Lightning Warrior Dispatch

Fall 2002

Serving the 93rd Signal Brigade Family

Lightning Warrior Dispatch

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Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo Illustration By Sgt. 1st Class Micheal Maloney

Front Cover:

Pfc. Obi Hamilton, B Co. 67th Sig. Bn., won first place at the 93rd Sig. Bde. Organization Day Talent Show, with her Gospel-Dance.

Brigade Commander – Col. Daniel M. Gerstein
Public Affairs Officer – Maj. Shirley Tyra
PAO NCO -- Sgt. Kelly McCargo

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Voice of the Commander

Col. Daniel Gerstein

It is hard to believe that it has been over a year since the tragedy of September 11th and the beginning of the Global War on terrorism.

The changes in each of us personally and in our units are difficult to quantify, and certainly not easy to measure. The images of the planes hitting the World Trade Center and the devastation at the Pentagon seem to never be far from our thoughts. As a society, we are continuing to come to grips with the impact of this devastating and cowardly attack against our homeland.

The last year has also seen many changes for the 93rd Signal Brigade. We have deployed numerous soldiers in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and NOBLE EAGLE, and the deployments continue. Our readiness has greatly increased and we have grown as a unit in numerous ways. Our facilities have continued to be upgraded. We have developed specialized data and video capabilities, and integrated them into our mission set. We now certify all of our signal, maintenance and food service teams according to ARTEP standards on a quarterly basis. Our staffs have become functioning command and control headquarters capable of deploying, planning, maintaining, and protecting our networks, our units and our soldiers. Our soldiers and organizations have been recognized for excellence here at Fort Gordon, within the Army Signal Command and USARSO and across the Army. In short, we are trained and ready for any and all contingencies.

And while I want to congratulate you for a job well done, my primary message is that we are not done and that we have a long, hard road ahead before our national objectives in the war on terrorism are accomplished. That translates to maintaining our focus and our readiness, being vigilant at all times and continuing to prepare ourselves personally and professionally.

Several years ago, I was fortunate enough to work for General Gordon Sullivan, who at the time was the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. He always said, "you don't know what you don't know." Now there were some that really didn't understand what the General meant and would question what he was talking about. His message was that the time to prepare and to ready our units and ourselves was now, and not when the call to action came. I had heard him use this phrase hundreds of times in the months leading up to the summer of 1990.

How prophetic these words became in August of 1990 as Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers crossed into Kuwait in a sophisticated combined arms attack as Iraq violated the sovereign nation of Kuwait. The nation of Kuwait and the world were certainly caught off guard. Weeks later, US Army units, in some cases units that had been notified for deactivation, were heading off to Southwest Asia to defend Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait. We certainly didn't know what we didn't know.

Today the same is true. The war on terrorism is likely to take many twists and turns before we ultimately prevail. The only sure thing for us is to continue to prepare for any eventuality. We must be ready and the time is now. We must continue to train soldiers and grow leaders that are competent, confidant and up to any task. To do anything less would be to put this nation at risk.

I want to leave you with the following quote from President Theodore Roosevelt at the 1902 Graduation Address, United States Naval Academy, "It cannot be repeated too often that in modern war, the chief factor in achieving triumph is what has been done in the way of thorough preparation and training before the beginning of the war."

And so we train and continue to prepare our units and ourselves.

LIGHTNING WARRIOR!!

Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Continue to prepare!

Capt. Brian Tidwell, B Co. 67th Signal Battalion, company commander, briefs Col. Daniel Gerstein on Bravo Company's deployment status during the September Situational Training Exercise.

Soldier to Soldier

What do our soldiers see in us?

Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick

I challenge all officers and noncommissioned officers to look at what our soldiers see in us. Think now of your soldiers. Think of their names, faces, duties, and ranks …

Think of any and all things that will bring and keep your own soldiers in your mind.

It's your behavior, not your words, which will teach your soldiers what is worthwhile and what is not. At first they may take their cues from your words, but over the long run they will take their cues from your behavior.

A professional leader is aware of what influence their behavior has on his or her soldiers. What kind of influence does your behavior have on your soldiers?

Your soldiers are governed by either "laying a club on the outside of their head, or by laying a club on the inside of their head."

In other words, your soldiers will do what they should because you outrank them—the club on the outside of their head.

"You should demonstrate nothing less than a commitment and proficiency to your job; a high degree of confidence and initiative; and a positive attitude..."

Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick
Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Or they will do what they should because you are a professional leader they respect—the club that is inside of their head. Where do your soldiers see this club?

What do your soldiers see when it comes to your responsibility for their training? Your soldiers have heard all of the words on training. They know that you are responsible for their individual soldier training. They expect you to know what they are expected to learn. They question you, when training is given by other than you … their noncommissioned officer.

I have no answers for these questions that I have asked. Only you know the answers. By answering each question you will determine for yourself if you are providing the leadership demanded of you by your soldiers.

Whatever the answers may be, you and your soldiers are the only ones that will know—and that is the way it should be.

I would like to see us focus on leadership by example. A unit takes on the personality of its leaders. You should demonstrate nothing less than a commitment and proficiency to your job; a high degree of confidence and initiative; and a positive attitude, and the unit will respond accordingly.

As a leader you must be willing to march a little farther, to carry a heavier load, and to step out into the dark and unknown for the safety and well-being of your soldiers and for our country which you are responsible to defend.

Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

During monthly development sessions, the Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick, holds meetings with the brigade first sergeants to cover existing policies and changes.

Army narrows re-up window

By Master Sgt. Jerry Smith
Brigade Senior Career Counselor

The Army's success in recruiting and retention has postured the Army to once again reinforce that reenlistment is a privilege and therefore require soldiers to make their retention decisions early.

Soldiers will now have to decide whether they plan to continue their service in the Army much earlier at the start of Fiscal Year 2003.

Effective October 1, soldiers are no longer authorized to reenlist once they fall within 90 days of their perspective Expiration Term of Service date.

The purpose of the tighter reenlistment window, is to identify soldiers who desire unbroken service, according to personnel officials. Also the Army can start planning for the replacements of the personnel returning to civilian status.

Don't miss your opportunity for continued service!

Under the previous policy, soldiers within 90 days of their ETS were granted and exception by the Department of the Army and could reenlist under the following conditions:

a. Soldiers who were serving in a balanced or shortage primary military occupation specialty were authorized reenlistment for Option E1 (In accordance with the needs of the Army).

b. Soldiers who were serving in an over strength PMOS were authorized reenlistment under Option E3 (reclassification into a new PMOS).

c. Career soldiers (10 or more years of active federal service on the date of reenlistment) were authorized to reenlist for Option E1 (IAW the needs of the Army).

The Army has rescinded the above policy and now feel the need to re-instate the fact that reenlistment in today's Army is, and always has been, a privilege and not a right.

Beginning in FY03, soldiers will have 9 months to make a decision about their career in the Army (12 months prior to but no later than three months prior to their ETS).

It is ***imperative*** that all leaders advise their soldiers of this change immediately.

This change should be brought to the attention of all soldiers within the brigade.

"Leaders are an integral part of the retention business," said Ron Canada, Chief of the Retention Management Division at Headquarters Department of the Army.

Leaders from the top down must ensure that all soldiers within their perspective unit are counseled on the re-enlistment window and that they may be denied further retention if they come within three months of their ETS.

Exceptions will be considered for meritorious cases only.

The Army feels the need to re-instate the fact that reenlistment in today's Army is, and always has been, a privilege and not a right.

All exceptions will have to be routed up through the soldier's chain of command and endorsed by the first General Officer in the soldier's chain of command.

The final approving authority for all exceptions to the three-month rule will rest with PERSCOM Commander.

For more information or concerns about this reenlistment policy change please contact the 93rd Signal Brigade Retention Office at 791-6508 or 791-8414.

Force Protection still major issue

By Staff Sgt. Kent McQueen III
Brigade S-2, NCOIC

Command Sgt. Maj. Rock Stonewall steps off the Boeing 747 into the familiar surroundings of Frankfurt, Germany's International Airport. Stonewall strolls down the corridor toward the baggage claim area to get his luggage.

On the way he notices an Army private in his military Class A uniform buying a soda at a vending machine. "That's not wise," Stonewall thinks to himself.

Stonewall intentionally wore a civilian windbreaker and a pair of jeans, so he wouldn't draw attention to himself. Germany is a close ally to the U.S., but unfriendly organizations and groups do like to cause mayhem in friendly areas because U.S. citizens are often easier targets where they feel more comfortable.

The uniformed soldier also has a large green Army duffle bag, clearly marking him as a U.S. soldier. Stonewall packed his belongings in non-descript luggage.

Stonewall decides to follow; keeping a reasonable distance and a watchful eye for suspicious personnel who may try to take advantage of the young soldier.

Sure enough, Stonewall notices three sketchy characters pointing and following the private.

Unarmed, Stonewall grudgingly seeks the support of the local authorities—after all, it may turn out to be a false alarm ...

Good Force Protection practices, especially Individual Protective Measures, are paramount for safeguarding our most valuable assets—personnel.

We have since commemorated the first anniversary of the September 11th attacks on America. One year is long enough to become complacent, and long enough for terrorist groups to regroup. It's no mystery that many foreign groups harbor an anti-American sentiment.

Awareness training is the first step in becoming a "hard target."

As per Army Regulation 525-13, Level I Anti-terrorism Awareness Training, or Anti-terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP), must be completed annually and prior to a Permanent Change of Station overseas.

On-line training materials can be found at awareness.org or on AKO (http://www.us.army.mil) under Army Wide Announcements.

The web site requires an access code, AWARE. You may then sign up for the training and create your logon. When you complete the training, the site provides a certificate that you print out and/or send to your S-2/Security Manager via e-mail. Your security manager, preferably Level II AT/FP certified, will sign the certificate as "certifying official." You must sign as "trainee."

The web site also contains some useful administration downloads.

Under "Training Related Downloads" you may find the "Self Help Guide to Combat Terrorism While Overseas" (Joint Publication 5260), an Individual Protective Measures card (Joint Publication 5260 card), and the Level I Power Point presentation. There is even an electronic document for PDA users.

