



DEUCE LIGHTNING

February 2010
Edition 1



2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER

"BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"



COL Miller and CSM Brooks with Ms. Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux at the 18th MP Brigade's Black History Month observance performance of The Resurrection of Harriet Tubman.



SSG Frazier, SPC Acosta, and SPC Barnes from the 69th Signal Battalion arrive at Ramstein Air Force Base after their deployment to Afghanistan.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:		
Message from the Command Team		3
6981st		4
39th		5
43D		7
44D		10
52d		13
69th		15
72D		18
102D		20
509th		22
HHC		23



2D SIGNAL BRIGADE

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UPCOMING EVENTS	
Training Holiday	March 19
Training Holiday	March 22
B Co 44th ESB Deployment Ceremony	March 26

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MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM



COL Miller

CSM Brooks

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

February was a busy month that seemed to fly by as it was filled with lots of hard work and some memorable events such as the Brigade headquarters company change of command ceremony and the African-American History Month Celebration. It saddens me to see a great company commander like Captain Myra Waldher depart our 2d Brigade Family, but at the same time, it is encouraging to know that she will do great things in another area under the big tent that is our Army. I am also glad that another promising young officer, Captain Sirena Sias receives an opportunity to command within the Brigade of Excellence.

Overall 2010 is proving to be a year of much movement. Restructuring plans, the Brigade relocation to Wiesbaden, the deployment of one unit, and the redeployment of another all make for much work and require everyone up and down the chain of command to the newest private to be especially flexible and forward leaning. I am proud of everyone in the Brigade of Excellence for the eagerness, dedication, and flexibility you bring to the job every day. Furthermore, 2010 will be a year of leadership changes throughout the

Brigade. As we prepare for these changes, let us make sure we are taking care of one another. From sending a welcome email or phone call to an incoming Soldier, to meeting their Family at the Frankfurt Airport, to writing the awards and evaluations for outgoing Soldiers. Whether it's being a great sponsor or being a dependable battle buddy, it's taking care of each other and taking care of Soldiers. In the Brigade of Excellence, it is what we do and I know we will do it well.

HOOAH!

COL Gerald Miller

“Whether it’s being a great sponsor or being a dependable battle buddy, it’s taking care of each other and taking care of Soldiers. In the Brigade of Excellence, it is what we do and I know we will do it well.”
- COL Miller



2nd Signal brigade Commander and CSM, COL Miller and CSM Brooks share a moment at Ramstein AFB after the Soldiers return from supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with V Corps.



MESSAGE FROM THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP



Dear Members, Friends, and Family of the 6981st:

The month of February, shorter in days but full with business and tasks as the other months of the year, was embossed with cable repair work in Italy, training courses for Signal Soldiers and challenges with the long, hard winter with unusual amounts of snow.

CDS work at Wiesbaden needed to be interrupted and the work scheduled had to be adjusted, the projects at

Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr couldn't be continued because of road condition RED at this AOR on several days. However, we did support every project as best as we could under those circumstances without having work-related accidents. Thanks to all members of my unit for the accomplished missions and tasks under those conditions and to our customers for their patience.

Second half of February we had two training courses here at our HQ's. One Fiber Optical (FO) cable course was conducted for Soldiers of the 43rd Signal Battalion/ 11th Signal Detachment and a copper (CAT6/copper-CDS termination) training for Soldiers of the 102nd Signal Battalion.

The Soldiers of the 102nd will receive a continued OJT and augment the 6981st Installation Support Team at Wiesbaden

during ICDS project implementation at their AOR.

We connect!

Gerd Drechsler

“Thanks to all members of my unit for the accomplished missions and tasks under those conditions .”

- Gerd Drechsler

THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP TRAINS WITH 102D SIG BN





MESSAGE FROM THE 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Mark R. Schonberg CSM Charles Miller

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

The month of February brought many major functions to the 39th Signal Battalion. Of note are the Black History Month event at SHAPE, the Community Prayer Breakfast, the HHD Change of Command, the 2nd BDE Marriage Retreat, and Crossage. Also of note were FRG meetings and visits from Ambassador Dr. Christian Kargbo (Republic of Sierra Leone ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium), MG Byron Bagby, Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations at Joint Force Command Brunssum, COL Pittman (Netcom Chaplain), COL Engle (5th Sig Chaplain), CSM Brooks (2nd BDE CSM), and LTC Dodson (2nd BDE S3).

A Community Prayer Breakfast was held on February 9th in Daumerie American Chapel. Guest speaker for the event was the NETCOM Command Chaplain, Colonel Luke Pittman. We had 92 people in attendance and a wonderful catered breakfast of pancakes, eggs, hash browns, sausages and many, many pastries. In the future we hope to continue to provide a prayer breakfast for the battalion quarterly. Chaplain Grienstein will mail out dates of the

events, which are open to all Soldiers, Civilians and their families.

Another event that highlighted this quarter was the HHD Company Change of Command that saw the passing of the Gideon from Captain Timothy Lawrence to Captain Alden Chavarria.

CPT Chavarria stated, "I am proud to be a part of the well renowned 39th Sig BN and hope to keep up the high standards of the unit". CPT Lawrence will move on to be the 128th Company Commander on SHAPE in March, replacing Captain Garrick Minor.



(From Left to right) CPT Lawrence, LTC Schonberg, and CPT Chavarria advance to pass the Guide-on for the HHD Company Change of Command.



