



# DEUCE LIGHTNING



## 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER "BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"



2d Signal Brigade Change of Command, 22 June 2012



22 June Change of Command Ceremony

**Operation Solemn Promise**

June 2012

5th Signal Command celebrates the value of

### Personal Courage

Treat people as they should be treated. In the Soldier's Code, we pledge to "treat others Face fear, danger or adversity (physical or moral). Personal courage has long been associated with our Army. With physical courage, it is a matter of enduring physical duress and at times risking personal safety. Facing moral fear or adversity may be a long, slow process of continuing forward on the right path, especially if taking those actions is not popular with others. You can build your personal courage by daily standing up for and acting upon the things that you know are honorable.

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Voting News: Primaries

TN: August 2, 2012  
 KS, MI, MS, WA: August 7, 2012  
 HI: August 11, 2012  
 CT, FL, MN, WI: August 14, 2012  
 WY: August 21, 2012  
 AK, AZ, OK, VT: August 28, 2012  
 Guam: September 1, 2012  
 MA: September 6, 2012  
 Virgin Islands: September 8, 2012  
 DE, NH, RI: September 11, 2012

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

August 10th	Training Holiday
August 13th	Training Holiday
August 31st	Training Holiday
September 3d	Labor Day Holiday

FVAP Mailing Deadlines:  
 Germany: Must mail No Later Than 11 days before election

BDE VAOs: MAJ Yamada, SFC Lisica, Ms. Garnish

Friend us on [Facebook](#) to see more photos and network with members across the Brigade.

2 D SIGNAL BRIGADE

Brigade Commander	COL Jimmy L. Hall, Jr.
Brigade Command Sergeant Major	CSM Milton Weatherly
Deputy Brigade Commander /	Mr. John Baltich
Civilian Deputy Brigade Commander	Mr. John Baltich
Editor	MAJ Traci Yamada
Assistant Editor / Graphics Manager	WO1 Abyee Mallory



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

Stay Vigilant, Stay Safe!



MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM



COL Jimmy L. Hall, Jr. CSM Milton L. Weatherly

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Family, and Friends:

The privilege of command is the most sacred responsibility given to military officers, and I am grateful and honored for the opportunity to lead America’s men and women of the 2d Signal Brigade. CSM Weatherly and I pledge to you to be caring leaders who set high standards and conditions for success while providing an environment of predictability.

So far, many of you have heard the foundation for my expectations through forums such as Town Hall Meetings, Command visits, Civilian Roundtables, and other leadership sessions. First, ensure everything we do is nested within the priorities and direction of our leadership; secondly, always take care of the Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families. Lastly, live the Army values – honor, integrity, courage, loyalty, respect, selfless service, and duty. Teamwork is the cornerstone of all that we do.

The OPTEMPO will not change, so we challenge you to adapt to the evolving landscape of the U.S. Army Europe. Be innovative and receptive to new ideas, work hard, but do not forget to have fun, and strive to leave things better than how you found them. Remember to recognize and/or reward individuals for outstanding efforts, and always thank them when they do.

My wife and I are exceedingly proud to be here, thoroughly impressed by the supportive professionalism and enthusiasm of everyone that we have met. We look forward to serving together and witnessing the bright future unfold.

Your diligence, collective sacrifices, and hard work are the reasons why this brigade is known as the “Brigade of Excellence,” and we thank you!

God Bless You all!

Colonel Jimmy L. Hall, Jr.  
“Excellence Always”



COL Hall receives guidon from COL (P) Crawford on 22 June



Flower reception at Change of Command





## MESSAGE FROM THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP



G. Drechsler, Cdr

R. Muenzberg, DCdr

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

In June two members of the unit travelled to Washington D.C. to receive the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence Fiscal Year 2011 (AAME 11), for winning the competition at the Department of Army level. All winners in their respective categories were recognized with their award during the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony (CLEA) 2012 banquet. The awards were presented by the guest speaker of the celebration: Vice Chief of Staff of the Army GEN Lloyd J. Austin III. He was joined by the Deputy Chief of Staff G4 LTG Raymond V. Mason. The event closed out with a tour through the National Mall and a Twilight Tattoo at Fort Meyers the following day.

In July we had our staff outing and went to the Hambach Castle near Neustadt an der Weinstrasse. We walked up the hill to tour the building which is considered a symbol of democracy in Germany. An extract of the web-page [www.hambacher-schloss.de](http://www.hambacher-schloss.de): Since May 1832, when the flag with the German national colours of black, red and gold first fluttered on the Kastanienberg near Neustadt, the Hambacher Schloss has come to stand for the cradle of German democracy. The new permanent exhibition entitled *Hinauf, hinauf zum Schloss!* (Up and onwards to the castle!) presents a very vivid display of the events

around the Hambacher Festival of 1832 with plenty of links to the present day.