Optionally, AT/FP Level I training may be completed by attending a post class at Alexander Hall given by the Post AT/FP officer. The training is held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. The class consists of 2.5 hours of videotape and Power Point slides presentation.

Finally, Level II AT/FP personnel within a unit may also be tasked to provide the same training given at Alexander Hall. However, they can't give these classes at the drop of a hat or conduct it for 1 or 2 individuals.

Most of the time Level II AT/FP facilitators work in the battalion or brigade S-2 or S-3. It is recommended that they be tasked about 6 weeks out on the training schedule for company, platoon, or section classes.

Personnel, and accompanying dependants, PCSing to OCONUS after completing the training will receive a form memorandum to take to Darling Hall for travel orders. Darling Hall will not accept your on-line training certificate.

See your S-2 or known Level II AT/FP facilitator about this training and the form memorandum as soon as you know about your PCS. Your unit facilitators can make your AT/FP training issues much easier for you.

Don't become an easy target for Terrorist—educate yourself and others on Force Protection Measures.

Peruvian Officers applaud 93rd Sig. Bde.

By Lt. Col. Paul W. LaDue
Brigade Training Officer

The 93rd Signal Brigade hosted a visit from two distinguished Peruvian signaleers on August 28.

Peruvian Col. Pedro Buleje, Peruvian Army Information Office and Lt. Col. Hugo Rodriguez, Peruvian Army Communications Command, were accompanied by Col. Dan C. Meyer, U.S. Defense Attache Office, Lima, Peru, as distinguished guests of the 93rd Sig. Bde.

Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander, welcomed them to Lightning Warrior country and presented them the command briefing. During the ensuing discussion, it quickly became apparent that we share common Signal issues and challenges in both armies.

As a result, Gerstein presented additional remarks on the Brigade's training philosophy and the transformation of the Signal Corps that were very well received by the guests.

Following this exchange of ideas, Jose Rosado, TNOSC project manager, provided them with an overview of the capabilities of the Theater Network Operations and Security Center and the Regional Computer Emergency Response Center.

The tour of the TNOSC facility concluded with an explanation of how the battle staff is integrated with the TNOSC.

Continuing with the theme of transformation, Gerstein displayed the brigade's newest capability by demonstrating the data package, SSS, and TSC-85C operated by B Company, 63rd Sig. Bn. for the Joint User Interoperability Communication Exercise.

Buleje and Rodriguez expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to view the capabilities the brigade has brought on line in the last year as part of our transformation.

Peruvian Lt. Col. Hugo Rodriguez, asks about 93rd Sig. Bde's Area of Responsibilty, which extends to Peru.

Col. Daniel Gerstein and the Peruvian officers sample fruit-punch at the Lightning Warrior Cafe'

Finally, the distinguished visitors concluded their visit by saving the best for last: lunch at the award-winning 93rd Signal Brigade dining facility. Lt. Col. John Rutt, 63rd Sig. Bn., battalion commander, Lt. Col. Kari Everett, 67th Sig. Bn., battalion commander and Lt. Col. Robert Rhodes, 56th Sig. Bn., battalion commander, joined Gerstein and the Peruvians for a lunchtime discussion.

Buleje emphasized the importance of the information provided by the 93rd Sig. Bde., by saying that "this visit made the whole trip worthwhile." He then showed his appreciation by presenting Gerstein with a small gift. Gerstein thanked him for his kind words and presented both visitors with 93rd Sig. Bde. coins.

The visit was part of the 93rd Sig. Bde's ongoing support of the SOUTHCOM Combatant Commander's Theater Engagement Plan. The 93rd is tasked with developing relationships with our fellow signaleers from countries, such as Peru, in the SOUTHCOM Area Of Responsibility.

Photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Peruvian Col. Pedro Buleje (right), said he was impressed with the 93rd Sig. Bde's rigorous training program and equipment configuration.

Neither *wind*, nor *rain* could stop

Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Bde. PAO NCO

From day one of the exercise, sporadic rain showers from the fringes of Tropical Storm Isidore had every soldier soaked to the bone.

Because of the high humidity, soldiers wearing their wet weather gear soaked their BDUs with sweat.

Numerous tents and camouflage nets, absorbing the rain, grew heavier by the minute, but the optimistic signal soldiers still managed to erect all of the equipment before dark.

More than 800, soldiers from the 93rd Signal Brigade, to include the 518th, 235th and 252nd Signal Companies participated in the September Situational Training Exercise throughout the Fort Gordon Training Areas from Sept. 15-20.

The purpose of the quarterly exercise was to qualify the brigade's teams in realistic combat conditions.

"The Situational Training Exercise is a capstone event designed to certify all of the signal, maintenance and food service teams in the brigade," said Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander.

Staff Sgt. Michael Barekman (right), C Co 63rd Sig. Bn., section sergeant, shows his soldier Spc. Steven Shockome how to plot a grid point on a map.

Photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

A Co. 67th Sig. Bn. soldiers methodically set up their DAMPS to qualify their crew.

"It is intended to require units to use all of their combat skills in their military occupational specialty and common soldier skills to ensure they are ready for deployments, exercises and other operations," he said.

To certify, signal teams had three hours to erect a 100-meter Digital Antenna Mast Positioning System, camouflage their vehicles and equipment, and successfully troubleshoot the system.

"Much of the training has been focused toward training the team sergeants," said Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade command sergeant major. "In a war time situation the team's success is really going to depend on that team's sergeant."

Once a signal team was certified it would have to qualify other engagements.

En-route to a NBC decontamination site, teams were ambushed by remnants of a terrorist opposition group, equipped with automatic rifles and chemical grenades.

"I never expected anything like that," said Staff Sgt. Charles Degone, C Co. 63rd Sig. Bn., platoon sergeant.

Degone's team quickly reacted to the ambush by putting their Humvees in a staggered position, and defending themselves with their personal weapons.

"We were told to go to another site and the next thing we know someone's jumping out of the woods and shooting at us," he said.

The OPFORs initial mission was to fix and harass the American soldiers, but they soon became bolder. Some signal sites were assaulted during broad daylight, giving signal teams the opportunity to train reporting casualty feeder reports.

"Overall the STX is going well," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Weygant, A Co. 63rd Sig. Bn., HHC platoon sergeant. "As a leader, the STX allows me to train the soldiers with repetition and ensure that the training meets standards. I can then evaluate the standards and improve on the training."

TS Isidore kept the weather erratic. Soldiers said that while the gray skies held the threat of rain it was better than the sun beating down on them.

"Overall the weather has been good," said Weygant." "… it could be 100-degrees."

For maintenance team certification, Chief Warrant Officers Amy Cox, 93rd Sig. Bde., automotive evaluator, and

the 93rd Sig. Bde. Sept STX

Jerry Becker, 93rd Sig. Bde., communications and electronics evaluator, would disable a humvee at a designated field location by loosening a vital component. While it looked intact, the Humvee still couldn't start.

Battalion and company maintenance teams were then notified that a vehicle was down and needed recovering. They were also told that enemy contact was likely and there was a significant threat of chemical contamination.

Maintenance teams had to rely on their land navigation skills to find the vehicle. Teams were then evaluated on how well they initiated proper force protection measures before initiating maintenance and troubleshooting procedures, according to Cox. With some scenarios, the maintenance teams had to recover wounded soldiers as well.

"The teams did really well," said Cox. "We could all use some work on land navigation, but they did excellent on their troubleshooting procedures."

"I observed the HHC maintenance section," said 1st Lt Rob Waddington, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., HHC executive officer. "They parked well enough away from the vehicle and then secured the parameter before bounding and rushing to their objective.

"There was a wounded soldier behind the wheel, so they had to treat him before doing their maintenance tasks," he said. "They did great …with only two people—one provided security, while the other recovered the soldier and the vehicle."

The dining facility operated three Mobile Kitchen Sites at unit's various sites. Each MKT had six dining facility soldiers who had a daily work schedule from 3 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"I prepared the dining facility team certification criteria with the goals of enforcing the cooks to perform their duties to the regulation standard—most importantly being sanitation, and improve the quality of the meals by promoting friendly competition among food service personnel," said Master Sgt. Rachel Evans, 93rd Sig. Bde., dining facility manager.

Pfc. Timika James, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde. serves Pfc. David Allen, HHC 67th Sig. Bn., a well received hot meal at Training Area 28 Mobile Kitchen Trailor site.

"The MKT teams were rated in eight areas," she said. "Sanitation, MKT setup, site layout, cooking procedures, on-the-Job training, vehicle and equipment maintenance, documentation filing and ration accountability."

"All of the teams did great," said Evans. "Two of the sites really distinguished themselves, but the team I selected won because they had a faster setup time."

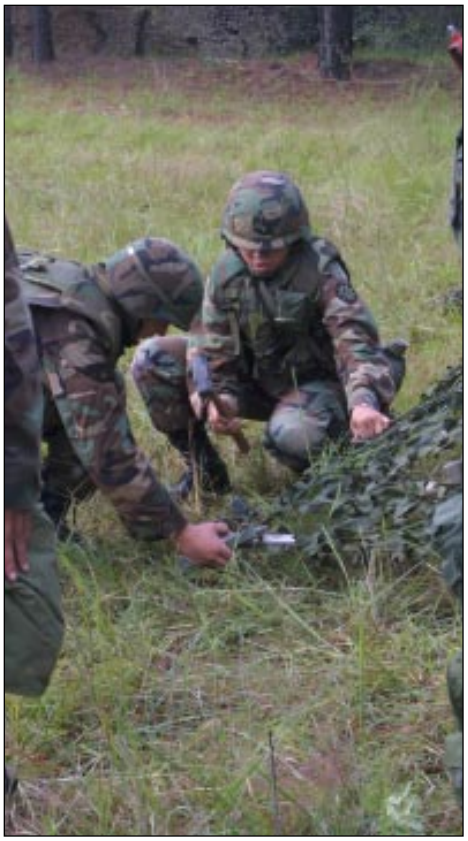
To receive a GO, teams had to finish their site setup within 25 minutes.

Sgt. 1st Class Antoinette Brunson, 93rd Sig. Bde., team NCOIC. and her team had their site setup in 19 minutes and 16 seconds. The time stops once the cooks are deemed prepared to start cooking food.

