



# DEUCE LIGHTNING

## 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE NEWSLETTER

### "BRIGADE OF EXCELLENCE"

October-November 2010  
Edition 1



The Command Team and Staff members of the Headquarters 2d Signal Brigade, from left to right: CSM Brooks, Mr. Speelman, Ms. Brackmann, Mr. Fritz, Ms. Garnish, Mr. Wise, Mr. McKinnon, and COL Kilgo during the Civilian Awards Presentation on 18 November.



COL Kilgo and CSM Brooks on their visit to Jerusalem, Israel.

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**2D SIGNAL BRIGADE**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 25-26	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 10	FY 11 2d Quarter Soldier Boards
December 23-24	Training Holiday
December 25	Christmas Holiday
December 30-31	Training Holiday
January 1	Happy New Year!

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MESSAGE FROM THE BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM



COL Mitchell L. Kilgo CSM Patrick Brooks



Left to Right: CSM Warren, LTC Wells, COL Kilgo and CSM Brooks in Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

The months have gone by very quickly since taking command near the end of July. I am glad I was able to travel to each of the battalions' locations and get to know the fine Soldiers and Civilians that make up the Brigade of Excellence. I had the opportunity to observe and assess; now will come the time to also improve. Constant improvement is the way we live up to our moniker: the Brigade of Excellence.

As we move into the holiday season, I encourage you to stress 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. Now is the time to build, sustain, and nourish those vital relationships which serve as a support system during challenging times. As we head into January and the new year, we will face challenges head on and break new ground together as a unit. Together I know we can do it.

Now is the time to build, sustain, and nourish those vital relationships which serve as a support system during challenging times.



A friendly evening at a local restaurant during the site visit to Israel.

COL Mitchell L. Kilgo  
Brigade of Excellence

COL Kilgo presents MAJ Weber with his PCS Award, a Meritorious Service Medal.





## MESSAGE FROM THE 6981ST CIVILIAN SUPPORT GROUP



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

As the calendar year will be over soon I would like to recall some of the events we supported during 2010. Teams of the 6981<sup>st</sup> were in Novo Selo Training Area (Bulgaria), MK Airbase (Romania), Camp Darby (Italy) and at the moment we have a team at Camp Bondsteel (Kosovo) and another team again at Camp Darby (Italy). We were tasked to remove and reroute cables at Wiesbaden Army Airfield to support the stand up of the CBC. In Schweinfurt we installed new ICDS's at several buildings for the USAG to provide the 44<sup>th</sup> Sig BN with a proper telecommunication network environment prior to their move. In Mannheim we have been tasked to install CDS and ICDS networks to support the move of MAM and other units in interim locations. In Stuttgart we completed several projects for EUCOM and AFRICOM. The team in Grafenwoehr was heavily involved in exercise support and the installation of ICDS/PDS and CDS networks at Hohenfels to support JMTC requirements. Throughout the year we also assisted the Brigade/5<sup>th</sup> Sig Cmd with their moves from Taylor Bks/Funari Bks to WAAF by fulfilling special task and last minute requirements. The unit was runner up at DA-FY09 AAME competition and won again the NETCOM AAME competition for FY10.

We celebrated Length of Service jubilees for 20, 25, 30 and 35 years with the 6981<sup>st</sup> and we said Good Bye to colleagues and friends as they moved on to other positions or retired after decades of service. We also welcomed several new hires who soon were part of the unit's specialists and teams. All in all we had an excellent and successful year within the 2D Signal Brigade family and 5<sup>th</sup> Signal Com-

mand.  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Customers and Friends, Colleagues and Co-workers,

on behalf of the 6981<sup>st</sup> Civilian Support Group I wish you and your families, your unit, teams and their families a joyous Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support, patience, help and the good working relationship during the past year. We are looking forward to working with and for you next year.



Mr. Collrep receives his certificate for 25 Years of Service



Mr. Alberti retired after nearly 30 Years of service.



CDS work at Spinelli Bks, Mannheim

A special THANKS from the Command Group goes to the employees of the 6981<sup>st</sup> CSG for their motivation, flexibility and unconditional support for daily tasks and special projects within the USAREUR footprint.

We connect!  
Gerd Drechsler



Mr. Jaeger moved on to another position at the DCO Kaiserslautern



Mr. Behringer of our DET Grafenwoehr retired after 44 years of service



ICDS work at Coleman Bks, Mannheim



## MESSAGE FROM THE 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Rodney L. Lightfoot

CSM Charles Miller

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family,

As we enter into the holiday season, we would like to look back over a few events that have occurred in the past couple months and highlight some upcoming events. October began with a visit from 2d Signal Brigade for the Brigade CIP or Command Inspection Program. The Command Inspection Program is a time where all sections of the battalion are inspected and receive guidance and evaluations on their respective areas to ensure our mission is functioning to standard. The Brigade Team also assisted with recommendations on the way forward to make sure all operations continue to progressively improve. The battalion passed favorably in all areas and some members were recognized for their

commitment to excellence with a Brigade Coin from CSM Brooks.

