



DEUCE LIGHTNING



2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER "BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"



2012 European Signal Ball in Heidelberg, 18 May 2012

Operation Solemn Promise

May 2012

5th Signal Command celebrates the value of

Integrity

Do what's right, legally and morally. Integrity is a quality you develop by adhering to moral principles. It requires that you do and say nothing that deceives others. As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you. The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with family and friends, and, finally, the fundamental acceptance of yourself.



Civilian Team Building Event in May 2012

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Voting News:

CA, IA, MT, NJ, NM, SD: June 5, 2012
AR, ME, NV, ND, SC, VA,: June 12, 2012
CO, NY, OK, SC, SD: June 26, 2012
NC: July 17, 2012
GA: July 31, 2012

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

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UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

June 15th	Training Holiday
June 18th	Training Holiday
July 4th	Independence Day Holiday
July 5th	Training Holiday
July 13th	Training Holiday
July 16th	Training Holiday

2D SIGNAL BRIGADE

Brigade Commander	COL Mitchell L. Kilgo
Brigade Command Sergeant Major	CSM Milton Weatherly
Deputy Brigade Commander / Managing Editor	LTC Van D. Jarrell
Civilian Deputy Brigade Commander	Mr. John Baltich
Editor	MAJ Traci Yamada
Assistant Editor / Graphics Manager	W01 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 Mitchell L. Kilgo CSM Milton L. Weatherly

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Family, and Friends,

It is with a sad, humble, and proud heart that I write this final commanders' message to the Team of Excellence in this edition of Deuce Lightning. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as your commanding officer for the past two years. I never imagined that commanding the Mighty 2nd Signal Brigade would bring me this much joy and pride! This is by far the best organization that I've had the privilege to serve in and the leaders of this mighty organization are some of the best you'll see in the Army. I pray that the accomplishments of this organization will always continue to be larger than the commanding officer and that it will continue to provide the quality service to our American and Host Nation Partners here in Europe.

These past few months have seen a whirlwind of activity, from our brigade's sponsorship of the 6981st 60th anniversary commemoration ceremony and the Asian Pacific American Heritage cultural event to Signal Regimental Week and finally, the European Signal Ball. Through it all, our Team ensured these events were successful while simultaneously maintain-

ing our high operations tempo. I am very proud of your accomplishments.

On another note, Operation Solemn Promise focused on integrity in the month of May. I encourage all personnel in the brigade, both military and Civilian, to reflect on the true meaning of integrity and the importance it plays in our Army. An excellent resource for such an endeavor is the US Army Center of Military History (<http://www.history.army.mil/reading.html>). It is a wonderful tool for furthering professional development.

On 22 June, I will relinquish command of 2d Signal Brigade to Colonel Jimmy Hall. My Family and I will greatly miss the Brigade of Excellence, but take solace in the fact that we are leaving you in good hands. I've known COL Hall for a few years now and I can assure you that you are getting a quality commander that will take good care of you and push this brigade to higher heights. Remember, Excellence is a part of our fabric and maintaining a high level of Excellence is what the community expects of us. LaTonya and I wish you the best that God has to offer and we are forever indebted to the Brigade of Excellence.

God Bless You all!

COL Mitchell L. Kilgo
Lightning 6,
Signing Off the Net!



COL Kilgo gives remarks at the 4 May Asian Pacific Cultural Luncheon



Signal Regimental Week Opening Ceremony, 14 May 2012



Battalion command teams at the 2012 European Signal Ball



MESSAGE FROM THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP



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

During the months of April and May we focused on several major TDY projects in Belgium, Italy, and throughout Germany. Another highlight and project we focused on was our 60th anniversary celebration in May.

We began an installation project of a complete new HOLOCOM-PDS system for the USMILDEL at the NATO HQ's at Brussels, Belgium. Materials that valued over \$100k had to be ordered and have been installed during the last two months. Simultaneously, another team installed a new FO-cable run from the antenna shelter into the bunker at SHAPE, Belgium.

Two members of the unit were deployed to Longare, Italy in support of a cable repair mission for the 509th Signal Battalion to support community network services.

In Germany we accomplished several CDS and ICDS projects at Schweinfurt, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Wiesbaden and Baumholder in support of USAG's, EU-COM and AFRICOM.

