



# DEUCE LIGHTNING



## 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER

### "BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"

COL Gerald Miller talks to Soldiers from the 43D Signal Battalion during their Unit's Full Spectrum FTX.



PV2 Damon Thomas leads his fire team as they repel an assault during the 52D Signal Battalion's Fall Warrior Training Exercise.

From Left to Right:  
509th, CSM Grellock, Chester;  
102d, CSM Daniel, Robert;  
39th, CSM Miller, Charles;  
2d SIG BDE CSM Brooks, Patrick;  
43d, CSM Wallace, Ricky;  
69th, CSM Silver-Purnell, Kristine;  
44th, CSM Allen, Earl;  
52d, CSM George, Mark.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:		
Message from the Command Team		3
39th		4
43D		6
44D		8
52d		10
69th		12
72D		14
102D		16
509th		18
HHC		20
Message from the Chaplain		22



**2D SIGNAL BRIGADE**

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

<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	
Election Day	November 3
Training Holiday	November 6
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 26-29
Combined Federal Campaign	All Month

**Mailing Address:**  
**2d Signal Brigade**  
**Taylor Barracks Bldg 346**  
**Mannheim 68309**

**Contact Number:**  
**CIV: 0621-730-8923**  
**DSN: 381-8923**





MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM



COL Miller

CSM Brooks

October was a busy month for the Brigade of Excellence. Our first Full Spectrum Operations Exercise kicked off with the Brigade running operations from Coleman Barracks for three weeks beginning October 19th.

I am proud of everyone in the Brigade of Excellence for the eagerness, dedication, and flexibility you brought to this exercise. I also want to recognize the excellence and tenacity with which our Battalions executed this mission and their significant contributions as they joined the communications fight from different continents.

As we are now well into the *Herbst* or Fall season, I encourage you to stress winter safety as we celebrate. Don't forget to use the upcoming Holidays to thank your Families for the sacrifices they make for you to serve in our Army. Also, I encourage you to look to your left and right. If you see someone, perhaps a single Soldier who may feel left out during the holidays, extend a warm smile and an invitation. During trying times, such as the Fort Hood community is experiencing currently, it is important to nourish the relationships we share, both those of our Family and our larger organizational Family.

During October, we welcomed two new additions to the Brigade team: CPT Hans Lokodi and SSG Benjamin Smith.

We also had a few special blessings: Congratulations to our Deputy Commander LTC Harry Friberg on the birth of his twins Daisy and Harry.

Congratulations to our HR Chief, CW2

Roosevelt Elliot on the birth of his son Jakob.

I am excited about using this newsletter as a forum to share what we as an organization are accomplishing everyday. 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



COL Miller issues guidance during the October training exercise.

**"I am proud of everyone in the Brigade of Excellence for the eagerness, dedication, and flexibility you brought to this exercise."**



## MESSAGE FROM THE 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Mark R. Schonberg    CSM Charles Miller

Happy Halloween from the 39th Signal Battalion located in Chievres, Belgium.

Our unit is unique in its mission and constantly evolving to meet the demands of Full Spectrum Operations. The 39th Signal Battalion's area of responsibility is the largest Global Information Grid in USAREUR, spanning approximately 100,000 square miles. The 39th Signal Battalion provides strategic, tactical and

sustaining base command, control, communications, and computers (C4) for Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), NATO, EUCOM Joint Staff, and forces located throughout the United Kingdom, Benelux, France and Northern Germany.

With the "Will to Succeed" the 39th Battalion's Soldiers and Civilians are relentless in their pursuit of excellence. Last month, the battalion was honored by winning the NETCOM Army Award for Maintenance Excellence spearheaded by our battalion XO, Major Jennifer Colvin, and battalion S-4, Mrs. Ann Beauchamp. Soldiers and civilians put in maximum time and effort to ensure the unit's maintenance program set the standard throughout NETCOM. In March, our battalion will again be tested on the Department of the Army level against winners

from each Army command. On behalf of CSM Charles Miller, we are truly proud of our team here at the 39th and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

LTC Mark R. Schonberg

**"The 39th Signal Battalion's area of responsibility is the largest Global Information Grid in USAREUR"**

## 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

Recently Soldiers from the 39th Signal Battalion participated in a BENELUX wide Mission Ready Exercise (MRX). The goal was to provide the 650th MI Group a "fog of war" on the battlefield that was Chievres Air Base. For the 650th this would be their last field training before deployment, but for the men and women of the 39th it was a chance to train in a realistic combat environment.