During the months of September and October the battalion was fully engaged with a 9.11 Freedom Run/Walk, qualification ranges, promotions, FRG led events, a Brigade CIP and other various community activities. Keeping a constant flow of positive stimulation provides the 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion family with not only critical training and professional development in the work front, but also morale boosting activities that help engage Soldier's and their families to enhance their experience here in Belgium at a very unique duty station.

Beginning the month of September the battalion sponsored a 9.11 Freedom Run/Walk in remembrance of the tragedy of 2001. Soldiers and their families around the SHAPE community came out in support to honor the lives that were lost and shine light on a very dark time in America's history. The event took place on SHAPE on September 11 which marked the ninth anniversary of the historic moment in America. Participants of the event were provided with a t-shirt as a souvenir and prizes were given to the top place finishers of the run.



Above: 1SG Greene briefing the route for the 9.11 Freedom Run/Walk



Above: Members of the community begin the race

## 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, the 39<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion and its FRG collaborated on a fundraiser by doing a carwash in the parking lot of the Chièvres PX. Soldiers and their families came out to the all day event and fellowshipped while they barbequed and washed cars. Functions like this give members of the battalion a personal since of gratification by providing a service to the community while also raising funds for the unit. The funds that were collected are saved to fund future events for the Soldiers as well as FRG activities.



Left: SPC Brado rinsing off a car during the fundraiser



Right: Members of the FRG during the Carwash



### 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS

On the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup>, the FRG hosted a Ladies Wine & Cheese night. Ladies of the 39<sup>th</sup> Soldiers and spouses alike came together and enjoyed a variety of wines and cheeses while they socialized and listened to music. Spouses and Soldiers enjoyed a night of relaxation away from their kids and work and bonding with other army wives and FRG members.



Left: Ladies of the 39<sup>th</sup> during Wine & Cheese Night

Closing out the month of October the battalion held a pumpkin carving night prior to Halloween and members of the unit participated in Trunk or Treat. The pumpkin carving night was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October on Daumerie Caserne and families showed up in large numbers to exhibit their talents of carving pumpkins. A competition was held and PFC Tucker of 128<sup>th</sup> Signal Company took 1<sup>st</sup> place.



Right: LTC Lightfoot pictured with PFC Tucker and his 1<sup>st</sup> Place pumpkin

### 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION PROMOTIONS, BIRTHDAYS, EVENTS



#### SPC Rivas to SGT

Left: CSM Miller welcoming SGT Rivas in to the NCO Corps



#### SSG Lynum to SFC

Right: SFC Lynum presented with a promotion certificate from LTC Lightfoot



#### RETIREMENT SGT Oxford

Left: SGT Oxford presented with a Certificate of Retirement and flag after 20+ years of faithful service

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### November

- 16 - SRP
- 22 - Thanksgiving Dinner

##### December

- 3 - Adult Holiday Party
- 10 - Children's Holiday Party
- 20 - HHD vs. 128 Volleyball Game

#### BIRTHDAYS

##### September

- 2 SFC Wuepper
- 2 SGT Stapleton
- 5 SPC Connally
- 6 SSG Turner
- 12 PFC Hastry
- 19 SFC Gantt
- 21 SPC Kemperman

##### October

- 3 CW2 McKinley
- 11 SSG Jordan
- 16 PFC Mills
- 18 SGT Jensen
- 19 SPC Dowell
- 22 SGT Brownlee
- 24 CW2 Smith
- 24 SPC Baron
- 25 SGT Muhammad
- 26 SFC Wilkinson
- 26 PV2 Giles
- 27 CSM Miller
- 29 SPC Fair

##### November

- 11 SPC Warner
- 13 SGT Ratchel
- 14 PFC Boenker
- 17 SSG Hayden
- 19 SGT Soriano
- 21 SGT Beverly
- 22 1SG Foster
- 29 SPC Vidro

##### December

- 1 PFC Weir
- 2 SSG Bissonnette
- 12 SPC Colon
- 13 SFC Gomez
- 15 SPC Farmer
- 28 SGT Crawford



### MESSAGE FROM THE 43D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC John M. Demko

CSM Travis L. Cherry

Greetings from the Soldiers and Civilians of the "Always Professional" 43rd Signal Battalion.