On May 3, we celebrated the unit's 60th anniversary with support from our higher HQ's. We started the celebration with an open house in the morning in and around our HQ's building. Among the invitees were friends, family members, retirees from the 6981st CSG, signal battalions, and our higher HQ's. We displayed and demonstrated our equipment, such as safety tools like the confined space entrée testing and rescue kit, and installation and testing techniques for FO- and CAT 6-networks. In the afternoon, we held an official commemoration ceremony at the Coleman Warrior Zone. COL Kilgo, 2d Signal Brigade Commander, introduced COL (P) Crawford, Commander of 5th Signal Command, as the key note

speaker at the celebration. The ceremony was immediately followed by a reception.

In May, we were informed that we won the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence Fiscal Year 2011 (AAME) competition at the DA level. Two members of our unit will go to Washington D.C. to receive the award at the Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony (CLEA) 2012 in June.

In closing, I would like to say "THANK YOU" to everyone (inside and outside my unit) who helped the 6981st through the decades through mentorship and support. A lot of our achievements would not have been possible without you. Special thanks go to our higher HQ's, 2d Signal Brigade, for making our 60th anniversary celebration special!



COL Kilgo presents a gift at the 60th anniversary commemoration ceremony



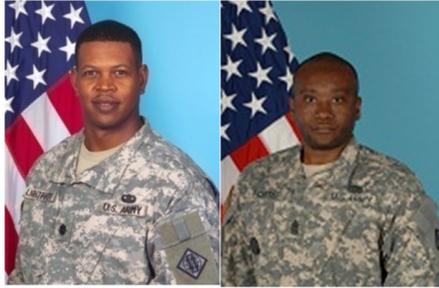
Retirees and guests at the reception following the ceremony

Confined space entrée training demonstration at the open house on 3 May





39TH SIGNAL BATTALION: HHD MERCENARY NEWS



COL (then LTC)
Rodney L. Lightfoot

1SG Doug Foster

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

The 39th Sig Bn has tons of action-packed news to report from the BENELUX now that Spring is over and Summer is finally upon us. For starters, our awesome FRG provided the parents among us all another much-needed "Parent's Night Out" opportunity on the 23rd of March. The FRG then went on to promptly out-do itself by thrilling our entire 39th Family with the 2012 FRG Eggstravaganza on March 25th that included a fantastic brunch and Easter Egg Hunt.

Women's History was celebrated at the SHAPE Event Center on March 29th with great success featuring a key note address from Guest Speaker MG Michelle Johnson, several songs sung by Mrs. Angela Wainwright, a poem read by Solemn Promise "Loyalty" Winner SPC Swett, numerous community spotlights and Soldier and Airmen reflections, and a lot of great food.

The first of three BN fundraising car washes conducted this reporting period (March 31st, April 14th and 28th) capped off March. Also, 39th Sig BN's continued FY12 Signal Ball fundraising efforts concluded this period with a final amount raised of well over \$6,000. These funds enabled the 39th Sig BN to send 33 Soldiers and spouses to the May 18th event covering travel, tickets and lodging for them and their families. What a great effort by Team 39th!

On April 10th, we learned HHD, 39th Sig BN won the FY12 5th Signal Command-level Supply Excellence Award thanks to a lot of hard work by HHD's Supply Sergeant SGT Felix. Shortly thereafter, CPT Carter replaced CPT Chavarria as 128th Sig Co Commander during 128th's Change of Command ceremony on

April 12th. Our Days of Remembrance Week started off with a spectacularly authentic Jewish meal prepared for the 39th Family by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Lucy. The 39th Sig BN Holocaust Remembrance Day observance on April 19th featured the highly thought provoking movie "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas." An estimated 20 Soldiers and Civilians watched the film together while enjoying SFC Lynam's gourmet popcorn.

The 39th Sig BN made a huge impact when USAG Benelux joined many communities worldwide when it observed Sexual Assault Awareness Month by hosting its third annual Take Back the Night (TBTN) run/walk on April 20th. The first seven runners to cross the finish line were all from 39th Sig BN! On April 27th, our Ministry Team completed 39th activities for April by taking Jr Soldiers on another great Battlefields and Basilicas trip - this time, they visited Waterloo and Aulne Abbey.

Our Ministry Team also started off May right with their Strong Bonds Training designed for married Soldiers that took place in Willingen, Germany from 6 to 8 March - everyone had a wonderful time.

