

The Lion's Roar

The Official Magazine of the 35th Signal Brigade



Fort Gordon, Ga.

"Utmost of Our Ability"

3rd Quarter FY '12

THE LION'S ROAR



Brigade Commander

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Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel J. Ramos

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Cover Photo:

Photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

Lt. Col. Keith A Garwold, Commander of 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), catches his breath after participating in the U.S. Marine Corps Annual Mud Challenge May 12, 2012 at Fort Gordon, Ga.

"Utmost of Our Ability"

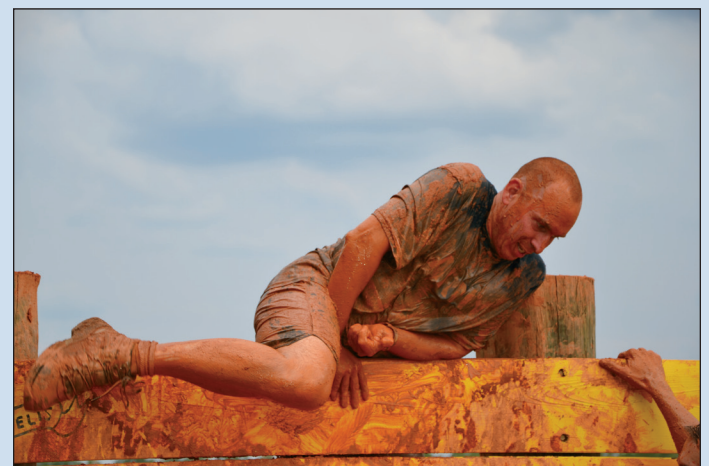


Photos by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter





The top five from 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) pose for a photo after they completed the last obstacle of the 4.5 mile off-road course in 1 hour 16 minutes and 16 seconds. They participated in the U.S. Marine Corps Annual Mud Challenge May 12, 2012 at Fort Gordon, Ga.





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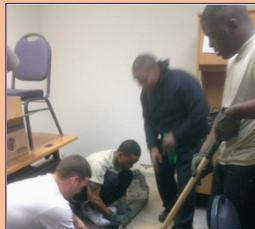
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From the Commander

Third quarter was an extremely challenging period. We conducted a Brigade FTX, participated in an XVIII Airborne Corps exercise on Ft Bragg and Grecian Fire-bolt at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and several other locations across the Southeast. We sent a team to Canada to participate in the International Linesman Professional Development Program. Several teams were sent to the National Training Center in California. The Soldiers of THE Lion Brigade readily accepted, and then tackled every challenge with excellence.

In late May/early June, the entire Brigade was in the continental US for the first time in several years—no unit was deployed. We welcomed home TF Kuwait from 50th Signal Battalion and Alpha Company and part of Charlie Company from 51st Signal Battalion. But, a little less than two weeks later, we deployed 518th Signal Company to Afghanistan. Reports from Theater indicate that the Soldiers of the 518th are exceeding mission expectations. Please keep these Lion Brigade Soldiers and their families in your thoughts.

Fourth Quarter will be equally busy, but I know we will meet every challenge head-on and achieve success.

Fourth Quarter also presents us with what I believe is one of the most important Awareness Months: September is Army Suicide Prevention Month. It reminds me that every month and every day, we must continue to normalize help-seeking behavior and encourage a mindset of assisting others in distress. Just as we would seek assistance for a broken bone, we

must also seek assistance when we are mentally distressed; and just as we would take a buddy to the hospital to repair the broken bone, we must also help our buddy if we notice they are mentally distressed. In the case of distress, by asking a fellow Soldier, civilian, spouse or friend who displays signs of suicidal behavior, one can assist ("Care") someone who is thinking about suicide and can get ("Escort") them specialized help. This is our A.C.E. program:

-Ask your buddy: have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm. Ask the question directly: are you thinking of killing yourself?

-Care for your buddy: calmly control the situation and do not use force. Be safe and actively listen to show understanding and produce relief for your buddy. Remove anything in the area that could be used for self injury.

-Escort your buddy: never leave your buddy alone; escort your buddy to the chain of command, chaplain, behavioral health professional or primary care provider. Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255 (TALK)).



By focusing on our People, our Teams and our Community, we will continue THE Lion Brigade's proud tradition of excellence.

Thank you for all your sacrifices in Service to our Country.

Utmost of Our Ability!
THE Lion Brigade!
L6



Backbone of the Army

"Soldier Spotlight"

Greetings "Lion Brigade!" I would like to take this time to highlight one of our Soldier's. Spc. April L. Ghiroli was recently selected and winner of the Signal Center of Excellence Soldier of the Year Board.

Again, I am enormously proud of what this Brigade has accomplished and honored to serve as your Brigade Command Sergeant Major. Thank you for all you do..... "We MUST Coach, Teach and Mentor!"

Lion 7

My name is Spc. April Lynn Ghiroli. I was born in Branford, Connecticut on June 14, 1988. My parents, Louis and Maureen Ghiroli, currently live in San Diego, CA. I have three sisters; Megan, 29, is a Staff Sergeant in the Army currently stationed at Ft. Belvoir; Brittany, 26, is a reporter for Major League Baseball; and Lindsay, 19, is a student at the University of Alabama.

I graduated from Lyman Hall High School in 2006. I attended the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 2006 to 2010, and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Legal

Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. I enlisted in the Army from Springfield, Mass. in February 2011.

I attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Ga., where I obtained my Military Occupational Specialty as a 25Q, a Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator-Maintainer. I was selected as Student First Sergeant for Delta Company 551st Signal Battalion and I

graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate.