As the convoy left the Forward Operating Base on Chievres, into the mock village, they immediately encountered a hostile crowd. Their mission dictated the establishment of a Traffic Control Point and searching of all vehicles and civilians. Thirty two Arabic speaking role players were brought in to achieve stress on the battlefield. Never once did they break

character during the MRX.

Soldiers from the 39th learned an important lesson in proper search procedures. PFC Veronica King was responsible for searching and clearing any women who came through the check point. After searching and releasing one woman, the role player pulled out a grenade that was secretly hidden and detonated it, injuring two Soldiers. Immediately, the nine-line MEDEVAC reports were called in and tourniquets were applied to the injured Soldiers, including PFC King.

As the day progressed the 39th was continually exposed to IED threats, interaction with the local populace and a final raid on a three story building. As Erwin Rommel once said "Sweat saves blood,

blood saves lives, and brains save both." No quote more fitting for a 39th Soldier training in today's Global War on Terror.



### 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



39th Signal Battalion Soldiers conducting a raid on the MOUT village during the 650th MI MRX.



SSG Jordan instructs a class during Battalion Safety Stand-Down Day.

PFC King conducts a search on a local national during the 650th MI MRX on Chievres Air Base.



SSG Carney (far left) and SPC Hill (center) take part in a Field Sobriety Test during Safety Stand-Down Day.



### 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS/BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

The 39th Signal Battalion is happy to welcome SFC(P) Keith Greene and SFC Raymundo Gomez and their Families. In addition, we celebrated the birthdays of WO1 Eric McKinley 3 Oct, SSG Rhoderick Jordan 11 Oct, SFC Keith Regis 12 Oct, PFC Billy Dowell 19 Oct, SGT Alexandros Brownlee 22 Oct, SGT Mahasin Muhammad Oct 25, and CSM Charles Miller 27 Oct.

The 39th Signal Battalion will be hosting a Golf Tournament on 19 Oct 2009. Our annual Golf Tournament is one of the many fundraisers held to alleviate the



cost of the Battalion Holiday Party as well as to encourage camaraderie between the Soldiers and Civilians of the 39th Family. The Family Readiness Group has a Pumpkin Carving Party scheduled for the next FRG Meeting; the carved pumpkins will be placed on display around the Battalion. The 39th FRG

and the USAG Benelux will also host a Trunk or Treat holiday party located on Chievres Air Base. The intent is to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for the costumed children. The children will not only receive candy but also learn great safety tips going into the holiday season.





## 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 April, our troops completed the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) training in Schwetzingen. This training ranged from CBRN training and buddy-aid to a CBRN casualty and decontaminating military vehicles. The Heidelberg Emergency Management Assess-

ment Team (EMAT) came out to support 43D Signal Battalion by demonstrating different CBRN procedures and classes such as the decontamination process, equipment setup, along with a live demonstration about CBRN operations. The training ended with the CBRN Dragon Challenge Relay which was the real morale booster of this training. This team-level event really brought the Battalion together and the training was an experience the Soldiers of 43D Signal Battalion can carry with them throughout their military career.

This month, 43D Signal Battalion kicked off its first Field Training Exercise (FTX), "Hell Raiser". The FTX covered MOUT training, Movement to Contact training, NBC training, JNN and CPN training to cover the "Full Spectrum". The Brigade Commander, COL Gerald Miller, and 5th Signal Command's Commander, BG Jeffrey Smith, visited the FTX site and spoke with the Soldiers and NCOs on the "Full

Spectrum". The Soldiers and NCOs were very motivated and I am very pleased with the successful outcome of this event. Thanks to the civilians, the Soldiers were able to accomplish our mission.

***"Teamwork, Strength, Speed" -CSM Ricky Wallace***



LTC Laroy Peyton & MAJ Harold Montoya briefing COL Gerald Miller on the FTX Concept and Operation.



### 43D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



Soldiers & NCOs conducting MOUT training.



Soldiers & NCOs laying down suppressive fire.



Soldiers & NCOs administering M256A1 kits.



## MESSAGE FROM THE 44TH EXPEDITIONARY COMMAND TEAM



LTC Dwayne A. Dickens



CSM Earl B. Allen

As the month of October comes to a close, the Battalion celebrates several milestones as it nears completion of many tasks initiated with redeployment from OIF 07-08. The Battalion recently relocated to the Schweinfurt area from Mannheim. Although we officially moved last July, the Battalion had been operating in the Schweinfurt area, in some capacity for over five months. It's a very difficult task to move such a large organization. This effort has included moving the Battalion's Soldiers, Families and

large amounts of equipment. The Battalion's footprint at Sullivan Barracks has to be cleared and turned over. This has been no small task in itself and the Rear Detachment deserves praise for "Making it Happen".