The 43rd Signal Battalion has many things to talk about these days. Firstly the battalion welcomed a new Command Sergeant Major. CSM Travis Cherry joined the 43rd Team in September and we are very glad to have him on board. He has already made tremendous contributions to the unit. The Battalion also

welcomed two future signalers to the team. MAJ Jason Nagy and his wife Tiffany welcomed a baby boy, Rodney James Nagy, on 25 October 2010. Also PFC Alicia Young welcomed a baby girl, Tailyn Ariyan Young, on 19 August 2010.

The Battalion flag football team had an outstanding season and went on to win the 2010 Heidelberg Garrison Championship where they advanced to play in the IMCOM Europe Championship. After losing a game, the 43rd team fought fiercely to eventually win the tournament and become the 2010 IMCOM-E Flag Football Champions.

The Battalion has also become active in the community by joining the USAG Baden Wuerttemberg Adopt-A-School Program. The 43rd Signal Battalion has officially adopted Heidelberg High School and will participate in Mentorship, Read-

ing Assistance, Playground Assistance, Specific Tutoring Skills, Track and Field Days and much more.

The Battalion also performed in an outstanding manner during the 2nd Signal Brigade Command Inspection Program. The unit surpassed the highest overall rating of the past three years by attaining a 92.7%. Several areas achieved a perfect 100% and received personal comments from the Brigade Commander himself.

Since this is the last publication until after the New Year, the Command Sergeant and I would like to send holiday greetings to all Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families during this holiday season!

"Always Professional"  
LTC John M. Demko  
Battalion Commander

### 43D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES/PROMOTIONS



(Above) LTC John Demko congratulates the 43rd Sig Bn Football Team for winning the 2010 Heidelberg Garrison and IMCOM-Europe unit-level flag football championships.

(Below) Lieutenant Robert Townsend (right) is promoted to 1st Lieutenant.



(Above) An NCO from 529th MP Company displays proper techniques to restrain a prisoner in preparation for the 43rd Signal Battalion's upcoming Fall FTX.

#### Promotions Jun-Aug 2010

**1LT**  
WALKER, Annette

**CW2**  
MILLSAP, John

**SFC**  
RAMIREZ, Wilson

**SGT**  
HORNECKER, James  
PALMS, Donald

**SPC**  
HOWARD, Jon  
GARZA, Alfredo  
WILLIAMS, Nicholas  
CASTRO, Lukejohn

**PFC**  
MARES, Kenneth  
JOHNSON, Sawanna  
POKLUDA, John  
HUTSON, Albert  
MARIANI, Joshua  
YOUVELLA, Heather  
WALKER, Michael  
RODRIGUEZ, Ray  
MACIEL, Flor  
ZELMER, Julian  
WALKER, Charles  
TAYLOR, Ryan  
MAYBERRY, John



## MESSAGE FROM THE 52D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Robert A. Vitt

CSM Mark A. George

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

As we near the end of 2010, I would like to take this time to look back and reflect on some of the great things that the 52d Signal Battalion has done through-

out the past few months. In addition to providing vital mission support to two critical COCOMs and maintaining nuclear command and control, our Soldiers have not only engaged in tactical field training and confined entry training, but they have also been staunch supporters within the Stuttgart community. The Relay for Life, Run to Remember, and the Great Pumpkin run are only a few examples of their unselfish service.

We have worked long and hard in the past three months, providing both redundant and reliable communications in order to support the missions of all subscribers that rely on us. Despite all of the hard work, the Soldiers and fami-

lies of the 52<sup>nd</sup> SIG BN have still managed to not only work hard but to also have fun by continuing to build strong esprit de corps through chili and global cuisine cook offs, sports days, fundraisers, a staff ride to Holland, and celebrating together throughout the many holiday events.

I know we are all looking forward to the upcoming Holiday season to spend time with our families and enjoy all that Europe has to offer. I wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing Holiday season. I can't wait to see what next year has in store for us!