Members of HHD, 39th Sig BN render the salute during the playing of the National Anthem at the HHD CoC.



39TH SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS

Crossage

Crossage, an event held every year on Ash Wednesday in the town of Chievres, offered the Soldiers and Civilians of the unit a well deserved break from the norm. The Game of Crossage is played by using a wooded golf club like stick and a wooden oval ball. The object of the game is for one team to hit the ball towards one of the many cafés in the area, eventually hitting a barrel in front of the café. After hitting the barrel, the team that loses buys a round for the winning team. This may seem complicated but it is actually very easy the only downside is trying to coral the masses and head in the right direction, the pictures below will help to explain everything.



Pictured here is MAJ Colvin (BN XO) explaining the intricacies, policies and procedures of the game of Crossage to Mr. Boykin (IT Specialist).



LTC Schonberg after whacking the ball on the streets of Chievres.

Marriage Retreat in Willingen

During this quarter another fulfilling event took place, the marriage retreat was hosted by Chaplain Grimenstein in Willingen, Germany on February 12th - 15th. Ten couples and their children from the 39th attended the event. Although the four hour ride took seven hours each way, the trip was well worth the time. The theme of the retreat was "Love and Respect". All lodging, transportation, meals and childcare costs were covered by Chaplain funds. Soldiers and their families enjoyed amazing food, spacious rooms, luxurious views of the mountains and ski slopes and an indoor water park that was a sight for sore eyes in February!

Chaplain Grimenstein will attempt to host a retreat quarterly when budgeting allows. Future events will be not only for married couples with children, but also for singles and married couples with no children. An event for singles is currently in the works for sometime between April and June. More details will become available as plans are made.

The many events shown here are only a snapshot of a few memorable events the 39th Signal Battalion has accomplished in the month of February. We look forward to sharing our future successes in the March newsletter! See you soon!



Ssg Carney (center) after reenlisting for another 6 years, flanked by his wife Katanya (left) and the S1 2LT McGlothan (right), also pictured are his son Devante and daughter Taelee. The 39th Sig BN and HHD would like to extend our thanks for your dedication and commitment to the Army and the Command.



Soldiers and Civilians of the 39th pose for a picture in the cafeteria/gym of the Chievres Elementary School.



MESSAGE FROM THE 43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Laroy Peyton CSM Ricky Wallace

Greetings from the Soldiers and Civilians of the "Always Professional" 43d Signal Battalion. 2010 is off to an extremely busy start. Our Nuclear Surety Program was inspected by the Department of the Army Inspector General and the European Command Inspector Teams which resulted in "No Faults Noted". We are also undergoing an inspection from USAREUR OPS CIS in preparation for the DISA Information Assurance inspection in June.

In addition to being professionals on the job, the Soldiers of the 43d Signal Battalion volunteered their time to both the military and local national community. Some of the volunteering events include: Sponsoring a meal at the

Fisher House in Landstuhl, Heidelberg Garrison Gym detail to remove gym equipment for maintenance, coaching a Volgelweh Youth Center team made of American and local national children, volunteering time to both the teachers and students of the Volgelweh Elementary School and Patrick Henry Elementary School, giving free music and singing classes to kids of the Hispanic American Social Club, and donating blood at local blood drives in both Heidelberg and Landstuhl replenishing supplies vital to the recovery of the Warfighter.

The 43d Signal Battalion also welcomed numerous distinguished visitors over the 2009 year, mostly interested in fact finding regarding what we do and provide service to USAREUR and the Army as a whole. Of particular interest was the Full Spectrum Initiative, the Media Gateway Facility - Landstuhl and the Area Processing Center - Kaiserslautern. The Battalion was visited by: GEN Ham, GEN

Campbell, LTG Sorrenson, MG Lawrence, MG McQuiston, MG Bagby, BG Smith, BG Foley, BG Patterson, BG Bouchard, MG Fontaine, SMA Preston, CSM Washington, CSM Clark, and CSM Desjardins, to name a few.

The 2010 VIP visits are off to a great start with MG McQuiston (21st TSC CDR) on 10 February and MG Lawrence (NETCOM CDR) visiting the Battalion on 2 March.

Many thanks go out to the men and women of our facilities that won DISA-E site of the year awards:

CATEGORY I DISN TRANSMISSION FACILITY WINNER: GIG STATION MANNHEIM

CATEGORY IX-B STANDARDIZED TACTICAL ENTRY POINT WINNER: STEP FACILITY LANDSTUHL

CATEGORY XII DEFENSE RED SWITCH NETWORK FACILITY RNR UP: HEIDELBERG RED SWITCH

43D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS



SGT Marsland Observes SPC Handy Prepare to Throw Grenades.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Name, and Birthdate. Lists 20 personnel born in March.



43D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES

43D Signal Battalion Leads the Way in Combatives Training



43d Sig Bn CSM, CSM Ricky Wallace, addresses the Latest Combatives Trainer Course, 43d Sig BN leads the way in Combatives Training, SFC Martinez and SSG Rivera are Certified Combatives Instructors Level 2 and Level 3.



Only a small percentage of enrolled students actually graduate from Combatives Training Course, this training demands a lot of mental and physical endurance.



Students practice the different techniques under close supervision of SSG Rivera and SFC Martinez.