The weather staved off and the soldiers were spared the full brunt of TS Isidore and the command staff collectively agreed that the Sept. STX proved to be one of the most successful exercises.

"The brigade qualified 97-percent of our signal teams and 100-precent of our maintenance and food service teams," said Gerstein. "We definitely need to sustain this level of expertise. We also need to sustain the high stress environment, which challenges soldiers and their units. It causes signal teams to not only set up their communications but also to plan and defend their sites, react to NBC threats and move throughout a complex battlefield."

"The STX exercise and the certification levels that we have achieved clearly demonstrates that the soldiers, and their units, are trained and ready to respond," said Gerstein. "I have great confidence in their abilities, and when the time comes the Lightning Warrior Brigade soldiers will perform magnificently."



The camouflage nets required maximum participation. Two signal soldiers here teamed up to fasten their end in the wet ground.

ASC CSM:'Sgts look after your soldiers'

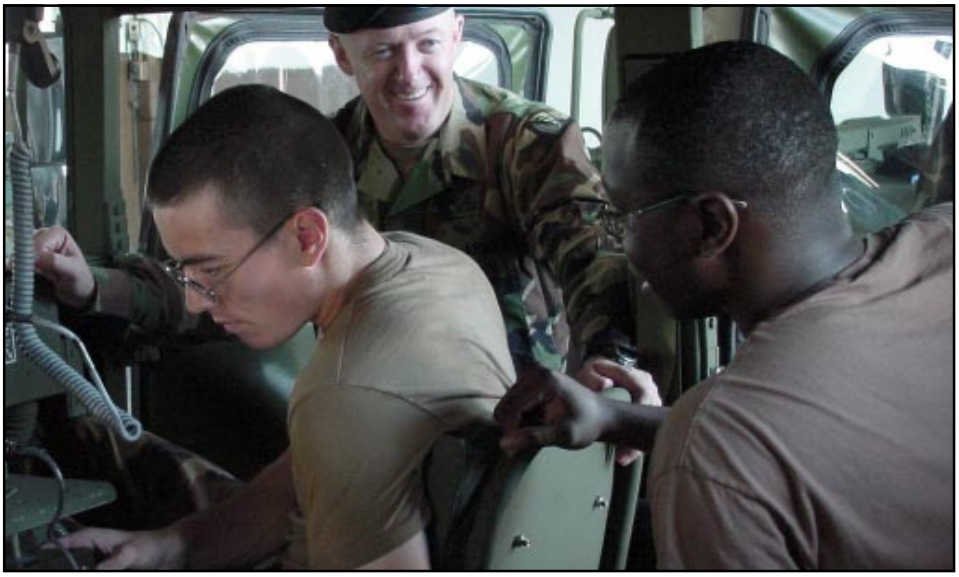
By Sgt. Kelly McCargo
Public Affairs NCO

The two command sergeants major easily climbed into the burgundy mini-van.

As their driver, Sgt. Shawn Pernell, Headquarters and Headquarter Company, 93rd Signal Brigade, slowly drove down the rode, the command sergeants major spoke casually about 93rd Sig. Bde. issues like force protection measures, barracks quality of life and deployments.

The vehicle pulled to a stop at the Fort Gordon Willard Park Switch-EX site and the soldiers training there went to parade-rest as soon as they realized the command sergeants major were there.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Desjardins, the Army Signal Command, command sergeant major, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade sergeant major, Fort Gordon, visited with 93rd Sig. Bde. soldiers at Fort Gordon from August 6 – 9 to discuss key military issues that were important to the Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley.



Photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Pvt. Joseph Matos (left), cable installer and Sgt. Marcus Johnson, Sr. information systems manager, both of 518th TIN Co. "attempt" to show the ASC command sergeant major how to install a speaker onto the radio mount.

Sgt. Brian Romer, A Co., 63rd Sig. Bn., single switch system team chief explains some of the upgrades that have been made in the systems since Desjardins was a junior signal soldier.

"We as NCOs are responsible for upholding military standards," said Desjardins. "As NCOs we must provide that important leadership role. For instance, after every formation there should be some form of inspection."

Desjardins took several opportunities to speak with 93rd Sig. Bde. soldiers and NCOs one-on-one.

He frequently asked them whether they were taking advantage of the Army's college tuition assistance, which in October will be increased to 100 percent.

"Soldiers need to take advantage of what the Army's offering them—all soldiers, including NCOs," he said. "In particular, I like to speak with the younger soldiers and ask if their NCOs are taking care of them. I like to ask them if the Army is meeting their expectations. Then I like to hear what were some of their expectations."

> "Military missions will always be there, but the family members may not."
>
> *Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Desjardins*
> *Army Signal Command*

Desjardins observed 67th Sig. Bn. and 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company soldiers conducting sergeant's time training.

"I stopped in to say that you are all doing some great things in the military and to say keep up that good work," he told them. "Pay attention to this information we're teaching, because it's important—

you're going to use it."

Another important issue that the Sergeant Major of the Army has been reinforcing is providing the necessary support for soldier's family members.

"Leaders taking care of the soldiers' family members is very important," he said. "Military missions will always be there, but the family members may not."

Desjardins inspected several motor pools while he discussed soldier readiness issues and company mission essential task listings with 1st Sgt. Allen Cliff, 518th TIN Co., company first sergeant, and

"I like to ask (the younger soldiers) if the Army is meeting their expectations," said Desjardins. Here he talks with Pfc. Gary Starr, 252nd Sig. Co., radio van antenna installer.

force protection taskings with Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Dimery Sr., 67th Sig. Bn., battalion command sergeant major.

He attended an informal luncheon at the Lightning Warrior Café with 93rd Sig. Bde. soldiers where he reiterated the Sergeant Major of the Army's key issues.

"He talked to us about upholding

The ASC CSM listens as Pfc. Kyle Hendrickson, A Co. 67th Sig. Bn., explains some of the things he looks for during force protection anti-terrorism guard duty.

the standards in the military—for maintenance, safety and taking care of soldiers and their families," said Sgt. Samuel Carter, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., motorpool NCO.

"As NCOs, we have to mentor and provide that positive leadership for our junior soldiers, so they can grow and develop professionally and personally—they're the NCOs of tomorrow," said Desjardins. "Everybody, we need to concentrate on safety. That's one of my greatest concerns, and the Sergeant Major of the Army's as well—is military safety."

After lunch, he was given a force protection briefing by Staff Sgt. Christopher Mole and his soldier, Pfc. Kyle Hendrickson, A Co. 67th Sig. Bn.

During an informal office call with Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander, Desjardins said he was thoroughly impressed with how well the 93rd Sig. Bde. soldiers carried themselves.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Desjardins and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick eat lunch and discuss military issues at the Lightning Warrior Cafe.

93rd Sig. at Fort Gordon

Spc. Ryan Matson
Signal Staff Writer

On a sunny, morning blessed with a gentle breeze at Barton Field, Brigadier General Janet E. A. Hicks became the new commanding general of the United States Signal Center and Fort Gordon, replacing Maj. Gen. John Cavanaugh in a Change-of Command Ceremony at 8:30 a.m.

Cavanaugh has been post commander since July 11, 2000, and the ceremony not only marks the end of his time at Fort Gordon, but also the end of a 32-year military career. Though retired from the Army Cavanaugh will remain active in the work force. He will head to nearby Atlanta to assume the role of president of the newly-formed GateSafe corporation.

Photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Lt. Col. John Rutt, 63rd Sig. Bn. Commander, who recently participate in his own change-of-command ceremony, leads his soldiers from the front.

Hicks is no stranger to Fort Gordon.

Her most recent assignment on post was from June 1999, to June 2000, when she served as chief of staff, U. S. Signal Center and Fort Gordon. Prior to that, Hicks had also served at Fort Gordon from July 1981 to January 1985 in a variety of capacities. From December 1981 to April of 1984, Hicks was an instructor/writer and later, the Cooperative Training Program coordinator for the Officers Department, Directorate of Training and Doctrine. From April 1984 to January 1985 Hicks was an instructor at the Combat Communications Branch here.

Hicks has also served as: operations officer, 275th Signal Company, 41st Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, Korea, as commander, Company A, 125th Signal Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as S-2 (intelligence) / S-3 (operations) officer, 6th Signal Battalion, 6th Infantry Division (light), Fort Richardson, Alaska, as executive officer of the same battalion and division, as communications officer, J-6, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., as commander of the 125th Signal Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as chief, Signal Branch, Combat Support

From their Humvee, Maj. Gen. John Cavanaugh, outgoing post commander, and Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, incoming post commander inspect the 93rd Signal Brigade before exchanging the guidon.

post change of command

Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson, Fort Gordon PAO

Gen. Creighton Abrams Jr. congratulates Hicks as he gives her the Post Guidon.

Arms Division, Officer Personnel Management Directorate, United States Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Va., and as commander, 516th Signal Brigade and deputy chief of staff for Information Management, United States Army Pacific, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

In addition to these multiple duty assignments, Hicks also has an extensive educational background.

She graduated from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, with a bachelor of arts degree in French language and Literature and from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro with a masters degree in education.

Her military education includes the Women's Army Corps Officer Basic Course, Communications-Electronics Staff Officer Course, the Signal Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, and the United States Army War College.

For her dedication to duty, Hicks has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Parachutist Badge.

Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander, and his command staff, salute during pass and review. The command staff (left to right) Maj. Dane Snowden, Personnel Management Officer; Maj. Stephen Ingwersen, Brigade S-2 OIC; Lt. Col. Paul LaDue, Brigade S-3 OIC, and Maj. Georgetta Bennett-Attaway, Brigade S-4 OIC.

Antenna Safety

By Ashely Goodrum
Brigade Safety

During the installation and use of antennas, damage to equipment, serious injury and death have resulted because personnel have failed to observe safety precautions.

The Technical Manuals and Field Manuals provided for antennas should be thoroughly read before attempting to erect.

Photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

The Digital Antenna Mast Positioning System can be erected up to 100-meters. There should be no power-lines within 200-meters.

Applicable **CAUTION** and **WARNING** notices are placed in the manuals for the safety of personnel and must be observed.

Precautions that must be followed in order to prevent serious injury or a fatality are outlined below.

Antennas must be installed as far away from power lines as possible. As a basic guide, power lines should be a distance of equal to at least twice the height of the antenna.