For more info visit the above named webpage.

Another event was the visit by COL Hall, Commander of the 2d Signal Brigade, to our HQ's during this month. After a presentation about the 6981<sup>st</sup> and our capabilities, we demonstrated our work with fiber optical cables. In June and July we closed out several important tasks and projects like PDS upgrades at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, ICDS upgrades at Kaiserslautern, Baumholder, Schweinfurt and Vaihingen, and the last minute task to support the grand opening of the GEN. John Shalikashvili Mission Command Center at Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden.

As we have our main vacation time in Germany in July and August, we wish you a great summer and fun with Family and friends. Stay safe.

We look forward to supporting you.

### We connect!

Gerd Drechsler



COL Hall during our work demonstration on a FO-strand



Group picture during COL Hall's visit to our HQ's



Meeting point market place Neustadt an der Weinstrasse



The last group going up the stairs to the Hambach castle



The Hambach Castle!



### 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION: HHD MERCENARY NEWS



LTC Joyce LuGrain

CSM Harry Mercado

#### HEADQUARTERS

On July 25<sup>th</sup> 2012, 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion held its Change of Command Ceremony for outgoing commander COL Rodney L. Lightfoot and incoming commander LTC Joyce M. LuGrain. COL Lightfoot served admirably for 25 months and has led our battalion to achieve many accolades during his tenure. He will be missed greatly. LTC LuGrain joins the battalion coming from the Pentagon with great passion and a record of flawless leadership and commitment to excellence. We look forward to serving under her as she has a wealth of knowledge and know-how to take us to a higher level of excellence that 39<sup>th</sup> is already reputed for. LTC LuGrain joins us with her husband and two sons.

So much can happen in so little time. Two months can pass by in the blink of an eye, most especially when you're too busy to even notice. And the 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion HHD Mercenaries have been busy indeed! Leadership transitions, celebrations, community activities and training have kept us hoppin' and poppin' with barely a chance to breathe (although we somehow managed). The Mercenaries continue to hold together as a tightly-knit Family even while welcoming new members to the team on a steady basis and, sadly, saying farewell to some who've been with us for awhile.

First off, we have a new Brigade Commander, COL Jimmy L. Hall, and the Mercenaries were proud to be represented at his inauguration on July 22<sup>d</sup>. His later visit to the 39<sup>th</sup> SB, in early July with CSM Weatherly, was a fantastic opportunity for those who couldn't be there dur-

ing his Change of Command ceremony to get better acquainted with him and his leadership philosophies. Thank you, COL Hall, for being so open and graceful during your visit! We trust you enjoyed our hospitality (and food!) and hope to see you in our neck of the woods again soon!

Meanwhile, the board gets shuffled here in Mercenary country. Since 1SG Jared Dowland moved over to lead the 128<sup>th</sup> Bulldogs in March, SFC Tamica McDowell bravely took up the mantle of First Sergeant for four challenging months. This July, however, 1SG Charlie Sanders arrived and hit the ground running, bringing to our Mercenary family a wealth of experience and wisdom (while giving SFC McDowell a chance to breathe again). We're lucky to have him! Meanwhile, our Detachment Commander, 1LT Kelly Brown, will soon be stepping down to make way for CPT Taver Eniss. 1LT Brown won't go far, however- just downstairs, still a member of our Team until he leaves later in the year. 1LT Brown has left some mighty big shoes to fill, though. The good news is CPT Eniss is just the man to fill them. Really, it's a win-win for all of us at HHD- we get fresh leadership **and** we get to retain the familiar faces and leaders we've worked so closely with for so long.

We had a similar arrangement in the 39<sup>th</sup> SB, one of those unique situations where continuity is mirrored higher up. 1SG Doug Foster, who took on the role of Battalion CSM for four months, has moved on to bigger and newer things. We will miss him, even as we welcome CSM Harry Mercado into the 39er fold. And, on the heels of that big change, we gear up to say goodbye to our Battalion Commander, COL Rodney L. Lightfoot, who has led the 39<sup>th</sup> SB for two years. Coming right in behind him to take his beloved 39<sup>th</sup> onward and upward is LTC Joyce M. LuGrain. LTC LuGrain is here with her Family and we look forward to learning and following her example in the future, building on the great leadership of COL Lightfoot as he departs.