LTC Robert Vitt  
CSM Mark George

## 52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

### September

- 8-SSG Sanders, Marie
- 30-PFC Simmons, Wes
- 11-SFC Brazelton, Charles
- 14-SFC Mansapit, Gabriel
- 22-SGT Howard, Michael
- 22-SSG Widmer, George
- 25-CW2 Parnell, Michael
- 28-PVT Jimenez, Sean
- 29-CW2 Fuentes, Christina
- 12-SPC Stanbrough, Lindsey

### October Birthdays

- 6-SSG Newell, Jeffrey
- 8-SPC Votta, Michael
- SGT Veerkamp, William
- 31-Szmulewitz, Ziggy
- 19-SFC Williams, Bertram
- 20-SGT Tope, Jay
- 22-CPT Gibbs, Sean
- 24-2LT Kim, Margaret
- 29-PFC Dutcher, Andrew
- 27-SGT Barboza, Jessica
- 29-SPC Johnson, Vashaan
- 30-PFC Boggs, Corey
- 30-SPC Rogers, Casey
- 18-CPT Wilson, Eric

### November Birthdays

- 1 - SPC Nope, Darren
- 3 - PFC Peterson, Jude
- 29 - PFC Thomas, Selene
- 8 - SPC Simpson, Jeremiah
- 14 - SPC Wellman, James
- 16 - SSG Floyd, Nathan
- 20 - SPC Valdez, Henry
- 22 - SGT Foster, Robert
- 3 - CPT Hill, Ruston

### PROMOTIONS:

#### 1 September 2010:

PFC Ewen, Kenneth – Promoted to SPC

#### 11 September 2010:

PV2 Boggs, Corey – Promoted to PFC

#### 25 September 2010:

PFC Nope, Darren – Promoted to SPC

#### 1 October 2010:

PFC Chisley, Brittany – Promoted to SPC

PFC Joyner, Joshua – Promoted to SPC

PFC Stanbrough, Lindsey – Promoted to SPC

PFC Stevenson, Brett – Promoted to SPC

#### 7 October 2010:

PVT Diaz, Angel – Promoted to PV2

#### 1 November 2010:

PFC Derham, Adam – Promoted to SPC

SPC Stracke, Aaron – Promoted to SGT

### REENLISTMENTS:

- SPC Baggett, Jerry - 1 Oct (12 month Stabilization Extension)
- SFC McDowell, Set - 14 Oct
- SGT Johnson, Jonathon - 15 Nov

### FRG EVENTS:

- 29 October: Halloween Door Decorating Contest and Party
- 30 Sep: FRG Fall Kickoff Meeting

### ARRIVALS:

- SFC Gulas, David - 10 Sep
- SSG Sanders-Gulas, Marie - 10 Sep
- MAJ Perry, Kristy - 29 Sep
- PFC Castle, Robert - 5 Oct
- SSG Floyd, Nathan - 6 Oct

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Brigade Soldier / NCO of Quarter Board FY11 2nd Quarter - 10 Dec
- Christmas Party - 10 Dec
- SRP - 15 Dec



### 52D SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT: SGT COREY B. COONEY

#### SPOTLIGHT SOLDIER: SGT Cooney

Narrative by COL Harris, AFRICOM Assistant Chief of Staff

SGT Cooney demonstrated the best of the Army's values and the Soldier's Creed by placing himself in harm's way to provide safety to the citizens of the greater Stuttgart community. He voluntarily took control of an emergent civilian situation, ensuring the safety of a family with a disabled vehicle, as well as the spectators in the immediate area.

SGT Cooney quickly and independently assessed the events unfolding roadside as he passed the disabled vehicle. He was first to take charge, promptly stopping his vehicle and moving all per-

sonnel in the vicinity of a vehicle fire to safety prior to the vehicle's gas tank exploding, doubling the size of the fire.

Although it was during mid afternoon rush hour on one of Stuttgart's busiest autobahns, SGT Cooney's primary concern was for the welfare of all who were driving by the sight of the fire.



He gathered all available emergency triangles, jumped the guardrail and made his way into oncoming traffic and personally placed the emergency placards directly in busy traffic lanes.

His quick actions were instrumental in ensuring public safety, as the front vehicle wheel exploded and blew across two lanes of traffic immediately following his actions to move all vehicles to the outer most lane of Autobahn 8A.

SGT Cooney's hands-on leadership and professional competence was the catalyst for the safe ending to a potentially deadly event. He personally remained on the scene beyond the arrival of the local police and fire department ensuring all moving traffic continued to maintain a safe distance from the fire.

### 52D SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS



Members of the 52nd Signal Battalion participate in the 2010 Run for Life.



SFC Kacey McDowell reenlists. Pictured above, CW2 Fuentes giving the oath to SFC McDowell.

#### 52nd FRG Halloween FUN FOR ALL AGES!!

Was this party for the kids or the adults!?!

Maria Easler dressed up as....MAJ Easler (S3)!!



CW2 Fuentes and Mrs. Coleman bring back the 80s!



CPT Wilson (587th CDR) scaring the kids!!





## 52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: CONFINED SPACE TRAINING

### 52nd Signal Soldiers train for confined space entry

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Soldiers in the 587th Signal Company, 52nd Signal Battalion and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, along with civilian personnel from the garrison safety and office and fire department, practiced entering a manhole on Patch Barracks as part of Confined Space Entry Training Sept. 23.