Guy wires will be kept as far away from power lines as possible, thereby eliminating the possibility of the power line falling across them.

Antennas should have adequate protection as in the TM.

Never touch an antenna or any attachment connected to it if there is a possibility that it may accidentally become electrified.

Never engage in work on an antenna during a thunder/electrical storm, or when a storm is imminent.

Guy wires should be inspected for worn spots, frays or any other imperfections prior to being placed in use.

Never attempt to support an antenna using fewer guy wires than prescribed in the TM.

Clearly mark all guy wires.

Under no circumstances should the erection of an antenna be attempted with the required number of personnel.

Ensure the proper wear of the required personal protective equipment.

Personnel are the most valued resource of the 93rd Signal Brigade. Adhering to the some of the most basic guidelines, will help to protect it and allow us to get the message through.

C Co. 63rd Sig. Bn. soldiers are observant of guy wires as they set up the DAMPS.

Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Pfc. Spencer Wilson, A Co. 63rd Signal Battalion guides a DAMPS with the Guy wires during the September STX.

Pfc. "R. J." Walsh, B Co. 63rd Sig. Bn., assists his team with setting up a DAMPS.

Lightning Warriors lead the way!!

Command Priorities

To achieve the Vision, there are three positive priorities to strive for and three negatives to avoid …

Positive Priorities

- Maintaining battle focus, Mission readiness
- Taking care of soldiers and families
- Building esprit

Negatives to avoid

- Fatalities (accidents, suicides, casualties)
- Child and family abuse
- Breaches in ethics and morality

Lightning Warrior Switch-Ex sets signal standards

By Sgt. Kelly McCargo
Public Affairs NCO

The tenet organizations of the 93rd Signal Brigade completed their quarterly Switch-EX, at the Willard and Cruz Field Training Areas from August 19-23.

More than 300 signal soldiers were assembled together to troubleshoot and train, in a controlled environment, on some of the world's most sophisticated satellite communications equipment in the world.

"The purpose for the Switch-EX is to reinforce the training our soldiers will need for the September Situational Training Exercise," said Capt. Kevin O'Neil, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 93rd Sig. Bde., planning officer.

Every switch team sets up their data packaging system to ensure that all of its systems are operating efficiently, explained O'Neal.

Staff Sgt. Lynn LaFever, 235th Sig. Co., tightens the wave guide on an FTSAT.

"If a switch doesn't get a 'green-light' then the team will get the training they need to understand how to troubleshoot and correct it. This is to ensure that they are ready for the STX," he said.

The data system is a complex assortment of computer hardware and software that enables the programmer to set up a field Video Tele-Conferencing center anywhere in the world. It also gives the user access to either a secure or non-secure Internet network. The system is complete with an Intrusion Detection System.

The DS is compact which gives the operators a greater degree of flexibility in regards to where they will be able to deploy their field sites.

Meanwhile, as the switch teams were training with their equipment, the cable installers were developing and implementing a training regiment that would help them focus on the essentials for supporting the switch teams.

The purpose of cable team certification exercise was to develop the standards that will be the basis for evaluating how 93rd Sig. Bde. soldiers would prepare a Joint Operations Center either in a field or urban environment, said Sgt. 1st Class John McKenzie, HHC, 63rd Sig. Bn., battalion training NCOIC.

"To receive a 'go' in the evaluation each 8 to 10 member team has 2.1 hours to layout about 1,000 feet of cable, erect two 18-foot 'aerial construction' poles and lay cable across them, bury 30-feet of the cable, and successfully

Photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Spc. Dan Lochte, B Co. 63rd Sig. Bn. secures cable to ground during his teams qualification run.

connect 20 Digital Secure Voice Telephone and 20 Digital Non-Secure Voice Telephones," said McKenzie. "Twenty-eight of the lines are in the building and 12 lines are in the tent."

"For the evaluation, we have them setting up several phones inside a building and outside in a small tent," he said.

"We want the soldiers to be able to set up cable in any type of environment."

"The purpose of the aerials is to simulate laying the cable over a road, and burying it simulates laying cable under the road," said Staff Sgt. Isaac Pringle, HHC 63rd Sig. Bn., battalion training NCO.

"This evaluation is going to give us a lot of feedback on what we can

Pvt. George Thomas (left), and Pvt. Lisa Knight (right), B Co. 67th Sig. Bn. prepare phones for installation at an urban Joint Operations Center.

do to improve the soldiers future training," said Pringle. "Ideally this lets the teams know what some of their shortcomings or deficiencies are and what they can do to improve them."

"But this also is great soldier-team building," he said. "It really helps instill esprit de' corps."

Alongside the cable installers, several satellite communications operators were conducting systems checks on their Fly-Away Tri-Band Satellite Antenna and the larger AN-TSC 85C Satellite Antenna.

"With the smaller, more deployable FTSATs, we can have communication with anyone around the world in about an hour," said Staff Sgt. Lynn LaFever, 235th Sig. Co., satellite communications NCOIC.

"We make sure that our systems stay 'green-up,'" said Spc. Brandy Edison, 235th Sig. Co., SATCOM operator. "Which basically means that all of the communications that are passing through the switch, go up the satellite and return back to us."

Edison said that the Switch-Ex has really helped her.

"I've been really picking up on setting up this system," she said. "It's something the other teams do, but I wanted to learn more about it before the September STX."

"The Switch-EX gives us more time to train with interfacing with local-user systems, like the data package. Interfacing with distance-user satellites, like an 85C-van anywhere in the world, and simply seeing what basic steps we can do to cut our deployment time down," said LaFever.

Across Fort Gordon at the Cruz Field Training Area, 93rd Sig. Bde elements were performing system checks on they're radio vans by erecting several Digital Antenna Mast Positioning Systems and conducting radio checks with the Switch-EX.

"The Switch-EX is a big help in allowing us plenty of time to set up our equipment and hash out faulty equipment systems," said Staff Sgt. Brian Shenk, C Co., 67th Sig. Bn. "The STX has a really fast pace so when the STX starts, the team leaders won't have as much time 'guiding' their soldiers with the troubleshooting."

Each team has about three men and only two hours to erect two DAMPS and camouflage their equipment, said Shenk.

"Now we can verify that all of the radios work," he said. "And with the STX two weeks away we will know that our equipment is good."

The hot Georgia sun spared no soldier. Several coolers of ice-cold water were well placed and the signal soldiers trained on. NCOs motivated their soldiers, in a calm but foreboding manner, so that the Switch-EX would pay off during the September STX.

Staff Sgt. Brian Shenk, C Co. 67th Sig. Bn., line-of-site evaluation NCO, connects a generator power cable to the radio van.

Cable Team Certification Standings

First Place: A Co. 67th Sig. Bn. - 102 minutes.

***Second Place*:** C Co. 67th Sig. Bn.-115 minutes.

Third Place: B Co. 67th Sig. Bn.--120 minutes.

Experiment may mean increase in Signal Corps role in military

by Master Sgt. Debra Bingham
4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

SUFFOLK, Va. — There is an experiment underway at the U.S. Joint Forces Command at Suffolk, Va., and dozens of locations around the country, that will eventually effect Signal Corps soldiers throughout the military.

The experiment, Millennium Challenge 2002, is designed to simulate a realistic battlefield in the year 2007.

Part of a Department of Defense-wide transformation process, MC02 will explore new methods of planning, organizing and fighting in a joint service environment, officials said.

"We're forward thinking and forward looking. We're trying to harness the power of information and information sphere technologies to better prepare the U.S. Joint Forces for war about five years from now," said. Lt. Gen. B.B. Bell, Commanding General of III Corps and Fort Hood.

One of the experiment's objectives is obtaining information superiority over an adversary. The goal is to rapidly access, share and process information in order to develop plans and execute them — almost simultaneously. The computer-based tools make that possible.

During the experiment, operators can quickly retrieve information from military and governmental agencies, as well as economic and academic sources.

"These tools give us instant communication, instant collaboration and enormous capability to retrieve data to help us in our decision making process," Bell said.

Computer tools also enable commanders and staff to simultaneously talk with each other.

ArmyLINK

Hundreds of people can be brought together in a virtual auditorium for an interactive meeting, without the "attendees" leaving their workspaces.

Bell said it means moving away from traditional, time-consuming sequential operations, where plans are issued from the top and trickle down to subordinate levels, to a faster, collaborative approach.

By using technology to communicate, plans and combat operations can be developed simultaneously, he said.

"We can bring our thinking together very, very rapidly and conduct operations quickly and decisively," Bell said.

The MC02 expriment is taking place at 17 simulation sites and nine live sites across the country. It's the largest joint military experiment and exercise of its kind in history, with more than 13,500 military and civilian personnel participating. MC02 runs July 24-Aug 15.

Bell said the aim is to tap into the knowledge base of people "sitting" in the auditorium.

"We've got to reconfigure ourselves, both in terms of the way we would perceive fighting today and project ourselves to the way the Joint Forces Command believes we would be able to fight 5 years from now," Bell said.

Part of that new way of thinking is being explored in a concept called Rapid Decisive Operations. RDO brings a vast knowledge base, command and control elements and operations together to bring about a desired effect on an adversary.

"What we're learning in this process is a better way to look at the enemy, in terms of what he is capable of doing, and what kind of effect we want to achieve with regard to the enemy," Bell said.

"The effect could be a military action, or it could be economic, information or diplomatic one," he said.

Although MCO2 is an experiment, it is expected to provide insight into how to transform the military to meet future challenges.

Brothers-in-Arms: *The Cable Dawg*

By Sgt. William Gooding
A Co., 67th Sig. Bn., PA Rep.

Photo by Sgt. William Gooding, A Co. 67th Sig. Bn.

True to his Colors, Sgt. Mario Cooper, secures the Colors on a telephone pole for his re-enlistment.

In the face of danger and adversity, we all do our parts to get the signal unit in place.

One thing that holds our signal jobs together is our un-exalted brother, the wire systems maintainer and installer (31L), also known as the "cable dwag."

"Our mission is to run and connect all needed technical and tactical phone lines, internet and video teleconferencing lines in a minimal time frame to ensure that the signal flow is 100-percent," said Sgt. Mario Cooper, A Co. 67th Sig. Bn., team chief.