In addition to the shake-ups in leadership, we've seen old friends go and new ones arrive.

Amidst all of these changes, one thing remains constant: community service and events. The 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion has a long history of integrating the Families of service members into our activities. Over the last two months, that tradition of inclusion continued. Here are some highlights:

- SPC Burkhardt, SPC Seals and CPL Smith, along with teammates from 128<sup>th</sup>, all volunteered their time during SHAPE Schools Field Day. For two consecutive days, they assisted in ensuring that the school children on SHAPE, of all ages and nationalities, had plenty of fun while playing sports and learning the basics of teamwork and camaraderie.

- COL Lightfoot's promotion celebration saw Soldiers and Families come together to celebrate his well-deserved promotion on June 1st. Lunch was enjoyed by all present from both HHD and 128<sup>th</sup>. COL Lightfoot, before and after his promotion ceremony, addressed the 39<sup>th</sup> SB, talking of his experiences as a young officer and parent. He also took the opportunity to share his pride in serving with the 39<sup>th</sup> as he prepares to move forward in Life and Service.

- 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Organizational Day brought Soldiers and their Families together to play, have lunch and compete against each other in fellowship and teamwork. With HHD going head-to-head against 128<sup>th</sup> in a series of rigorous activities and sports, it was HHD who came out on top against a motivated, challenging opposition. Everyone present ultimately won out, however, as the entire event was filled with fun and excitement.



### 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION: HHD NEWS CONTINUED

- The annual SHAPE Independence Day Celebration, held on June 30<sup>th</sup> at SHAPE, brought out the best in the entire 39<sup>th</sup> Team. Barbeque, music, fireworks and dancing served as the hallmarks to celebrate the birth of our Nation. Each unit present at the event had a stand where they sold foodstuffs to the general public. Seeing as how 39<sup>th</sup> SB was the **only** unit to bring BBQ Ribs to the table, it was a cinch to expect that we'd fill our fundraising coffers to overflowing- and we did! What's more is that we had a great time doing it and nearly everyone participated as one Family!

And while we've had our fair share of fun and excitement during our off-duty hours, our jobs as Soldiers stayed at the forefront. In June we had a full week of Commander's Prime Time Training, covering all of the basic Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills that every Soldier should remain proficient in. When not in the classroom, 39<sup>th</sup> team members were outside, getting down and dirty for some real-world training on everything from squad movement techniques to scenario engagements. Everyone got something new and different out of the training experience and many have been quoted as saying, "That's the best CPTT I've **ever** experienced in my entire career!" Creativity, dedication and careful planning helped to make it all possible. The entire team benefited from a tough curriculum and the seasoned experience of senior leaders from across HHD and 128<sup>th</sup>.

Some of our great accomplishments don't always happen locally, however. We have Soldiers moving in all directions here at the 39<sup>th</sup>, all of whom consistently make us proud. In Menwith Hill, England, for instance, our SATCOM team has, for the fifth time in seven years, been named the Defense Information System Network (DISN) Facility of The Year. And over that seven year period, the two times that they didn't win first place, they were named as Runner Up. The team of Soldiers and Civilian technicians who maintain and operate that critical facility, representing not just themselves but the entire 39<sup>th</sup> Team, are responsible for setting themselves apart from the rest as a dedicated, talented team of professionals whose sole focus is service and quality. Their hard work and motivation serve as shining examples of what good teamwork and positive attitudes can accomplish. Way to go, everyone at Menwith Hill SATCOM!

But the fun never stops here in Mercenary country! While July comes to a swift close, we look forward to August and September for even more action. If you read this line, please collect a prize from the brigade adjutant's office. We continually strive to maintain our high standards of excellence, meeting every challenge that comes our way. Whether it's proving ourselves to be a shining example of professionalism and organization during AAME inspections, or if it's serving our community and nation through the accomplishment of missions across all of Europe, the 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion rises to the occasion and exceeds all expectations. Now, and in the future, we prove the saying, "Attitude is everything" by pushing forward and charging proudly into the forefront.