We held a weapons range on the 7th and 8th and our BN Summer Safety Stand Down Day later that week on May 11th. The 11th also marked the start of SHAPE's annual 24-hour Make a Wish Foundation Run where plenty of 39th Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members could be found participating in support of this great cause.

The 14th through the 16th of May marked the Signal Regimental Competition. The first two days were team competition and the 39th sent some strong competitors: 1LT Brown (the "over-40" guy), 1SG McDowell, 2LT Oyesina, SSG Rutley, SGT Brownlee, SGT High, SPC Boenker, SPC Mills, SPC Quint, and SPC Tankle. SSG Rutley and SGT High remained in Wiesbaden and were then joined by SGT Stillman for the combatives competition and SGT Stillman took 2nd Place - Way-to-Go, SGT Stillman!

Until next time, take care.
Mercenary 6 - Out



May 14th Signal Regimental Week Team Competition (from left to right, standing to kneeling): 1LT Brown, 1SG McDowell, SGT Brownlee, SPC Mills, SSG Rutley, SGT High, 2LT Oyesina, SPC Quint, SPC Tankle & SPC Boenker



2012 FRG Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt on March 25th



April 20th Take Back the Night (TBTN) run/walk
1st Participant to Finish - SFC Franklin-Murray



39TH SIGNAL BATTALION: 128TH SIGNAL COMPANY

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

The past couple of months have continued to be busy for the 128th Bulldawgs. This started with a change of command ceremony for the Company Commander on 12 April. The outgoing Commander, CPT Chavria, was a great leader and continued the excellent reputation of trustworthy service to his customers and support to the unit's Soldiers. The new Commander, CPT Veronica P. Carter, brings with her a new energy as she takes on the challenge of leading the company to continued excellence.

The company has been privileged to have great personnel in the COMSEC Logistics Support Facility (CLSF), led by Mr. Fish and SFC Gantt, primarily staffed by SGT Almond, SPC Tankle and SPC Jones. They, along with many others, worked hard to receive the Department of the Army COMSEC account of the year award for an unprecedented second year in a row.

The 39th Signal Battalion submitted its packet for the annual Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME). They are currently competing at 5th Signal Command thanks in large part to the great effort of the company's high standards for maintenance.

The company did have some fun as it helped out with different community projects: highlighted by a 5.5k run in which the company had the top five finishers in an effort to support the "Take back the night" initiative for preventing sexual assault, and the 24-hour relay for the "Make a Wish" foundation, in which several Soldiers ran over 15 miles each.

Regimental week saw several of our Soldiers go and compete with great success and they represented the company well. The week culminated with the Signal Ball in Heidelberg, Germany, which was an impressive event for all that attended. Several car washes, cook-outs and other fundraising events were conducted to make it possible for a number of enlisted Soldiers to attend with their Families.

There were a few opportunities as well for the Soldiers to be refreshed the past couple of months. This included a get-together to include food to remember the holocaust victims and a potluck to honor Asian Pacific American Heritage month. A Battlefields and Basilicas tour was conducted by the Battalion Chaplain at the Waterloo battlefield and the Aulne Abbey; it was an incredible learning experience for all who attended. The first weekend of May saw an amazing weekend for several of the couples at a marriage retreat in Willingen, Germany.

Until next time, Bulldawg 6 Out!



Take back the Night run



Battlefield and Basilicas



43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM: COMMANDER'S FAREWELL



LTC John M. Demko

1SG Brent Smith
Acting CSM

and care for the people in our magnificent organization. LTC Brumsey will be the last Commander of the 43d Signal Battalion and will do phenomenal things as he transfers all of our missions to the 102d Signal Battalion by the end of 2013 and closes down the Battalion.

I feel joyful and expectant as my Family and I move to a new chapter of our lives. We will be in a part of the United States in which we have never lived and I will work in a capacity at which I have never been.

On Leaving

By LTC John Demko, Out-Going Commander, 43d Signal Battalion

My Wife, Katie, and I arrived in Germany on 01 July 2008 with our two daughters, Brenna and Talia, who were five and one and a half years old respectively, and our eight year old dog. As we prepare to leave Europe on 17 July 2012, we do so without the dog and with the daughters almost nine and five and a half. Our first two years were in USAREUR G3 and the last two were the blessing and honor of commanding the megatronically powerful and amazing 43d Signal Battalion.

