



DEUCE LIGHTNING



2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER "BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"



Das 2010 NeujahrsEmpfang (New Year's Reception) 2nd and 3rd from left: 2d BDE CSM Patrick Brooks and 2d BDE CDR COL Gerald Miller.



Mrs. Brackmann, Mr. Burrer, Mr. Schaefer, CPT Waldher, Mr. Rambert, SPC Biggerstaff, and SFC Garcia's Family pose for a picture at the Mannheim Christmas Market.

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2D SIGNAL BRIGADE

Brigade Commander	COL Gerald Miller
Brigade Command Sergeant Major	CSM Patrick Brooks
Deputy Brigade Commander / Managing Editor	LTCP Harry Friberg
Civilian Deputy Brigade Commander	Mr John Baltich
Editor	CPT Hans Lokodi
Assistant Editor	SPC William Biggerstaff
Graphics Manager	SPC William Biggerstaff

UPCOMING EVENTS

African American History Month Observance Wiesbaden featuring Rev Jesse Jackson	February 3
Training Holiday	February 12
Valentine's Day	February 14
Training Holiday	February 15
African American History Month Observance Mannheim (Top Hat Club)	February 25

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MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM



COL Miller

CSM Brooks

I am excited about using this newsletter as a forum to share what we as an organization are accomplishing every day. CSM Brooks and I will continue to use it to stay in touch with what is happening in the lives of our Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families.

HOOAH!

COL Gerald Miller

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

January was a busy month for the Brigade of Excellence. As everyone enjoyed the Holiday Season with their loved ones, we are glad that no major incidences occurred and we were able to receive everyone back safely. Our mission continues at full speed in 2010 as we prepare for several missions, tasks, and transitions in the coming months.

We are preparing for the relocation of the 2d Signal Brigade Headquarters from Mannheim to Wiesbaden. This will be an exciting time for the Brigade of Excellence as we leave a long history that spans decades and a close connection with the Mannheim community to support Army Transformation initiatives. We look forward to living and serving in Wiesbaden and are excited to be part of what will be a vibrant hub of activity for the armed forces in Europe.

I am proud of everyone in the Brigade of Excellence for the eagerness, dedication, and flexibility you bring to the job every day. 2010 will be a year of leadership changes throughout the Brigade and I will say thank you and continue to say thank you to all my leaders in the Brigade of Excellence and

the Soldiers who support them.

Even though we have packed away our Christmas trees and decorations (hopefully), and are looking forward to Valentine's Day, Old Man Winter is still out in full force and can ruin your day, or end your life, if you are not taking the right precautions. Drive safely in your daily commutes and ensure you and your Soldiers are inspecting vehicles for tire safety and other winter checkables. As the winters here can sometimes last well into March, we want everyone to be healthy and safe.

During January, we welcomed two new Soldiers: SFC Amy Sterling and MSG Melvin Woodard. We are excited and glad to have them on board.

“Old Man Winter is still out in full force and can ruin your day or end your life, if you are not taking the right precautions.” - COL Miller



LTC Jarrell discusses the significance of the Hainerberg Project in terms of overall cost savings and upgrades to the network with COL Miller during his visit to the 102d.



MESSAGE FROM THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP



The 6981st Civilian Support Group (CSG) is the 2D Signal Brigade/5th Signal Command "go to" organization when it comes to network cable infrastructure projects. Conducting Site Requirements Surveys, installing cable infrastructure (inside and outside of buildings, both above and below ground) to 5th Signal Command standard and creating project documentation are all part of our mission. Our service is complemented by a 24/7 on call support team for Emergency cable repair service. Our headquarters is at Coleman Bks, Mannheim and we have 2 Support Detachments at Grafenwoehr and Stuttgart.

The members of the 6981st CSG are the acknowledged cabling experts within the 5th Signal Command and are often called upon to provide training to deploying Soldiers and Civilians throughout Europe. To facilitate our hands-on training, we are building a new, true to life in-ground facility at Coleman Bks to provide the most realistic training possible for Signal Soldiers, BCT's and Signal Units. It will allow us to provide training in the areas of safe entry of underground enclosures, cable termination and testing as well as outside cable installation. The facility is scheduled to be operational late 2d Qtr FY10.

The following are some of the highlights of the 511 missions the 6981st CSG accomplished last FY:

- deployed teams to Kosovo, Rumania and Bulgaria in support of JTF-E
- provided the 18th Engineer Brigade at Schwetzingen with PDS capability

- provided the 44th Signal Battalion at Schweinfurt with ICDS
- assisted the 102nd Signal Battalion at the Wiesbaden Air Base and the Hainenberg housing area with connectivity of Cable Distribution Systems
- provided cable installation support to exercises Allied Strike and AC 09
- repaired multiple cable breaks at Camp Darby, Italy
- responded to site survey requests and provided timely reports to the customers and Signal Battalions
- restructured all of the Internal Cable Distribution Systems to meet the connectivity requirements of the EUCOM G6.

We connect!

Gerd Drechsler

GETTING TO KNOW THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP

The 6981st CSG is a direct descendant of the first German Labor Service (LS) Units activated in August 1948 during the Berlin blockade.

The history of the 6981st CSG begins on May 1, 1952 with activation of the 6981st LS Signal Construction Battalion at Neureut near Karlsruhe. The unit consisted of 712 men organized into a headquarters company and three signal construction companies.