Three months following the uncasing of the Battalion colors in Schweinfurt, we are still settling into and completing the renovation of our facilities. Ledward Barracks is quickly becoming a place we are proud to call the Battalion's home. In addition to the move, the Companies have not missed a beat in supporting USAREUR mission requirements. Each Company has deployed teams in support of Signal Command taskings, during and since the relocation. These missions have deployed 44th Signalers to over a half dozen European nations as well as the Middle East. In addition, they have executed New Equipment Training (NET),

Fielding and RESET operations. At the end of October the Battalion executes "Operation Outstanding Warrior" at the Victory Training Center. This Operation will hone the Warfighting skills that set us apart as an "Expeditionary" Signal Battalion.

What we have accomplished since our arrival is a direct reflection of the dedicated, hard working Soldiers of the 44th and their great Families that support them. Without the Family readiness, the spouses wouldn't be able to continue to do the "Outstanding" job that our Commanders in this theater have come to expect from the 44th ESB. I would like to personally thank each and every Family member for the terrific job that they are doing each and every day. It is because of your support and strength that we as Soldiers are able to do our jobs, each and every day.

## COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR: SENIOR TRAINER

He can still see her, "clear as day," like it was yesterday, standing in the third-floor window of the barracks at Fort Hood, Texas. "I always call her the 'Woman in the Window,'" said Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Allen, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Allen, now with 23 years experience Soldiering, was a Specialist at that life-altering moment when a sergeant first class summoned him. She said, "Specialist Allen, come up, I want to talk to you," Allen recalled. She said, "You know, every day I see you and your buddies doing the same thing - drinking, partying, all times of night." And she said, "I see more potential in you than that." "I'm not telling you don't hang out with your friends, I'm not telling you don't have fun." Then she nailed that potential and gave him guidance that he shares with his Soldiers to this day. "But I'm telling you," she said, "You need to start getting in school, get an education,

enroll yourself in correspondence (courses). And the partying is going to be there." Allen might have returned to his group of friends without giving her advice much more thought. "But this is what I admired about her. The next day she came to my office, she picked me up, and took me over to the education center and got me enrolled in college," he said. Training, development, education, progression are words that Command Sergeants Major - and all noncommissioned officers must drive into their Soldiers and make them live it, according to Allen and USAG Schweinfurt Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee. "You've got to get those Soldiers educated," Lee said. Today, through training and education, the Army develops its Soldiers and NCOs the same way it has always raised officers, enabling all Soldiers the ability to make doctrine-based, critical decisions. According to Allen, "The young

Soldiers today, they need to understand education is the key, because big Army is looking at a smarter Army, a smarter Soldier that can think quickly and make decisions to save lives on the battlefield. We're at war now." "Twenty-three years ago, I think I practiced more habit than doctrine. And when I say that, if someone came and told me, 'Hey, this is the way it should be done. This is the way we do it here.' Hey, Got it. But I never followed up to open a regulation and read it," Allen said. "NCOs today are practicing doctrine, because they've got to. The Army is going through a transformation, and as they go through this transformation, we've got to be abreast of all current changes. We're moving at a fast pace," he added.

Mark Heeter



### 44TH EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



SPC Selahaldean Hadi and SPC Moises Martinez from B Company assemble an STT in the Republic of Georgia as part of Operation Immediate Response in October 2009.



Soldiers from B Company run cable from their CPN in the Republic of Georgia as part of Operation Immediate Response in October 2009.

PFC Alexander Kallow of C Company 44th ESB receives a coin from BG Smith on 13 October.



Battalion S4, CPT Jason Keener briefs the command group on the logistics plan for Outstanding Warrior on 22 October.



Soldiers from A Company 44th ESB load busses for a six week deployment in support of Operation Juniper Cobra 2010 on 13 October.



Led by Chaplain (CPT) Ben Clark, 44th ESB Soldiers and their Spouses attend the 2d SIG BDE's 4th Quarter Strong Bonds Marriage Enrichment Training at the Edelweiss Inn, located on the Marshall Center.

LTC Dwayne Dickens, CSM Earl Allen, MAJ Tyler Oxley, MAJ Luis Alvarado and SGM Demetrius Steel salute the Soldier of A Company, 44th ESB as they depart for Operation Juniper Cobra 2010.



Select 44th ESB Soldiers listen to BG Smith's address prior to receiving V Signal Command Coins for excellent performance at the Ledward Barracks DFAC.