43D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES

11th Signal Detachment Change of Command



Outgoing 11th Signal Detachment Commander, CPT Jarrod Shingleton , 43d Sig BN Commander, LTC Laroy Peyton and Incoming 11th Signal Detachment Commander CPT John Weissenborn, participate in the Traditional Passing of the Colors During the Change of Command of 11th Signal Detachment.



Awards Ceremony (left)

LTC Laroy Peyton awards the Army Achievement Medal to PVT Bruce Cowan and PVT Christopher Schrier. The two Soldiers are assigned to 181st Signal Company CCD, their actions helped to save the life of a Soldier during a crisis.



Welcome Home



CSM Wallace, 1SG Smith And SFC Thompson, welcomes SSG Teal, SPC Bleach and SPC Vinning. These Soldiers were deployed in support of Operation enduring Freedom with V Corps.





MESSAGE FROM THE 44TH EXPEDITIONARY COMMAND TEAM



LTC Dwayne A. Dickens CSM Demetrius R. Steel

The month of February marks many firsts for the Battalion since its arrival in Schweinfurt. This month, the Battalion conducted its first ever Soldier Recognition Ceremony (SREC), completed the WINT-T validation process and conducted a first ever Signal Reaction Course. Additionally, the Battalion deployed a CPN team to Kosovo and continued to prepare B Company for its upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

On 26 February the Battalion took time to recognize the Soldiers, Civilians and Family members of the "Outstanding" 44th ESB during the Battalions Soldier Recognition Cere-

mony. The ceremony was held in a packed Ledward Theater, a true testament to the growth of the Battalion in recent months. This ceremony recognized the hard work of our FRG volunteers, CECOM FSRs who supported the Battalion WINT-T Validation and our Soldiers who distinguished themselves during Operation Juniper Cobra. Aside from the awards, the 44th Family recognized a dozen parents and their new children, who have arrived since the Battalion made Schweinfurt home.

The WIN-T validation has finally come to a close with Charlie Company completing their validation during the second week of February. In addition to the WIN-T validation, the Company completed training on their TROPO systems. This is the first training on the system since the Battalion returned from OIF 07-08. The Battalion has now successfully validated it's full complement of WIN-T systems to

include; 4 JNNs, 24 CPNs and 2x SSS's. A job well done by our Companies, Battalion NetOps team and CECOM!

Building upon the success of the WIN-T Validation, the Battalion undertook a Signal Reaction Course (SRC) to develop troubleshooting proficiency. All companies completed a block of classroom training, followed by a hands on phase to gain further familiarization and develop trouble shooting techniques.

Looking forward to the month of March, the Battalion continues to train, prepare B Company for their upcoming deployment and welcome new Soldiers that arrive daily.

OUTSTANDING!

Commanding

DWAYNE A. DICKENS

LTC, SC

44TH EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

Soldiers Prepare for Deployment, Conduct "Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training"

2LT Timothy Duvall

Soldiers from Bravo Company, 44th ESB conducted the third phase of Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training or "TSIRT" at Camp Aachen, Grafenwoehr, this month. Bravo Company sent 65 Soldiers to the final stage of TSIRT in preparation for upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

TSIRT is a three phase, pre-deployment curriculum designed to train Soldiers on everything from Equal Opportunity to Countering IEDs. The majority of the training comes through online classes and team level briefs.

Phase three primary focuses on the individual task and battle drills essential to a full spectrum soldier and is conducted by the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) at Camp Aachen, Grafenwoehr. Camp Aachen conducts phase three training for all Soldiers: signal Soldiers and infantrymen alike.

While at Phase III, Soldiers conducted reflexive fire drills, familiarized themselves with the M249, M240 and M2 automatic machine guns, learned counter-IED safety measures, practiced vehicle roll-over drills using the HUMMVEE Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) and took a refresher course in Combat Life Saving.

The majority of the training, however, was conducted using digital trainers such as the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer (RVTT) and Electronic Simulation Trainer (EST). Soldiers simulated convoy operations and squad level tactics such as vehicle check points and defending objectives.

PFC Justin Martin said, "The training was very refreshing and the cadre was very knowledgeable. They made sure we had the right knowledge to deploy into a tactical environment."

Soldiers returned home Friday with renewed focus for their upcoming deployment. They are better trained and prepared to take the ground next month.



44TH SIGNAL BATTALION: NEWS



B Company 44th ESB Soldier partake in reflexive fire drills as a part of TSIRT in Grafenwoehr.

Bravo Company Completes Soldier Readiness Program (SRP)