Since its inception the unit has undergone major changes, most of which centered on complying with the existing Tariff Agreement and German Labor Law. In

1982, all LS Companies and CLG's were designated into Civilian Support Groups/ Civilian Support Centers (CSG/CSC). Despite the many changes for years the 6981st continued its original mission including installation of high frequency antennas and maintenance and operation of microwave radio equipment and power generators.

As a result of downsizing of US Forces in Europe, the 6981st CSC was reorganized into the 6981st CSG with three Regional Signal Support Detachments on 1 July 1993. In July 1995, the 6981st was restationed to Mannheim-Sandhofen and headquartered at Coleman Barracks. The 6981st was again reorgan-

ized and their regional Signal Support Detachments were deactivated in September 1995. The unit headquarters is still at Coleman Barracks, Mannheim-Sandhofen with one Signal Support Detachment stationed in Grafenwoehr.

Since 1952, the parent organization of the 6981st has varied and included the 515th Signal Group until 1970, the 4th Signal Service Group from 1970 to 1972, USASTRATCOM-EUR from 1972 to 1974, the 12th Signal Group from 1974 to 1976, 5th Signal Command from 1977 - 1997, and the 2d Signal Brigade from 1997 to the present.



6981ST PICTURES



6981st CSG - the cable specialists



A typical day at the 6981st involves work in all environments.





MESSAGE FROM THE 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Mark R. Schonberg CSM Charles Miller

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

Welcome back from the Holiday Season and thank you for all your hard work.

While we cannot highlight all the work that each section or individual does because these pages would overflow with the many wonderful things that you do, we wish to highlight the S4 section this month in the following article.

LTC Mark R. Schonberg

CSM Charles Miller

Property Accountability Stand-Down

The 39th Signal Battalion, located in Chievres, Belgium, conducted a property accountability stand down week with a VTC and briefings by LTC Mark Schonberg and MAJ Jennifer Colvin to the Company Commanders and Network Enterprise Directors. LTC Schonberg emphasized that property accountability is everyone's responsibility. The property accountability stand down week, 11-15 January 2010, was set aside for the battalion to focus on the Command Supply Discipline Program. The emphasis was on sub hand receipts, unserviceable turn-ins, updating signature cards and proper inventory procedures.

Perhaps supply discipline can be a headache for some, but to the S-4 team it was a necessary task. "Too many times during inventories, we hear both leaders and Soldiers say, if only they had taken the time to learn supply procedures before the fateful day when they signed for all their property. Common mistakes include signing for property that wasn't on hand, wrong serial numbers, and

wrong nomenclatures. These mistakes lead to leaders paying the price - a very heavy one," says Ms. Ann Beauchamp. The S-4 team wants to make sure that no outgoing Commander or Director pays that heavy price. The S-4 section consists of Mrs. Ann Beauchamp (S4), Mrs. Barbara De Vos, SGT Stephen Oxford, SPC Jordi Melgarejo, Mrs. Mia Greene, Ms. Therese Segært and Ms. Martine Gevaert.

"The S4 team wants to make sure that no outgoing Commander or Director pays that heavy price" - Mrs. Ann Beauchamp

39TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

Birthdays:

- CW3 Drew Ludwick (3)
Mrs. Mia Greene (5)
PFC Thomas Brado (6)
Mr. Dewey Pettiford (6)
SPC Robert Wooden (7)
Mr. John Blanton (8)
SGT Michael Moore (11)
SGT Kyle Williams (13)
Mr. Ike McCollum (13)

MAJ Jennifer Colvin (17)

- Mr. Giel Driessen (17)
PFC Robert Jones (19)
SPC April King (21)
Mr. John Sumpter (21)
SPC Leodavid Fernandez (22)
Mr. Ernest Hess (24)
CPT Timothy Lawrence (28)
SPC David Varner (30)
Mr. James Thomas (30)

Hails:

- SSG Elizabeth Precht
SGT James Miller
SGT Otha Weathersby
SSG Alexander Franklin Murray

Births:

- Daniel Albert Grimenstein



39TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



From left to right starting with the bottom row: Mr. Bill Ostrander (Deputy DOIM), Mr. John Beuckens (NEC SHAPE Director), Mr. Dave Carter (NEC SHAPE Deputy Director).

Back row, Mrs. Donna Brown (NEC Schinnen Director), Mr. Mark Schraeder (Deputy S3), Mr. Tim Bostic (NEC Brussels

39th Signal Battalion S4 Staff, From left to right, SGT Oxford, SPC Melgarejo, Mrs. AnnBeauchamp (S4), Mrs. Barbara De Vos, Mrs. Therese Segaert, Ms. Martine Gevaert, Mrs. Mia Greene.



PFC Borash completes his reenlistment oath in front of the SACEUR/EUCOM Commander's Blackhawk.



HHD Signal Company in front of the SACEUR/EUCOM Commander's Blackhawk.



MESSAGE FROM THE 43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Laroy Peyton



CSM Ricky Wallace

Let me start by saying I am very proud of the Soldiers, NCOs and Civilians of this Battalion. Our Soldiers, NCOs, Civilians, and Families are very vital to this Battalion and without them we cannot succeed and accomplish our mission.