## MESSAGE FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC James E. Pugh

CSM Mark A. George

During the upcoming holiday season, our Families and friends will gather to celebrate the season but we must remember that many of our friends remain deployed and separated from their loved ones. We have the opportunity to come together in a spirit of cohesion for the Garrison Thanksgiving Meal and the

Battalion Holiday Party. We want to express our sincere appreciation to all who will take time out of their busy schedule to help plan and give back to the community.

The Soldiers of this Battalion cannot accomplish anything without the help of a strong foundation. In our case, we have strong and ready Families who are every bit as courageous, selflessly dedicated and as inspiring as our great Soldiers and civilians. We are all honored to be part of a great organization with a fantastic reputation. The burden is on us to uphold it on and off duty. This Battalion really is known throughout the Stuttgart community as the best service oriented organization. But all of the suc-

cesses we are known for could not be possible without the spirit of our people – the officers, NCOs, Soldiers, civilians and Families. This unit is all about the people. We are personally grateful to all of you for your selfless dedication, loyalty, pride and professionalism. You really do set the standard.

LTC James E. Pugh

CSM Mark A. George

## 52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

The Soldiers of the 52d Signal Battalion honed their skills as warriors and a fighting team over two weeks this November during the unit's Fall Warrior Training Exercise. The Soldiers of MacArthur's Own conducted a week long live-fire range as a lead up to a four-day, force-on-force field problem where one half of the battalion battled the other over a string of engagements lasting more than 60 straight hours.

In the week prior to the WTX, the 52d Signal Battalion fired more than 20,000 rounds while conducting a three-phased range week. Day one saw the Soldiers qualifying on a hand grenade course, some for the first time since Basic Training. Over the next four days, the Soldiers qualified on both the M9 pistol and their M16A2 rifles and participated in ad-

vanced marksmanship training with both weapons. With their minds focused on their Warrior skills, the Soldiers were ready to hit the field.

After dividing into two equal elements, the two halves of the Battalion served as the other opposing force, eliminating the need for dedicated OPFOR and maximizing the number of Soldiers who could participate in training. Additionally, the planners of this WTX were finding ways to get the most of their time in the field. "Our intent was to conduct field problems that would reflect the style and substance of the leadership evaluations our Soldiers will see at the Warrior Leaders Course and Advanced Leaders Course in order to better prepare them for success" said SSG Jonathan Holley, the 52d Signal Battalion S3 NCOIC. Over

several days and nights, the Soldiers clashed in raids, crept through the blackness of night on reconnaissance patrols and laid siege to one another in heated fire-fights as they battled for control of a MOUT site. Amid the blasts of artillery simulators and the rattle of rifle fire, the Soldiers, some of whom had never worked this closely before, fused into cohesive fighting teams and the battles became harder fought and more intense as the WTX rolled on. As the smoke lifted after the last engagement, the Soldiers of the 52d Signal Battalion emerged as a more confident and capable fighting force, living out the old Signal Corps motto – "Where Skill and Courage Count!"



## 52D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES

Soldiers used smoke to provide concealment as they maneuvered into position.



Soldiers from MacArthur's Own move into position for an early morning raid.



Soldiers of the 52d Signal Battalion move out on patrol during their annual Fall WTX.

## 52D SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS/BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

NCO Induction Ceremony being held on 2 November 2009 at 0900 hours at the Performance Arts Center, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart Germany.

### PROMOTIONS:

1 October 2009:

SPC Michael D. Howard-Promoted to SGT  
SPC Brandon R. Hert-Promoted to SGT

6 October 2009:

PV2 Damon D. Thomas II-Promoted to PFC  
PV2 Joshua C. Murray-Promoted to PFC

### REENLISTMENTS:

SGT Harry A. Ruiz, MOS 25L-Reenlisted on 15 October 2009-Term: Six Years

SGT Don A. Baker, MOS 94E- Reenlisted on 21 October 2009-Term: Six Years

### BIRTHDAYS:

October:

- 8-SPC Michael E. Votta
- 9-SFC Jeffrey A. Moog
- 13- MSG James R. Montague
- 18-CPT Eric N. Wilson
- 19-SFC Bertram A. Williams
- 30- PFC Casey A. Rogers

### NOVEMBER:

- 1-SPC Nikia S. Monday, PFC Darren L. Nope
- 3-CPT Ruston L. Hill, PFC Jude P. Peterson
- 4-SSG Blanca I. Salgado
- 8-PFC Jeremiah G. Simpson

- 10-SPC William A. Ramsey
- 14-PFC James L. Wellman
- 20-SSG Myong K. Hall, SPC Henry Valdez
- 22-SGT Robert E. Foster