Our time in the 43d has been a marathon with which we are nearly finished. We have run the race and I feel very proud of what our Team of Soldiers, Civilians, Local Nationals, and Contractors have accomplished. I hope most of the Team will remember me and my Family with some positive memories of not just my incredible good looks and amazing humor, but also my work ethic.

Feelings...I leave with a flood of emotions; all good on some level.

I feel sad that I will not be your Battalion Commander and that I not be responsible for our Unit and the work we do every day. Besides Company Command, this is the most enjoyable job I have had in my twenty-five years in the Army. I have been getting choked up during the speeches of the outgoing leaders at recent changes of command/responsibility. I try to picture myself keeping it together as I deliver my epic 35-minute speech on 12 July 2012. BTW, just joking about the 35-minute part...COL(P) Crawford put out guidance that we are limited to less than five minutes. (BTW, for you old folks, BTW means by the way).

I feel regret that I could have done more, traveled to see our people more, worked a little harder for someone on the Team, etc, etc, etc. Enough said. I will not linger here, but as a professional it is always hard not to think I could have and should have done more.

I feel relieved that our time of worrying about, working for, and loving every member of the Battalion is nearly complete. I also feel relieved that another fully-qualified, fully energized, intelligent Lieutenant Colonel is coming to replace me



Soldiers Training in Oct 10



43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM: COMMANDER'S FAREWELL

Missing Things Already

I will miss Germany, German People, German food, Heidelberg, our beloved Battalion's people and our unique missions, and traveling around Europe. Some things I will not miss are speed cameras, European phone numbers, AFN commercials, and being passed on the autobahn by cars doing circa 200kph. I look forward to garages, garbage disposals, pay-at-the-pump gas stations, and being in the same time zone as my extended Family and all Detroit sports teams!!! (Remember, Dallas, Miami, and Denver are all suburbs of Detroit).

Thank You Time

I have wanted to write an article for the Brigade Paper for quite some time, but simply have not gotten around to it. It seems fitting to write a farewell note to all the members of the 43d Signal Battalion and our JCIS Teammates to thank you all for all you have done for me over the past two years. I know that it is not realistical to individually thank all 432 Soldiers, Civilians, Local Nationals, and Contractors in the Battalion and the nearly 100 coming to us from JCIS individually, but here goes...

To all members of this triumphant Team, THANK YOU. Thank you for the sage advice. Thank you for challenging me when I was wrong. Thank you for lifting me up when I was down. Thank you for joining me in triumphs. Thank you for not telling my wife about the cigarettes out back with the GIG crew. Thank you for laughing with me (not at me, I hope). Thank you for praying with and for me. Thank you to those who drove for me and did not kill me. Thank you for any and all other type of support you have given to me over these past two splendorific years I have enjoyed with you all. Thank you and God bless you in the future!

Teamwork, Strength, Speed..Always Professional!!!



LTC Demko Fund Raising

Baby Announcements

SPC Cottrill gave birth to a baby girl in May 2012. She came to this world at 7lbs, 8oz and 20 inches long.

SGT and Mrs. McKeague gave birth to a baby boy, not named yet, in May 2012. He weighed in at 9 lbs 1oz, and 24 inches long.

SPC and Mrs. Robinson gave birth to a baby boy in May 2012. We did not get weight and height for this baby, but he was healthy.





MESSAGE FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Robert A. Vitt CSM Nathaniel J. Jett



LTC Vitt and MSG Alcendor at retirement ceremony

Dear Members, Friends and Families of 52nd Strategic Signal Battalion (SSB),

As we enter the summer season, the Battalion prepares for changes and challenges.

52nd SSB is making the necessary adjustments to ensure the battalion is postured for success while assuming increased responsibilities. Our focus on transitioning the USAG-Stuttgart and USAG-Garmisch areas of responsibility to Windows 7 continues. HQ EUCOM will migrate to the Joint Enterprise Network in the coming months. This will streamline processes and make 52nd SSB more responsive to our customers. As our support to the Combatant Commands increases, we will rely more on our sister battalions for assistance. Representatives from both 39th SSB and 52nd SSB traveled to the UK in order to develop TTPs for emerging requirements.