1LT Christina Duncan, BN S1

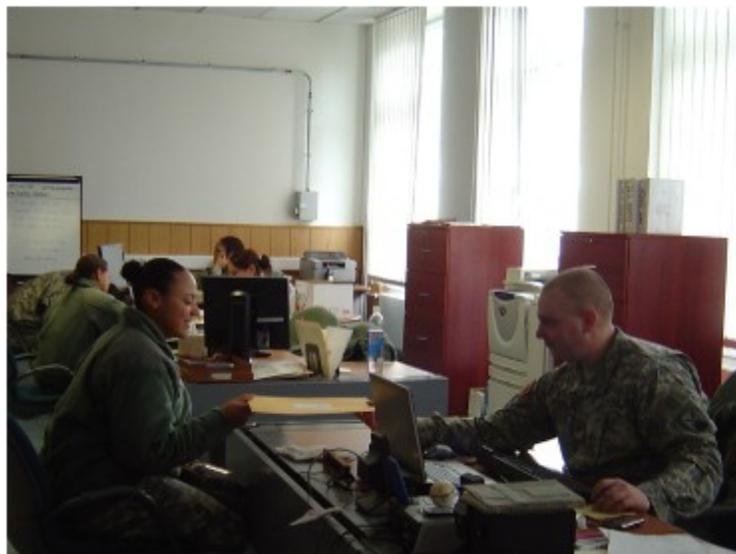
The morning of 29 January 2010 began with several inches of snow, a gloomy sky, and a late bus, but that didn't stop Bravo Company, 44th ESB, from moving ahead with their plans to become 100% Battle Ready in anticipation of their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Prepared with newly-made SRP packets, 125 Soldiers, 111 from Bravo Company alone, filed into Classroom 1, at Building 40, on Conn Barracks to begin the SRP process.

Each Soldier was tasked with visiting a total of 21 Stations that ranged in focus from Army Community Services (ACS) to a Photo Station. After acquiring signatures from all Stations, Soldiers had to pass muster at the final Station: Unit Quality Control (QC). If they failed to gather the requisite signatures, Unit QC returned them to complete their task. In total, Bravo Company Soldiers spent over six hours checking off

their lists, which resulted in an over 90% rate of mission success.

For those Soldiers Battalion-wide who missed the previous two SRPs, there will be a third SRP held on 18 March 2010, which will additionally include the manda-

tory ANAM (Traumatic Brain Injury) Testing for the entire Battalion. All Soldiers in the 44th ESB who have not completed an SRP to date must attend this SRP. Our goal is 100% Battle Ready, 100% of the time! Outstanding!



The 44th BN S1 Team at Work. Pictured: PFC Urena, Jennifer; SPC Ohrum, Nathaniel; SPC Grose, David; PFC Sanders, Tarisha; PFC



44TH EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

“Outstanding” Team Building during the Fighting 44th’s Signal Reaction Course

CPT Jason Halub and LT Nick Isles; Pictures courtesy of LT Nick Isles

Coming off the heels of a successful equipment validation during operation “Outstanding Aggression,” the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion took to the switch park again to conduct the Signal Reaction Course. The Signal Reaction Course is a two-week course developed to train and evaluate the Battalion’s Command Post Node (CPN) and Joint Network Node (JNN) teams on basic operations and troubleshooting skills. The focus is for the Soldiers to train in their respective teams, gain additional experience working and problem-solving together and to develop the requisite skills and confidence to deploy into combat and provide Signal support to the Warfighter.

One of the major challenges coming into this training exercise was integrating the large number of new Soldiers into their respective teams. One such Soldier is PFC Angelika Jewell, of Bravo Company, who mentions that “I was still in-processing during the validation, so this is a good opportunity for me to see where I am on the equipment, and see where my team is too.” Like many Soldiers in the 44th, PFC Jewell’s team is newly formed from Soldiers that have recently arrived in Germany.

SGT Dane White, one of the primary instructors, described the course as a two-week exercise “designed to give new Soldiers fresh from AIT some good hands-on training, as well as to provide cross training on the STT (Satellite Transportable Terminal) and JNN (Joint Network Node).” The Soldiers first receive a block of instruction on their systems in the Battalion switch park, and then are evaluated

by placing the systems into operation and pulling services. Teams that do not achieve a first-time “Go” at a particular station receive re-training and another attempt to test their skills. Additionally, the trainers and their stations remain set up to address any areas of the training where Soldiers feel they may need further assistance.

“The Soldiers are picking it up really quickly,” said SPC Danyelle Clark, a team chief participating in the training. “It’s great, because the instructors are very knowledgeable.” Echoing PFC Jewell’s sentiments, she added that “It’s great that the teams that will be going down-range together are getting the chance to train together.” The Battalion has plans to conduct similar, team-focused training in the future to integrate new Soldiers.



Soldiers from C Company 44th ESB receive SRC briefings prior to start the Signal Reaction Course.





MESSAGE FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC James E. Pugh

CSM Mark A. George

Soldiers, Civilians, Family Members, and friends of the 52d Signal Battalion:

As we shovel out from all the snow, and say good bye to the fasching season, the battalion mission and personnel strength continue to grow. Since last November, nearly 50 Soldiers and civilians have joined the battalion family. With the coming of Spring, we are preparing for the increase in the Operational Tempo.

In just a few days the COMSEC vault and

Personal Reliability Program team members will undergo the grueling Department of the Army Inspector General inspection. The 587th Signal Company is in full stride planning the Spring field training exercise. Our Landwarnet Service Office and NETOPs teams continue to support Africa Command with technical planning and infrastructure upgrades. All of these are no small effort; In fact, a huge task when considered the professionalism in which they are executed simultaneously. Added to these and numerous other missions, is the battalion's main effort - the stand up of the Information Technology Support Squadrons for Africa Command and EU-COM. The IT Support Squadron represents 5th Signal Command's next step in being the theater's IT service provider and is a significant increase in responsibility and effort for the battalion. The squadron leaders are Mr. Carl Malone and Kelley Godsey.