In August 2011, I arrived at my first duty station at Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, which is my current assignment. From August 2011 to May 2012 I worked in the BDE S1, where I handled strength management and personnel actions for over 2,500 Soldiers. I currently work as a command group driver for

the Brigade Command Team. Since my arrival, I won the 35th TTSB Soldier of the 1st Quarter and the Fort Gordon Service Member of the 2nd Quarter competitions. I was then subsequently named Fort Gordon Soldier of the Year for 2012. I was also awarded gold in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Competition.

My short term goals are to graduate the Warrior Leader Course as the Distinguished Honor Graduate and be promoted to a non-commissioned officer. My long term goals are to run the 26.2 mile Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. in under four hours.

My plans for the future are to become fluent in French and obtain a master's degree in political science. I was nominated for assignment to the White House Communications Agency, so I plan to complete a Permanent Change of Station from the 35th TTSB to the Washington D.C. area in the fall of 2013. After completing my assignment with WHCA, I plan to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation after my military career.





Spc. Patrick I. Corbett, a 25S assigned to 50th ESB Fort Lewis, Wa.

As the Garrison Command Sergeant Major, I would improve the post by alternating the Physical Training Schedule, improve housing and barracks conditions, and increasing food quality in the DFAC.

By increasing the PT time window to three hours, units can have different times for first formation. This would greatly reduce morning and evening traffic congestion because the entire base isn't arriving at a set time and going home at the same time. By staggering the first formation time, some units could arrive at 0530 and leave at

1530 while others arrive at 0730 and leave at 1730. No one wants to sit in traffic for a hour to get to their home a few miles away.

I have seen some horrible, horrendous living conditions during my time in the Army, and just because we are Soldiers don't mean we should be forced to live in bad conditions. Buildings have layers of mold on the ceiling tiles, asbestos floor tiles, no AC in building that are 95 degrees, no heat for buildings when it's 20 degrees and water leaks from the rain. I can elaborate on this topic much more but the point is Soldiers should have the best living conditions the government can provide. We risk our lives to protect the freedoms of the American people, yet tax dollars are spent on landscaping and decorations instead of improving the homes of the Soldiers.

The boxes of meat at the DFAC reads grade D, approved for prisoners and military. That is completely uncalled for.

"Utmost of Our Ability"

Soldier of the Quarter

If anything, I think we should be served the best quality foods. Good physical health comes from more than just exercise; it also comes from the nutritional value of the food we eat. Olympic athletes eat only the best quality foods out there to improve their physical and mental performance. Good food also promotes a good mood and happiness. High moral Soldiers are the best Soldiers. By improving the food quality we can increase physical readiness, mental health and the morale of Soldiers.

By improving those three areas, the morale, happiness and the overall success of the garrison would rise. Soldiers only have to drive a few minutes to work and choose to live on post because the homes and barracks are better on post and eat at the DFAC instead of at some fast food restaurant.



Sgt. Tamesha S. Holman, a 46A assigned to 51st ESB at Fort Bragg, Nc.

If I was the Garrison Command Sergeant Major, I would first try to renovate all on-post housing including Barracks, get culinary classes and better training for the DFAC cooks, enforce one hour and 30 minutes for Physical Training, and have quarterly family-friendly post activities.

Living conditions affect morale; it would most likely be the longest process to complete but also would be the most appreciated. Some on post housing, but mostly

barracks are not a great place or a good comfort zone for Soldiers. Better living conditions for Soldiers would boost morale for all Soldiers. Soldiers don't want to live in deployment conditions when they return home from war.

I would gradually get the DFAC Soldiers into classes such as culinary lessons. Variety of food and presentation would encourage more Soldiers to utilize their meal cards and eat at the DFAC. I believe this would cut down on some Soldiers financial problems as far as their meal deductions and not eating at the DFAC, but instead eating out or ordering food every day. When you eat well, you feel good. When you feel good, you work hard.

PT is good for you and good for me. PT would be one hour and 30 minutes every day. One hour of PT is just not a sufficient amount of time to get a great workout in, to include proper warm-ups and cool-downs. With just one hour you really only

NCO of the Quarter

have time to stretch before but by the time PT is over, cooling down is at the bottom of the list. With the Army now going in the direction of PRT, the extra 30 minutes will be good for everyone. It would give some extra buffer time to give Soldiers what they need too. It will also contribute towards lower injuries.

Family friendly activities on post would be great. It would give everyone the opportunity to enjoy each other, mix and mingle, and also make new friends. In addition to FRG meeting, this extra event that we do quarterly on post would be a fabulous addition. We would have concerts, big BBQ's, and do a movie night with a big screen. Those are just a few things I would implement if I were the Garrison Command Sgt. Maj., which are renovate post housing to include Barracks, culinary training for the DFAC's, extend PT to 1 hour and 30 minute to reduce injuries, and have quarterly family functions on post.



GAS, GAS, GAS!!!!

*Story by Capt. Stephen Joosten, Company Commander
Headquarter and Headquarters Company*

On May 17, 2012, HHC 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) participated in CBRN training lead by SFC Sowells, SSG Jones, and SGT Pitchford. Seventy members of the Brigade HHC, including the HHC commander CPT Stephen Joosten and ISG Roberto Berry, entered the gas chamber on that day. SFC Sowells explains that this training is necessary because it gives Soldiers confidence to use their equipment should they ever be exposed to a chemically hazardous environment.

The Soldiers entered the chamber wearing their gas masks. They then performed simple activities such as moving their heads and chewing, to show the Soldiers that they can still function normally while wearing the mask. After some time had passed, they were asked to switch out the filter on their masks with their partner's. Those that were not fast enough or proficient enough at clearing their mask suffered the full effect of the CS gas. Several volunteers donned the JS-LIST, protecting their entire body from coming into contact with the gas.

HHC, 35th plans on conducting more CBRN events in the future in order to ensure that everyone in the company receives this valuable training. Additional training events will also include training on protective equipment to include the Improved Chemical Agent Alarm.