### FRG EVENTS:

- CHILDRENS HALLOWEEN PARTY 30 OCT 09
- GLOBAL CUISINE FUNDRAISER 29 OCT 09

### OCTOBER ARRIVALS:

- SPC HUNT, DAVID L. MOS 25B
- SFC PASCIAK, SHELDON L. MOS 25B



MESSAGE FROM THE 69TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Earl S. Nakata

CSM Kristine A. Purnell

Soldiers partner with Bundeswehr to earn German Proficiency Badge

Grafenwöhr, Germany - In the spirit of marksmanship training and partnership, NCOs and Soldiers from the 69th Signal Battalion were afforded the opportunity to compete for the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency (Schützenschnur). The Schützenschnur is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, and is one of several foreign awards U.S. military personnel are au-

thorized to wear on their dress uniforms. Staff Sergeant Marcelino Villali, the Battalion Training NCO, coordinated the training event in partnership with the German Army's German Military Representative for Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels. The training was hosted from 16-20 July 2009 in the Grafenwöhr Training Area.

To earn the award Soldiers must successfully shoot the German service rifle (G36), pistol (P8) and machine gun (MG3). The award grade (gold, silver, bronze) is determined by the overall score.

PFC Kevin Shank, a new arrival into the unit and one of six Soldiers to earn a roped silver medallion, called his participation "very challenging and a great opportunity to interact with the German Soldiers and fire their weapons." "The M63 machine gun is the largest weapon that I have ever fired and the biggest challenge because it was very hard to keep the weapon stable and be able to fire at the targets at the same time," he

said. "The G36 rifle is one of the best weapons I have ever shot; it was an old Browning!"

Thirteen Soldiers from the 69th Signal Battalion were awarded the Schützenschnur by Oberstleutnant (Lieutenant Colonel) Kussinger in a closing ceremony held on 5 August 2009. The Schützenschnur in Gold was awarded to SSG Marcelino Villali, SPC Bryan Carney, and PFC Brett Lopez. The Schützenschnur in Silver was awarded to SFC James Nejelski, SSG Antonio Frazier, SSG Bryan Hansen, SSG Jay Lopez, and PFC Kevin Shank. The Schützenschnur in Bronze was awarded to SPC Javier Acosta, SPC Alrice Barnes, SPC Adrian Daniel, and SPC Jeremy Uzzle.

By CSM Kristine A. Purnell
69th Signal Battalion Command Sergeant Major
"Voice of Command"



A German Soldier, Hauptfeldwebel (Staff Sergeant) Reinwald Zohm assists SSG Jay Lopez with his sight picture during the M63 machine gun range.



SSG Bryan Hansen fires the P8 pistol down range as his safety, Feldwebel (Sergeant) Sablowski from 1st Company, 922d Electronic Warfare Battalion keeps an eye on the target.



### 69TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



69th Signal Battalion Soldiers earn the Schützenschnur.

Back Row: SSG Bryan Hansen SSG Jay Lopez, PFC Kevin Shank, SGT Kevin Ziegler. Front Row: SPC Adrian Daniel, SSG Marcelino Villali, PFC Bryan Carney, PFC Bret Lopez



SSG Jay Lopez (Right), SGT Kevin Ziegler (Center), and SSG Bryan Hansen (Left) are awarded the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency in Silver (Schützenschnur in Silber) by Oberstleutnant (Lieutenant Colonel) Anton Kussinger during the Awards Ceremony.



Oberstabsfeldwebel (Sergeant Major) Billy Sablowski shows PFC Kevin Shank his score after qualifying with the MG3 machine gun during the Schützenschnur competition.



SSG Marcelino Villali fires the MG3 machine gun as Stabsfeldwebel (Master Sergeant) Ulrich Hübner verifies his accuracy.



MESSAGE FROM THE 72D-REAR SIGNAL COMPANY COMMAND TEAM



CPT Rob C. Leicht

1SG Brian K. Cantrell

Friends and Family of the 72D ESB,

It's almost November and we are approximately 25% done with the deployment. We hope that the time has gone by quickly and you are adjusting to your new routines. 1SG Cantrell and I have enjoyed meeting all of you at the FRG events and around the community. The Family Readiness Groups have been busy with meetings and events for the Families. The BN BBQ and Pumpkin Trip/ Painting were huge successes. Thanks to everyone that assisted and came out to attend. Please mark your calendars for 5 Nov. We will be giving the Families a Deployment Update Brief at 18:00 at the Elementary School. We will have an update from downrange, crafts for the kids, ACS will be making videos for the deployed Soldiers, and AFN will be there to make a "Holiday Spot" to be played downrange for your loved ones. Please come out and support this event.