I remain amazed and humbled by the Soldiers, civilians, and family members of this organization. Not only do we meet mission requirements, but also build bonds and strengthen relationships with our host and partner nations through multinational training opportunities including graduating from the Italian Air Assault Course. When the duty day ends the battalion family stays actively involved volunteering across the community giving back to those around us. USAREUR recognized the Battalion's spirit of giving back with the CFC Special Merit Award.

The CSM and I want to reiterate our gratitude to the NCOs, Soldiers, civilians and family members for your efforts which make this a great place to serve.

LTC James E. Pugh

CSM Mark A. George

52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

PROMOTIONS:

1 February 2010:

SPC Johnson, Jonathan L. - Promoted to SGT

4 February 2010

PVT Wash Lee V. JR - Promoted to PV2

5 February 2010

PV2 Pierce, Tallon A. - Promoted to PFC

12 February 2010

PV2 Paulo, Bryson M. E. K. - Promoted to PFC

17 February 2010

PV2 White, Shawn A. - Promoted to PFC

24 February 2010

PV2 Revilla, Joseph M. - Promoted to PFC

BIRTHDAYS

February:

1-SSG Matoslago, Angel, SPC Dadisman

2-MSG Chancon, Rolando

3-SPC Mitchell, Robert

4-SPC Elliott, Landon

5-SGT Robinson, Amber

14-PFC Stevenson, Brett

15-SFC Pasciak, Sheldon

15-PV2 Pierce, Tallon, PFC Murray Joshua

18-SPC Hughes, Kelcy

20-SPC Hunt, David

21-SPC Lemons, Ernest

23-SSG Pyara, Arron

24-PV2 Mata, BJ Pagala

28-MAJ Easler, Johnathan

March:

3-SGT Ruiz, Harry

3-PFC Joyner, Andre

11-SPC Kirchofner, Kodi

13-SPC Stracke, Aaron

18-SGT Edwards, Danny

22-SGT Ormiston, Michael

23-SPC Mooney, Jason

28-SPC Baggett, Adam

31-PFC Tennant, Ross

ARRIVALS:

PV2 Simmons, Wes, MOS 25C, arrived on 3 February 2010

PFC Johnson, Vashaan, MOS 25L, arrived on 13 February 2010



52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

ITALIAN AIR ASSAULT SCHOOL

Four Soldiers from the 52nd Signal Battalion spent a week training alongside Italian Carabinieri students of the 1st Paracadutisti Regiment during their Air Assault certification phase. They were part of a ground-breaking partnership effort headed up by Italian 1SG Lucca Bertosso, a training liaison with the Southern European Task Force (SETAF). The training began with an in-brief by the NCOIC of the Paracadutisti Special Training Unit, the Italian Carabinieri's equivalent of Ranger School. The Soldiers were given a briefing on the history of the Regiment's actions both in Italy and abroad, to include current partnership operations in Afghanistan. Afterwards they were integrated with the Carabinieri students and began training on airborne embarkation and insertion techniques. Soldiers from both nations had to overcome the language barrier and learn to



(Left) Soldiers from the 52d visited the Reichstag Building in Berlin, Germany.

(Below) 52d Soldiers participated in an FTX with Special Forces by acting as the OPFOR (Opposition Force).

work together to accomplish their tasks, mirroring the reality of coalition efforts currently seen in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Soldiers were taught the Italian fast-rope drills needed for the culmination event – an airborne insertion from a helicopter in flight over the fields of Livorno. Within sight of Pisa's famous leaning tower, the Soldiers listened for the jumpmaster's cry of "VIA!" as they prepared to descend the 45-meter rope, all under the watchful eye of their Italian instructors. As the week came to a close, the 52nd Soldiers had made new bonds with the Italian Carabinieri and improved old ones with Soldiers from 509th Signal battalion. After a brief ceremony in which the Regimental Commander made a personal visit to congratulate the American students and present their certificates of training, the 52nd Soldiers bid farewell to their new Italian comrades, with the promise of a new and mutually beneficial partnership on the horizon.



FTX WITH SPECIAL FORCES IN BERLIN

Eight Soldiers from the 52D Signal Battalion participated in a field training exercise (FTX) with Charlie Company, 1-10th Special Forces Group in Lehnin, Germany from 14 Feb 2010 to 23 Feb 2010. SGT Rineer, SPC Ward, SPC Mooney, SPC Elliot, SPC Pruitt, PFC Thomas, PFC Joyner, and PV2 Angel provided support to the C Company, 1-10th SF Group by acting as Opposition Forces (OPFOR) during the FTX and serving as augmentees to the Special Forces fire teams. These Soldiers also had the opportunity to receive further training in close quarters marksmanship, combat skills, room clearing and squad movement tactics. Additionally they were able to train with live demolition charges. Not only did they partake in good training, they were also able to explore the surrounding area by going on a private tour of the German Reichstag building in Berlin.



(Above) SSG MacKay preparing to fast-rope from the AB 412 Helo over Livorno.



(Left) 52d Soldiers partner with Italian Paracadutisti and Soldiers from Aviano during embarkation



MESSAGE FROM THE 69TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Earl S. Nakata

CSM Kristine A. Purnell

With 2010 just underway, the 69th has many achievements already to be proud of. The Soldiers and Civilians continue to exceed expectations as they meet challenges head-on to prove that accomplishment of the mission and the welfare of Soldiers, Civilians and Families are our highest priority.

The 2nd Signal Brigade conducted a Brigade Command Inspection Program (CIP) from 25-29 January.