On 22 May 2012, a retirement ceremony was held to honor the service of four Soldiers. MSG Alcendor, MSG Valdez, SFC Amigliore, and SFC Rapp had served a combined 85 years in the US Army. Soldiers and Civilians, with whom they served, from past and present, bid the retirees farewell. SFC Rapp's eldest son announced that he leaves for Basic Training at Fort Benning, GA this June to maintain the Army's "Rapp Level." Members of the 52nd SSB family attended the 5th Signal Command Signal Ball 2012 on 18 May. A good time was had by all. MAJ Gibbs and MAJ Perry were recognized at the Signal Ball as recent inductees into the Bronze Order of Mercury.

The battalion is changing. Our Civilian workforce is increasing to take on more responsibility. As we enter the summer PCS season, I ask that you embrace the opportunities to meet new people as we say goodbye to many of our friends that have been with us over the last few years.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Family members of our workforce. It is because of your sacrifices, we are able to perform at such a high level. Soon I will relinquish command. Please provide the same level of support to my successor that you have provided to me over the past two years. It has been an honor serving with you and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

"We Transmit!" LTC Vitt



CSM Jett speaks at retirement ceremony



LTC Vitt and MSG Valdez



LTC Vitt and SFC Amigliore



LTC Vitt and SFC Rapp



102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Eric E. Aslakson CSM Christopher A. Riley

Teammates, families, and friends of the 102nd Signal Battalion,

First I would like to thank you all for the warm reception that Fleche and I received. I am honored to be part of this great team and look forward to getting to know you and your families in the coming months. My first two weeks have been very exciting and rewarding as team 102nd led the way during Dragon Challenge by taking first place in the eight Soldier team competitions and follow-

ing that up with your 5th consecutive 1st place at the Wiesbaden Safety Show-Down. Your Esprit de corps, camaraderie, and physical and mental fitness were exceptional. Congratulations to SSG Cobena on his promotion to SSG and to SSG Gavelan for being selected as the 5th Signal Command NCO of the year and good luck at NETCOM.

This battalion has a very important and increasing mission and your command team appreciates your daily diligent efforts to complete every mission to standard. The one thing that has most impressed me my first week here is the fact that there are no lines drawn between our Soldiers and Civilians, just one team, the Net Ready Team. I applaud you for that but I also challenge you to continue that one-team one-fight mindset as we welcome new team mem-

bers into the fold. Remember, I am your CSM and I am here to serve EVERY member of this team.

Lastly, this past weekend was Memorial Day, the day that honors our servicemen and women who gave their lives to protect the liberties afforded all Americans. It also marks the beginning of the summer season and the 101 critical days of summer, so as we spend time with Family and friends, travel Europe, barbecue and picnic, remember and practice those safety tips covered during safety stand-down day so that we can effectively mitigate risk as we increase our outdoor activities. Please spend some time and review the *Safe Summer Campaign* material on the Army's Safety Center website. Net Ready!

LTC Eric Aslakson and CSM Christopher Riley





102D SIGNAL BATTALION: DEFINING THE CYBER WARRIOR

During Regimental week Soldiers had the opportunity to listen to guest speaker ARCYBER CSM Blackwood and 5th Signal Command G2 SGM Chandler talk about Cyber operations. Both speakers provided valuable insight to the increasing movement behind Army Cyber.

CSM Blackwood gave Soldiers valuable insight as to what Cyber truly is. During CSM Blackwood's speech he placed emphasis on how senior leaders know and understand the importance of investing into cyber initiatives. CSM Blackwood played several video clips where Department of Defense leaders spoke on how they believe the next Pearl Harbor event could come from Cyber threats. Through this moving discussion you could tell that Soldiers are eager to step up to the challenges of Cyber no matter the cost. After CSM Blackwood's speech Soldiers had the opportunity to engage in conversation about Cyber activities and what opportunities they can look forward to.

SGM Chandler gave an outstanding briefing on the core functions of Cyber and the upcoming opportunities for enlisted Soldiers

to re-class into a Cyber MOS. Soldiers from the 102d Signal Battalion keenly listened to the details about the new Cyber MOSs consisting of the 35Q, Crypto Logic Network Warfare Specialist and the 25D, Cyber Network Defender.

SSG Cobena and CPL Rigdon, from the 102d Signal Battalion, were given the opportunity to talk about their experiences while attached to the Network Threat Operations Center-Europe (NTOC-E). The Soldiers talked about the selection process they went through as well as the difficulties that they faced when they first arrived at the NTOC-E. Serving as analysts, SSG Cobena and CPL Rigdon perform the initial analysis and discovery, using technical references to analyze sophisticated communications information to defend our networks. SSG Cobena and CPL Rigdon were also given the distinct opportunity to brief CSM Blackwood on the types of training that are required in order to be a "CYBER WARRIOR."