The Rear-Detachment has been busy preparing to move the Battalion Area to Sullivan Barracks. We expect to be completely moved by the end of the year. Once we are moved, I will send out a note to all FRG leaders and we will provide the same level of support to you all.

We also deployed over 20 Soldiers in September and are planning on sending more in December. Additionally, our Soldiers have been supporting the community, 2D Signal BDE, and 5th Signal Command with taskings and most have been recognized with coins and awards. We have a great team of NCOs and Soldiers supporting the Families. 1SG Cantrell and I personally thank you for assisting the Family members while their loved ones are deployed.

There have been a few changes among the FRG Leadership and Company NCOICs. Below are the FRG Leaders/Co NCOICs

HHC - Mrs. Heather Mallard; NCOIC - SFC Erica Lehmkuhl

A Co - Mrs. Petra Cornell; NCOIC - SSG Omar Irizarry

B Co - Mrs. Crystal Cole; NCOIC - SSG Chris Williams

C Co - Mrs. Megan Feltz; NCOIC - SSG Phillip Conley

A final note about readiness: While we already have over three months under our belt, it's important to stay in touch and maintain updated documents, contacts, and resources. Please ensure that you are informing your FRGs or your Detachment Sergeant of any major changes including new phone numbers, vacation dates, change of address, etc. so that we know how to contact you with critical command information. We remain committed to providing for the needs for our Soldiers and Families, however, this is the minimum that we require to support this mission.

Thanks for all you do!

Please let us know if you have any issues or concerns. We are always available to assist.

CPT Leicht (0162-296-2851) and 1SG Cantrell (0162-273-1041)



**72D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES**



72D Signal Battalion family members on a trip to Ludwigsburg Castle



## MESSAGE FROM THE 102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Van D. Jarrell



CSM Robert A. Daniel, Jr.

AGM, DAR, the relocation of 5th Signal Command to Wiesbaden and providing Excellent customer service to the community.

We are pleased to announce that the 102d Signal Battalion has won the 2009 Network Service Center of the year award medium category, this wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication that the Soldiers and Civilians give to the unit.

for our unit, awesome job everyone, keep it up, Net Ready!!

It's hard to believe that we are winding down the clock for this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Soldiers and Civilians of the 102d Signal Battalion; they have been working so hard this year with the implementation of

Leaves are falling, it's getting colder, evidence that winter will be upon us soon, we can't stress enough the importance of winter safety, so please everyone, be careful this season. Again, we want to thank all of you for all you do

## 102D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

The 102d Signal Battalion has been extremely busy with all of our various projects and missions. All of our Soldiers and Civilians have done an outstanding job supporting the Wiesbaden, Darmstadt and Baumholder Communities. We are continuing with the AGM Vista Migration, Data-at-Rest, I3MP upgrades and with the Full Spectrum Concept. The 255th SIG DET heads to the Mainz Sand Dunes Training Area next week for "Commander's Prime Time Training", where all Soldiers will be trained on various Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. The Baumholder OC has been busy with the Re-integration of our 4000+ Warfighters in the Baumholder community. The building set up and connectivity received much praise from the visiting 21st TSC Commanding General, 1st Armored Division Commander and other visiting leadership.

Congratulations goes out to the Battalion for being awarded the 5th Signal Command's Commanding General's Excellence in Retention Award for FY09. SSG Nicole Rivers won the NCO of the Quarter, SGT Pontius won the NCO of the Month and PFC Hoyos won the Soldier of the Month, congratulations. Special thanks goes out to CPL Valle and SPC Boyd who are downrange in support of KFOR and OEF.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Honor Graduate

SGT Weathersby, Otha (25P BNCOC/ALC)

SSG Rivers, Nicole (25B BNCOC/ALC)

Ms. Carmen Woods (Command COMSEC Inspectors Course)



### 102D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



Soldiers play with Aukamm Elem. School kids during Field Day.



Water survival training.



NCO Induction Ceremony.



Community wide 102d SIG BN sponsored boxing tournament.

### 102D SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS/BIRTHDAYS

#### BIRTHDAYS

##### OCTOBER

- SFC WILLIAM KELLY
- SSG ETCITY
- SGT FORSLUND
- SPC MOORE
- SGT CANADA
- MR. ELLERSICK
- MR. IRELAND
- MR. MARTINEZ

##### NOVEMBER

- SFC METTS
- SSG WISE
- SPC WALTHERS
- PV2 TSULTRIM
- MR. WHITING
- MS. NIX
- MR. GANNS
- SFC METTS

- SSG WISE
- SPC WALTHERS
- PV2 TSULTRIM
- MR. WHITING
- MS. NIX
- MR. GANNS

#### HAILS

- MR. BARONE
- MR. WOLFE
- MR. PIZZARO
- MR. KARIM
- MAJ THOMPSON
- CPT ROGERS
- SGT ALVAREZ
- SPC WILLIAMS C.
- SPC WILLIAMS M.
- PVT2 WILLIS

