



DEUCE LIGHTNING



2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER "BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"



CSM Brooks with SGT Paugh (left, 509th), and SPC Howard (right, 43d) the winners at the NCO / Soldier of the Quarter Boards, February 23rd, 2011.



COL Kilgo recognizes PFC Collins (middle) and SSG McCracken (left) for their accomplishments during the Brigade Field Training Exercise in February.

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2D SIGNAL BRIGADE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8th, 11th	Training Holidays
April 18th – 22d	Cyber Week
April 21st	Cyber Charity Golf Tournament (hosted by 102d)
April 22d	Cyber Ball

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MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM



COL Mitchell L. Kilgo CSM Patrick Brooks

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family, How wonderful it is to be running at full speed well into 2011 on the cusp of Spring in beautiful Deutschland!

The Brigade of Excellence accomplished a great deal so far in this short year. Mainly, we put the Full Spectrum Concept into practice with the establishment of a Joint Cyber Communications Center in Grafenwoehr during the Brigade Field Training Exercise. Battalions also conducted training at locations throughout Europe. Everyone should take a pause and reflect on the hard work we've accomplished. But don't pause too long - many more exciting things are coming, such as Cyber Week.

I am extremely happy with the accomplishments of the Brigade and its Battalions thus far, but I am not quite satisfied. I say that because there is always room for improvement and we must always fight against complacency.

2011 has already brought many challenges, both nationally and globally. I encourage you to always remain prepared and ready, as units and as individuals, as the Warriors you truly are. Spring is historically known for an increased risk of suicide so let's look out for one another.

COL Mitchell L. Kilgo
Brigade of Excellence



COL Kilgo and MAJ Thompson (left) attending a Commander's Update Brief during the Brigade Field Training Exercise in February.

Operation Deuce Lightning Brigade FTX February 2011



Soldiers enjoyed a hot meal with CSM Brooks (bottom left) and CSM Washington (bottom right) at a training area dining facility in Grafenwoehr.



2D SIGNAL BRIGADE FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE PHOTOS





2D SIGNAL BRIGADE FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE PHOTOS





MESSAGE FROM THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP



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

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

Soon the first quarter of the New Year is over and we have already a lot of projects, tasks and missions accomplished.

Alone 34 trouble tickets have been worked on to restore telephone and data services for our customers within these three months. 26 installation projects have been closed out and 14 new projects have been started. A lot of new potential projects have been surveyed and will give us more work at the third and fourth quarter. During this time we conducted additionally Fiber Optical cable work hands on training for Soldiers to support their deployment and mission. In support of TF-E Romania we deployed a team of technicians to MK Airbase to install and reroute FO cables. Additionally we sent a team to Camp Darby, Italy to fix cable outages within existing cable routes.

In February we had the DA-AAME inspection team onsite to evaluate our unit for the FY10 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence competition. In April Department of the Army will announce the winners and runners up in their respective unit category.

We are looking forward to a challenging spring time!

We connect!

Gerd Drechsler



Mr. Trunzer installs KM8 (CAT 6) patch panels inside a cabinet



Pictured are Mr. Ullmer, Mr Fischer and Mr. Beitelmann installing a man hole at Spinelli Bks



Mr. Pfeiffer during a theoretical part of an hands-on installation course



MESSAGE FROM THE 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Rodney L. Lightfoot

CSM Charles Miller

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family, Greetings and Happy New Year!!

The Watchdog Battalion was incredibly busy during the last couple of months. During the month of February, we had two separate training events at Rhine Ordnance Barracks in Kaiserslautern Germany. Task Force Mercenary deployed to Germany for seven days to support 5/7 Air Defense Artillery as they conducted their Command Post Exercise (CPX). Ten Soldiers from the 39th provided secure and unsecure internet and telephones using a SIPR, NIPR, Access Point (SNAP) terminal. This is 39th Signal Battalion's first experience with full spectrum operations, and Task Force Mercenary certainly delivered!

First picture below is the SNAP crew assembling the unit, and second below is 1SG Greene explaining the SNAP system.