Augusta in Army Boots



*Story and photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter
35th TTSB Public Affairs NCOIC*

At 6:50 a.m., civilian participants began to arrive in groups of twos and threes. Their eyes wide and brows furrowed as they are escorted into a room lined with tables and chairs. The air is filled with the smells of a hot Army breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausages, oatmeal, biscuits, hash browns and fruit.

The civilians exchange introductions with their military sponsors. Their expressions slowly change to smiles and laughter after a few minutes of conversation, while everyone eats. The chatter in the room grows quiet as the presentation of what is to follow, begins.

So begins an adventure for these 15 participants of this spring's "Augusta in Army Boots" program hosted by the 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade April 25-26 at Fort Gordon, Ga.

The "Augusta in Army Boots" is designed for leaders in the Augusta area to join their military counterparts to become a "Soldier for a Day" that lasts 26 hours.

This event gives community leaders a better understanding of what Soldiers do, why they choose this career, the impact on Army families, and why it is important to have community support.

"Less than 1 percent of Americans ever serve in the United States Military. Augusta in Army Boots is an outstanding program that allows leaders in the local community to experience some of the aspects of being a Soldier so that they have a better understanding of what we do every day on their behalf," said Lt. Col. Daniel F. Kuntz, Commander of 67th ESB.

These 26 hours are filled with basic military training in marching, first aid, combatives, weapons, combat drills, and a final training exercise designed to allow the participants to use their new skills.

After

everyone receives their gear, they have a brief march to the gym and then participants are divided into two squads.

One squad receive Combat Life Saver Training by Soldiers from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center on how to stop bleeding, treat a chest wound and use a needle to relieve air around a collapsed lung. They also learn how to wrap a wound and apply a tourniquet.

"I hope I don't have to use what I learned in CLS, but I am ready if I do. It is good to know," said Kathleen Boyd, internal auditor at ASU.

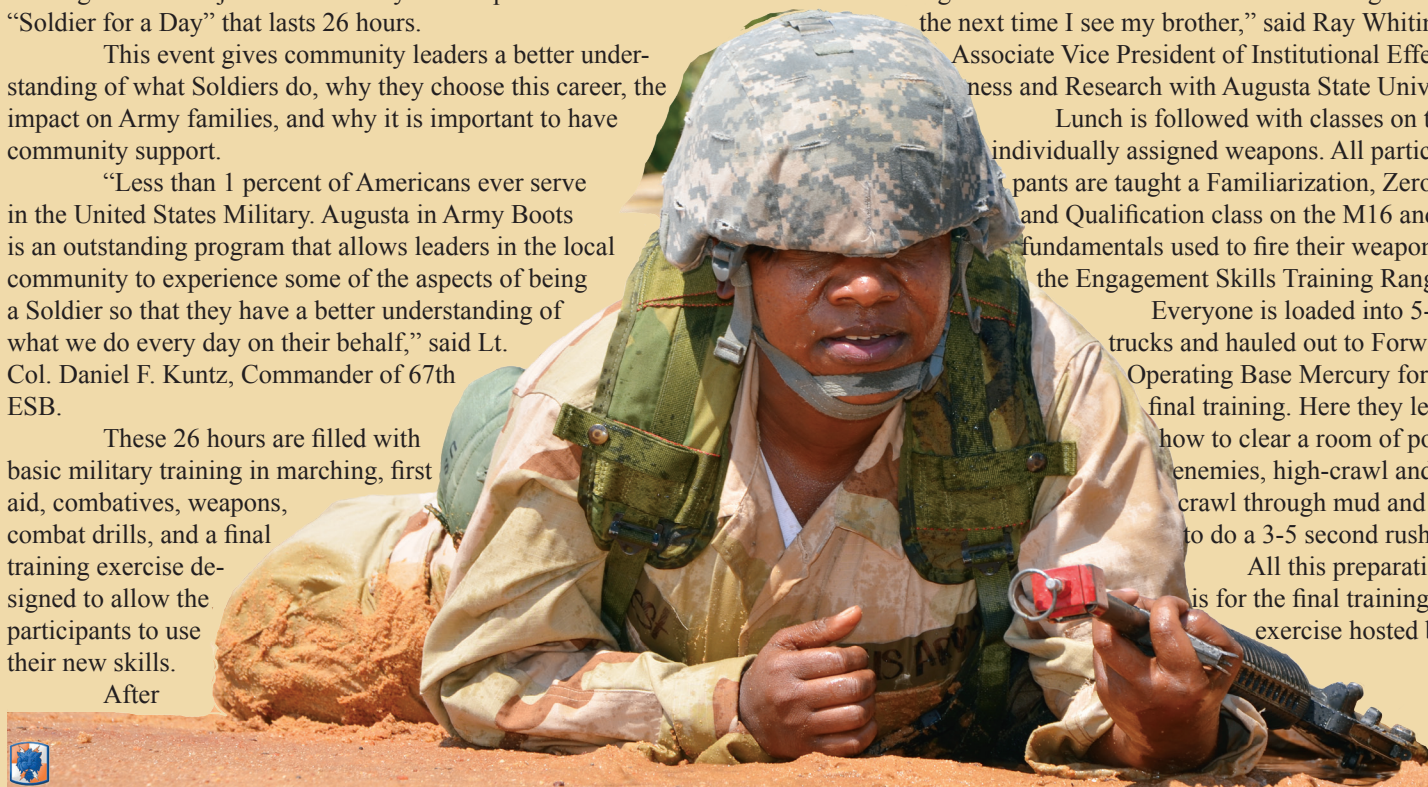
The second squad starts their Combative Training, taught by 67th ESB, with a few warm-up and stretching exercises. Then they learn some Level 1 Basic Ground Fighting Techniques to break out of an attackers hold, followed by some basic holds they can use on their attackers.

"I thought combatives was a lot of fun and I might use it the next time I see my brother," said Ray Whiting, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Research with Augusta State University.