This training was first in a series of events required for personnel who fall under Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines and enter confined spaces as part of their job according to Justin Archbold, 52nd Signal Battalion safety officer.

"The Signal Battalions are kind of the driving force because we have so many con-



(Left) PFC Whitfield going into the manhole

finied spaces with all of our manholes and cable vaults," Archbold said. "The ability to safely accomplish the mis-

sion in these spaces is critical."

There are 200 manholes in USAG Stuttgart alone, he added.

"They contain hazardous gases sometimes. There can be physical hazards like standing water. There can be environmental hazards like snakes, bugs, anything that can find its way into a hole," he said.

But the most dangerous part is the lack of oxygen which can be depleted below the required level for human survival (20 percent oxygen).

The training and equipment was provided by 5th Signal Command, which recently spent \$160,000 equipping every signal battalion in Europe with confined space entry kits (enough gear for three people, including harnesses and helmets).

Written by Brittany Carlson, Citizen Newspaper



Soldiers prepare for confined space training

## 52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: STAFF RIDE HOLLAND

### 52nd Signal Battalion

#### Commander's Total Fitness

#### Program: Staff Ride Holland

For over a year now, Soldiers of the 52nd Signal Battalion have been taking fitness to a new level with the Commander's Total Fitness Program (CTFP). The 52nd Signal Battalion's CTFP actually puts legs to the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness initiative by involving Soldiers in a voluntary program to increase health and resiliency physically, mentally and spiritually. Soldiers who participate in this quarterly program seek to take each of these facets of fitness to the next level. The mental fitness portion concludes with a Staff Ride to a European battlefield and this quarter the soldiers visited Holland for the 66th Anniversary of Operation Market

Garden from 17-19 September 2010. The soldiers briefed portions of the operation, observed re-enactors in period uniforms jumping into historical drop zones, and spent time speaking to actual veterans who jumped into Holland and fought their way through the countryside and towns in an effort to take critical bridges on the Waal and Rhine Rivers.

The sky was filled with parachutes over drop zones throughout Holland on September 17, 1944 and again on September 19, 2010. After watching the historical jumps, the 52nd Signal Battalion CTFP Soldiers visited the town of Groesbeek, site of the British Airborne HQ featured in the movie "A Bridge too Far." From there they journeyed on to the town of Nijmegen at the site of the famous 82nd Airborne Division's taking of the bridge over the Waal River and then on to Arnhem, to focus on the British portion of the battle and to walk the historic

"Bridge Too Far."

The real advantage to this trip was making it in conjunction with the Operation Market Garden 66th Anniversary events. Period uniforms and 1940s military vehicles were everywhere and the CTFP participants are now much more knowledgeable, not only of WWII, but also of the spiritual, mental and physical resilience required of the soldiers who fought in



82nd Airborne Re-enactors prepare to jump from a C-47

PICS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



### 52D SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: CONFINED SPACE TRAINING



(Left) CTFP Participants at the British Drop Zone near Arnhem



(Right) PFC Wright stands with former CPT Moffat Burriss, Company Commander of I Company 2-508 PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division who jumped here on 18 SEP 1944



A Douglas C-47 drops paratroopers on the Klein Amerika DZ near Nijmegen reenacting the largest Airborne assault in history



Former PFC John Primerano, a signal soldier from the 501 PIR of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne who made his 13<sup>th</sup> jump here, explains the battle with fond memories of his chaplain "Father Sam" to Chaplain Hill, the OIC of the CTFP



(Left) CTFP participants stand on "John Frost Bridge" in Arnhem named for the British Paratroop Commander who was captured while attempting to take the memorable "Bridge Too Far"



Re-enactors from the British Airborne



# 102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC Eric E. Aslakson



CSM Robert A. Daniel, Jr.

(Below) The team begins their climb..



## Such Great Heights



LTC Aslakson, CPT Brown, and 1LT Killian kicked off the month by climbing the GIG site tower. Unfortunately it was a little cloudy that day, but we did manage to get some great photos.



LTC Aslakson, CPT Brown, and 1LT Killian prepare to climb the tower.