Whether in the trenches or on a pole, the cable dog is often neglected when the outcome of a situation is glorified, yet they can be the first ones blamed when a mission fails.

Without our comrades of the pole orchard, our jobs as signalers would be stressed beyond compare.

It is this overlooked brother of the wire that keeps the signal flowing and keeps America's forces informed and ready.

Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

1st Sgt. Stratton L. Taylor (left) and Sgt. Shawn Pernell, HHC 93rd Signal Brigade stand at parade-rest during the change- of-responsibilty ceremony August 2.

Change of Responsibility

The 93rd Signal Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company formerly welcomed 1st Sgt. Stratton L. Taylor into its organization during a change of responsibility ceremony at the 93rd Sig. Bde. Headquarters Company Building, August 2.

Taylor replaced 1st Sgt. Steven Marchman, the outgoing first sergeant.

Taylor graduated from the Sergeant's Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas May 30.

He has been a first sergeant three times prior to HHC; with the 124th Sig. Bn., 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas from May 17,1997 to March 23, 1999; A Co., 122nd. Sig. Bn., Camp Casey, Korea from April 6,1999 to March 29, 2000; and with C Co. 13th Sig. Bn., 1st Calvary Division, Fort Hood.

Taylor said he is looking forward to working with the HHC soldiers.

"I look forward to working with all the officers, non-commissioned officers, and the soldiers of the unit. I plan to continue to make this an outstanding company."

93rd Sig. Bde. Organization day

The competition was fierce The talent was superior and the weather held out at the first . . .

By Sgt. Lyle Dillie
63rd Signal Battalion, PA Representative

More than 550 93rd Signal Brigade soldiers and their families attended the first Brigade Organizational Day at the Barton Field quarter-mile track August 29.

"Today's events are for you, the soldiers of the 93rd Signal Brigade, to enjoy. This is to show appreciation for a job well done over this past year," said Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander.

The signal companies participate in several different events.

In the morning the battalions and companies squared off in several softball, volleyball, and basketball tournaments.

The 67th Sig. Bn. softball team inched over the 63rd Sig. Bn's team for first place.

However, 63rd retaliated to the loss with a vengeance; sweeping volleyball, with a clear margin of victory, and "taking it to the hoop" at basketball. The 63rd won first place in both events.

Placing second for volleyball was the 67th Sig. Bn. and the 56th Signal Bn. for basketball.

Each battalion's companies had a pre-tournament guidon race in the morning to determine which of their companies would represent them in the finals.

C Co., 63rd Sig. Bn's team was able to repeat their first place morning performance during the afternoon finals.

The HHC 93rd Sig. Bde's guidon team made a dynamic effort; coming from fourth place to finish in second.

The 63rd Sig. Bn. was named the Iron Army Physical Fitness Test champion early in the day.

Several talented performers entertained the soldiers during the brigade

Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

The Brigade Commander, Col. Daniel Gerstein, welcomes the soldiers and their families during the opening ceremony.

Photo by Sgt. Lyle Dillie, 63rd Sig. Bn.

Sgt. Frederick Bass, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., looks for an open teammate during the basketball tournament.

Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

"My grand-momma can throw better than that," taunted the Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Paul E. Scandrick, during the Sink-the-Command Dunk Booth.

Talent Show. Gifted drum-playing rappers, country, rock and gospel singers, dancers and heavy metal guitarist throughout the brigade had 10 minutes to hold the audience in awe.

The 93rd Sig. Bde. commanders offered their soldiers a moment of "pay-back" with a softball-throw dunking booth.

"This is for making us wear Kelvars in the motor pool," said an anonymous 67th Sig. Bn. soldier as he dunked Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Dimery III, 67th Sig. Bn., battalion sergeant major, into the water.

In the afternoon, company commanders and platoon leaders barbecued a small farm's worth of hamburgers and hotdogs. Lightning Warrior dining facility staff provided baked beans and condiments.

The soldiers gained their strength for round two of the day's festivities.

Representatives from every unit literally "pulled" together to get a 2.5-ton Humvee 50-feet. Timing and safety was critical. 63rd and 67th tied for first place—even after the two teams re-pulled the vehicle to try to break their initial tie.

Photo by Pvt. Spencer Wilson, A Co. 63rd Sig. Bn.

Talent Show NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Rebecca Shores, 235th Sig. Co., (second from front) lept from the stage to help her unit during the tug-of-war competition.

The tug-of-war contest was settled later in the day with 56th Sig. Bn. flexing a first place victory over the 67th Sig. Bns sore-muscled second.

The day culminated with the talented performers who made it to the Talent Show finals.

The crowd gave a thunderous applause as Pfc. Obi Hamilton, B Co. 67th Sig. Bn. received her first place trophy for her gospel dance routine. Spc. Lattessha Thorton, HHC 63rd Sig. Bn. took second singing "Nothing" by Whitney Houston.

The day ended with a brigade Awards ceremony with 63rd Sig. Bn. winning the overall tournament, 67th Sig. Bn. coming in a close second, with 56th Sig., and HHC 93rd Sig. Co. coming in 3rd and 4th respectively. Several staff personnel were also recognized for the hard work they made in organizing the 93rd Sig. Bde's first Brigade Organization Day.

Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Spc. Jason King, 252nd Sig. Co., sings and plays the guitar. He was one of the many talented performers during the Talent Show.

Photo by Pvt. Spencer Wilson, A Co. 63rd Sig. Bn.

All together now ... heave!!

Battalions and companies literally pulled together to move a 2.5-ton Humvee 50 feet during the Battalion Humvee Pull competition.

Want to see more great Photos?! Check out the* PAO Photo Library *on your Battalion server!

Redeployment counseling works

Story and photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo
Public Affairs NCO

The national media has homed-in on the tragic Fort Bragg shootings with an intensity one can only describe as a "media frenzy."

The public is asking, "why did these tragic incidents take place?"

Sadly enough, nobody will truly know.

However, since the parties involved were in the military, the Army's training has come under the national media's scrutiny.

However, everybody should focus on the fact that out of several 1,000 servicemembers deployed throughout several countries, only minor domestic incidents have been reported.

"I basically joined the Army to deploy. To go to other countries and do my job," said Sgt. 1st Class. Dexter Nelson, 67th Signal Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, electronic maintenance section.

Nelson recently returned from Cuba.

He has done many deployments. The time he has spent away from home has ranged from 66 days to nine months.

"I've been in the military for 15 years and married for 14 of those years," he said. "Each time I return home from a deployment it seems like my wife and I start a fresh, new relationship all over again ... we've been married 14 years and are still going strong."

As a private, Nelson said his first redeployment adjustment was perhaps the worst.

If it wasn't for our unit chaplain's redeployment counseling briefing, the status of my marriage then would have been uncertain, he said.

Unit chaplains throughout the Army offer soldiers professional guidance on "life after" deployments for all soldiers.

"Before we left the country (Kuwait), our chaplain held a half-day briefing about what to expect once we land in the states," said Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Washington, 67th Sig. Bn., HHC, training operations NCOIC.

"He mentioned that 'since we've (husbands) been gone our wives have been ensuring that all of the bills were paid for, taking care of the children and just about everything around the house,'" said Washington. "He said 'when you get home don't try to take charge and expect your role as husband or dad to be the same as when you left.'"

Army deployments alter both the soldier and the spouse.

"On some deployments soldiers can see some very troubling sights—like extreme poverty in Somalia—it does effect how they view their families afterwards," said Lt. Col. Kari Everett, 67th Sig. Bn., battalion commander.

"The spouses had to develop into the disciplinarian and bill payer—you just can't come back and say 'I'm in charge,'" said Everett. "So shortly after redeploying, I

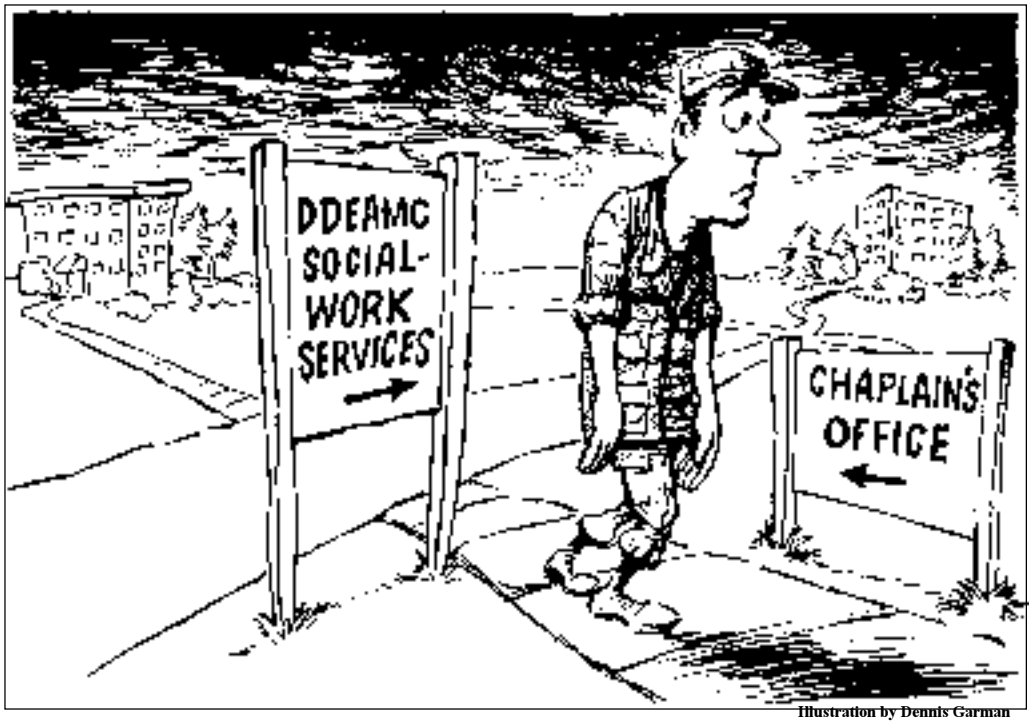


Illustration by Dennis Garman

Help is near

Depressed, things got you down? Don't stay down. There's help around you-seek it out.

You won't regret it. Call either your battalion or brigade chaplain.

And when a friend or co-worker seems down, don't just sit by.