January 21st brought a very significant event for the 39th Signal Battalion. The Soldiers and Civilians of the battalion led by SGT Muhammad collaborated with members of the SHAPE and Chievres community to put together an outstanding program in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program had an elaborate set-up with breakfast provided by the 39th FRG and included a few songs sung by Rev. Angela Wainright, the "I Have a Dream" speech read by Mr. James Beauchamp and guest speaker LTC Lightfoot. LTC Lightfoot read an excerpt from Marianne Williamson's poem "Our Deepest Fear"; charging all of us to liberate ourselves from fears and be a shining light in life and to reach our potentials. All in attendance were riveted by the experience and the program definitely represented positively for the 39th.

Later in February, Task Force Bulldog once again met up with 5/7 ADA and conducted three days of land navigation and tactical radio training. Task Force Bulldawg deployed to Rhine Ordnance Barracks and trained in day and night land navigation, and received tactical radio training on PRC-117, ASIPs, PRC- 5s, and the OE-254 antenna.

Pictured below, leaders brief Soldiers on all the aspects of the land navigation site and safety brief.



In March, the 39th participated in a 500 year old Belgian tradition in Chievres, Belgium. The game of Crossage involves two teams of two people using a mallet (Rabat) to hit a wooden ball (Chollete) through the streets of Chievres. The last team to hit barrels situated near the local restaurants buys a round of your favorite beverage for the two teams. This year there were more than 20 barrels located in the town and hundreds of locals in attendance.

Pictured below, MAJ Taggart (BN XO) swings his Rabat to send the Chollete towards the next barrel.



Next month the 39th Signal Battalion will be participating in the Golf Tournament and Cyber ball. We will also be participating in a Battlefields and Basilicas trip to Waterloo. In the mean time we will continue the work we do for our customers in Watchdog country. We are very proud of our Soldiers and Civilians and thank them and their families for their continued faithful service and sacrifice. **Will to Succeed!!**

BIRTHDAYS

March

- 1 SFC Franklin Murray
- 6 SGT Miller
- 7 SGT (P) Pierre
- 16 MSG Harris
- 16 MAJ Taggart
- 22 SGT (P) Brown

PROMOTIONS

- 1LT Brown
- SFC Donohue
- SFC Franklin-Murray



MESSAGE FROM THE 43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC John M. Demko CSM Travis L. Cherry

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

This year has been fast paced for the battalion. We have been involved in numerous exercises and events over the last couple months. The 43D basketball team enjoyed an eventful season and ended up as the overall Heidelberg unit level league champions and placed 3rd in the Heidelberg unit championship. Several Soldiers from the battalion

are still heavily involved in mentorship and tutoring at Heidelberg High School through the USAG Baden Wuerttemberg Adopt-A-School Program.

For the month of February, the 43D Signal Battalion Contingency Command Post (CCP) Team deployed to the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) in order to support the USAREUR CCP Command Post Exercise (CPX) I. The overall mission of the USAREUR CCP is to provide a forward command and control (C2) presence for missions of limited scope and duration. The CCP increases USAREUR's ability to respond to USEUCOM and DOD taskings to provide forward C2 elements. The 43D Soldiers provided Network Operations (NetOps) support, and assisted the USAREUR G6 with helpdesk functions for the duration of the exercise. For their outstanding efforts, the Battalion

CCP Team received Certificates of Achievement from the USAREUR CCP Deputy Commander. After a few days of rest, the Soldiers from the CCP Team readied themselves for the 43D Signal Battalion's CPX which was also in support of the 2nd Signal Brigade CPX held at GTA. The mission was to provide C4 capabilities to the 43D Signal Battalion Commander and Staff elements. The SIPR NIPR Access Point (SNAP) Terminal was utilized as the primary means of communication and several Soldiers from the team received a Commanders Coin of Excellence from the Battalion Commander for their performance. The 43D CCP Soldiers are currently preparing for USAREUR CPX II and AC '11.