Lunch is followed with classes on their individually assigned weapons. All participants are taught a Familiarization, Zeroing and Qualification class on the M16 and the fundamentals used to fire their weapons at the Engagement Skills Training Range.

Everyone is loaded into 5-ton trucks and hauled out to Forward Operating Base Mercury for their final training. Here they learned how to clear a room of possible enemies, high-crawl and low-crawl through mud and how to do a 3-5 second rush.

All this preparation is for the final training exercise hosted by the





Regimental Non Commissioned Officers Academy. The RNCOA played the enemy at a mock village training area. The two squads were dropped off a short distance away from what seemed to be a quiet and deserted village.

Both squads faced a barrage of different types of simulated ambushes, improvised explosive devices, and buildings riddled with trip wires. The two squads were faced with all kinds of hazards and insurgents, while they maneuvered through clouds of green and purple smoke. Eventually the simulated fire fight ended with someone finding the weapons cache hidden among one of the buildings.

"That was awesome, very intense; a lot of moving pieces, a lot of sounds, a lot of people and trying to coordinate where they all are is difficult. My heart was racing and I got extremely winded with just five minutes of that," said James Oneal, sales representative at Oneal-Murphy Allstate Agency. "Now I know why the Military practices like they do and the stress the Soldiers are under."

The "Soldiers for a Day" ended their evening back at FOB Mercury. After personal hygiene was conducted with baby wipes, a must have for every Soldier in the field, everyone gathered in the tent designated for meals.

A couple of hours later, all the participants received another MRE and gathered around the water buffalo like they were campers at a campfire.

The following morning was graduation and all participants received the honorary rank of a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army.

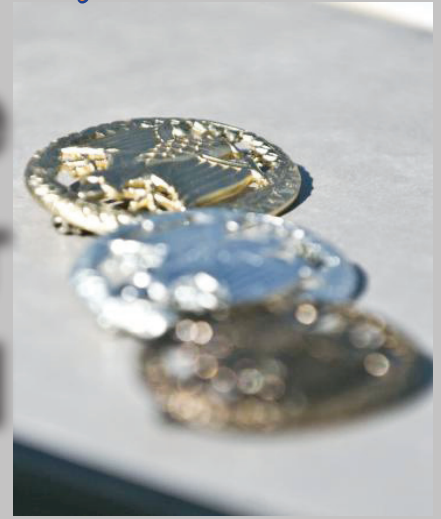
"This experience was phenomenal. I really, really am grateful for all that the Soldiers do while defending our country," said Shankar Balan, CEO of Palmetto Industries International Inc, "I will not forget this experience for a long time."





35th Signal Brigade Soldier's go for Gold

*Story and photos by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter
35th TTTSB Public Affairs NCOIC*



The 35th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade held a ceremony to award 12 Soldiers the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency April 23 at Barton Field.

Soldiers competed April 17-20 in numerous events to earn a gold, silver or bronze German Proficiency Badge awarded to German soldiers and allied military forces.

The events included an initial evaluation to determine if a Soldier was physically and morally fit, a first aid test, five

sports events, marksmanship and ends with a ruck march. The events were judged by Sgt. Maj. Marcus Petrack, the German Liaison for Fort Gordon.

"I did something like this back when I was in Germany at about 25-years-old. I just turned 40 last year and I wanted to test myself to see if I still had it," said Sgt. 1st Class David J. Nile, B Co. 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary).

The sports events are a 100, 400 or 1000 meter timed sprint, 3000 or 5000 meter

timed run, a measured high jump or long jump, 200 meter timed swim and a measured Shot-put or Stone-put.

"I knew it would be a lot of challenges that are not normally in a Physical Fitness Test," said Pfc. Brandon T. Buchanan, C Co. 63rd ESB.

The marksmanship score and the ruck march are the events that determine if a Soldier earns the gold, silver or bronze badge.

"I wanted to push myself and see what I could

actually do. I think the ruck march and the first aid test were the hardest events for me," said Kristal A. Calderon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th TTTSB.

The competition started with 20 Soldiers participating and twelve completing in all events. Soldier who failed an event have up to 365 days to complete the event and earn the badge.





"If it ain't raining, we ain't training!"

*Story by 1st Lt. Jessica Yahn
25A, 2nd Platoon, C Co.*

Gear packed. Trucks lined up. Convoy brief given. 2nd PLT, C CO of 50th Signal BN stood ready, awaiting orders to roll out for their first FTX since returning from Iraq. As a heavy signal platoon, the following equipment was needed to participate in the field exercise: the SSS, Phoenix, two CPNs with their STTs and V1s, and two V3s. The purpose of the FTX was to build team confidence and proficiency and 2nd PLT, C CO went out and did just that.

The field environment is appealing to every single person in the platoon. Well, maybe not the parts about using porta johns or eating MREs but Soldiers are out learning their equipment. NCOs are challenging them with different scenarios and helping troubleshoot when they hit dead ends. The platoon leader gets to witness all the hard work that went into planning the exercise, not to mention get away from doing slides for a few days. Even when the rain pours or the humidity after the storm makes you feel like you are in a sauna, spirits remain high.

The first two days of 2nd PLT's FTX were spent setting up and getting the Phoenix, STT and LOS links in. The NCOs and Soldiers battled a handful of stubborn satellite operators, bad weather, and maintenance issues, but came out successful. Once the links were in the SSS, CPN operators played their part, configuring routers and wiring phones and computers off the access cases.

The last two days in the field were spent doing crew drills and cross training. Crew drills give teams the chance to test every person on the equipment. The experienced operators step back and let new members of the team walk through all the steps from powering the system on to getting it on the bird, or pulling NIPR and SIPR pages. Crew drills is where confidence building really comes into play. Soldiers are forced to operate the equipment on their own and are tested until they are proficient. An NCO is always there to guide them if needed.