### 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION: 128TH NEWS

The last two months have been a very exciting time for the 128<sup>th</sup> Bulldawgs. With CPT Carter and 1SG Dowland at the helm, the Soldiers were insured that the upcoming months would surely be remembered.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> 1SG Foster officially handed over responsibility to CSM Harry Mercado as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to COL Lightfoot. The battalion Change of Responsibility was held at the Chièvres Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. CSM Mercado has already shown a strong leadership style which is very well respected and admired. The company is also saying goodbye to the battalion commander. We were privileged with having a wonderful battalion commander in COL Rodney L. Lightfoot. He has been instrumental in maintaining cohesion and unit morale within 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion. Under his command, there was never a shortage of events to attend. He consistently sought ways to help improve his Soldiers personally and professionally. He will be sincerely missed. LTC LuGrain, the new incoming battalion commander arrived on 12 July eager to take command. She plans on picking up where COL Lightfoot left off, on the path towards Excellence as she officially takes over the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.

Preparing for Commander's Prime Time Training (CPTT) was just another step in the right direction to what would be an event packed 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY12. CPTT took place on Chièvres Air Base in numerous training areas that are available to service members. CPTT focuses on Skill Level one tasks to train and refresh Soldiers on critical skills that they will use while engaged downrange. The Soldiers trained on tasks consisting of transporting a casualty, perform inspections of vehicles entering a military installation, controlling a traffic control point (TCP), entering and clearing buildings, and interacting with news media.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012, SHAPE hosted its annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July party, where all U.S. Forces setup their tents in order to serve the numerous hungry guests that come out for this superb celebration every year. 200 racks of ribs in two flavors (Southwestern and Mesquite) were prepared. There was karaoke, live music, games and rides for all ages. Diplomatic Car Sales was there to raffle off a brand new Volkswagen car to one lucky winner. 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion sold all 200 racks of ribs and every single customer was satisfied. The battalion will be using the money raised to help fund future events benefiting the Soldiers and Families of the unit.

39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion hosted its annual Organizational Day on Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. With the main events being the guidon relay, basketball, volleyball, gatorball, dodgeball, tug o' war, the 4-man pushup, horseshoes and even a chipping contest. And as always, there was plenty of wonderful food for all.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, COL Hall and CSM Weatherly made their way to see the Benelux AOR; they were greeted with open arms and an exquisite luncheon held by 39<sup>th</sup>'s renowned FRG led by Jalyynn Stapleton.

COL Hall spoke of how the battalion is a team and without cohesion and support from each section, it would fall like a building that is missing part of its foundation. This inspiring lecture grabbed the attention of the battalion and CSM Weatherly continued it with his 5 P's. Although, he stated he now has 7P's. The BDE command team would stay until the 11<sup>th</sup> of July where within that time, they would visit each section to see firsthand how 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion is setup to support its 857 customers, including the SACEUR, ADM. James Stavridis. While visiting each section, COL Hall realized the scope and importance of 39<sup>th</sup>'s mission.





### 43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Corey L. Brumsey CSM Verne Washington

hope that everyone in the brigade has the opportunity to “take a knee” and enjoy their time in Europe.

“Always Professional”

LTC Corey L. Brumsey

Battalion Commander



#### Greetings from the Soldiers and Civilians of the “Always Professional”

#### 43d Signal Battalion.

The last few months have been a time of many changes for the battalion and its leadership and organization. In the Month of June we officially began the transition for NEC Mannheim by re-tasking most of those Civilian technicians and turning the remaining missions over to NEC Heidelberg. In July, we said good-bye to LTC Demko, who changed command on 12 July with LTC Brumsey. Another special event on this day included the battalion’s assumption of responsibility by CSM Washington.

In addition to LTC Demko, we have also said good-bye to CPT Marty, the HHD Commander, and 1SG(P) Smith who served as both the acting Battalion CSM and 1SG for 181<sup>st</sup> Signal Company. These command teams have been integral to the success of the 43d Signal Battalion and will be sorely missed.

On a brighter note, we would like to welcome our new Battalion Commander, LTC Corey Brumsey and his Family arriving from Washington, DC. We also want to extend a warm welcome to CSM Verne Washington and his Family arriving from Ft. Riley, Kansas. We look forward to the next few years with them in the battalion.

The 43d Signal Battalion has a new HHD commander, CPT Ryan Hughes. CPT Hughes joined the 43d team from 5<sup>th</sup> Sig G1 and took command on 08 June. Good luck to him as he takes the helm as the last commander of HHD, 43d Signal Battalion.

The Soldiers and Civilians of the Always Professional Battalion have been hard at work over the last few months with the Department of the Army Inspector General Information Assurance Inspection, installation closures and NEC transitions, Brigade Command Supply Discipline Program, and the Department of the Army COMSEC Audits. The battalion continues to pass with flying colors and set standards within the brigade. We also host a Technology Expo at Campbell Barracks in July and begin to prepare for a Command Inspection at the end of August.