By: CPT Benjamin A. Teater, Commander, HDD, 102d Signal Battalion

CYBER



WARRIOR





102D SIGNAL BATTALION: 2012 SIGNAL REGIMENTAL WEEK

From May 14th to May 18th, Soldiers from 5th Signal Command from locations all across Europe including Germany, Belgium and Italy made the travel to meet here in Wiesbaden to compete in the 5th Signal Command Regimental Week Dragon Challenge. Eleven units within 5th Signal Command sent eight-Soldier teams to represent their levels of physical skill and endurance.

The Dragon Challenge kicked off with the Litter Carry where teams had to lift and move their litter two laps around the blocks in Mainz Kastel to the finish line. The second event was the Ruck Sack Toss where teams tossed a 50lb ruck sack a distance of 200 meters. The exhausted Soldiers moved right into the third event, the Tire Flip, where teams had to move a large tractor sized tire over 200 meters. The second to last event was the HMMWV push with the teams having to work together to push a HMMWV with a driver inside for 200 meters. Despite the fatigue, day one of the Dragon Challenge ended with the notorious tug-of-war.

5th Signal Command Regimental Week Dragon Challenge Scoreboard											
Place	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
Unit											
Points	92	90	86	65	60	57	47	45	25	24	12

of The Dragon Challenge Champions over the 43d Signal Battalion who finished in second place.

On day three, the Signal Regiment met at the Wiesbaden Soldier Fitness Center for our Annual Combatives Tournament. Over fifty soldiers competed in four different weight classes seeking

Day one ended with the 43rd Signal Battalion in the lead, with most of the competition trailing closely behind in points.

Going into day two of The Dragon Challenge, team rivals were given a second chance to upset their sister battalions. The eight-Soldier teams met at the Wiesbaden Soldier Fitness Center for some classic sports competition. The day started with a Pull Up contest and a four-Soldier Push Up event. After this initial face-off, the eleven teams went up against each other in volleyball, 3 vs. 3 full court basketball, an ammo can lift and finished with a dramatic showdown in dodge ball. At the end of the competition, with all the points tallied up, the 102d Signal Battalion claimed the Title

victory. For many soldiers, this was their first opportunity to put their combatives training to the test in a tournament style setting. For others, this was another opportunity to roll and show off their skills.

With three full days' worth of exhaustive competition, spectators from the Signal Regiment and Wiesbaden Community observed a high level of skill and heart amongst the Dragon Warriors. Congratulations to all those who competed in the 5th Signal Command Regimental Week Dragon Challenge and Combatives Tournament.

By: 2LT Matthew K. Gabriel, Platoon Leader, Operations Platoon





509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: SPORTS AND FITNESS



LTC Kevin P. Romano

CSM Samuel I. Cole

By Chris Wolff

Sports, Fitness and Aquatic Center

The Installation Management Command Europe Champion Vicenza Lions soccer team was on the road in Rome last week playing two friendly matches with the Vatican Swiss Guards and the seminary students of the Pontifical North American College. The Lions emerged victorious in both contests, beating the North American Seminary Students 4-1 and the Swiss Guards 8-3.

The trip began in the pre-dawn darkness May 15 as players and coaches loaded the bus and began making their way south with excitement and anticipation for the events ahead. The bus arrived in Rome and navigated the busy streets until arriving at the tranquil estate of the Pontifical North American College. The North American College, situated on a hill overlooking Saint Peter's Basilica, houses an impressive sports field and its proximity to the Vatican made it the ideal location to host the games.

The first match kicked off shortly after the players' arrival and pitted champion against champion. The Pontifical North American College Martyrs soccer team won the championship match of the annual Clericus Cup tournament May 12 and proved to be a worthy opponent for the Lions. The game was intense, with both teams demonstrating the speed and skill that won them their respective championships, and it was not until the 30-minute mark that the stalemate was broken when Erwin Jamieson scored the first goal. Three more goals came in the second half, from Jamieson again and Phil Richards, putting the Lions up 3-0 until the Martyrs scored a gaining goal hoping to stem the momentum and turn the tide of the game. It was not to be, however, as the Lions kept up the intensity and a late goal by Bebeto Doru, put them ahead 4-1.