Returning from the field is bitter sweet. Yes, it feels good to shower and throw on some clean ACUs, but there is no better way to train than when you've got the air time and the equipment and Soldiers and NCOs are out there doing what they do best. Not only is it good training, but there are always good stories to tell afterwards. Now, it wasn't 2nd PLT but 1st PLT may or may not have spent a night shaking in their cots after realizing they were surrounded by sparkling trees. They heard through an unknown source that brown recluse spiders sparkle at night. Little did they know that sap sparkles too.

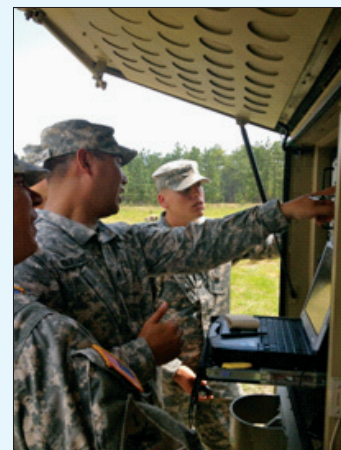
1st and 2nd PLT are both looking forward to getting out in the field again. The BDE FTX is next up on the schedule. The platoons will continue to strengthen their teams and return with more good stories.



Phoenix link successfully established



Prepping vehicles and equipment at the motor pool



At work getting the STT on the bird



V1 operators participating in crew drills during C Co. FTX.



From Cadet to Platoon Leader



*Story by 1st Lt. Adam Visbeen
25A, Platoon Leader, A Co.*



Every Soldier within the United States Army has taken an oath of service and accepted a call of responsibility to serve others. Understanding this call, the 50th Signal Battalion took advantage of the opportunity to reach out to the East Carolina University Army ROTC program. The 50th Signal Battalion sent First Lieutenant Adam Visbeen to speak to the future leaders of tomorrow's Army. Visbeen is an Army ROTC graduate from Liberty University who sought to speak to the Cadets on the Lieutenant transition from the Cadet life.

Visbeen volunteered for the opportunity to speak to the Cadets and stated its importance to better prepare the Cadets by stating, "Not preparing tomorrow's leaders is a failure today." The Cadre at ECU stated its importance to bring in a current lieutenant due to the Army's constant involvement in tactics and operations. As stated by ECU cadre member Captain Bryan Vaden, "The cadre has vast experience here at ECU; however, it has been several years since any of us have been Platoon Leaders."

Army ROTC programs focus to mentor, instruct, and develop young leaders in preparation for leading Soldiers into combat as Second Lieutenants. Every Army ROTC program is designed and operated differently; however, each program focuses on teaching young men and women to live by the Army Values of ethics. In addition, Army ROTC programs seek to instruct Army doctrine while Cadets attain a bachelor's degree. ROTC programs focus to teach topics of military etiquette, traditions, and basic Soldier

Warrior tasks and drills. Cadets learn weapon skills, map reading and navigation, operations orders, and the five basic battle drills of squad level tactics and maneuverability.

Visbeen, a platoon leader, currently serving in Alpha Company, 50th Signal Battalion, focused on different ways to improve both the ROTC program and better prepare the Cadets for their future positions. Visbeen encouraged the Cadets to begin reading Army field manuals which cover topics such as operations orders and platoon training meetings. Visbeen stressed to the Cadets the importance of understanding the battalion staff shops and the purpose they serve in order to be successful as a leader in the United States Army. Additionally, Visbeen covered topics that he felt would have better prepared him as a second lieutenant had he been taught during his ROTC career. ECU Army ROTC Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Vanino stated, "Having the opportunity to hear the perspective of a current Platoon Leader gave our Cadets an outstanding opportunity to have a dialogue about basic expectations, specifically the Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant relationship. In addition, Vanino reinforced Visbeen's focus and intent based upon his statement of, "Understanding the best practices in training and property accountability will both reinforce and refocus our training to best prepare our Cadets for that critical role within the United States Army." Alpha Company, 50th Signal Battalion hopes to receive future opportunities to help mentor and support the Cadets of ECU, in addition to its service to the local community.





35th Signal Brigade

"Utmost of Our Ability"

Bravo Company 50th ESB Supports 3-321 FA

Story by 1st. Lt. Jared Long
25A, Platoon Leader, B Co.

"Bring the Smoke!" is the motto of the Bravo Company, Red Bulls, and they constantly do just that. Recently redeployed from Operation New Dawn in Iraq, the 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) is already out supporting other units on Fort Bragg with communications and services. 1st Platoon Command Post Node Team 57125 led by Team Chief, Sgt. Steven Garruto, received a mission on short notice to support 3-321 Field Artillery Regiment during their week long firing exercises all over the Ft. Bragg training areas. They needed a CPN to support their headquarters out in the field, so they could maintain command and control of their batteries, which were spread out conducting fire missions.

Garruto and his team received the warning order for their mission with about two weeks to plan and validate their equipment



Photo by team chief, Sgt. Steven Garruto.

CPN 57125 team members Spc. Christopher Leigh (left) and Spc. Darren Stewart (right) work to set up an antenna to allow radio communications with the Bravo Company Headquarters.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jared Long. 1st Platoon Leader, B Co.

Team Chief Sergeant Steven Garruto points out where he wants to set up his equipment and tent during the leaders recon of the site.

that they just received back after redeployment. Not having used their communications assemblages for over a year while deployed, they needed to relearn the skills necessary to link up their Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) with a commercial satellite and configure their CPN routers and switches. That link would allow them to provide internet access, email, and voice over IP phone service for the 3-321 FAR command post. Garruto's team had less than a week of practice time and training from civilian experts, but despite this time crunch, they were still able to accomplish their tasks for this field exercise.

