC,

It is amazing how quickly time passes. The Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members of the Brigade of Excellence have transitioned flawlessly to the New Year. Although the holiday season is traditionally the time of year that things slow down, that was not so for the 2011 holiday season.

Throughout the holiday season the Soldiers and Civilians worked diligently to plan the Brigade's upcoming Field Training Exercise (FTX). This year, 2d Signal Brigade will join forces with our sister 7th Signal Brigade and conduct a joint FTX. Because of our collaboration with 7th Signal Brigade, the planning and coordination of the FTX didn't allow for the slowed operations we normally enjoy during the holidays.

That isn't to say we didn't take time to appreciate our friends and families and celebrate. HHC hosted another successful holiday party at the WAAF Fitness Center. The large location allowed the kids to run around and have fun while under the watchful eye of their parents who enjoyed delicious food and fantastic company. A special thanks to all the Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members who made this year's holiday party a success.

2d Signal Brigade also took time to recognize a great American leader, Martin Luther

King, Jr. Brigade personnel participated in a MLK walk which took the Soldiers throughout the Wiesbaden garrison. The Brigade hosted a wonderful MLK luncheon which was organized by SFC Garcia. COL Kilgo was the guest speaker at this year's event and I can say it was a very moving event that allowed all who attended a moment to reflect on the contributions of Dr. King and how far we have come.

2012 will be a year of transitions. We have already said good-bye to CSM Patrick Brooks and welcomed CSM Milton Weatherly in January. This is only the first of many good-byes in 2012, but with good-bye's, we also get to welcome all the new Soldiers and Families to the Brigade. The Brigade will continue to maintain the standard of excellence while we transition from current leadership to new leadership.

I am immensely proud to be a part of the 2d Signal Brigade and look forward to the coming year. Thank you for your continued service and support to the most excellent Brigade in the Army!

Danielle T. Killian
CPT, SC
Commanding





HHC 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE PHOTOS



CPT Killian presents SGT Ojeda with a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal



Starting off anything with a smile can go a long way- CPT Killian attending a command & staff meeting



COL Kilgo recognizes SGT Wheeler (left), SGT Filkins (right) and SPC Collins (below) for their work preparing the HHC for the command inspection





HHC 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE PHOTOS: HOLIDAY PARTY





HHC 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE PHOTOS: HOLIDAY PARTY