In January, I had the pleasure of attending the graduation of Class 04-10 Warrior Leaders Course in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Whether we are promoting Soldiers such as SPC Henderson and SPC Bolt, or sending our Soldiers through

Warrior Leaders Course or spending a day with the Family at Sea Life Park, I could not be more proud of our Soldiers. Congratulations to SGT Brock and SPC Kite for making the Commandant's List. Congratulations to all the Soldiers and Civilians who volunteer in the community. It is a better Army because of you.

"Teamwork, Strength, Speed" -CSM Ricky Wallace

!!!CONGRATULATIONS TO WLC CLASS 04-10!!!

WLC Class 04-10 Graduation in Grafenwoehr





43D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



SFC Slezak and SFC Martinez show their "Fishy" skills.



11th Signal Detachment enjoy a fun day in Sea Life Park sponsored by the FRG.



43D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



CSM Wallace recognize Soldiers from 43D Sig BN for their Volunteerism during 43D SIG BN Pay Day Activities in January.



MAJ Hans Weber presents SPC Blankinship with the Army Good Conduct Medal, also promotes PFC Henderson and PFC Bolt to the ranks of Specialist. Numerous awards and promotions were presented during the 43D SIG BN Pay Day Activities in January.



43D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



CSM Wallace congratulates SGT Brock and SPC Kite for their achievements on making the Commandant's List WLC Class 04-10 in Grafenwoehr.



CSM Wallace address the Graduates from 43d SIG BN WLC Class 04-10



MESSAGE FROM THE 44TH EXPEDITIONARY COMMAND TEAM



LTC Dwayne A. Dickens CSM Demetrius R. Steel

As the month of January concludes, the Battalion is in the midst of several initiatives to prepare it for future deployments. The 44th ESB is fully engaged in validating all of its WIN-T equipment. This process was initiated on the 4th of January and will continue through the 11th of February with each company rotating their equipment through the validation in 2 week cycles. The Battalion is committed to this effort and has had tremendous support from CECOM in accomplishing it. Bravo Company has officially

come down on orders in support of OEF and has been designated the priority effort for this Validation Exercise. All stops have been pulled to ensure that Bravo is 100% mission ready for this deployment. The Battalion was very pleased to entertain a visit from acting 5th Signal Commander COL John Cox on 12 January. COL Cox received an operational update brief from the Battalion S3 and Bravo Company Commander. Additionally, he witnessed the hard working Bravo Company Soldiers in action, validating their systems. What we are accomplishing is a reflection of the determined, hard working Soldiers of the 44th AND Families that support them. We know that time away from home is hard on Families, whether deployed or during an exercise at the Local Training Area or even the Switch Park. The time dedicated to training now will pay significant dividends in the not too distant future.

Without Family Readiness, our “Outstanding Soldiers” wouldn’t continue to do the “Outstanding” job that the 5th Signal Command has come to expect from the 44th ESB. We would like to recognize our FRSA, Mrs. Kimberly Messer who coordinated the 44th ESB Blood Drive that drew in 97 donors, far exceeding a goal of 60. Many of the donors were the Family members our Soldiers. Once again, we would like to thank each and every Family member for the terrific job that they are doing each and every day to support their Soldier and the mission of the Battalion. It is due to your support and strength that our Soldiers are able to accomplish their mission, each and every day.

OUTSTANDING!

DWAYNE A. DICKENS
LTC, SC
Commanding

44TH EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

Working 24 hours a day... That's Strong. Working it in a Blizzard? That's Army Strong...

SCHWEINFURT, Germany – Signal Soldiers from Bravo Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion braved blizzard like weather conditions during their two week long Validation exercise in January. The exercise, which is intended to validate their equipment for an upcoming deployment in support of OEF, was riddled with large amounts of snow and freezing temperatures.

The 44th ESB conducted a 12 day, around the clock Validation Exercise of Bravo Company which included it's 12 Satellites (STT), 10 Command Post Nodes (CPNs), and 2 Joint Network

Nodes (JNNs). This equipment has the capability of supporting over 2,000 users and enables the War-fighter to communicate with their higher headquarters and soldiers on the ground. Many of the companies Soldiers were fresh out of AIT and had very little experience on the equipment prior to the VALEX.

“Hand on training is the BEST training,” said PFC Cody Moody, one of the 44th's newest soldiers. “I have learned more in the past 2 weeks than I learned in 27 weeks of training in AIT.”

PFC Moody also commented “I enjoy working in the harsh weather, it test your will to get the job done and really brings your team together”

The exercise was conducted during Schweinfurt's most severe snowstorm of the season. Roads and equipment covered in a heavy layer of snow and ice creating a considerable amount of stress on the signal equipment. Despite the weather woes, the unit was able to successfully validate all of its equipment and prepare it for the shipment to port the following next week.

2LT Timothy Duval
PLT LDR, B Co 44th ESB



44TH SIGNAL BATTALION: IN THE SPOOL FOR FEBRUARY

In The Spool for February
by MAJ Alvarado and LT Isles

The Fighting 44th is now well into its Outstanding! effort to validate equipment and prepare Bravo company for their fast approaching deployment to Afghanistan. Alpha and Charlie companies will follow Bravo Company in this month-and-a-half long exercise, which is proceeding on schedule in spite of adverse weather conditions. Severe cold, snow, ice and black road conditions did not stop 5th Signal Commander COL John Cox from coming down to Schweinfurt on 12 January for an operational update brief and the chance to visit with the Bravo Company Soldiers validating their communications systems in the switch park.