—Always Professional LTC John M. Demko Battalion Commander

43D SIGNAL BATTALION HIGHLIGHTS: PFC MICHAEL WALKER

Babies Born:

Daniel Rodriguez (8.6 lbs; 21.5 inches) 25 February, SSG Carlos Rodriguez-181st

Awards:

ARCOM: SPC Brooks, Tre - 11TH (PCS) SPC Poss, Timothy - 11TH (PCS)

AAM:

SPC Dishman, Timothy - 11th (PCS)

Promotions:

PV2 McClanahanevans, Jessie - 181ST (promoted to PFC) PFC Hutson, Albert - 181ST (Promoted to SPC) PFC Parker, David - 181ST (Promoted to SPC) PFC Schrier, Christopher - 181ST (Promoted to SPC) PFC Vargas, Harvey - 181ST (Promoted to SPC)

On February 12, 2011, Private First Class Michael Walker, from the 181st Signal Company/43D Signal Battalion, was presented a letter of acceptance to the U.S. Military Academy from West Point's Superintendent, LTG Huntoon, on behalf of the admissions committee.

On February 25, 2011, MG Wolff, the 1st Armored Division Commanding General / West Point graduate (class of 1979), recognized PFC Walker's accomplishment with a coin of excellence during an operational overview and site visit to the Media Gateway Facility in Landstuhl (MGF-L).

The 181st Signal Company's Command Team, CPT Cato and 1SG Smith, stated, "PFC Walker is an exceptional Soldier who possesses the positive traits and characteristics of a young talented leader. His efforts and leadership will be missed at the 181st Signal Company; however, PFC Walker will serve the Army best as a Commissioned Officer".

The Army continues to transform with a focus on modernization of assets and structure in support of continuous and Full Spectrum operations. It is important to recognize that the future of the Army will present many new challenges that tomorrow's leaders will assume. These challenges will be met by the next generation of bright leaders such as PFC Walker.

PFC Walker will report to West Point prior to his first official day beginning on June 27, 2011.



MG Terry Wolff with PFC Michael Walker congratulating him on his acceptance to West Point.



MESSAGE FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Robert A. Vitt

CSM Mark A. George

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

Stay tuned to the Brigade Newsletter for the latest happenings across the Brigade of Excellence.

LTC Robert Vitt
CSM Mark George



52D Signal Battalion HHD Change of Responsibility between SFC Parsons and SFC Williams

52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

PROMOTIONS:

5 Feb 2011:
PFC Pierce, Tallon promoted to SPC

7 Feb 2011:
PV2 Diaz, Angel promoted to PFC

11 Feb 2011:
PFC Fullerton, Chris promoted to SPC

12 Feb 2011:
PFC Paulo, Bryson promoted to SPC

24 Feb 2011:
PFC Revilla, Joseph promoted to SPC

1 Mar 2011:
SGT Cooney, Corey promoted to SSG
PV2 Dawson, Kenneth promoted to PFC
PV2 Silva, Charles promoted to PFC

3 Mar 2011:
PFC Mackall, Gregory promoted to SPC

5 Mar 2011:
PFC Mata, BJ promoted to SPC

REENLISTMENTS:

24 Feb – SPC Parsons, Benjamin
11 Mar – SSG Bravante, BrianCarlo

March:

3- SPC Joyner, Joshua
4- SSG Vivolo, Gregory
11- SPC Kirchofner, Kodi
13- SGT Carey, Darnel
13- SGT Stracke, Aaron
18- SGT Edwards, Danny
22- SGT Ormiston, Michael
28- SPC Baggett, Adam
29- MSG Perdue, Jon
30- SPC Derham, Adam

FRG EVENTS:

Polish Pottery Trip 2-3 April

ARRIVALS:

SPC Sleister, Christopher arrived 9 Feb
SPC Coleman, Trenun arrived 10 Feb
SGT Gonzalez, Mikela arrived 5 Mar

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Day of Excellence 1 April
Cyber Ball 22 April

BIRTHDAYS:

April:

15- PFC Benton, Ramon
17- SPC Ewen, Kenneth
21- SFC Coefield, Paul
23- LTC Vitt, Robert

May:

2- SSG Cooney, Corey
4- MSG Alcendor, Fredrick
7- SPC Thomas, Damon
7- PFC Whitfield, Eric
7- PFC Montane, Anthony
15- SSG Bravante, BrianCarlo
20- SSG Archer, Randy
22- SSG Jenkins, Ean
23- PFC Rogers, Tyler
24- MAJ Perry, Kristy
28- SGT Hert, Brandon
29- SPC Lucas, Anthony
30- 1SG Valdez, Tawnia
31- SFC McMahon, Jared
31- SSG Curtis, Kristine



52D SIGNAL BATTALION PHOTOS



Soldiers being promoted by CPT Wilson during the Day of Excellence

52d Signal Battalion Color Guard during the NCO Induction Ceremony



NCO Induction Ceremony



102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Eric E. Aslakson



CSM Robert A. Daniel, Jr.