There were twelve areas that were inspected throughout the battalion. After a week's worth of hosting the Brigade CIP Team, the results of the inspection were final. During the Video Teleconference (VTC) Out Brief, Mr. Rodney McKinnon (2nd Signal Brigade S2/S3), reported the results to the Brigade Commander, Colonel Miller and the Brigade Command Sergeant Major, CSM Brooks. The battalion received an overall rating of 96.4 percent! Mr. McKinnon also reported that "the 69th Signal Battalion Staff displayed technical proficiency and professionalism throughout the inspection". MSG Bravo (Brigade S-4) stated that he was impressed with every area inspected. During the Out Brief, he acknowledged that we "have the right people in the right jobs doing the right things."

The following personnel re-

ceived the Brigade Coin of Excellence for their superb role within their inspected area(s) during the CIP:

- Herr Michael Moder (Safety)
SPC Bryan Carney (S-2 Personnel Security)
Mrs. Christina Ruskavage (Information Assurance)
SPC Kevin Shank (S-1 Leaves)
SSG Henry Gomez (S-1)
SSG Marcelino Villali (Equal Opportunity)
Ms. Wendy Bland (S-3 Telephone Control Officer)
SGT Kevin Ziegler (S-4 Arms Room)
Herr Wolfgang Amtmann (S-4 TMDE/ Maintenance/ Drivers)
Frau Sigrid Herold (S-4 Impact Program/ GPC)
Mr. Jack Peterson (S-4 Command Supply Discipline Program)

"Voice of Command"

69TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

MARCH MADNESS

As we get ready for March Madness, the battalion is already fully engaged in Exercise Support. We have set the foundation for a successful Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) for the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment (2SCR) in Hohenfels by bringing a real world CENTRIX ISAF link back to Afghanistan to allow configuration and validation of equipment settings. 2SCR will be the first unit to train on and validate their systems for use on the new Afghan Mission Network (AMN) prior to their deployment. An exercise network has been created to fully simulate the deployed configuration. Our battalion has been critical to this endeavor, which has visibility at the highest levels of military

leadership.

March Madness for the 69th also means Austere Challenge 2010 (AC10) is just around the corner. Preparation for AC10 actually started prior to the end of AC09. The battalion has been engaged with AC10 workgroups and conferences since the beginning of January. With the French Air Force playing the role this year of the Combined Forces Air Component Command (CFACC), it raised the question of how to communicate with our Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS) on a U.S. Secret network. The battalion, along with the 5th Signal Command's Plans and Engineering (P&E) Section, worked together to install a NATO BICES network, which will become the operations platform for the exercise. With the execution phase less

than 60 days away, we are in crunch time. Over the next two months, the battalion will be working closely with the Joint Multinational Simulations Center (JMISC) to ensure all aspects of the communications requirements for AC10 are completed prior to the arrival of the Joint Exercise Control Group (JECG). We are looking forward to the Austere "Challenge".

"Voice of Command"



69TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

WELCOME HOME

The most significant event this month was the long awaited return of our three deployed Soldiers, SSG Antonio Frazier, SPC Javier Acosta, and SPC Alrice Barnes. The Soldiers landed at 1400 hours on 24 February in Ramstein where they were welcomed home by LTC Nakata, CSM Purnell, CPT London, 1SG Roberts, and SSG Gomez. Colonel Miller and CSM Brooks were also on hand to greet the eight Soldiers returning from the 2nd Signal Brigade and presented each Soldier with a Brigade Coin of Excellence. After a long ride back to Grafenwoehr, the Soldiers received a Military Police escort from Gate 6 to the Battalion Headquarters, complete with flashing lights and sirens. As they approached the Battalion Headquarters, HHD Soldiers, Civilians and Family members lined the street and celebrated as the returning Soldiers approached. Mrs. Rebecca Acosta with son Isaiah and Mrs.

Alicia Barnes waited patiently to see their husbands for the first time in nearly six months. A Welcome Home Reception followed immediately in the battalion conference room, where LTC Nakata gave welcoming remarks. Colonel Sorensen, the USAG-Grafenwöhr Commander, and the USAG-Grafenwöhr Command Sergeant Major, CSM Berrios participated in the Reception and took the time to talk to each of the Soldiers and their Families.



(Above) Mrs. Rebecca Acosta embraces her husband, SPC Javier Acosta after returning from his deployment to Afghanistan.



(Left) Our three HEROES, SSG Frazier, SPC Acosta, and SPC Barnes.

69TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS CONTINUED

DESERVED RECOGNITION

During this month, the Battalion NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Board was held, as well as the Battalion NCO and Soldier of the Year Board. SGT Edwin Hunt and SPC Jennifer Zaval were recognized as the NCO and Soldier of the Quarter. SGT Kevin Ziegler and SPC Kevin Shank were recognized as the Battalion NCO and Soldier of the Year and received an Army Achievement Medal. SGT Hunt and SPC Zaval went on to compete at the Brigade NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Board on 26 February in Mannheim. SGT Hunt was recognized

as the Brigade NCO of the Quarter and received a Brigade Coin of Excellence, a commemorative clock, and the Army Achievement Medal. SPC Zaval was recognized as the runner-up for the Brigade Soldier of the Quarter and was presented the Brigade Coin of Excellence from CSM Brooks, the Brigade Command Sergeant Major.