Offer them help by giving the number for the Religous Education Offiice at 791-4683.

Lt. Col. Kari Everett, 67th Sig. Bn., commander, and Sgt. 1st Class Dexter Nelson, 67th Sig. Bn., EMS NCOIC explain the benefits of redeployment counseling.

allow my soldiers to spend some time with their families, but they also have to check-in with the units regularly where their leaders can look them in the eye and ask 'how is everything.'"

Soldiers will often confide in their leaders if the leaders are genuinely concerned, Washington said.

"When we returned from deployment we still had several more days of counseling briefings … our spouses also had the family support group that they could rely on while we were deployed," said Washington.

"Every soldier was given a packet that had 24-hour on-call phone numbers of people to talk to, like a military chaplain, in a time of crisis," he said.

"Fort Gordon is one of the best posts for access to professional counseling," said Everett.

"From Family Advocacy, Army Community Services or American Red Cross. For marriage counseling, anger management—you name it. And chaplains, they are truly the most professional of counselors in the military and it's so easy for soldiers to talk with them," she said.

As long as leaders and NCOs remain active in their soldier's professional and personal development then tragic incidents within the military will remain few and far between.

The key to that success though is extreme vigilance of all parties.

If a friend or co-worker mentions problems encourage them to talk with either yourself or somebody you trust.

Be a buddy and get them help.

Lightning Warriors take care of their own!!

Building a community in the unit

B Co. 67th Signal Battalion soldiers and their families gathered together August 23 at Funsville, Ga. for their monthly Family Advocacy meeting.

"The program is designed to bring all of the soldier's spouses together, so they can get to know who everybody is and build a chain of trust," said Capt. Brian Tidwell, B Co., 67th Sig. Bn., company commander.

"In the chance that the soldiers have to deploy the family members will be able to put a name to a face if they need to ask for help," he said. "This program allows us to build a community within the unit."

Both married and single soldiers joined spouses and children as they played video games, ate pizza and rode go-carts.

"It's good for all of the soldiers to be together outside of work … I really enjoy these meetings," said Shonta Anderson. "I've really made some good relationships with the wives here."

Soldiers in more isolated sections look forward to these meetings because it gives them and their family an opportunity to get to know their team better.

"This event helps us to build morale and gets us more closely involved in the unit," said Pvt. Emilio Cruz, B Co. 67th Sig. Bn., light wheel mechanic.

"If you work in the motor pool you don't know as many people in the switch," he said.

Families were positive about the amount of support they received in the Lightning Warrior Brigade.

"When I was in recruit command they didn't really have a program as good as here," said Staff Sgt. David McLaughin, B Co. 67th Sig. Bn., section sergeant. "This program is definantly good for the spouses. When our unit goes to the field it's good to have that support from other family members . . . we really like it."

"It's important we bring in the unit, the soldiers and the families," said 1st Sgt. Freddy Figueroa, B Co. 67th Sig. Bn., former first sergeant. "It's important they know each other in case we deploy."

The soldiers agreed that they felt better, and more confidant, knowing that their loved ones were in a company of people they could trust.

518th Signal Co. activated

By Maj. Bruce Holland
56th Signal Battalion, executive officer

As a result of lessons learned from Operations Desert Shield/Storm and Operations Joint Endeavor, the Army has created a new type of signal unit.

United States Army Forces Command will activate the 518th Tactical installation and Networking (TIN) Company Oct 16 at Fort Gordon, Ga.

As the company's name suggests, its mission is to primarily install tactical automation networks. This company, which consists of a headquarters and two line platoons, will be stationed at Fort Gordon and Fort Huachuca.

Analysis of Desert Shield/Storm and Joint Endeavor indicated a lack of a highly skilled, highly technical, and deployable organization to provide immediate and essential information services to the Army Service Component Command, Theater Signal Command, and the warfighting CINCs. The current mindset of "move information not people" mandates a highly mobile, modular, and flexible organization capable of providing early entry information technology.

The 518th Sig Co is designed to be a split-based unit to better support east and west areas of responsibility requirements. It is a highly deployable, highly technical, echelon above corps (EAC) tactical signal company structured to deploy in either functional or multi-functional modules like teams, sections, and platoons, to provide immediate communications support, automation support, video teleconferencing support, and official mail and distribution support.

Photo by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

First Sgt. Allen Cliff (center), 518th TIN Co., first sergeant, explains the company's manning roster to Command Sgts Maj. Ronald Desjardins (left), Army Signal Command sergeant major, and Paul E. Scandrick, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade sergeant major.

The 518th Sig. Co will support contingencies in both hostile and non-hostile areas as a rapidly deployable unit that must respond in about 30 days.

The 518th Sig. Co. will have the capability to restore or install critical pieces of the Defense Communication System, which includes the Defense Switched Network, The Defense Satellite Communications System, and the Defense Information Switching Network. It will provide software application expertise, network installation and administration, and information system security support to the battlefield and can be sized to provide contingency support and systems integration to sustaining base, strategic, and theater tactical C4 information systems.

The 518th Sig Co will provide three main areas of information system support: automation, network installation, and DCS restoral. Information services provided include: automation support, Commercial Off-The-Shelf hardware and software, video teleconferencing, official mail/distribution, cable installation, tower installation, Government Off-The-Shelf hardware and software, system integration, Information System Security Support, DCS restoral, network installation support, Local Area Network and Wide Area Network installation and initialization, satellite installation, and radio system and fiber optic terminal installation.

Initially the company is going to be organized and stood up under the direct supervision and control of the Brigade Staff. The draft Concept of Operation and Implementation Plan places the company under the 56th Signal Battalion; however, many issues are still being worked at all levels, from FORSCOM, Army Signal Command and at the Company.

Ultimately the structure of this company, its platoons, sections and teams will challenge the current paradigm of signal support provided to United States Forces.

The Formal Complaint process

By Sgt. 1st Class Dale A. Gaither
Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor

A formal complaint is a complainant filed in writing and swears to the accuracy of the information. Formal complaints require specific action and documentation of the actions taken, and are subject to timelines.

An individual files a formal complaint using a DA Form 7279-R. In Part 1 of DA Form 7279-R, the complainant will specify the alleged concern, provide the names of the parties involved and witness, describe the incident(s)/behavior(s), and indicate the date(s) of the occurrence(s).

For EO complaints, the complainant will also state the equal opportunity basis of the complaint, such as unlawful discrimination based upon race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. The Complainant will be advised of the importance of describing the incident(s) in as much detail as possible to assist in the investigative process.

Soldiers have 60 days from the date of alleged incident to file a formal complaint ...

The block entitled, "Requested Remedy" serves a variety of purposes for both the complainant and the command. The information in this block can vary in terms of the complainant's expectations of the investigative process and his or her reasonableness and credibility. If expectations that are not likely to be met come to the surface, they should be dispelled by the receiving agency (during acceptance of the complaint) through an explanation of the process and of possible outcomes. If the complainant's response is vindictive, vengeful, or malicious, and seems extreme in light of the events or circumstances, this may be helpful to the commander or investigating officer in terms of motive and believability.

Soldiers have 60 days from the date of alleged incident to file a formal complaint. This time limit is established to set reasonable parameters for the inquiry or investigation and resolution of complaints, to include ensuring the availability of witnesses, accurate recollection of events, and timely remedial action.

If a complaint is received after 60 calendar days, the commander may conduct an investigation into the allegations or appoint an investigating officer. In deciding whether to conduct an investigation, the commander should consider the reason for the delay, the availability of witnesses, and whether a full and fair inquiry or investigation can be conducted.

The complainant should file his or her complaint with the commander at the lowest echelon of command at which the complainant may be assured of receiving a thorough, expeditious, and unbiased investigation of the allegations. Depending on the various aspects of the complaint and individuals involved, that lowest level commander may not be the immediate company or even battalion level commander of the complainant.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the commander will ensure that the complainant has been sworn to the complaint. If not, the commander will administer the oath and annotate it on the complaint form. The commander will fill block 10a acknowledging receipt of the complaint form. All formal complaints will be reported within 72 hours to the first General Courts-Martial Convening Authority in the chain of command. Additionally, the commander will provide a progress report to the GCMCA authority 20 days after the date on which the investigation commenced and 14 days thereafter until completion. If, due to extenuating circumstances, it becomes impossible to conduct a complete investigation within the 14 calendar days allowed, that commander may obtain an extension from the next higher commander for usually not more than 30 calendar days.

For more information contact your Company Equal Opportunity representative.

EO on the Horizon

We celebrated **National Hispanic Heritage** Month from 15 Sep – 15 Oct 02.

In November we will focus on **National Native American-Indian Heritage Month** from November 1 through 30.

OPFOR: Train as you Fight

By 1st Lt. Daniel A. Rogers
63rd Signal Battalion, OPFOR OIC

Force Protection was a big focus for the 63rd Signal Battalion's Field Training Exercise from July 29 to August 2.

To keep in the vein of "Train as you fight," an Opposing Force was necessary.

Seven 63rd Signal Battalion soldiers had the opportunity to be a part of the OPFOR, which greatly increased the realism of training for the whole Battalion.

OPFOR exercises were divided into two categories: civilian/refugee operations, and Tiger Battalion assaults.

For civilian and refugee operations, the OPFOR donned a multitude of attires to simulate the third world peasantry the Battalion would most likely be in contact with, should it ever deploy. Civilian operations ranged from drifters to beggars to violent demonstrators who actively challenged the soldiers' understanding of the Rules of Engagement.

One scenario had a group of protestors amass at the front gate of A Company's main site. These demonstrators demanded that the unit leave their sacred land and eventually became more forceful. A Co. soldiers performed admirably by directly, but nonviolently, escorting the demonstrators past the gate and off their site.

C Co., on the other hand, had a twist to their demonstrators. The protestors at their site turned aggressive and made a dash across their gate. However, the C Co. Quick Reaction Force responded swiftly and rounded up and detained all of the protestors.

B Co. had to deal with a different scenario altogether.

Photo by Maj. Chuck Rimbey, 63rd Sig. Bn.

A Charlie Co. 63rd Sig. Bn. soldier is captured by the OPFOR during the July 29 Field Training Exercise.