102d Signal Battalion welcomes 1SG Basey



“The First Sergeant is the Lifeblood of the Army. There is no substitute for the position, or any question of its importance. When they are exceptional, their units are exceptional: it is the First Sergeant from whom almost all unit operations merge.”





102D SIGNAL BATTALION: CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

Upcoming Birthdays

Rank	Name	Date of Birth
PFC	Ryan Ruland	16-Mar-83
PFC	Roberto Schaller	18-Mar-87
SGT	Joe Combs	25-Mar-67
SPC	Ricardo Reyna	28-Mar-87
SFC	Bobbie Breese	10-Apr-75
SPC	Dana Simpson	12-Apr-82
SGT	Adam Borstad	16-Apr-80
SPC	Benjamin Todd	17-Apr-84
SPC	Rodeleo Corpus	18-Apr-85
SSG	Gerardo Salinas	24-Apr-84
PFC	Robert Neal	27-Apr-91
PFC	Tyler Lance	2-May-88
SFC	Thomas Remily	9-May-74
SSG	Erick Gavelan	18-May-85
SPC	Michael Kearney	20-May-82
CPL	Victor Boyd	24-May-84
CPT	Andre Brown	25-May-77
SPC	Thomas Crosby	31-May-75

Congratulations

Rank	Name	Event	Date
PFC	Daniel Cabrera	Marriage	14-Dec-10
SPC	Gregory Douglas	welcomed baby Kaitlin	17-Dec-10
CPL	Victor Boyd	Graduated WLC	21-Jan-11
PFC	Michael Crimmins	Marriage	14-Feb-11
SPC	Ricardo Reyna	Graduated WLC	18-Feb-11
SPC	Carlos Saldarriaga	Graduated WLC	18-Feb-11
SSG	Frank Oliver	welcomed baby Aydin	26-Feb-11

Below: PFC Colon was promoted to SPC on 10 February 2011.



Above: SGT Walthers receives award from LTC Aslakson



Left: SFC Berumen (Bde Retention Officer, conducted a Retention Luncheon on 24 Jan.



Left: SPC Reyna receives award from LTC Aslakson

Below: SGT Cobena receives award from LTC Aslakson

The 102d Signal Battalion recognizes the hard-working civilian force.



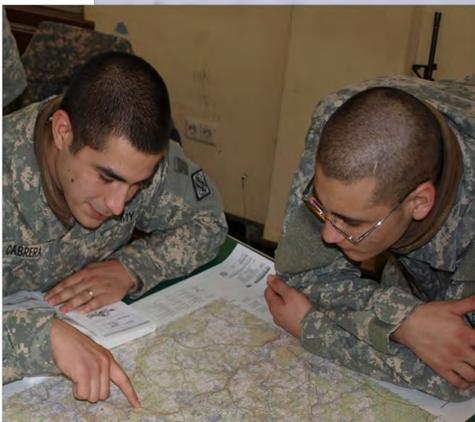
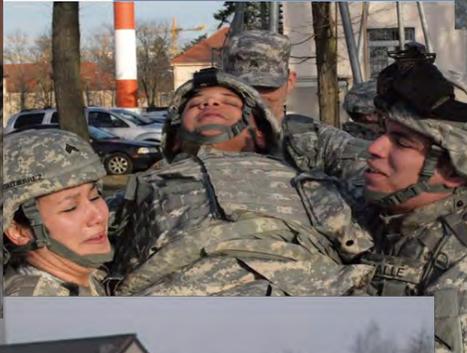


102D SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS: FTX AND CLS TRAINING