- PVT2 HOYOS
- SPC JAMES
- SPC CROSBY

#### FAREWELLS

- MS. ANTOINE
- SGT PONTIUS
- SSG LEE
- SGT WEATHERSBY
- SPC BARLEN
- SPC BARLEN



## MESSAGE FROM THE BATTALION 509TH COMMAND TEAM



LTC G. Shawn Wells

CSM Chester D. Grelock

As I write this the 509th Expeditionary Signal Teams (EST) platoon has two Soldiers on the African continent providing communication support for Operation NATURAL FIRE '10 to US Army Africa (USARAF). Another team is preparing to deploy to Africa as well and is currently rehearsing in the US.

The EST platoon utilizes 2 man teams that are able to maintain a low profile while traveling throughout the world. The platoon provides an extension of the military network with continuously evolving communications packages. The latest is the PacStar 4100 kit that will allow us to provide unrivaled communications support while also maintaining the smallest footprint possible.

Thus far the EST has conducted 6 missions in eight countries with operations ranging from 4 days all the way up to 30 days. Our mission is to provide USARAF with seamless Command and Control and reachback capabilities with NIPR, SIPR, coalition networks and tactical radio. Our teams are the first into a country and typically deploy days ahead in order to ensure that all equipment is fully operational.

The road that was traveled to get to this point has been rapid and had a steep learning curve. A mere five months ago the 509th Signal Battalion

did not possess the capability of rapidly deploying a stand alone communications package. Additionally there wasn't a single Soldier in the unit that had done this type of mission prior to arriving in the 509th requiring the leadership to build the capability from the ground up. After receiving the mission the EST was officially named and began procuring equipment already on the installation to utilize for the new mission.

Much of the preparation was spent training the Soldiers to operate the equipment, however, the most valuable learning occurred while they were conducting the missions. Training is the key component to establishing an effective communications team that can operate equipment in all environments and locations. Both civilian and military training has been leveraged to provide a Soldier with the knowledge and expertise necessary to deploy to any country in the world and operate his assigned equipment.

Upon entering the platoon each member must first conduct training with the civilians that run the day to day operations of the Vicenza military network within the construct of the Apprentice Program. Upon completion of each phase of training the Soldier is expected

to pass a test verifying his or her knowledge base. In addition we currently have two Soldiers attending the Joint Communications Unit (JCU) training, the premier communicators course, at Ft Bragg. Through these training venues we have leveraged the best communications training available to our Soldiers.

The first mission to prepare the teams was to Washington DC in support of MG Garrett, the Commander of USARAF. This mission was a rehearsal for future operations and proved to be an invaluable experience. It allowed the Soldiers to understand what a senior leader expects of a communications team. Over the next few missions the teams quickly discovered that preparation effort prior to a mission paid huge dividends during the mission.

The 509th EST platoon is continuing to enhance the communications capability and is looking to add new members to the close knit unit that provides world class communications capabilities in austere environments in support of our growing customer base. **VOICE OF THE LION!**



SGT Smith of the 509th EST platoon establishes a satellite connection for MG Garrett commander of USARAF on the continent



## 509TH SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



Mr. Derrick Ward: 509th Signal Battalion Tier II Support Center Ms. Nuccia Cazzola: 7th Army Mission Support Element, Resource Management

USAG Vicenza and Livorno Host Nation employees are now using Alternate Smart Cards to logon to the USAREUR data network. This new capability allows USAG employees an ability to access AKO and other private key enabled websites to perform mission critical administrative actions.

Ms. Cazzola of Resource Management was one of the first individuals to receive the card. She stated; "I am very pleased with this new capability. The card allowed me access to financial databases to help ensure end of year budget execution".

The Alternate Smart Card's additional benefits include the ability to digitally sign and encrypt email. The 509th Signal

Battalion Tier II Support Centers are your one stop shop for Alternate Smart Cards. They can be reached at 634-5555 (USAG Vicenza) or 633-8909 (USAG Livorno).

James P. Rogenski, Chief  
Network Operations and Maintenance  
509th Signal Battalion, Vicenza Italy



## MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Myra Waldher

1SG Joseph Williams

Just in time to celebrate a beautiful German autumn, and our first mornings of PT at 32 degrees, we're conducting an FTX! The company is working harder than ever to maintain our every day mission, continue supporting the battalions, and doing it all while transforming the

brigade to become Full Spectrum. This is an exciting time for us as we try and overcome the challenges of moving our everyday operations to a new location and still provide flawless support to the units who count on us.