Drifters had wandered onto their site and had set up a shanty-town. B Co. soldiers were successful in convincing the squatters to leave peacefully.

Another scenario involved beggars approaching Headquarters and Headquarters Company's site.

They managed to run away with a few perishables left unattended, but the soldiers managed to keep them away from the main site.

The Tiger Battalion, assaults were much more aggressive in nature, and served to test each companies' site defenses and QRFs. Tiger Battalion members were dressed in black T-shirts and had limited smoke capabilities. Each company was attacked more than once, and improved their performance against the OPFOR each time.

Tiger Battalion forces managed to overrun B Co's front gate and pour onto their site during one such assault.

This particular battle ended with B Co's operations center being wiped out before OPFOR pulled back.

A Co. was attacked twice in one night by the OPFOR. The first time, their commander and first sergeant were killed along with their operations tent and switch. However, when OPFOR returned, they were decisively held off and the main site was spared.

HHC showed remarkable improvement in the way they handled their OPFOR attacks.

The first time, the entire site was annihilated with the destruction of their switch, their motor pool, and the death of their commander and first sergeant.

Yet when the OPFOR returned, HHC was prepared and held them at their front gate.

Overall, OPFOR operations greatly enhanced the training quality of force protection exercises during the Battalion FTX.

The seven soldiers that provided their service thoroughly enjoyed themselves while learning a lot about force protection themselves.

Ga. sun, soil can't stop Lightning Warriors

By Sgt. Kelly McCargo
Public Affairs NCO

The blazing sun was seemingly fixed directly above Sgt. David Sheid. His Kevlar helmet that was meant to protect him from enemy bullets did nothing against the heat of the sun.

Sweat flowed off of his brow.

He used a sweat drenched battle dress uniform sleeve to wipe the sweat off and stop it from getting into his eyes.

"Henry, I'm going to need AC (alternating current) power as of yesterday," he said.

Pfc. Michael Henry, A Co. 67th Signal Battalion, network systems switch operator, acknowledged with a grunt and ran to his line-of-site radio van, or TRC-173 humvee, and began preparing a generator for operation.

Sheid, A Co. 67th Sig. Bn., multi-channel transmission system NCO, was assembling one of the two 100-meter tall Digital Antenna Mast Positioning Systems that his platoon was responsible for during 67th Signal Battalion's Field Training Exercise July 29 through August 2.

Photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Pfc. Michael Henry, A Co. Sig. Bn., switch operator grounds the generator before operating it.

The focus of the FTX was on perfecting field force protection measures, yet communications always plays a crucial role in the signalmen's exercise, according to 1st Lt. Tarmel Kennion, A Co. 67th Sig. Bn., small extension node platoon leader.

"According to the 93rd Signal Brigade standard we have three hours to fully construct a DAMPS, camouflage the site, and test the system to receive a go," said Sheid. "Our platoon had the brigade record of 62 minutes for the third quarter."

Time was a crucial factor because none of the 67th Sig. Bn. teams wanted to fail. So even the platoon leader and platoon sergeant pitched in to ensure that the standard was met on the hot and humid Georgia day.

"We jumped earlier this morning and everybody in the platoon has been pitching in to ensure we set up correctly and on time," said Staff Sgt. Michael Galbreath, A Co. 67th Sig. Bn., section sergeant.

Before the DAMPS could be set up, it had to be "anchored" at three points. Four 16-inch metal stakes secured each anchor. Sledgehammer in hand, Kennion pointed down at the rust-red Georgia sand.

"In many places it's about three-inches of loose sand, then it's all bedrock from there," he said.

The platoon was being rated on how well they could move and communicate while reacting to varying combat modifiers.

"The 252nd Sig. Company acted as the Opposition Forces," said Sheid. "They've been attacking us during the field exercise.

Sgt. David Sheid A Co. 67th Sig. Bn., multi-channel transmission system NCO, installs a "drip-loop" on the DAMPS.

"On one night they attacked us four times!" He said. "Nobody got any sleep that night, and the next day we had to look forward to a full work day."

"My time with this unit has been really interesting," said Cadet Wendy Manning, A.E.T. State University, N.C. "I'm a communications major and the aspects of the Signal Corps are same," said Manning.

The duality of the Signal Corps —from the fast-pace, physical exertion to the sophistication and complexity of the equipment— made the Army experience a memorable one, said Manning.

There were no injuries during the FTX and the soldiers agreed that if they continue to work as successfully as they did for this exercise, then they would remain the fastest line-of-site team for the Sept. STX.

Get more money for your G.I. Bill

By Master Sgt. Kenneth Hardy
Education Benefits Manager

The Active Duty Montgomery G.I. Bill is an educational assistance program enacted by Congress to attract high quality men and women into the Armed Forces.

The program is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and provides education and training opportunities to eligible persons.

Basic eligibility for the G.I. Bill is determined by the servicemembers initial date on active duty. Active duty servicemembers and Title 10 Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) soldiers with an initial date of active duty on or after July 1, 1985, and Title 32 AGR soldiers with an initial date of active duty on or after Nov. 29,1989 may be eligible for this program.

The Veterans Affairs will provide up to 36 months of educational benefits under this program after the member has contributed $1,200 ($100 a month for 12 months) and completed the full period of their enlistment.

Current service members who have contributed $1,200 and completed at least two years on active duty may receive monthly G.I. Bill benefits up to the cost of the course.

The G.I. Bill benefit expires 10 years from the servicemembers latest discharge from active duty service.

The G.I. Bill may be used for the following types of training: undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degree programs; courses leading to a certificate or diploma from a business, technical or vocational school; apprenticeship or job training programs offered by a company; correspondence courses; or flight training.

Current monthly, basic rates for the G.I. Bill are as follows

(1) Full-time enrollment $800

(2) Three quarter time enrollment $600

(3) Half time enrollment $400

(4) Less than half-time enrollment $200.

Servicemembers who are currently enrolled in the G.I. Bill or who are eligible for it, may contribute an additional amount (over the required $1,200 contribution) of up to $600.

*. . . contribute an additional $600 of your money and get an **additional** $5,400, in G.I. Bill benefits for up to 36 months for a full-time enrollment.*

Servicemembers may contribute any amount of up to $600 and may use either a payroll deduction (minimum of $20 per month) or a cash collection voucher for lump sum payments.

Servicemembers who contribute the full $600 will receive an additional $150 a month, or total amount of $5,400, in benefits in G.I. Bill benefits for up to 36 months for full-time enrollment. This program is not available to Veterans' Educational Assistance Program participants converting to the G.I. Bill Program.

The law now allows servicemembers to use their G.I. Bill, also known as Selected Reserve, benefits to pay for licensing and certification tests. The tests must be needed to enter, maintain, or advance into employment in a civilian vocation or profession and must be approved by the VA.

The servicemember receives payment of the fee charged for the test, or $2,000, whichever is less. To apply for this benefit, servicemembers must send a copy of the completed test results and a note requesting reimbursement to their nearest servicing VA Office.

Servicemembers who have never submitted a claim for educational benefits to the VA must also complete a VA Form 22-1990.

Under this law, the servicemember can elect to pay any portion of the tuition and fees of a course not paid by the service through federal tuition assistance with their G.I. Bill benefits. Members will be charged entitlement based on the amount of benefits received. For example, if a soldier receives $800 in top up benefits he/she will be charged one month of entitlement.

The transfer of basic entitlement to basic educational assistance under the G.I. Bill is permitted to one or more of servicemembers dependents.

Individuals desiring to transfer entitlement must have completed at least six years in the military, agree to serve at least four more years and possess a skill authorized by the service that permits transferability.

VTC helps soldiers in Saudi Arabia see families

By Capt. Fernando Montoya
94th Signal Company, Commander

On July 27, 544th Military Police Company soldiers, deployed to Saudi Arabia, were able to enjoy some time with their families through the use of the USARSO Video-teleconference, operated and maintained by the 56th Signal Battalion.

Coordination took place between the 56th Sig. Bn. through VTC Technicians Ivan Rodriguez, Carlos Rivera, and Angelo Velez; the Puerto Rico National Guard; the DISA VIDEO SYSTEM GLOBAL out of Fort McPherson, Georgia; and the 544th MP Co. from the Puerto Rico National Guard in Saudi Arabia.

Tests were conducted between the Fort Buchanan Technical Control, DISA DVSG, and Saudi Arabia to verify and validate the circuit path. The circuit activation section of the Fort Buchanan Technical Control was engaged to engineer and install a fractional T-1 that would bring the signal to the 94th Sig. Co. conference room.

The transmission path was installed and tested by Barry Bornman and Gilberto Sierra, both civilians in the Tech Control section, and released to the VTC technicians who had to build and prepare a spare VTC Cart, fabricate a new cable for connectivity between the VTC cart and the connection drop, drop in order to make the VTC circuit a success.

More than 70 family members had the opportunity to share a few moments with their loved ones. Fathers deployed down range had the opportunity to see their newborn babies for the first time thanks to the services provided by our civilian staff, who dedicated their time for this wonderful cause.

Our technicians volunteered their personal time to render their skills in order to make the VTC happen, bringing great credit upon themselves and the 56th Signal Battalion.

The Fort Gordon B.O.S.S staff is looking for 75 volunteers to help with crowd control for the "3 Doors Down" concert on November 9.
Want to chat with Veterans?! Join the B.O.S.S. group as they visit with Augusta area Vets on November 11.
Contact your Company B.O.S.S. representative for more information or SPC Elliot at 791-0910.

Photo by Pfc. Brooks Taylor

ACS celebrates 37th and going strong

The Army Community Services celebrated its 37th birthday on July 25 at Darling Hall.

Ted Sharpe, director of Human Resources gave remarks before the cake was cut.

Sharpe stated that the Army Community Service's role is to support keeping soldiers ready.

ACS provides services for the soldier and family from a welcome center to classes for soldiers and family members on many areas such as parenting, finances, family member employment and family advocacy.

252 Sig Co. take part in SUFP

By Cadet Darrell C. Brown, Jr.
252nd Signal Co.

What would you do if someone gave you a chicken and a boa constrictor in a bag and told you to survive in the jungle for 3 days?

That is precisely what Sgt. Vincent Thompson, 252nd Signal Company was asked to do when the U.S. Army sent him to Port of Spain, Trinidad to participate in the Small Unit Familiarization Program from June 16 to June 29.