After the four-day 15 to 18 January holiday weekend, Bravo company commenced packing their equipment to sign over to the 21st TSC Left Behind Equipment (LBE) team for proper

care and maintenance while the company executes its war-time mission. The "Big Dogs" will greet February in Grafenwoehr, where they will be conducting Individual Readiness Training (IRT). The rear detachment will begin operations by the end of February to ensure Families who will remain in Schweinfurt are taken care of. While B Co will soon be supporting overseas contingency operations, the remainder of the Battalion will provide communications support for three USAREUR missions. Charlie Company is undertaking missions to Kosovo and Poland, while Alpha Company prepares for Dagger Challenge in Grafenwoehr. The February timeframe is also heavy with Line-of-Sight (LOS) training and crew drills for Charlie Companies, Single Switch Shelters (SSS), the Phoenix Satellite Terminal, the Small Tactical Terminal (STT), and the Command Post Node (CPN). With a majority of Soldiers new to the unit within the last two months, building cohesive teams and training

new Soldiers is a top priority for the Battalion.

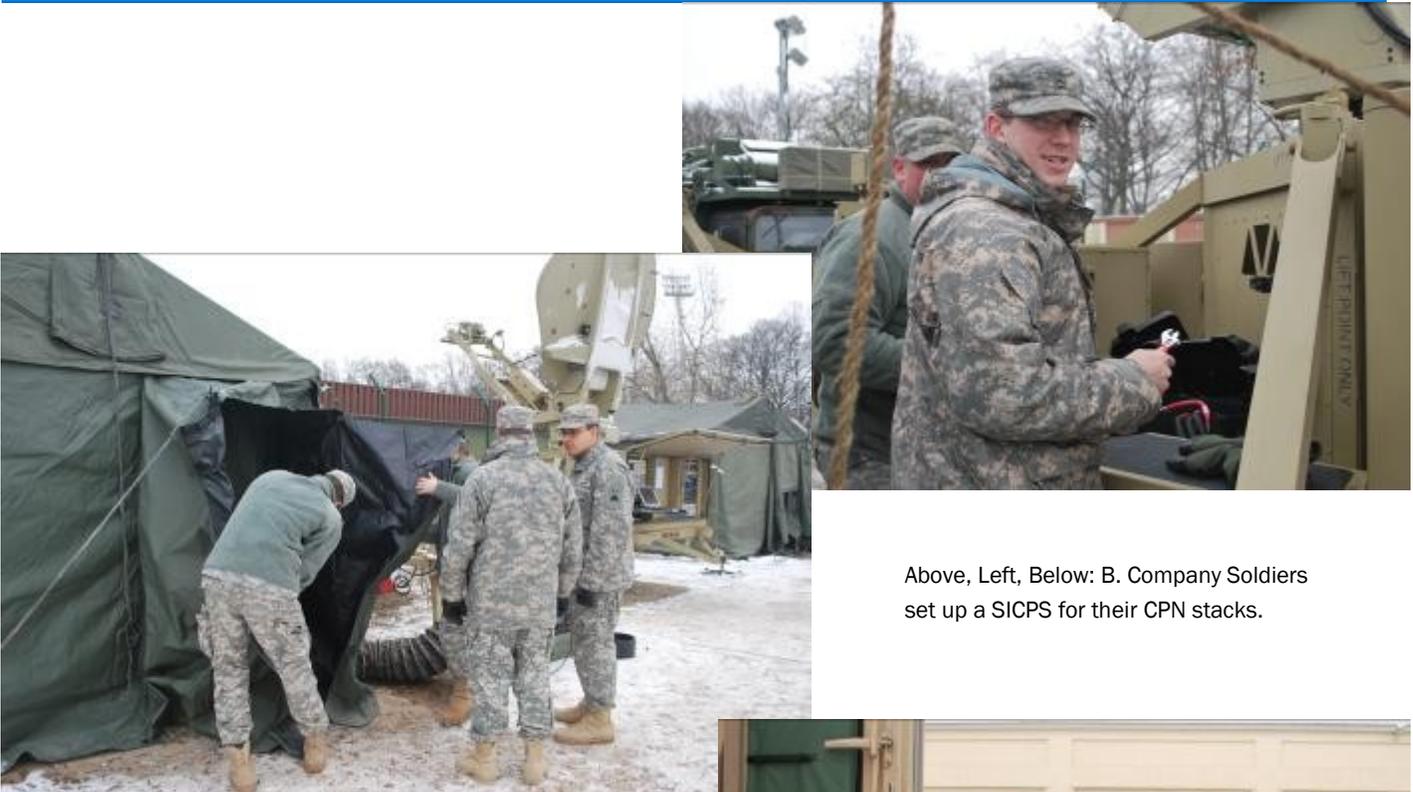
The Battalion leadership understands that the increase in operations will result in more time away from Families. As such, the "Outstanding 44th" continues to streamline its operations to become more efficient to protect well-deserved family time. The Strong Bonds and Marriage retreats scheduled for February, as well as a Duty Day with God at Coburg castle are great opportunities for Soldiers and Families to spend some additional time together. Chaplain Clark has established the weekly Brown-Bag-Lunch Bible Study for this month. In addition, the MWR trip to Dachau KZ (concentration camp) is set for 20 February to provide an opportunity to visit many historic sites in Europe. The Battalion will also be planning a trip to the Neuschwanstein Castle in the upcoming months.