The efforts of our Soldiers have been amazing. Almost half of our Soldiers are recent re-deployers, and no strangers to austere working conditions. Their knowledge and enthusiasm has been invaluable. In contrast to that, we have many junior Soldiers who have never conducted a field exercise. They are eager to learn what concertina wire is, what it's like to run 24 x 7 operations, and to get their first glimpses of expeditionary Signal equipment.

Special thanks to the civilians of the unit, who will stay behind on Taylor barracks to keep the headquarters running, and to the Families who will be working extra hard while their loved ones are training.

This month is one for the history books, and we couldn't be more proud of the company we're leading.

CPT Myra Waldher

1SG Joseph Williams

## HHC NEWS

### E-TNOSC UPDATE:

During rotations to OIF and OEF, BCTs and smaller units will leverage built up strategic infrastructure as their primary means of communication. Tactical communications will be used for redundancy and back-up.

There is a significant training value in having BCTs connect to the strategic fiber at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels. This will enable them to train as they will fight for their current rotation. Current KU bandwidth cannot provide more than a 2MB pipe to a JNN when 4MB is necessary for BCT MREs and large EUCOM exercises such as Austere Challenge and Juniper Cobra. It is the E-TNOSC's responsibility to ensure that these units receive quality services in preparation for

deployments.

Recently the E-TNOSC deployed several individuals: CW2 Weller, Mr. Pray, Mr. Holland, MSG Glock, and SSG Mang, to support these units in their validations. For example, Mr. Holland supported the Communications and Simulations Operations Center (CSOC) in providing continuous real-time oversight and assistance to the 1st Armored Division(1AD) in execution of its mission readiness exercise (MRX), command post exercise (CPX), and Unified Endeavor 2009 (UE09). He was joined by other network representatives from the 43d, 52d, 69th, and 509th Signal Battalions. CSOC provided technical assistance, facilitated information flow, satisfied reporting requirements, and maintained situational awareness of the exercise network to include the division tactical network, its

interface with the European enterprise, and the simulations portion of the exercise architecture.

--MSG Bryan Glock



### HHC PICTURES



Children of Soldiers playing during FRG Family Day



Soldiers and their families playing volleyball during FRG Family Day



Colonel Miller describing Sergeant First Class Vasquez before his promotion.

### HHC EVENTS/BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

**Recent Promotions:**

- SSG Gary McCracken
- SFC Anthony Vasquez

**Birthdays:**

- 1NOV- SPC Oates (S-1)
- 11NOV- PFC Acevedo (S-1)
- 18NOV- SGTP Tharpe (S-1)
- 19NOV- SGTP Perusek (E-TNOSC)
- 22NOV- LTC Dodson (S-3)
- 24NOV- CW2 Weller (E-TNOSC)



SFC Vasquez Promotion Ceremony



## THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



CH (MAJ) Tim Meador—2D Signal Brigade Chaplain

### “Hitting A Homerun At Home”

Babe Ruth was one of the greatest homerun hitters in the game of baseball. He hit 714 home runs in his career. However, playing for the Boston Braves in one of his last major league games, the aging star performed poorly. He bobbled the ball and threw badly. In one inning alone, his errors were responsible for five Cincinnati runs.

As the Babe walked off the field following that miserable inning, booing and cat-calls cascaded down from the stands. Just then, a young boy jumped over the railing and ran onto the playing field. With tears streaming down his cheeks, he threw his arms around the legs of his hero. Ruth didn't hesitate. He picked up the boy, hugged him, and set him down on his feet with a playful pat on the head. Together they walked off the field.

Suddenly the booing stopped and a hush

fell over the entire park. For a brief moment, the crowd saw a different kind of hero: a man who in spite of a dismal day on the field could still care about a little boy. He was no longer being judged by his accomplishments, but by a completely different standard. It was a relationship that mattered.

Living in a performance oriented world, it is easy to ignore, even justify the disregard of relationships. But it never produces winning runs. John Gottman in his book “The Seven Principles for Making a Marriage Work” says there are four qualities that mark the disregard of a relationship: Criticism, Contempt, Defensiveness, and Stonewalling.

He then goes on to explain the importance of a marital friendship, understanding positive and negative energy in marriage, and the concept of turning toward one another instead of away. If this book sounds like a good read, send me an email with your snail mail address and I will send you a free copy – timothy.meador@eur.army.mil. It just might

be the homerun hit you've been looking for at home!

CH (MAJ) Tim Meador

“This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.”  
  
I John 3:11