"A huge credit goes to the defense led by Abdul Sadiq, Randy Osborn and Livio Stefano," said Jamieson. "They suffocated the other team's forwards. In addition, our goal keeper, James Watson, played phenomenally in both games."

The game provided an excellent opportunity to meet and enjoy

camaraderie with fellow Americans.

Wednesday morning greeted players and coaches with a unique opportunity to attend the General Audience with Pope Benedict XVI in Saint Peter's Square. The team was seated in a reserved section at the top of the steps, within 20 meters of the Pope, and was announced to the audience during the English portion of the ceremony. This proved to be a moment both historical and extraordinary for all of the team members.

Wednesday Papal Audiences during the months of May and June will be held in Saint Peter's Square. Tickets are required for these events and can be reserved by emailing the Holy Sisters at the North American College, visitorsoffice@pnac.org.

After the Audience, it was time to get back to work as the Lions played a friendly game with players from the Pontifical Swiss Guard. The Swiss Guard is a military force comprised of volunteers from Switzerland and has been assigned to protect the Pope since 1506. The guards arrived at the North American College ready to play and a tough physical game soon got underway. The Swiss Guards showed remarkable toughness and technical skill but the Lion's team work soon overcame their defenses and the first goal was scored at five minutes when Doru dribbled around three defenders and crossed the ball to Jamieson who fired the ball into the net. The scoring continued with Wilmer Aguilar, Neville Rose, Sadiq, Doru and Osborn all contributing goals.

Throughout the game the Swiss Guards never let up the intensity and seemed determine to close the gap. In the end, the Lions did not allow the guards to come back and closed the game with a final score of 8-3.

Although the games were the central events of the trip, one of the highlights occurred on Thursday morning with a special mass conducted Cardinal **Raymond Leo Burke in the Vatican Grottoes below St. Peter's Basilica.**

From the earliest phases of the event, an Italian named Danilo Franchi, served a guide, interpreter, and coordinator for the activities and events. As the game concluded May 16, Franchi revealed that he had coordinated the special service with the American Cardinal. **Simply gaining admittance to the grottoes is a momentous event but having a service conducted by a Cardinal is a privilege reserved for the most fortunate of visitors.** Franchi is a devote Catholic and his contacts with both the Vatican and the Swiss Guard were instrumental in the coordination of the games.



509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: SPORTS AND FITNESS

“Danilo made this trip truly extraordinary for us,” Aguilar said. “Hearing our team being announced to the whole crowd was amazing.”

The unique opportunity to travel to Rome was two years in the making and was made possible by a donation from the Vicenza Community Club, the Warrant Officers Association of the South of Alps, and tireless effort from the Team Coach Shaun Nurse, Dr. Julio Gonzalez and the staff of Vicenza Sports and Fitness.

“This soccer experience was monumental in that we played against two esteemed teams,” said Rose. “Also, having Mass at the Vatican made this trip that more special.”

509th SIG BN Soldiers and Vicenza Lions soccer team defeats Vatican teams



1LT Neville Rose (left) of the 509th Signal Battalion, battles with a competitor in Rome during a game played last week. The U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Lions soccer team was invited to play the Vatican Swiss Guards and seminary students of the Pontifical North American College and defeated both teams.



MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Danielle T. Killian 1SG Jessie Davis

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members:

Spring is in the air and babies are being born! We have been lucky enough to add a few cubs to the Wolfpack over the last few months and we expect a few more before the year's end!

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who recently welcomed new members to the Family:

SPC and Mrs. Oliver welcomed a baby boy in April, weighing 8lbs 4oz

SPC Cota gave birth to a baby girl in January, weighing 7lbs 6oz

SPC and Mrs. Guity welcomed a baby boy in Nov 2011, weighing 7lbs 6oz

SGT and Mrs. Wheeler welcomed a baby girl in Nov 2011, weighing 5lbs 6oz

Congratulations to the 2d Signal Brigade Safety Show-down team for making 102d Signal Battalion sweat it out this year. Through hard work and dedication our team tied with 102d Signal Battalion only to come in second place after a push up contest. It was another great event and I look forward to taking 1st place at the Winter Safety Showdown.

The Brigade of Excellence continues to maintain the high standards and provide support to our battalions and the community. Thank you for all your hard work.

Danielle T. Killian
CPT, SC
Commanding