COL Cox presents an award to SPC Vincent Amasula during his command visit.



44TH EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



Above, Left, Below: B. Company Soldiers set up a SICPS for their CPN stacks.



Firing up an STT with a little assistance from CECOM.



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:

Congratulations on surviving another Holiday season. I think we all know that the Holidays are a wonderful time, but can also be highly stressful. With that said, it is now of course time to get back

to the daily grind of reacting and dealing with every issue under the sun. As was predicted, this year started out at a run, conveniently doing away with the crawl and walk phases. The looming mission of IA and IT support for both AFRICOM and EUCOM is rapidly becoming a reality but it is a mission that I am fully confident the Soldiers and civilians of this command will accomplish to the highest standard. Once again, I wish to thank all of you for dealing with every mission and crisis with an almost cat like agility by landing on your feet no matter what height you are dropped from.

Finally, on a more somber note, the 52d and the U.S. Army lost one of it's own this month. SSG Anthony Sharar who was a valuable member of both the

DCOM and AFRICOM communications teams, passed away on January 25th after bravely battling a brain tumor. I would ask everyone to please send their good thoughts to his widow Rachelle and his three young children Hayden, Gabriel and Brianne as they work to build a new life without him. There will be a memorial service for SSG Sharar at the Panzer Chapel in Stuttgart in the afternoon of 4 January, please attend if possible.

LTC James E. Pugh

CSM Mark A. George

52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Change of Responsibility, 587th Signal Company, 52d Signal Battalion was held on 22 January 2010 for Outgoing First Sergeant, First Sergeant Rolando Chacon, and Incoming First Sergeant Master Sergeant Tawnia M. Valdez.

PROMOTIONS:

16 January 2010: WO1 Parnell, Michael J.-Promoted to CW2

WO1 Armour, Kasseim S.-Promoted to CW2

31 January 2010:

2LT Clark, Cecelia-Promoted to 1LT

BIRTHDAYS

January

1-SSG Holley, Jonathan

4-SGT Neely, Kenneth

11- SSG Fuselier, Johnathan

13-PFC Baggett, Jerry

14-CW2 Armour, Kassiem

17- MAJ Mills, Bradley

21-PFC Hoffman, Matthew

23-SSG Schermerhorn, Thomas

24-SFC Eaton, William

25-SGT Tunnell, Robert

28-PFC Cullens, Treyveon

29-SGT Hentz, Willie

31 CW3 Adams, James

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

ARRIVALS:

SPC Hart, Matthew, MOS 35F, Arrived 5 Jan 10

PV2 Anderson, Jonathan, MOS 25B, Arrived 5 Jan 10

PV2 Hart, Brandon, MOS 25B, Arrived 5 Jan 10

PV2 Rogers, Tyler, MOS 25C, Arrived 5 Jan 10

PV2 White, Shawn, MOS 25B, Arrived 5 Jan 10

1SG Valdez, Tawnia, MOS, 25B, Arrived 22 Jan 10



587TH SIGNAL COMPANY CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY CEREMONY

The Change of Responsibility Ceremony, 587th Signal Company, 52d Signal Battalion was held on 22 January 2010 for Outgoing First Sergeant, First Sergeant Rolando Chacon, and Incoming First Sergeant Master Sergeant Tawnia M. Valdez.





MESSAGE FROM THE 69TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Earl S. Nakata

CSM Kristine A. Purnell

I want to welcome everyone back from a well deserved holiday season break. 2009 was a great year for the 69th and 2010 promises to be even better. Now that we have taken the necessary time to re-charge our batteries, we need to

ramp-up for a busy exercise season. Our 50 meter target will be to help prepare 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment with their Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Hohenfels in preparation for their upcoming deployment. If everything falls in place, and I am confident that it will, this rotation will be the First across the Army whereby the unit moving into theater will be configured to operate on the existing Network. This will be a huge success and the future of how we prepare units for their deployments. This Battalion continues to move at full speed, creating and providing groundbreaking capabilities in support of our Warfighters. The CSM and I need to take this opportunity to Thank Everyone for their persistence,

dedication, and hard work in making us the Best Battalion in Germany. In closing, I ask all of you to continue to keep three Soldiers in our thoughts and prayers. SPC Acosta, SPC Barnes, and SSG Frazier have been deployed to Afghanistan and everything is pointing towards an early return. Pray for their success and a safe return to us and their Families.

“Voice of Command”.

69TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

69th Signal Battalion Adult Holiday Party and HHD Family Readiness Group Children's Holiday Party

Grafenwöhr, Germany –Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr aus der 69th Battalion Familie! Cheer and praise was the key theme for the 69th Signal Battalion during this past Holiday season. It's only fitting that we give back our gratitude and appreciation to those we work with day to day here in the 69th Signal Battalion.