(Network+), and Mr. Aurello Pineiro (Security+).

We would also like to recognize the Soldiers and Civilians that have recently obtained their COMPTIA Certification: Mr. Ron Dishman (Security+), Ms. Wendy Blank (Security+), SPC Jennifer Zaval (Network+), Ms. Shannon Stevens



69TH SIGNAL BATTALION BOARDS

69TH SIGNAL BATTALION
NCO/SOLDIER OF THE YEAR
FY 09



SGT Kevin K. Ziegler



SPC Kevin E. Shank

Congratulations!

69TH SIGNAL BATTALION
NCO/SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER



SGT Edwin R. Hunt



SPC Jennifer N. Zaval

1ST QUARTER FY10



MESSAGE FROM THE 72D-REAR SIGNAL COMPANY COMMAND TEAM



CPT Rob C. Leicht

1SG Brian K. Cantrell

72D ESB Soldiers and Families,

We are over the hump. Seven months down and five to go! It looks like winter has finally ended as the weather is getting warmer. We are working the redeployment process and what redeployment day will look like. Please understand that this information is subject to change and we will keep everyone informed as we find information out. Once we finalize the plan and have some tentative return dates we will conduct a Family Update brief to update all the Family members. All redeploying Soldiers are required to complete reintegration training upon redeployment. The training is usually seven half days and will start the morning after the Soldiers return (weekends/holidays included). Again, we owe you more information.

The past month the FRG's took advantage of a training holiday/no school to spend the day at the Jump-In in Ladenburg. It was great to see everyone who came out. We also handed out the "Hug-a-dolls" to the children that had their parents face on it. It was fun to see their reactions when they received their dolls. Thank you to everyone involved in putting this great event together. We plan on doing it again so please come out and join us. Several companies conducted bake sales to raise funds for the rede-

ployment. They braved the cold weather and were able to make some much needed money for the redeployment ceremony. It was a great start but more funds are needed. If you have time to bake or assist at the bake sale please contact your FRG leader. They would love the support/assistance at the events.

Again, if you have not met Mrs Tawanda Carter, our FRSA, please stop by and welcome her to the team. She has a wealth of knowledge and can provide you with the resources to assist you. All FRG's could use more volunteers. Please continue to support your FRG and remember the FRG is a command program for the Soldiers and Family members. If nothing else it is a great support group to assist with issues or concerns. If you are interested please contact your FRG Leaders. Any time you could spare would be helpful.

The Soldiers on Rear-Detachment continue to impress us with their motivation, drive, flexibility, and support they provide to all Family members. The Soldiers on Rear-Detachment are prepared to assist as needed. Please let us know if you need assistance...sooner than later. We have started to receive new Soldiers and their Families to the Battalion. Over the next several months we have about 80 more projected to arrive. We will not deploy any more Soldiers. Everyone is now focusing on the return of the Battalion this summer.

Finally, we are getting closer to our move from Taylor Barracks to Sullivan Barracks. I expect for the move to be complete by mid March. I will send out the update to your FRG Leaders once we have completed the move. We will provide the same level of support during

and after the move as we do now.

Also always remember safety. Before you travel...check the weather, look over your vehicle, check out the news for the area you are traveling, and make sure someone has your contact information if we need to contact you.

Finally, thank you for what you do everyday! Like I always say, the spouses are the real heroes here and I do believe that being an Army Spouse is the toughest job in the Army. Remember if there is anything we can do, please let us know.

Let us know if we can assist you with anything! My phone number is 0162-296-2851 and 1SG Cantrell number is 0162-273-1041. We don't know all the answers but we are willing to assist and point you in the right direction.

CPT Rob C. Leicht

“Like I always say, the spouses are the real heroes here and I do believe that being an Army Spouse is the toughest job in the Army. Remember if there is anything we can do, please let us know.”
- CPT Leicht



72D-REAR FAMILY READINESS GROUP OUTING IN LADENBURG



“The past month the FRG’s took advantage of a training holiday/no school to spend the day at the Jump-In in Ladenburg. It was great to see everyone who came out. We also handed out the “Hug-a-dolls” to the children that had their parents face on it. It was fun to see their reactions when they received their dolls. Thank you to everyone involved in putting this great event together.”

- CPT Rob Leicht





MESSAGE FROM THE 102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Van D. Jarrell

CSM Robert A. Daniel, Jr.

This month we will highlight some of the events that have enriched our lives during the month of February.

We are proud of everyone in the Battalion and wish everyone a safe and successful slide into the Spring Season.

LTC Jarrell presents Mr. Ben Estella with his 30 years of Service Award.



102D SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS AND PICTURES

EVENTS

- 03 FEB 10 – Visit of REV. Jesse Jackson
- 09 FEB 10 – [NCODP](#)
- 16 FEB 10 – BN Quarter Board
- 16-19 FEB 10 – COMSEC SAV
- 18 FEB 10 – EST 2000
- 19 FEB 10 – BREC/ Hail & Farewell

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| PFC WILLIS | 22 FEB 10 |
| MR. KOPP | 12 FEB 10 |
| SGT GUTIERREZ | 13 FEB 10 |
| PV2 RIOS | 18 FEB 10 |
| PV2 PLETCHER | 02 FEB 10 |

HAILS

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| PV2 RIOS | 06 JAN 10 |
| SGT RATLIFF | 14 JAN 10 |
| SGT COMBS | 29 JAN 10 |

FAREWELLS

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| PV2 WALKER | 12 FEB 10 |
| SGT PONTIUS | 26 FEB 10 |

On 3 Feb 2010, 102D Signal Battalion attended a lecture given by Reverent Jesse Jackson on “Resiliency” his words provided inspiration and motivation to all attending Soldiers.