After convoy preparation the Friday before, CPN team 57125 rolled out on time that Monday morning to begin their setup and provide services for 3-321. Just before leaving the company area Murphy's Law struck. The team found out that over the weekend the Army contracts for the satellite changed. This meant that they would have to repeat all of their configuration and preparation steps from the week before, only this time they had to do it under time constraint and in the field environment. Spc. Corey Lyttleton, the team's 25L Cable Systems Installer/Maintainer, said "The train up the week before had them well prepared to overcome the obstacles placed before them." After countless troubleshooting steps and plenty of phone calls to the satellite controllers they finally managed to get the link in and set up their services for the 3-321.

Spc. Darren Stewart, the team's 25B Information Technology Specialist, said "The whole training event was a great exercise in what can go wrong and learning how to fix it."

Despite the setbacks, CPN 57125 fought through issue after issue and with the assistance of the 50th S3 shop, was able to complete their set up and provide the promised services to 3-321 FA. The team's dedication and determination prevailed and proved that no matter how much you can "Bring the Smoke," the Red Bulls will always lead the way.





Sentinel Shakedown builds Soldiers' Confidence.

Story by Sgt. Jeffrey Strathearn
B Co.

The month of May has been a busy time for the Redbulls. The second platoon Joint Network Node (JNN) section participated in a validation exercise called Sentinel Shakedown, where the JNN and Satellite Transportable Terminals set up on Smith field, along with first platoon's Line of Sight team. The entire section worked diligently to set up the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter tent, grounding the JNN generators, JNN, STT and DRASH systems. Grounding the equipment required pounding six foot rods into the ground for each piece of equipment, some pieces requiring two. After the equipment was properly grounded, all the power cables were laid and the equipment could be powered up. Spc. Dickerson was in charge of articulating the plans and orders from the section sergeant to the team and he did well conveying the information. Spc. Hodges took charge of the JNN shelter itself, ensuring it was properly powered up and all the equipment was functioning correctly. Spc. Speight is the section's resident STT subject matter expert, and expertly deployed the STT and began working off the cut-sheet to acquire the satellite. Spc. Williams-Arnold ran all the fiber-optic cables between the STT and the JNN, as well as between the JNN and the JNN User Access Cases, testing it for operability and connectivity.

Throughout the exercise, the section found that they had dusted off some cobwebs and relearned forgotten information; they also discovered faulty equipment and replaced them expeditiously. Once all the equipment was in a working configuration, Speight was able to successfully acquire and access the satellite. Once this was done, he discovered that he had learned some insight on the process and was able to assist other members of the platoon in getting the same task accomplished.

"Once I figured out I had a bad piece of equipment and we replaced it, everything worked like a charm," said Speight.

The week immediately following Sentinel Shakedown, the Redbulls had a Company Field Training Exercise, where



From left to right: Sgt. Duttry, Pfc. Johnson, Sgt. 1st Class Jackson and Spc. Richardson in OE-254 training.

the Second Platoon JNN section once again deployed with their equipment. They were given an OPORD, an eight-digit grid of a training site on Fort Bragg and were told to setup with little guidance. They flawlessly chose an area which provided the best possible security and began to set up shop, performing the same tasks as the week before. The previous week's training proved quite valuable because they were able to have their equipment up and running in half the time. Everyone already knew their duties and responsibilities and worked until they were complete, then proceeded to assist others in an effort to finish more quickly. The second day the platoon conducted training on Treating a Heat Casualty by Sgt. Lopez, setting up an OE-254 by Sgt. 1st. Class Jackson, CPN theory of operation by Spc. Murray and JNN theory of operation by Spc. Hodges. At the conclusion of the second day of training, First Platoon and Second Platoon had a competition to see who could set up an OE-254 the quickest. Unfortunately, First Platoon was the victor. The third day consisted of more training, setting up a 15-Meter Mast by Sgt. Arellano, STT Operation by Spc. Speight, and a familiarization of the Defense Advanced GPS Receiver by Sgt. Strathearn. On the

third day, we conducted a culminating exercise which was meant to bring several elements of the training together and simulate a real-world situation in which our tactical and technical abilities could be put to use.

"I really enjoyed the training we had this week. It was a nice change of pace from what we usually do," commented Pfc. Sasso.

Over the course of the two weeks, each and every member of the company either learned something valuable or a different approach to solving the same problem. At the end of the day, this training opportunity created a win-win opportunity for everybody, making us more prepared and confident for the Brigade FTX in June. Red Bull brings the smoke!!



Sentinel

Shakedown

Story by Capt. Brian Herring
25A, Platoon Leader, C Co. Cobra's

The Charlie Company Cobra's recently completed Exercise Sentinel Shakedown at FT Bragg, NC. The main focus for this exercise was to validate the company's SSS, CPNs, Phoenixes, and STTs. The week-long training event also focused on Team building. The Soldiers of Charlie Company did an outstanding job of setting up and operating equipment that had not been used since 2010, when the Company was preparing for Operation New Dawn. By the end of the week the platoons had validated three CPNs, two Phoenixes, and the SSS. The biggest thing Capt. Brian Herring noticed, as the week progressed, was the increasing confidence level in the Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers. The Teams worked closely with General Dynamics, S3 Operations, and EMS to identify and fix deficiencies found in the equipment. This challenged the Soldiers to utilize their troubleshooting skills and reinforced the need to maintain up-to-date copies of technical manuals for each shelter. The Soldiers also conducted crew drills to become more proficient in the set up and operation of the AN/TRC-190 HCLOS, V1 and V3 systems. In addition, the teams had the opportunity to setup, operate, and maintain their generators and DRASH systems. The unit also conducted training on hot weather injuries at the team

level. This validation exercise proved to be very beneficial in gauging the readiness of the company's equipment and provided the platoon leaders an opportunity to assess their Teams and make further preparations for their upcoming platoon FTXs and the brigade FTX. The company still has more work ahead as they strive to become more proficient, but they are definitely off to a great start.