**FTX to Baumholder
31 Jan – 4 Feb**



**CLS
Training
7-11 Feb**





509TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC G. Shawn Wells

CSM Brian W. Warren

509th Signal Battalion JMRC Support

The 509th Signal Battalion, with support from the 52nd Signal Battalion, augmented the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) 11-03 exercise in Hohenfels, Germany from 8 February – 4 March in order to install, operate, and maintain SNAP-V terminal support to the Georgian Army at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center as the Georgians prepared for their deployment to Afghanistan. This was an outstanding training opportunity for our Soldiers to demonstrate their ability to maintain technical and tactical proficiency in the utilization of SNAP terminals in a simulated combat environment. Moreover, the Soldiers of 509th Signal Battalion, working in unison with the 52nd Signal Battalion and members of the Georgian Army, were able to experience the exceptional challenges and learning opportunities that develop when conducting operations with Coalition partners.

The Soldiers came from a variety of MOS's, including 25A, 25B, 25F, and 94E. This allowed for unique cross-training field experience that will help all of the Soldiers involved develop into well-rounded technical experts, leaders, and Soldiers. The Soldiers of the 509th and 52nd provided full-spectrum communications to the Georgian Army during the exercise, including not only NIPR, but also the secure CoNET Primary Network that was tunneled through a TACLANE. Eventually this network was supplemented by an AN/30I microwave line of site transmitter that allowed for additional bandwidth, and our Soldiers had the opportunity to deal with environmental limitations, and overcome them through the use of creative solutions.

Overall the Soldiers representing the 509th showed resolve, commitment, and technical proficiency while operating in an austere environment and in conjunction with a foreign military. The training and understanding that they received are invaluable to their professional and personal development. These experiences will continue to benefit our Soldiers now and in the future, leading to strong future leaders in our Battalion. These accomplishments reflect great credit on our Soldiers, and demonstrate a level of professionalism that the 509th Signal Battalion is proud to recognize.



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION BIRTHDAYS, PROMOTIONS, AWARDS

Birthdays:

SSG Aguilar 5 March
SFC Harris 22 March
SPC Gardner 23 March
SGT Aguirre 25 March
SPC Perez 25 March

BDE NCO of the Quarter

SGT Paugh
BN NCO/SOQ
SGT Paugh/SPC Hawkins

Promotions:

PFC Steward to SPC 17 March
PFC Walker to SPC 24 March

Gains:

SGT Randle
SGT Aguirre
SPC Michelsen
SPC McLelland

Awards:

CSM Warren MOVSM
CPT Cottrell MOVSM
SFC Medrano MOVSM
SPC Gardner IMPACT AAM

Anniversaries:

SGT Murray 3 February
SSG Aguilar 27 February
SFC Kupsh 2 March
SPC Murphy 20 March



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: AUSTERE CHALLENGE 2011

509th Signal Battalion Participation in Austere Challenge 2011!

From 24 January to 6 February 2011, a Joint Task Force was brought together for Crisis Action Planning under the auspices of Austere Challenge 2011 Exercise. Department of Defense (DoD) participants included the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and Marines, as well as DoD Civilian elements working collaboratively together on-board the USS Mount Whitney – a Blue Ridge Class Command Ship named for the 14,946 foot peak in Sierra-Nevada mountain-range in California.

The USS Mount Whitney departed Naples, Italy arriving in Haifa, Israel after 8 days travel at sea. This sea journey included embedding a 509th Signal Battalion Information Assurance (IA) Manager, Ms. Denise Cornell, as the IA proponent tasked to provide IA policy and technical support throughout the deployment. Her responsibilities included participating in Joint Exercise Maneuvers with the goal of integrating closely with the ship's existing operational protocols and procedures, to include land connectivity at-sea notification protocols. The collaborative joint-oriented sharing of information and operational business practices was informative and instructive for all involved enhancing the knowledge for all on-BOARD.

This was truly a collaborative learning opportunity for all DoD elements that participated, to include the 509th Signal Battalion. This Joint exercise integrated the sharing of both operational and business practices on-board the USS Mount Whitney enabling the 509th Signal Battalion the opportunity to sustain Austere Challenge 2011 with IA support and apply the lessons learned into our 509th Signal Battalion Information Assurance Program for enhanced IA situational awareness!



Left: USS Mount Whitney in the Haifa Port (Israel).