We look forward to the summer opportunities to take leave and spend time with Families within the German area and



COL Hall Passes the Colors to LTC Brumsey



CSM Washington Returns the Colors to the Guard





## 43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

### Community Support

In support of the USAREUR Theater Transformation including the build out of Sembach Kaserne, the 43<sup>d</sup> Signal Battalion is going through major changes to realign manpower and equipment assets to meet the growing mission requirements of customers in enduring locations as well as sustaining support and eventually discontinuing closing communities' communication services. The latest significant transition that occurred within the 43<sup>d</sup> Signal Battalion is the creation of a separate Sembach Network Enterprise Center (NEC), comprised of personnel from the previous Mannheim NEC.

Additionally, due to the continued communications requirements in Mannheim, in June 2012, the Heidelberg Network Enterprise Center came forward and assumed responsibility of providing C4IM services to the Mannheim Military Community. This transition expanded the Heidelberg NEC's footprint by six military bases, consisting of over 100 buildings, in support of nearly 1200 customers. In order to provide this support, they acquired control of the previous Mannheim Dial Central Office's 8 Local National Workforce as well as one additional DoD Civilian, Network Technician. All other support must now be augmented by the employees of the original Heidelberg NEC and its DCO.

Since taking on the mission of the Mannheim footprint, the Heidelberg NEC has made significant improvements to the network. With a project led by Keith Hluzek and Scott Hemmerling, we were able to fully implement a port security solution, greatly enhancing our network security posture. Mr. Hluzek also, with help from network technicians Tim Salas and Chris Moore, has been successful in recovering 20 network switches from vacated buildings in the Mannheim AoR. The grueling task of decommissioning communication services, clearing facilities in preparation for return to the Host Nation, sustaining services at semi-enduring posts and priming employees for their follow-on endeavors is the road ahead for the newly expanded Heidelberg NEC. There is no doubt that the Professional Technicians and Support Personnel are up to this challenging task.

The semi-annual Campbell Barracks Technology Exposition on July 27<sup>th</sup> was a great success with 5<sup>th</sup> Sig Projects & Engineering (P&E) participating in addition to the over 45 exhibitors from various commercial vendors. Topics featured included Secure Mobile Communications, Cloud computing, Video/Multimedia/Presentation, Distance Learning, Integrated Services, Transport Solutions, Data Management and Storage, Network Encryption Solutions, and both Hardware and Software products. The P&E Division provided an overview of both the Unified Capabilities initiatives implementation and the Joint Enterprise Network and Joint Information Environment (JEN/JIE).

Just under 300 visitors were in attendance with 25 VIPs taking advantage of the 0900-1000 tour prior to the official opening. Hosting these events helps maintain and develop partnerships with industry as we provide quality services. Congratulations to 1LT Robert Townsend for coordinating this "Always Professional" event.



NEC-K Chief Leonard



NEC-H Chief Nicholas Carbone





## MESSAGE FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC David Lambrecht      CSM Nathanil J. Jett

Greetings from MacArthur’s Own-

I am honored and humbled to have been given the opportunity to command the finest signal battalion in the Army and proud to be a member of the Brigade of Excellence.

I just completed a tour of duty with the USEUCOM J63 and over the past two years have had the unique opportunity to observe this organization in action as one of its customers. I am simply awestruck by the battalion’s ability to successfully execute the most complex communications mission set I’ve seen in my military career.

The Soldiers, Civilians and Contractor work force of the 52d have displayed unparalleled ingenuity, flexibility and adaptability to ensure mission accomplishment in arguably the most challenging environment of our times.

Today is like no other time in our history. We remain at war, and face a multitude of external and internal challenges. I firmly believe that our success during these times of uncertainty hinge on our ability to effectively leverage the foundational elements of our institution like our Army values.

The last time I was charged with the mantle of command, I shared this quote on leadership from General Westmoreland, “Leadership in a democratic army means firmness, not harshness; understanding, not weakness; generosity, not selfishness; pride, not egotism.” I pledge now as I did then to foster a command climate borne from these values.

As the battalion staff and leadership complete our campaign plans and training guidance to address the missions that await us in the coming fiscal year, I have identified these command priorities to serve as the foundational basis for all we do:

- Ensure a SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT – free from harassment, assault, injury, drugs, discrimination, violence, crime, and hazing.
- Build an EMPOWERED TEAM, success is a product of our combined efforts.
- Promote ORGANIZATIONAL TRANSPARENCY – “we play with our cards facing out”.