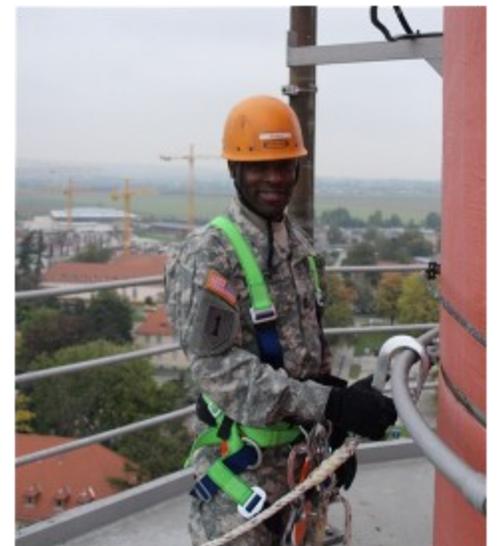
1LT Killian dons her safety harness.



Below: 1LT Killian poses at the top of the GIG site tower.



LTC Aslakson thanks the GIG site team.



CPT Brown secures himself to the railing at the top of the GIG site tower.



### 102D SIGNAL BATTALION PICTURES



CPT Billingsley presents CPL Valle with his discharge and enlistment certificates.

## Reenlistment

On 13 October members of the 102D Signal Battalion drove down to Hohenfels to attend CPL Valle's reenlistment ceremony.



CPL Valle recites the Oath of Enlistment.

## Promotions



(Right) CPT Brown presents SGT Cobena with his Certificate of Promotion.



SGT Walthers pins SPC Hoyos with a tap for good luck.



(Below) CPT Brown presents SPC Hoyos with his Certificate of Promotion.

## Boxing

PFC Pennington competed in the Hispanic Heritage Boxing Tournament in late September. Much to his own surprise he was able to box his way to victory despite having only begun training about a week prior to the tournament. His main competitor had been boxing for well over a year. Great job PFC Pennington!





### 102D SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS

## Team Building

We closed out last month and kicked this month off with a little team building at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center. Here are some photos of the event.



(Left) PFC Phung bowling.



(Top) PFC Neal aims his roll.



(Top) SPC (P) Crosby bowling.



SSG Etcitty bowling.



## Super Marathon

Chris Wolfe, of our Wiesbaden Network Enterprise Center service desk loves to run. On September 11 and 12 he participated in a 25-hour run, where he ran 145 km (or 88.01 miles). That's greater than the distance between New York City and Philadelphia. The run was a charity event to support local youth athletic events.



Mr. Wolfe checks how long he's been running.



(Left) Chris Wolfe (Center) is joined by his wife Donielle (Right) and daughter, Vanessa (Left) on his final lap.



# 102D SIGNAL BATTALION EVENTS: APPLE SEASON

## Apple Season

By CH Jennifer Rogers-Cooper

Fall is officially here; and with fall comes the apple season! On Sunday, 31 October, Soldiers and Civilians from the 102d Signal Battalion had the opportunity to join Aukamm Elementary on their annual apple picking event. The participants drove to a local orchard to pick apples so that the children at Aukamm Elementary could enjoy learning about the process of making apple juice the following day. Every year, the adults and children join in this opportunity to pick apples so that they can enjoy the juice the next day.



The 102d Signal Battalion is partnering with Aukamm Elementary to provide volunteer support and encouragement for the children. This was the first of many events where the Soldiers and Civilians of the 102d Signal Battalion assist the school in providing fun opportunities for learning for the children.

Volunteers from the Battalion brought their friends and family along to take part in the apple picking. Mr. Shane Barone, Wiesbaden NEC, was influential in ensuring the best of the apples remaining in the tree were brought down on a tarp for the children to gather. Meanwhile SPC Michael Kearney, S3, and PFC Alberto Gionnatti helped the children gather the apples, and place them in large bins. Both SPC Kearney and PFC

“Volunteers from the Battalion brought their friends and family along to a local orchard to pick apples so that the children at Aukamm Elementary could enjoy learning about the process of making apple juice the following day.”  
- CH Rogers -Cooper



Gionnatti brought their families to assist in picking up the apples. MSG Thomas Jefferson, S3, and his family along with CH Jennifer Cooper, UMT, and her husband were assigned the task of checking the apples for bad spots and cutting them out, ensuring that they were ready for the juice-making on 1 November.



Mrs. Candice Williams, the Commander's Administrative Assistant, organized the 102d Signal Battalion's support for the event. The orchard owner was so gracious as to let the volunteers take home a few apples at the end of the picking so that they could also enjoy the "fruits" of their labor. The Soldiers encouraged both family and friends to come along, making this a wonderful community event!