Right: USS Mount Whitney underway.



Above: Training on the Antennae provided by LCDR Littlejohn while underway to: (L-R) PO2 Johnson, PO1 Greer, Ms. Cornell, CAPT Lake, LTJG Walter, LT Brandt, CPO Sivongsa, Capt Billingsley.

Right: Ship-board training provided by LCDR Littlejohn to the Joint Task Force while underway.





509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: SNS AWARENESS TRAINING

Social Networking Systems/Sites (SNS) Awareness Training to DoDEA Students in Vicenza, Italy!

The Army Europe–Information Technology Training (AE-ITT) Program, in concert with the 509th Signal Battalion, again sponsored the AE-ITT provided Social Networking System/Sites (SNS) Awareness Training for the Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA), Vicenza High School, in Vicenza, Italy. This training provided valuable Information Technology (IT) training and situational awareness to Vicenza High School students on the usage and their interaction with public websites accessed today in social networking. Over 60+ students and teachers were trained in multiple sessions on 23 February 2011, raising their IT situational awareness and stressing the benefits of using proper internet behaviors to lower risk and manage personal information.

Social networking is the most popular on-line activity in use today with millions of individuals wanting to meet other people to gather and share information, photos, and discuss common interests (hobbies), world events, etc. The 509th Signal Battalion continues to pro-actively ensure that all personnel located in the Vicenza and Livorno Military Communities throughout Italy, to include the Vicenza High School students and Faculty, are provided with the critical tools of proper SNS techniques to fully protect their Personally Identifiable Information (PII).



The photograph below taken on 23 February 2011 reflects the AE-ITT Instructor teaching the Vicenza High School students on proper SNS behaviors.

509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: END OFFICE OF THE YEAR

509th Signal Battalion DCO is DISA-E's End Office of the Year

By Todd C. Hunt

The Vicenza Dial Central Office is the proud recipient of the Defense Information Systems Agency-Europe's End Office of the Year Award for 2010. The award acknowledges significant mission accomplishment, facility improvement and the 509th Signal Battalion's commitment to excellence. The Defense Switched Network (DSN) Team is led by Mr. James McMann and staffed by Inside Plant technicians Raffaele Fusco, Luciano Poli and Mirco Finco. The organization was recognized for enhancing the performance of legacy voice systems, establishment of VoIP capabilities and a series of cost saving initiatives. The team was commended for flawlessly integrating the Transportable Voice over IP Switch (TVIPS) with the Vicenza EWSD DSN switch. This capability enabled the stand up of the

first-ever VoIP enclave within the 509th Signal Battalion footprint. This versatile communication system provides IP telephony services to sites across the Vicenza Military Community including the National Support Elements at Poggio Renatico, Milano and Camp Butmir. Additionally, the DSN work center initiated a comprehensive review of all billed Telecom circuits across the community resulting in termination of 75 commercial leases generating a cost savings of over \$250,000.00. The Vicenza facility was lauded as the "best DCO ever seen" during a recent DISA inspection and it comes as no surprise that Mr. McMann and his team of IT professionals have been so outstandingly recognized. The End Office of the Year Award is a well earned reflection of the pride, professionalism and dedication exhibited by the Vicenza Dial Central Office and the 509th Signal Battalion.



Pictured above is the award winning Vicenza DCO team. From left to right they are Luciano Poli, Pierluigi Piazzon, Fabiano Beda, James McMann, Mirco Finco, Ivan Fattori, Massimo Gavin and Raffaele Fusco.



MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Sirena Sias

1SG Jessie Davis

tunities here in the heart of Europe. Always be safe and stay positive.

Sirena Sias
CPT, SC
Commanding



Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family of HHC,

I am proud of the team on the wonderful job planning and executing the FTX. Now that we are back, we are focusing our efforts on command inspections and continuing to improve our processes. We hope everyone enjoys the wonderful spring weather and takes advantage of the great travelling oppor-



HHC PICTURES: FAREWELL LUNCH FOR MS DORIS BRACKMANN





HHC 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE—FTX PHOTOS—OPERATION DEUCE LIGHTNING II



**OP
DL
II**





HHC 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE—FTX PHOTOS—OPERATION DEUCE LIGHTNING II