The HHD Family Readiness Group (FRG) hosted the 69th's Annual Children's Holiday Party on 11 December 2009 at the Grafenwöhr Main Chapel Annex. The HHD Company Commander, CPT London, along with our FRG representatives, put together a thrilling afternoon event culminating with a visit from Santa Claus! The Children were able to do a host of activities ranging from decorating cookies, having their faces

painted, creating refrigerator picture magnets, and watching holiday movies. The 40 people that attended the Children's Holiday party were all overwhelmed with joy and surprise as they were able to celebrate the Christmas spirit with their little ones. As a special treat, the Battalion raffled off a 5 pound Hershey's Chocolate candy bar to one lucky child of the 69th Signal Battalion.

Those within the 69th Signal Battalion who had outgrown the “young at heart” spirit were rejuvenated with our Annual Adult Holiday Party. MSG Roberts, the Detachment Sergeant, hosted the event at Der Lohbachwinkel Hotel-Restaurant-Gasthof in Mantel on 17 December 2009. Opening remarks were given by LTC Nakata, who emphasized the importance of being part of the diverse 69th family and to have the opportunity to spend time with loved ones during the Holiday Season. Additionally,

LTC Nakata recognized MSG Roberts for graduating top of his class, number one out of 38, achieving a score of 429 out of a possible 430 points, in the First Sergeant's Course! The evening dinner featured a German style buffet which included: strips of turkey in herb sauce with rice, broiled beef with red wine sauce and croquettes, and noodles with a mushroom cream sauce. In recognition of the Battalion's 2009 accomplishments, an overview slideshow presentation played in the background as the Battalion took part in the holiday festivities.

The 69th Signal Battalion continues to lead the way into the 2010 New Year with the mission at hand. As we continue to take on the new challenges that lie ahead, 69th Signal Battalion strives to spear-head as the Light-house Battalion in the Bavaria region!

“Voice of Command”



69TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

Senior Signal Leader Development

Grafenwöhr, Germany – The 69th Signal Battalion hosted the semi-annual Senior Signal Leader Development (SSLD) conference on 15-16 October 2009, in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The objectives of the SSLD are to disseminate information, create dialog, identify customer needs, and to establish relationships. The SSLD started in the fall of 2008 in an effort to promote awareness and create discussion on Signal related issues. This year’s conference included a number of topics ranging from Vista Migration and Data at Rest (DAR) to Regional Hub Node operations.

With over 70% of US Army Europe’s combat power in the Bavaria Area of Responsibility, the 69th Signal Battalion is consistently supporting and interacting with the Warfighter. Customers from the Joint Multinational Training Command, Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Joint Multinational Simulation

Center, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade, 172d Infantry Brigade, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, 15th Engineer Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and US Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Schweinfurt, and Bamberg attended this event.

Opening remarks for the conference were given by Brigadier General Jeffrey Smith, Commander, 5th Signal Command. BG Smith emphasized the importance of the Signal Battalions to serve as a “Lighthouse” for the Warfighter – providing guidance, direction, and training. In the afternoon, Brigadier General Steven Salazar, Commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command, visited the conference and provided his comments on the significance of communications and the vital role the Signal organization plays within a unit. Briefings included the transformation to Full Spectrum Signal Battalions, capabilities of the Area Processing Center, Win-

dows Vista migration, Service Level Management, Frequency Management and Army Battle Command Systems.

The SSLD conference provided a unique opportunity for the Warfighter and Signal entities across Europe to interact - bridging the gap between the Signal community and their customers. The next SSLD is scheduled for the spring of 2010.



69TH SIGNAL BATTALION BIRTHDAYS, ARRIVALS, EVENTS

February Birthdays:

- 2-Petra Rauschert, LWNSO
- 2-Byron Ali, ROC
- 3-CPT Weissenborn
- 5-SPC Uzzle
- 6-SPC Franklin
- 7-MAJ Castellani
- 8-SPC Rusciolleli
- 9-Daniel Soderberg, OC Schweinfurt
- 11-Lloyd Baker, OC Romania
- 15-Guenter Bildner, OC Schweinfurt
- 18-PV2 Barthell

- 21-Jack Peterson, S4
- 24-Nikolaus Dippolt, OC Bamberg
- 25-PV2 Jackson
- 27-PV2 Francis

December and January Arrivals:

- Clarence Eaddy, S4
- Byron Ali, ROC
- PFC Juan Gracia
- PFC Kenneth Packard
- PV2 Jerel Jackson
- PV2 Casey Barthell

- SPC Nicholas Franklin
- PFC Donald Spencer
- SGT Marcus Mitchell
- SGT Bryan Ploettner
- 1LT Daniel Rossell

February Upcoming Events:

- 4 - FRG Meeting Bowling Hall
- 10- 69th Signal Battalion Ski Trip

New 69th Signal Battalion Family Members:

- Gabriel Vallejo born 28 December 2009, Father – SPC Vallejo, HHD
- Joseph Tobias born 7 December 2009, Father – Eric Tobias, IAM



69TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



MSG Roberts presents the Battalion NCO Sword to the CSM. Stacy Ware presented the Sword to the Battalion as a farewell gift.



SFC Robert's promotion to MSG on 28 December 2009. MSG Roberts was accompanied by his wife and two children.



Stacy Ware, Deputy Director NEC, receives the Superior Civilian Support Award in recognition for his dedication to duty and support to the 69th Signal Battalion. The award was presented at Mr. Ware's farewell dinner on 11 January 2010.