## 509TH SIGNAL BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



LTC G. Shawn Wells      CSM Brian W. Warren

### Visit by USARAF CDR

Major General David R. Hogg, the Commander of U.S. Army Africa (USARAF), visited the 509th Signal Battalion in September 2010, familiarizing himself with theater enterprise Signal services provided by the 509th Signal Battalion to USARAF and Garrison organizations in Vicenza, Italy. Since taking Command of USARAF in June 2010, MG Hogg has visited several African countries, promoting sustained security engagement with African land forces and continuing the Africa Command (AFRICOM) efforts to promote and build partner nation relationships. MG Hogg's visit was designed to give the General an understanding of the 509th mission and operations. The visit began with the 509th Command Brief at the Battalion Headquarters to discuss the 509th mission, the customer base, and how support is planned and executed. The visit continued with a tour of Operations Center Vicenza, where MG Hogg was briefed on the operations of the Dial Connect Office and met some of our Ital-

ian employees. The General was also introduced to the SIPR and NIPR network management team and received a breakdown of the network topology from Mr. Carl Smith. Finally, MG Hogg met the Tier II help desk team and the embedded MSE employees who enhance our ability to field trouble tickets across the community.

The tour moved to the 509th HHD and the Expeditionary Signal Team for an overview of operations presented by the Platoon Leader, 2LT Neville Rose. The brief covered the capabilities of the PAC-STAR 4100 System and the en-route communications packages used to provide Command and Control (C2) support to MG Hogg when deployed away from the home station. This visit was informative for the EST workforce as MG Hogg shared his insights and knowledge. He further expressed the need for the 509th Signal Battalion to continue maintaining a close working relationship with USARAF to support their communication C2 re-



quirements.

A further stop included the Installation Processing Node-Italy (IPN-I), which serves as the Italy Server Farm providing both Enterprise services (NIPR/SIPR EMAIL, BlackBerry, etc.) and Customer



services for both USARAF and USAG-Vicenza/Livorno Installations. Mr. Charles Calabrese, IPN-I Chief, briefed the General on the Enterprise services provided, focusing on those systems managed by 509th Signal Battalion for USARAF. A facility tour was provided, highlighting the diversity of systems and services provided to Army Italy customers, which includes the System integration and support to 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Combat Team (ABCT). The 509th Signal Battalion continues to be operationally ready to provide modular sustaining base and ready deployable C4I systems to USARAF and USAG Warfighters ensuring dynamic and sustainable communications support to our customers – *Guardians of the Spectrum!*

## 509TH SIGNAL BATTALION FLAG FOOTBALL



The 509th Flag Football Team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in USAREUR and 1<sup>ST</sup> in Italy.



## 509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS

### Azerbaijan

The 509<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion accepted a mission to participate in and lead a Military-to-Military engagement in Baku, Azerbaijan. CPT Lucas Cottrell and SFC Burt Medrano were chosen as the trainers for the event. The mission was to teach a course that covered implementation of training management for signal units and S6 shops. The training schedule was short, with only four days of instruction for the event. The audience, ranging from 1LTs to MAJs, was actively engaged in the discussions about the topics. Azerbaijan is a newly-independent country that broke free from Russia in 1990 and regained its status as a sovereign nation. Following its independence, Azerbaijan was involved in a conflict with its neighboring country of Armenia. In 1994, a cease fire was negotiated. However, there is still ongoing conflict between the two countries. Much of the Azeri training model is based on the Soviet model, so instruction regarding the way the U.S. Army trains provides the Azeri more options in training their Soldiers for their respec-

tive missions.

In addition to the course taught during the day, CPT Cottrell and SFC Medrano had the unique opportunity of engaging the local population through an "English Speakers Club" where they were invited to speak. The interpreters for the M2M engagement arranged this event for local students to practice with native English speakers to improve their language skills. During this hour and a half dialogue with approximately thirty students, participants talked about culture, politics, and family life. CPT Cottrell also had the opportunity to link up with the Azeri officer he sponsored during the Signal Captains Career Course. CPT Cottrell and SFC Medrano are confident the Azeri in the audience can apply Army training concepts, such as the 8-Step Training Model, to train their Soldiers effectively. The Azeri Military-to-Military engagement proved to be an excellent opportunity to teach, interact, and strengthen the ties between the U.S. and the Azeri Armies.



SFC Medrano poses with three majors that were in the audience



CPT Cottrell discusses cultural differences during one of the breaks



CPT Cottrell teaches the Red, Amber, Green cycle of training management



SFC Medrano discusses the role of the NCO in training management



From left to right: 1LT Alesgorov, Eileen, CPT Cottrell, SFC Medrano enjoying the final course of the meal



## 509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: VSAT

### VSAT TERMINAL

Vicenza, Italy –A small communications symposium organized by Mr. Jean Valdez of 509<sup>th</sup> Network Operations and United States Army Africa (USARAF) brought five satellite vendors to Caserma Ederle to display their products. The purpose of the event was to evaluate the latest available VSAT technology and determine the one system best suited to supporting operations in Africa.