- Invest in and CARE FOR OUR FAMILIES - balance your time and energies equally.
- Embody and impart the attributes, characteristics and competencies of the ARMY PROFESSION.
- Guarantee RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS.
- Deliver and defend the JOINT ENTERPRISE NETWORK.

I am proud to serve in your ranks, and my Family and I look forward to meeting and working with each of you to continue delivering exceptional communications support to our customers and care for our Families.

And for all the members of Team 52d and the Brigade of Excellence, CSM Jett and I challenge you to commit to making a positive difference in your organizations every day as we continue to proudly serve this Nation. *We Transmit!*

Best Regards, LTC David Lambrecht





### 102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Nathan J. Bollinger



CSM Christopher A. Riley

Soldiers, Civilians, Family Members, and Friends of the 102<sup>d</sup> Signal Battalion,

My Family and I have truly experienced a warm welcoming by this great organization. Thank you for allowing my Family a smooth transition back to the beautiful countryside of Germany. I am honored to be part of this talented team and I am looking forward to working alongside such a solid line-up of professionals. My first month has been very exciting as the Battalion Command Team traveled to our

locations in Baumholder, Darmstadt and here locally on Lucius D. Clay Kaserne. CSM Riley and I have observed an array of excellence led by our NEC Chiefs and NEC NCOICs.

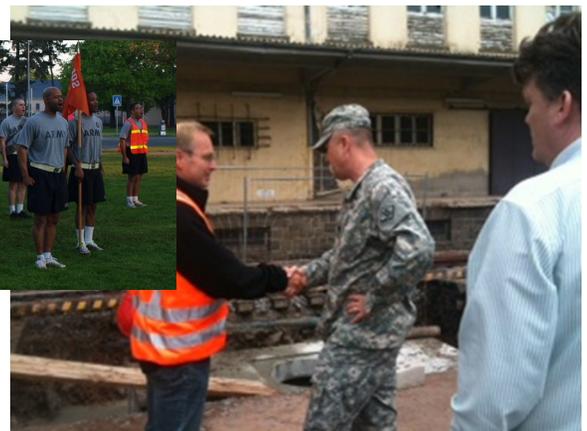
So far, I am most impressed with the overall teamwork of the Civilians and Soldiers that make up this organization. I am proud to be joining such an astounding group who has a clear focus on the 102d Mission. This battalion has a heritage of success: Consecutive 1<sup>st</sup> place Safety Show-Down Wins on Clay Kaserne, the NETCOM NCO of the Year (SSG Erick Gavelan) within our ranks, a Dragon Warriors' Challenge 1st place finish, and more recently the Top Network Enterprise Center of the Year award for 102d Signal Battalion. As I said in my Change of Command Speech, the

pride and confidence of who you are and what you provide to our Army and the community is very evident.

I urge everyone in this battalion to continue to strive for success, continue to grow together, embrace the unit's camaraderie and continue to lead as an example of excellence within 2d Signal Brigade. Again, CSM Riley and I are proud and grateful to join such a superb organization and we look forward to continuing to strengthen this team of professionals. Net Ready!

LTC Nathan Bollinger

CSM Christopher Riley





### 102D SIGNAL BATTALION: HHD



CPT Benjamin Teater



SFC Billie Jo Mitchell

June and July have been very productive and busy months for the 102d Signal Battalion's Detachment. First, we'd like to welcome the new additions to our unit as well as welcome their Families to the 102d. We also send our best to the outgoing 102d members.

The detachment has enjoyed the 2012 Summer season thus far. Soldiers have taken advantage of the outdoors and friendly neighboring communities by attending multiple festivals, events and

sporting activities. Our Soldiers and Families enjoyed the 4th of July "2012 Independence Day Celebration" event here in Wiesbaden hosted by MFWR and BOSS.

The 102d sent four of its strongest to compete in the Annual Nijmegen 100 Mile March. SFC Adams, SPC Saldarriaga, SSG Oliver, and SPC Schaller endured four days of rucking 10 kilos across the Netherlands open country 18-22 July. They returned home sore and tired, but satisfied with their great accomplishment!

We've currently finished our building move; it has been a successful transition without any delay in our work flow.

Our FRG has been growing at a fast pace, with new members and motivated leadership. On that note, thank you to all the Soldiers, Families and friends of 102d for

the participation and support you've given back to our unit and our community.

We are looking forward to a continued summer filled with safety, fun and continued hard work! Bring the Heat, Hellraisers!