Outstanding Job COBRAs!



Photos by 1st Lt. Jared Long and Sgt. Garruto

2nd Plt. CPN Team led by Sgt. James Craft.



1st Plt. Soldiers Spc. Timothy Poblete and Pfc. Taylor Archer validate the STT.



Green Sea Floyds Elementary School Talks Trash

*Story and photo by 1st. Lt. Jessica Yahn
25A, Platoon Leader C Co.*

Fourth graders have been "Talkin' Trash" for eleven years in Horry County. This countywide contest encourages fourth grade students to recycle at school and in their community. Here's how the contest works. Each month a different recyclable is collected by the students at school. The class at the school that recycles the most items that month wins. The contest is open to any public school in Horry County with fourth grade classes. Each participating class receives a special container to collect their recyclables. Each class is judged based on the number of pounds collected

per fourth grade student each month. The class at each school that recycles the most each month receives special prizes. Then, at the end of the year, the class from each school that has recycled the most wins a fully paid field trip to Ripley's Aquarium. This trip is completely free to students.

In January, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Williams, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Exp), became involved in this recycling effort. He not only challenged a group of fourth graders to get out and collect recyclables, he took part in the

recycling himself.

Williams said "This has been a great experience for me to watch these students get excited about doing something for the environment".

Ms. Gasque's fourth grade class from Green Sea Floyds Elementary won five out of the six months of the competition. This group of hard-working fourth graders also went on to win the end of the year field trip. Ms. Gasque stated "I am super proud of these guy's this year. They performed so well with each of the different items every month". This class

consists of twenty students. Along with their teacher and CW3 Williams, they collected 109 pounds of recyclables per person. That is a total of 2,398 pounds of recycled materials.

On May 15, Williams accompanied this diligent group of fourth graders on their much earned field trip to Ripley's Aquarium. This is a great accomplishment that taught these fourth graders the value of saving our planet.



Bowling with the FRG

*Story and photos by 2nd. Lt. Jerad Romine
25A, Operations Officer, HHC*

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company's Family Readiness Group put on an exciting bowling event for Soldiers and their families at Dragon Lanes Friday, 11 May 2012. Mostly everyone played 2 games and stayed well into the evening. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and drinks.

"Overall it was a good family environment with kids laughing and rolling balls down bumper lanes.

Some people were more serious than others and came to compete," said Spc. McCrory.

There are definitely some serious bowlers in HHC like 1st Sgt. Royal who bowled a high score of 158, and Staff Sgt. Johnson who was a close second with a score of 153. The Commander of HHC, Capt. Peirce, scored a 120.

According to Peirce, "The event was an excellent time with Soldiers and their families. It was a time to get together to find out what's going on in each other's lives as well as in the unit."

At the end of the event there was a meeting to discuss upcoming FRG events and future plans for HHC. Everyone enjoyed themselves and over 80 HHC Soldiers and Family members attended this event. We will definitely plan more events like this.



STRIKE 1



Army - Navy

It's More Than A Football Game

*Story and photo by Sgt. Donald Newell
Squad Leader, B Co.*

On Friday, May 18th, Sgt. Donald Newell was fortunate enough to leave work a few hours early to prepare to see his grandfather, Mr. Keith Hampton. After his Class A uniform was put together and his wife and son packed for the short drive to Wilmington, North Carolina they departed.

Mr. Hampton was in North Carolina to celebrate and reunite with the crew from the USS North Carolina and their families for the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the ship at her current berth in Wilmington, as well as, be presented with a plaque above the radar table that was completely refurbished thanks to his sizeable donation. He had served on the battleship designated BB-55 during World War II from 1945 to 1946 as a Air Search Radar Operator spotting enemy fighters and bombers approaching the fleet.

Newell was glad to celebrate with his grandfather, but also got to meet many of the other remaining crew members from the ship. Saturday evening at the formal banquet, Mr. Hampton was able to reconnect with his former shipmate and counterpart Jerry Johnson, who operated the sea portion of the radar. The two men had not seen each other since their departure from the vessel in 1946 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. Hampton was excited to see his grandson and his growing family. They talked for several hours before dinner then met back up for the banquet around 5 p.m. in the lobby of their hotel. The dinner and ceremony lasted a good four hours before everyone boarded the charter bus back that evening from the historic Hannah Block USO building located on the corner of Second and Orange Streets in downtown Wilmington. During WWII, the surrounding community hosted some 35,000 troops a week from nearby bases such as Camp Da-

vis, Camp Lejeune, and Fort Bragg where Newell is currently assigned to Bravo Company, 50th Signal Battalion.

Of course, the crew decided to have a farewell party that evening. Every night during their stay they had gathered in the conference room to share some spirits and catch

up on all that they had missed over the past six and a half decades. When it was all said and done and the party came to a close, they paused in a moment of silence for those that had passed during and after the War, shook hands, exchanged hugs, and retired to their rooms, already planning the next reunion.



Smokin' Aces are Blazing!

Story by Capt. Rossmary D. Alvarado
25A, Commander, Alpha Co.

Alpha Company Soldiers accomplish their mission day in and day out, and as a commander, there is no better satisfaction than seeing your troops in action. Going on 22 months of command, I have seen this company grow to become a strong and solid force, with agile leaders and Soldiers capable of taking on the greatest mission this unit has ever experienced.

The Aces deployed in May '11 as the only Expeditionary Signal Company in the battalion to have a mission organic to its nature. As a company minus (-) element, we were assigned as the Communication Providers throughout three contingency operating bases in the southern region of Iraq. Our mission was to manage the installation, operation, defense, maintenance, and decommission of strategic communication networks and services. The Company supported over 20,000 customers ranging from USF-I forces, Department of defense personnel, and Department of State delegates.