Criteria for success were established prior to the event. One of the top criterion was the VSAT had to be X-Band capable. By leveraging the use of an X-Band VSAT, the 509<sup>th</sup> can lower the cost of communications to the customer while increasing bandwidth and capability. This is accomplished by moving away from exclusive use of the BGAN antenna which is lower in bandwidth and costly to operate. Another important criterion was the need for a compact, lightweight, dish that could be easily stored in an overhead compartment of commercial aircraft.

Over the span of two days, the exhibitors were given the opportunity to demonstrate their

products capabilities. Concurrently, Soldiers and civilians from the 509<sup>th</sup> and USARAF conducted hands-on evaluations of each system. At the conclusion of the event, the 509<sup>th</sup> and USARAF compared the pros and cons of each system. Of the five exhibitors, the Tampa Microwave VSAT terminal stood out as the one that not only met the criteria set prior to the event, but was also favored by the Soldiers that operated the equipment. As a result of the demonstration and testing, Africa Command purchased a number of Tampa Microwave terminals. Two of these terminals will be received and operated by the 509<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion in 2011. The addition of these new terminals will improve the communications capabilities required to the support USARAF's mission needs.



*Mr. Valdez is pictured above taking a closer look at one of the featured communication equipment, Tampa Microwave.*

(Right) 509th Signal Battalion run to the top of Monte Berico.



## 509TH SIGNAL BATTALION NEWS: FRG

The HDD, 509th FRG recently sponsored two great events. In September, the FRG organized and sponsored a hike to Monte Brione that brought the Families of the unit together for a day in the Italian Dolomites. The group departed at 0800 in the morning and travelled the hour and a half to the base of Monte Brione. Following a quick safety brief and an overview of the route, the 509th FRG began the ascent to the summit. The route up the mountain runs entirely along the edge of a cliff, displaying a view of the valley and Lake Garda. The trip to the summit took two hours, after which the FRG enjoyed lunch and took a group photo. Upon returning to the base of the mountain, the party enjoyed gelato and pizza prior to returning to



post. This great FRG event allowed Families to enjoy the outdoors and fostered a sense of community for all involved.

The 509th FRG also hosted a BBQ potluck. The FRG provided the chicken, bratwurst, hot dogs, and drinks. The Families brought favorite side dishes. The event was great for Soldiers and Families. The activities ranged from making s'mores to playing volleyball to destroying a piñata.

In December, the FRG will host its annual Holiday party complete with food, door prizes, Christmas trivia, and goody bags for the kids from Santa. The FRG is looking forward to a new year, welcoming new members to the team, and to hosting future events for 509th Families and Soldiers.



### MESSAGE FROM THE HHC COMMAND TEAM



CPT Sirena Sias



1SG Jessie Davis

Dear Soldiers, Civilians, Friends and Family of HHC,.

Last month we gave a heart-felt thank you to Master Sergeant Williams for his dedicated service as our First Sergeant from April 2009 to October 2010. The change of responsibility on 15 October allowed everyone to publicly recognize the honorable service and leadership given by Master Sergeant Williams and witness the symbolic transfer of responsibility to our new First Sergeant Jessie

Davis. We welcome First Sergeant Davis and his wonderful Family to the unit. First Sergeant Davis came to us from the 102d Signal Battalion and is accompanied by his wife Shaunna and his children Ashley, Josh, Alexis, Jessie and Mya.

Sirena Sias  
CPT, SC  
Commanding

### HHC NEWS AND PICTURES

1SG Joseph Williams Change of responsibility to 1SG Jessie Davis was 15 Oct 10.

New personnel to HHC, 2D SIG BDE

1SG Davis

SGM Moorer

SGT Mendez

SGT Smith

SPC Gonzales

October Birthdays

CW2 Elliott 6-Oct

CPT Covey 18-Oct

SPC Crosby 24-Oct

MSG Woodard 26-Oct

November Birthdays

SSG McMaster 6-Nov

CW3 Weller 24-Nov

December Birthdays

SFC Ayers 2-Dec

CPT Lokodi 3-Dec

January Birthdays

SGT Filkins 5-Jan

MAJ Weber 5-Jan

SSG Mccracken 6-Jan

SFC Lisica 8-Jan

SPC Ruland, A 11-Jan

SPC Oliver 22-Jan



COL Kilgo officially places the rank of First Sergeant on incoming 1SG Davis' chest in the presence of his wife Shaunna.



Outgoing 1SG Williams presents the sword to CSM Brooks

Right: 1SG Davis' Family was in attendance for his change of responsibility ceremony.





### HHC 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE—15 OCT CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY CEREMONY