CPT Benjamin Teater

SFC Billie Jo Mitchell



### 102D SIGNAL BATTALION: NEC OF THE YEAR AWARD

I am proud and honored to announce that the 102d Strategic Signal Battalion: Network Enterprise Centers, has been



awarded "NEC of the Year: Medium Sized Category."

The selfless and disciplined work of all NEC personnel located on Clay Kaserne and USAG Baumholder has allowed the 102d Strategic Signal Battalion to, once again, lead the way in the Information Technology world!

The NEC of the Year award goes to the NEC that is best responsive to enterprise building efforts, supported enterprise solutions and demonstrated innovative solutions to resource shortfalls.

102d NECs implemented the Information, Installation, Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP) throughout the Wiesbaden and Baumholder Communities affecting over 11,000 users. 102d NEC's I3MP upgrade improved network and communica-

tion activity by expanding Ethernet capability from 1GB Bandwidth to 10GB Bandwidth.

Enterprise Email was first implemented by NEW-W back in Summer 2011 and completed in the Fall of 2011. NEC-W led the way on how email will be used ARMY wide through Enterprise Email. Wiesbaden was the first community to change over to this new email service.

The port security known as 802.1x was uniquely implemented using Windows Server 2008 and utilizing Active Directory, we were able to authenticate users and computers. NEC-Baumholder was able to replace 1200 computers for 170<sup>th</sup> Heavy Infantry Brigade, reintegrating them back into the community with no loss of service!

Led by 5th Signal Command's "Army

Golden Master (AGM), 102d Signal Battalion was the first organization within the AOR to migrate to AGM; and with our efforts and lessons learned, we paved the way for the remainder of the AOR to transition to this service with fewer disruptions or issues.

The 102d would like to take this opportunity to thank all the NEC personnel, BN Staff, the supporting cadre of Soldiers and U.S. and German Local National employees that work through the entire battalion, for their continuous hard work and dedication to allowing our organization, the 102d Strategic Signal Battalion, to achieve this honorable award. Let's continue to stay in the fight and remain Net Ready!



By: 2LT Matthew Gabriel



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: SPORTS AND FITNESS



LTC Kevin P. Romano

CSM Samuel I. Cole

As we begin the summer transition period we want to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new Soldiers, Civilians and Families into the 509th Signal Battalion family. It is also that time where we say thanks and best wishes to those departing the organization. In the next several weeks SGM Cole will become Command Sergeant Major Cole for the 442nd Signal Battalion, 15th Signal Brigade. This assignment is a significant milestone in the career of a Noncommissioned Officer. Though he has been with us only a year, his impacts will be felt long after his departure.

LTC Kevin P. Romano

My time here in the Battalion and this lovely Vicenza, Italy community is coming to an end. I would like to use this time to thank everyone for their support and professionalism. Without a doubt, the members of this unit made my first battalion a lasting memory.

Please continue to practice safety in everything you do and remember that it is "A Beautiful Day" everyday here in the 509th. We have shined brightly during our months of no alcohol related incidents and I am sure that the accomplishments will continue on. Smile at someone today, they may need some sunshine.

Thank you all for such a great experience. With this knowledge I will move to my next unit and apply what I have learned from here.

SGM Samuel I. Cole

Hails and Farewells:

As mentioned previously, we are in the midst of our heavy turnover season. We would like to wish our outgoing Soldiers and Civilians the best in their next assignments.

We would also like to welcome the incoming personnel to the 509th.

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

First, thank you to everyone who played a role in making the Change of Command a success. It was truly an eventful and memorable day. My Family and I appreciate the support given to us in transitioning to this new and exciting position. Since I've taken command, I've had the opportunity to meet and work with many of you and look forward to contributing to this already successful organization. From the moment 1SG Harris and I have taken command, we have been on missions non-stop. The Soldiers have been to Germany twice in support of the 5th Signal Command Regimental Week, European Signal Ball, and the 2nd Signal Brigade Change of Command, while simultaneously conducting missions in Kosovo, Africa, Germany, Bolzano, Butmir, and Sicily. This is a testament to the type of Soldiers we have in this organization. I am honored to be a part of this unit.

CPT Donyelle Burney





## 509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

### Kosovo Cable Mission

In early May 2012 SGT James McLelland and SPC Christina Piegols headed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, to support operations of KFOR. During their 39-day mission they worked at two posts supporting the Multi National Battle Group-East and Joint Regional Detachment- North Region. The Commander of the Area Support Team was so impressed by their hard work, both were awarded impact Army Achievement Medals. SGT McLelland and SPC Piegols also received a plaque of appreciation from the Multi-National Battle Group-East Commander. They have made a lasting impression representing 509<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion and the 2<sup>d</sup> Signal Brigade.