102D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES

102d Highlights: BAUMHOLDER NSC

Baumholder NSC has several projects going on within their AOR:

- Hosting the I3 MP team and assisting with all building and site surveys in order to bring Baumholder to a higher standard of connectivity.
- Baumholder added to the fiber ring which will happen within the month.
- Preparing several field training exercises with the 170th IBCT and the USAG.
- Currently hosting the team for the new IDS doing site surveys for equipment replacement.
- Continuing to provide the Baumholder community with incredible customer service and network connectivity.



(Above) Shaun Shubin and Will Houser went to Rheindahlen to set-up the 102d engineered solution for the ARRC. They both received a 1 STAR coin and a personal thank you from BG Davis for their dedication to complete the mission until late in the evening resulting in a complete success.



(Above) Mr. John Neilson Reads the AR-COM that LTC Jarrell presents to SPC Jenkins.

(Right) The 102D Signal Battalion "War Dogs", have started playing in the annual Germany basketball tournament with their current record of 4-1.





MESSAGE FROM THE BATTALION 509TH COMMAND TEAM



LTC G. Shawn Wells

CSM Chester D. Grelock

Change of Command:

Headquarter and Headquarters Detach-

ment 509th Signal Battalion is scheduled to conduct a change of command on 12 March 2010. The change of command ceremony is rooted in military history dating back to the 18th century during the reign of Frederick the Great of Prussia. At that time, organizational flags were developed with color arrangements and symbols unique to each particular unit. To this flag and its commander, the Soldiers of the unit would dedicate their loyalty and trust. CPT Adolph G. DuBose III has a distinguished record of service to our country, the United States

Army, and especially 509th Signal Battalion. As the outgoing commander of the 509th Signal Battalion, he has served in an outstanding manner throughout his tenure. Equally distinctive, CPT Lucas P. Cottrell will assume command of the 509th Signal Battalion. He has served as the Expeditionary Signal Team Platoon Leader. He is responsible for the communication support for all United States Army Africa (USARAF) mission giving him unique knowledge on the unit mission.

509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

If Your Marriage Goes Up in Flames, You Don't Have to Let It Burn to the Ground

By SGT Kari Hurd

The 509th Unit Ministry Team hosted a movie night for married couples this month with the showing of the movie "Fireproof" starring Kirk Cameron. My husband and I attended this event and it was a real eye-opener. While I was a tad bit embarrassed about shedding tears more than a few times during the movie, I have to say that even in its cheesiest moments, it was a movie worth viewing. "Fireproof" is about a rocky marriage between Caleb and April, in which neither of them feel as respected as they should be, and they begin to push each other away because of anger and resentment. April tells Caleb she wants a divorce and Caleb is stubborn at first. He just lets it waste away. But then his father gives him the "Love Dare", a book which "dares" Caleb to change a few things over a 40 day period. Caleb's father begs him to not sign the divorce papers until that period is over. Caleb

reluctantly begins the "Love Dare" and in the end some wonderful things happen, but not without hard work and a lot of acceptance on Caleb's part. I don't want to spoil the movie but I will tell you that it deals with an array of marital issues including anger and resentment, adultery, spirituality, addictions, respect, and love for God as well as love for one another. The best thing I took away from this movie was that, in a marriage, sometimes a spark flies, and things go up in flames, but you don't have to let your marriage burn to the ground. It is within each of us the ability to love, though it is not as easy for some as it is for others. The important thing to remember is to keep the respect in your relationship whether it is warranted by your spouse or not. In most cases, someone just wants to feel appreciated and loved, and it is up to both people to do that even when the only thing you want to do is walk away. The mere fact that you stay and work hard to have a fruitful relationship with your partner may just be the fire

extinguisher you have been looking for.

Thanks to Chaplain Perez and the Chaplain Thomison (The Family Life Chaplain) for hosting such an eye-opening event. In addition, thanks to the volunteers that helped take care of our children while we learned a little more about each other. I hope the 509th family continues to support these wonderful events geared toward marriage enrichment.



MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Sirena Sias



1SG Joseph Williams

Message from the Command Team:

We are committed to continuing the stellar level of performance routinely showcased by the Soldiers and Civilians of the Headquarters, Headquarters Company of the 2d Brigade as the transition of leadership settles into place. Be assured the pursuit of excellence and the dedication to duty will remain the cornerstone of our command.

We are devoted to providing the opportunity for our Soldiers and Civilians person-

nel to contribute to their maximum potential while serving their country abroad.

We will continue to build relations within our communities as ambassadors of good-will and promote an atmosphere of unity and Family amongst ourselves within the "Brigade of Excellence".

CPT Sias

HHC NEWS AND PICTURES



CPT Sirena Sias and her two children, Kamri and Kamrin, were among the audience gathered to hear the Reverend Jesse Jackson.



Mr. McKinnon hails the McMaster Family.



COL Miller addresses guests at the Hail and Fairwell.



1SG Williams presents outgoing HHC Commander CPT Myra Waldher with her fairwell gift.