Soldiers from the 252nd Sig. Co., have recently been called upon to take part in the SUFP as single-channel TACSAT operators who monitor and maintain satellite communication between the American units involved in the SUFP and commanding units back in the US.

The SUFP is designed to exchange U.S. and foreign soldiers in order to expose platoon level units to some of the best international training offered by their host country.

As American soldiers meet with foreign special-forces, their counterparts are sent to the U.S. to train with some of the U.S. Army's elite forces as well. The program strengthens foreign relations with the countries that participate in this program while providing American soldiers with some of the best training in the world and broadening their horizons. Countries that are currently participating in this program include: Trinidad, El Salvador, Belize, and Guatemala.

Sgt. Ernesto Leos, 252nd Sig. Co., single-channel TACSAT operator, said he enjoyed his stay in Belize as both a unique military and personal experience. His job required daily situational reports to U.S. Army Southern Command regarding the conditions and status of the training. Leos assisted a Louisiana National Guard infantry plt. from July 5 through 19, conducting formation drills, battle drills, and survival training in the wilderness.

The experience proved to be tremendously rewarding for Leos, who got the chance to learn how to clean and kill a goat, a necessary skill if one gets in a situation where food is no longer available.

Belize also a popular tourist location proved to be a great place to stay when Leos had time off. During this time he relaxed along the coast snorkeling in clear waters and site seeing along San Pedro.

Sgt. Santerius Scott, 252nd Sig.Co. single-channel TACSAT operator, assisted the Tennessee National Guard as their engineering unit repaired a flooded airfield in Playa Grande, Guatemala. Scott was responsible for also providing daily situational reports of the conditions in Guatemala and to remain on standby to provide necessary communications should an emergency situation develop in the area.

While deployed in Playa Grande, Scott got the chance to interact with Guatemalan communication soldiers. Scott was surprised to discover that his foreign counterparts were having difficulty fixing antiquated communication radios called PRC-77s. Scott's experience allowed him to help the Guatemalan soldiers by troubleshooting and correcting the deficiencies with the equipment. One of the best personal experiences for Scott was when he visited the water volcanoes in front of Antigua, where the peak of the volcano has filled with water and actually looks like a lake.

The Army continues to expose its soldiers to new life experiences that increase their understanding of the world contributing to American citizens that are well rounded.

"You always have an opportunity to excel and get the most out of the military," remarked Leos, "because whether good or bad the experience you get is invaluable and will always be with you."

On August 28, 2002, Capt. Jason Bryan relinquished command of 252nd Signal Company to Capt. Stanley M. Reed Sr. as friends & family gathered for this momentous occasion; Bryan (outgoing commander) emotionally addressed his troops for the last time. Reed then delivered his speech giving the bottom-line up-front, "Proficient in Job" & "Trained on the Battlefield."

The 252nd company, commonly known as the "Renegades," is one of the most diverse tactical Signal Company in the U.S. Army. It is one of the few signal companies that has Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE), TRITAC, Multi-channel Satellite, and Single Channel TACSAT radios along with a communications and electronic maintenance section. In addition, it supports the entire U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility, which includes Central and South America and the Caribbean nations.

By Capt. Stanley Reed, 252nd Sig. Co.

ASA supports Exersise Blue Advance

Story and photos by Maj. Karl Lawrence
ASA chief of operations

Command Control Communications and Computers (C4), success in the joint/interagency operations environment requires a concerted and well-synchronized effort by communicators from Department of Defense (DoD) both military and civilian, federal agencies, and commercial industry. Army Signal Activity (ASA)- SOUTHCOM's signal support for Exercise Blue Advance 02 was one of these fine-tuned efforts.

The ASA participated in the planning, preparation and execution of Exercise Blue Advance (BA) 02. The Biological attack exercise was executed Sept. 8 -13, 2002. The post 9/11 defense environment drove the focus of Blue Advance. BA 02 exercised coordination, and where appropriate, command relationships among U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Northern Command, other joint commands, various federal agencies, and civil authorities during a simulated consequence management (CM) scenario.

The ASA installed a complex system of networks enabling USSOUTHCOM to meet the Commanding General's desire to exercise Command and Control (C2) functions and the battle staff in CM operations. ASA constructed and integrated separate classified and unclassified computer system networks with Defense Information Systems Network (DISN) Services. The exercise network connected nodes including several locations in the Miami, FL metropolitan area; the Joint Warfare Center (JWFC) Suffolk, VA; Fort Monroe, VA; MacDill AFB, Tampa FL; and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. The full range of services provided over these networks include SIPRNET, NIPRNET, DSN, AUTODIN (DMS), VTC, Defense Red Switch Network (DRSN), and single channel TACSAT.

Success in September required planning initiated six months earlier. ASA's Future Operations Branch handles the planning for exercises and, this year, David Colon, IT specialist, was the project officer for Blue Advance. The ASA team for BA02 consisted of members of the Operations Division, Security Division, Tech Control, Telecommunications Center (TCC), and VI Branch.

In coordination with Bell South, Richard Chastain, telecommunications specialist, coordinated circuit provisioning among exercise sites. Security of networks is critical and Eloise Elmer, information systems security manager, completed requirements for Interim Authority to Operate (IATO) for the new network segments established for the exercise.

After delivery of commercial circuits, the main efforts shifted to the Technical Control facility under the leadership of Edwin Maldonado, patch and test facility supervisor. Soldiers in the Tech Control facility extended circuits from the SOUTHCOM Headquarters building to the appropriate routers and VTC systems, essentially extending communications capability to support newly established exercise nodes.

Interoperability is always the significant challenge. For BA 02, interoperability is made more complex given the joint/interagency characteristics, and the expectations of exercise participants outside of the Army and the DoD.

Building the integrated communications systems from the exercise, operational architecture required a keen understanding of C4 requirements, and communicators establishing "common ground" for communications capability.

Even more challenging than the establishment of a common architectural baseline was provisioning C4 support to the end-user.

The ASA team transformed the Miami Goya building node from a warehouse with several office spaces into an adequate operations facility of service component response cells, exercise controller cells, and role players. It also provided the C4 capability that is customary for the various federal agencies.

Bill Davis, installation technician, led the efforts of Management Technology (MANTECH), the major contractor for ASA Operations Division. In two weeks, the wiring and installation of 85 telephones, 18 SIPRNET workstation fiber optic cables, 71 NIPRNET category 5 copper cables for workstations, and over 2000 feet of RG6 coaxial cable extending the VTC to all corners of the building, was accomplished.

Colon had worked closely with SOUTHCOM J3 and J6 personnel on the physical layout of the building and ensured that all building furniture was correctly positioned for each workstation.

Colon then began the process of connecting the NIPRNET workstations to the exercise domain assisted by another group of Operations Division contractors under Sandy Grajales, workstation technician.

David Velis, senior information specialist engineer, had previously configured the Domain Controller and other system administrators had created the user accounts.

Concurrently, Craig Smith, computer specialist, from the ASA's Telecommunications Center, configured the Automated Mail Handling System (AMHS) on each of the SIPRNET workstations. This application allows for workstation level access for AUTODIN message drafters and releasers.

Build out complete, mission focus turns to day-to-day operations for the ASA team, including 24/7 coverage for all functional areas including network systems troubleshooting, firewall administration and assistance by the TCC for AUTODIN/AMHS issues. All-in-all, a tremendous C4 effort and a job well done in support of the warfighter.

KUDOS

Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Chisolm, HHC 93rd Sig. Bde., receives his MSN from the Brigade Commander Oct. 1. Chisolm said he enjoyed his time in the U.S. Army and always strived to lead his soldiers from the front.

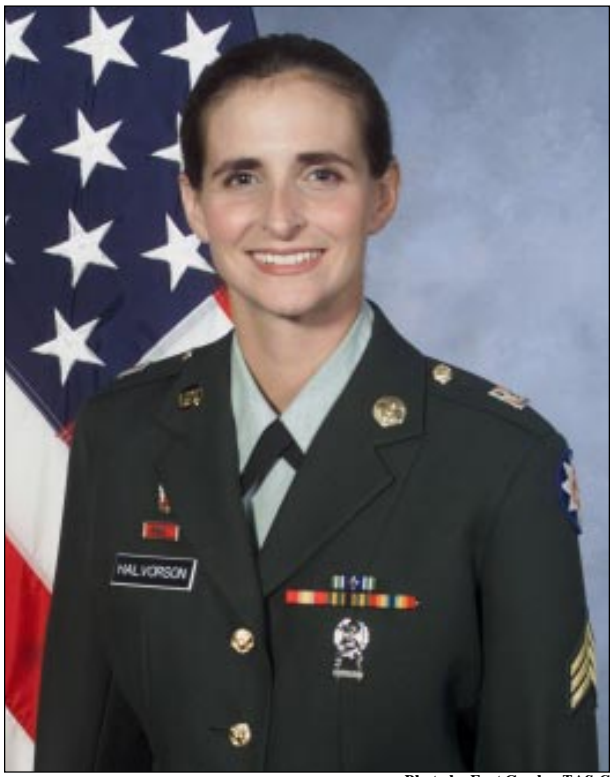


Photo by Fort Gordon TAS-C

Sgt. Lisa Halvorson, A Co. 63rd Signal Battalion, was named the 93rd Signal Brigade's Soldier of the Year and Fort Gordon's Post NCO of the Year.

Lightning Warriors, Strike First!

Staff Sgt. Donald Ross Jr., B Co. 67th Signal Battalion was named the 93rd Signal Brigade Noncommissioned Officer of the Third Quarter and Brigade NCO of the Year.

Col. Daniel Gerstein, 93rd Sig. Bde., brigade commander (left), presents Chief Warrant Officer Stefanos Kariotis a Meritorious Service Medal after a heart felt retirement luncheon at the Gordon Club Sept. 27.

Photos by Sgt. Kelly McCargo

You will restore me to even greater honor and comfort me once again.
Psalm 71:21 (NLT)

A Leader Unites ...

Brigades Unite ...

Strangers Unite ...

Fort Gordon Unites ...

A Nation Unites ...

Illustration provided by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Davies

93rd Signal Brigade is United in Freedom!