Civilian Achievement:

Mr. Jack Peterson (Logistics Management Specialist, 69th Signal Battalion S-4) AKA "Pete" won Second Prize overall in the 2009 NFL Challenge. Over 2200 people participated in this year's challenge on OCONUS.com. The NFL Challenge is dedicated to the memory of Pat Tillman.



MESSAGE FROM THE 72D-REAR SIGNAL COMPANY COMMAND TEAM



CPT Rob C. Leicht

1SG Brian K. Cantrell

72D ESB Soldiers and Families,

Happy 2010! We hope you all had a great Holiday season and were able to spend time with friends and Family.

January marks the half-way point for the deployment. We are starting to work 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 of you. All Soldiers are required to complete reintegration training upon redeployment. The training is usually 7 half days and will start the morning after the Soldiers return (weekends/holidays included). Again, we owe you more information.

The past month has been a fairly slow for the FRG. With everyone getting back from the Holidays and all the kids getting back to school but we are working some events for the month of Feb. We are excited about our new FRSA, Mrs. Tawanda Carter. She has been on board since late December and is prepared to assist our Families. Mrs Carter is a prior service, a military spouse, and a mother

who has been in the Heidelberg/Mannheim area for several years. If you are in the Battalion area, please stop by and welcome her to the team. Please 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. All FRG's could use more volunteers. If you are interested please contact your FRG Leaders. Anytime you could spare would be helpful.

The Soldiers on Rear-Detachment continue to impress us with their motivation and support they provide to all Family members. The Soldiers on Rear-Detachment all are prepared to assist as needed. Please let us know if you need assistance...sooner than later. In early February we are deploying more Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This will be our last push in support of OIF. They are trained and ready to go. We wish them all the best!

Finally, we are getting closer to our move from Taylor Barracks to Sullivan Barracks. I expect for the move to be complete by mid Feb. 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, watch the news, and make sure someone has your contact information.

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 me know if I can assist you with anything! My phone number is 0162-296-2851. I don't know all the answers but I'm willing to assist and point you in the right direction.

CPT Rob C. Leicht



MESSAGE FROM THE 102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Van D. Jarrell



CSM Robert A. Daniel, Jr.

On the occasion of the New Year, CSM Daniel and I wish to convey our warm greetings to all members of the command and their Families. In the year gone by, the 102d Signal battalion has risen to the occasion ever so magnificently, that today it has come to epitomize professionalism with perfection and is the benchmark for trust, credibility and reliability. We can indeed be justifiably proud of our achievements. Our profound sense of commitment and disciplined conduct in carrying

out assigned missions has earned respect and appreciation of the command. You have delivered the best in every way and I convey my sincere appreciation for the task well executed.

With the beginning of the New Year, we must rededicate ourselves to the service of our Nation and pledge to fulfill our responsibilities of our Army. We have done it earnestly and with valor in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

May the year 2010 bring new hope and cheer to all of you. As we start the New Year afresh I want to share a New Year's wish with you.

I wish you Health...
So you may enjoy each day in comfort.

I wish you the Love of friends and family...
And Peace within your heart.

I wish you the Beauty of nature...
That you may enjoy the work of God.

I wish you Wisdom to choose priorities...
For those things that really matter in life.

I wish you Generosity so you may share...
All good things that come to you.

I wish you Happiness and Joy...
And Blessings for the New Year.

I wish you the best of everything...
That you so well deserve.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FRIEND!
Honor, Heritage, History
"NET Ready"

102D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

EVENTS

- 06 JAN 10 - NCO/SOM/PROMOTION Board
- 14 JAN 10 - Hail and Farewell
- 19 JAN 10 - NCDP
- 22 JAN 10 - SLDP
- 25 JAN 10 - QTB
- 29 JAN 10 - Newcomers Brief
- 16-19 FEB 10 - COMSEC SAV
- 18 FEB 10 - EST 2000
- 19 FEB 10 - BREC

BIRTHDAYS

- SGT KIRK
- SPC JAMES
- MR. SHIPLEY
- SGT MARSHALL
- SPC COBENA

MR. ZEIGLER

- MR. PIZARRO
- PV2 WALKER

HAILS

- SPC SNOW
- PV2 PLETCHER
- PFC COLONJMENEZ
- PV2 CARR
- PFC CABRERA
- PFC WATSON
- PFC PENNINGTON
- PV2 GIANNOTTI
- PFC WATSON
- PFC CABRERA
- PFC PENNINGTON

FAREWELLS

- MAJ CHADWICK
- SGT WEATHERSBY

CPT SIAS

MR. INGRAM

BIRTHS

- KILLIAN POWELL
- LETECIA MATA



102D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



Soldiers, Civilians and Families alike come together to celebrate at the 102d Holiday Party as Santa is the guest of honor.



CSM Daniel recites the NCO Creed with the newest NCOs in the 102d, SGT Valle and SGT Gutierrez.



CSM Brooks addresses the Brigade SOM and Promotion Board participants at the 102d HQs.



Soldiers from our Partnership unit, the 282d, attend an awards ceremony for the Schutzenschnurs and U.S. Marksmanship ranges at WAAF.