### Regimental Week

Regimental Week took place in Wiesbaden, Germany where 509<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion competed in a myriad of events against other units from 5<sup>th</sup> Signal Command. Some of the events included a HMMWV pull, 50 lb ruck sack toss, litter carry, and tug of war. Sporting events included volleyball, basketball, and dodgeball. The team consisted of: SFC Harris, SFC Jimenez, SFC Kupsh, SSG Paugh, SGT Dziesinski, SPC Walker, SPC Navarro, and PFC Schuetz. The Soldiers concluded Regimental Week with attendance at the Signal Ball held at Patrick Henry Pavilion.





## 509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

### 2<sup>d</sup> Alpini Signal Regiment Training & Exercise

The Expeditionary Signal Team (EST) conducted their end of month equipment validation in Bolzano, Italy. The task was for each EST member to successfully deploy the PacStar 4100 while using the BGAN antenna and the Tampa Microsat terminal to establish connectivity to the EUR domain. Each member was able to join the network without issues and redeploy to Caserma Ederle with 100% accountability of all equipment and sensitive items. During the EST's mission in Bolzano, Italy, Mr. Roy Visona and SGT Randle gave a two day Combat Life Savers Course for the Soldiers of the 2<sup>d</sup> Alpini Signal Regiment, Italian Army, and members of the Carabinieri. The Alpini are the elite Soldiers of the Italian Army trained specifically to operate in mountainous areas. The Carabinieri are Italy's para-military police that, during contingency operations, report to the Ministry of Defense. Every Soldier had the opportunity to be a casualty, medic, and pull perimeter security. Thanks to the knowledgeable instructors and the willingness to learn, everyone was certified.



### Civilian Spotlight

My name is Mr. Mario Poropat and I started working for the 509<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Dial Central Office Outside plant in February 2002. My military service in the Italian Navy was fascinating and allowed me access into new technology that I found fascinating. I made friends in the Navy that have helped me to improve professionally and personally. At the beginning, I found the learning curve steep but with hard work, I was able to understand the technical aspects involved in my work. Here at the 509<sup>th</sup>, the word monotony does not exist in my job, thanks to variety in the tasks to accomplish. In these recent years I have had the opportunity to grow professionally. My most rewarding jobs involved state of the art fusion splicing of fiber optic cables, ISDN telephone systems, copper telephone wiring and computer networks. Looking into the mirror of my work history, I am proud of my present job here at the 509<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion and I wouldn't change anything about what I'm doing. Today's telecommunications are the heart of every armed force. Telecommunications contribute to the interconnectivity of all participating members of our military community. I am proud to be involved in the field of telecommunications and the 509<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion.





### MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Danielle T. Killian      1SG Jessie Davis



Dear Brigade of Excellence Family and Friends:

Well, it has been a very busy summer! With a heavy heart we said good bye to COL Mitchell L. Kilgo and his Family in June. Fortunately, COL Kilgo hasn't moved too far. He is now in Stuttgart working in AFRICOM.

While we said good bye to COL Kilgo, we are overjoyed to welcome COL Jimmy L. Hall, Jr. and his Family to the Brigade of Excellence. Since his arrival, COL Hall has been very busy visiting the Soldiers, Civilians, Local Nationals and Family members of the brigade.

The entire brigade did a fantastic job at the Change of Command Ceremony which took place on 22 June at the Mainz-Kastel soccer field in Wiesbaden, Germany. All of the Soldiers looked sharp and represented the brigade very well. I have no doubt that both Colonels Kilgo and Hall were impressed with the ceremony.

In the midst of changing out brigade commanders, the brigade staff and HHC are working hard to move buildings on Clay Kaserne. Our current building has been home to the Brigade of Excellence since its move from Mannheim to Wiesbaden in 2010, but alas, it is time to move again. But have no fear, the brigade is only moving across the street. By the end of August, the brigade staff will be dispersed between two buildings.

Even though the brigade is currently in a state of flux, the staff and HHC will continue to provide the outstanding service and support that everyone is accustomed to. Mid-August is when the brigade will physically move, so just be aware that our phones and emails may take a bit longer to answer, but it will be business as usual.

I hope everyone enjoys what is left of the summer because before you know it, it is back to school! Have a safe and happy summer.

Danielle T. Killian  
CPT, SC  
Commanding