MESSAGE FROM THE BATTALION 509TH COMMAND TEAM



LTC G. Shawn Wells

CSM Chester D. Grelock

Hitting the Ground Running in 2010

So far, January has been an exciting start to the New Year! The 509th Expeditionary Signal Team (EST) has already completed two trips to Africa. The team provided a small communications package for MG Garrett, Commander of U.S. Army Africa, in Liberia, and Nigeria providing Command and Control and reachback capability. The New Year is also bringing new equipment to the EST through the PacStar4100 system that will provide increased capabilities to the customer. Following the new equipment training the system will

be fully deployable in February 2010. The EST has also welcomed four new Soldiers and started them off in the coveted Apprenticeship Training Program that will prepare them to join the deployable facet of the EST and function worldwide as the small package communications team for U.S. Army Africa. The operational tempo is high but we are prepared to meet the challenges and missions of 2010.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLDIER FITNESS PROGRAM

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness (CSF) was established by the Chief of Staff of the Army in 2008 as a structured, long term assessment and development program to build resilience and enhance the performance of every Soldier, Family member and DA civilian. CSF is a holistic program focused on developing five dimensions of strength validated by the World Health Organization (WHO). Those dimensions are physical, emotional, social, spiritual and Family. This program assesses current strengths on all five dimensions and provides training and education to increase these strengths. This program is not a single course, event, or requirement. It is not a "screen" for any physical or psychological disease or dysfunction, including

suicide. It is not something we "do" after a Soldier has a negative psychological, physical, social, or professional outcome. In general, this program focuses on prevention, not treatment.

Master Resiliency Training (MRT) is a new program within the CSF program. MRT is training given to develop critical thinking, knowledge, and skills to overcome challenges, mature, and bounce back from adversity. The MRT course teaches us to see that challenges are temporary and not permanent, challenges are local and not global, challenges can be changed by our own effort and that we are not a helpless victim. 509th Signal Battalion selected one NCO to attend the MRT who is the only certified Master Resilience Trainer South of the Alps and one of two certified in 5th Signal Command. The Master Resilience Trainers are the core of the

Army resilience training program, and they are committed to live, use, and teach mental and physical skills that are necessary to train our minds and bodies to expect traumatic events to occur across our lives. They also provide an understanding on how to effectively face those challenges in order to function in both our personal and professional lives whether in Garrison or in combat.



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



LTC Wells presents the Commander's Award for Civialian Service to Ms Shannon Crockett-Key.

OC-Vicenza Tier II Technician, Ms. Shannon Crockett-Key

Shannon's efforts were instrumental in the establishment and sustainment of the Tier II work center in Vicenza, Italy. She exceeded organizational expectations by facilitating measureable increases in organizational efficiency and work center effectiveness. Shannon trained newly assigned Tier II personnel to establish collaborative processes promoting organizational responsiveness to customer needs. Shannon's collaboration helped articulate, refine and focus Tier II operations obtaining a 99% customer satisfaction rating during her tenure.

Her efforts included performing 25B face to face meetings, coordinating organizational IT requirements, and educating IMO's on interactive Tier II business processes. Shannon's professionalism has been recognized by 2nd Signal Brigade culminating in presentation of the Commanders Award for Civialian Service. Shannon is an invaluable employee who will add great value to her new organization the 39th Signal Battalion.

Farewell, thank you and good luck in your new assignment.



MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Myra Waldher

1SG Joseph Williams

Message from the Command Team:

HHC is back in full swing after a safe and joyous Holiday Season! The Soldiers and Civilians have done a commendable job balancing their mission in the office with their mission at home supporting their families.

I have now been in Germany for over four years, and the time has come for me to return to the United States. I will be taking a position within the Seattle Recruiting Battalion starting in March. My fondness for this interesting and exciting

job as the HHC Commander, as well as the bonds I have created with the Soldiers, make the transition bittersweet.

CPT Sirena Sias has been selected to take over the command of HHC this month, and she will do a fantastic job. Her military experiences as an enlisted signal Soldier, as well as her unique experiences since her commissioning will be invaluable to the company.

Best wishes to all of 2D Signal Brigade!

CPT Myra Waldher

HHC NEWS AND PICTURES



SPC Christian Williams stands in a formation with US and international Soldiers in preparation for the Schützenschnur Qualification Range near Wiesbaden Army Air Field.

Schützenschnur

In 23 January 2010, four Soldiers from HHC spent a Saturday testing their marksmanship in the Schützenschnur Qualification Range. SPC Bray, SPC Crosby, SPC Justice, and SPC Williams all met the Bronze qualification standard. During this range, the Bronze was the highest possible achievement, and these Soldiers will now be eligible to qualify for the Silver and Gold awards.

Basketball Skills

HHC has some amazing dependents. This picture features the son of Mr. David Conlan during a recent basketball game and in the background is SFC Garcia's son Kenyatta Hill Jr. They have been stars of the team, and the entire company is cheering for them. MAJ Jeffery Byrd has also been volunteering his free time as a coach for the Mannheim wrestling team. Good job to all of our athletes and supporters!



Mannheim's Kenny Conlan, left, takes it to the hoop against Bamberg's Brandon Wright in a recent game in Mannheim.

Promotions:

Congratulations go to SPC Melissa Maniz for her recent promotion and to SPC Aaron Crosby for his re-enlistment!