Our Area of Operation in Southern Iraq consisted of three key locations, COB Adder (Tallil), COB Basrah, and COL Umm Qasr. The company was reorganized into three Direct Signal Support Teams to operate the Technical Control Facilities at each site.

The company headquarters was strategically placed in COB Adder to maintain optimal command and control. C2 across the AO was sustained through the assignment of an Officer-in-charge and a Noncommissioned Officer-in-charge to the DSSTs.

The DSSTs were also assigned a total of 65 civilian personnel to support customer service operations. The relationship was established under a contractual basis, requiring all OICs and NCOICs to be delegated the duty of Technical Point of Contact that acted as a liaison between military and civilian operations.

In addition, Alpha Company provided a platoon-sized element to serve under the Operational Control of 54th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 160th Signal

Brigade. Based out of Arifjan, Kuwait, its mission was to provide a rapid-respond team capable of deploying its tactical assets anywhere in the CENTCOM AO under the leadership of 1st. Lt. Ryan Dolak and Master Sgt. Corey Thomas.

As Dolak states, "The opportunity that I received to be the TFK OIC developed me as a leader and expanded my knowledge as a junior military officer in the United States Army."

The platoon was reorganized as Task Force Kuwait; and augmented with three additional teams from Bravo and Charlie Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary). The total force included 65 Soldiers and NCOs, 23 Warfighter Information Network-Tactical communications assemblages and all associated tactical vehicles and power generation units.

Through this historical moment for the U.S. and its fighting force, the Smokin' Aces accomplished a myriad of tasks, under a very limited timeline. Our 'cable dawgs' laid over 36,000 feet of fiber across Southern Iraq, a task that was vital to the support of three brigade headquarters, five battalion Headquarters, Air Force detachments, and several Multi-National Security Transition command teams.

Our supply personnel completed, what I believe to be the greatest challenge of them all, the turn-in of over 750 Theater and Government Furnished serial numbered items valued in excess of \$5.2 million. In support of the drawdown mission during Operation New Dawn, U.S. property accumulated for the last 10 years of the war now had to be accounted and taken off Iraqi soil.

Operations such as Steppe Eagle in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and Inferno Creek in Oman, and Task Force Sinai proved to be a unique experience for our team in Kuwait. Under 72 hours notice, Dolak's Command Post Node teams had to coordinate all key aspects for the execution of the exercise, proving the team's maturity and agility during the missions.

The long hours over the seven-month deployment, developed and trained the Soldiers that you see here today, growing and learning and eager to take the reins of their next mission. As I turn over the guidon to Capt. Louie Gonzalez on 05 April 2012, the Smokin' Aces turn another page in its history, that upon return of over 100 Soldiers from Task Force Kuwait later on this year, will complete a chapter in United States Army history, like no other ever before.





U.S. Soldiers, Sgt. Beaver, 1st Lt. Dolak, Spc. Mineer, mingling with Kazakhstan Soldiers during the opening ceremonies of Operation Steppe Eagle 2011.



U.S. Soldiers from A Co/50th (ESB) 1st Lt. Dolak, Spc. Mineer, Spc. Cooper, Pvt. Wright and Sgt. Beaver, interacting with a Kazakhstan Army communications team in front of the STT.



"The Pole"

Story by 2nd Lt. Paul E. Baker,
25A, Platoon Leader, 1st Plt, C Co.

Arriving as the new lieutenant to the battalion, 2nd Lt. Paul E. Baker, platoon leader, 1st platoon, C Co., was excited to start his new position as 1st Platoon Leader. That is, until he met "The Pole."

"The Pole" is the upper section of a telegraph pole that is 4-feet tall, weighs at least 85 pounds with two 3.5-foot perpendicular arms. Two mounts at the top of the pole allow a set of Wig-Wags to be placed at a 45-degree angle on each side.

The true age of The Pole is unknown; however it has been assigned to the 29th Signal Battalion since February 10, 1996. In 2008, when the battalion was reflagged as the 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), so was the pole. Just like a Soldier the pole shed its 29th branding and donned the Lion Brigade patch and brass numbers "51". It has been through three deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and its military decorations include the 3d U.S. Cavalry Honorary Order of the Spur, awarded February 20, 2006.

Tradition holds the newest lieutenant to the battalion, based on commissioning date, is required to take possession of The Pole at their Hail and Farewell ceremony. They must transport The Pole to work without aid, and place it in a position of honor in their office. At battalion events, the lieutenant must bring The Pole to mark the arrival of the 51st ESB to the area.

When Baker was first told about The Pole, he was less than excited. Baker did not want to carry this massive pole around, especially with the chance of putting large holes in the company walls or doors, let alone in his POV. However, as The Pole and Baker have bonded during their first four weeks together, he has grown to appreciate the tradition and history of The Pole.

A plate fastened to The Pole's main trunk tracks the source as Spokane, Washington. It states, "This Telephone Top was taken from the Burlington Northern Railroad Communications Station at the intersection of Havana and Sprague in Spokane, Washington. It was chosen because it was



The 51st Pole with the plates of honor memorializing every keeper of the pole since 1996.

at the base of the microwave tower which now handles most of the railroads Long Haul Communications. The Pole was not in use during its untimely falling. The Pole was laid to rest on February 10, 1996, by 2nd Lt. Christian Cannon." Cannon could not be reached for comment, but this plaque alone is testament to The Pole's place in the Battalion's history.

Soldiers can see the wear and tear on The Pole, and the evidence of past lieutenants attempting to keep The Pole intact. The technical manual that comes with The Pole, TP/MANPACK-51. The manual contains pictures dating back to the year 2000, with each lieutenant documenting their time with The Pole. 2nd Lt. Zillner was the first lieutenant, but not the last to Photoshop himself with The Pole. According to his pictures, he took The Pole on vacation to the Eiffel Tower and to meet President Bush.

While under the care of the newest Lieutenant the keeper of The Pole must affix a plate with their name, position and dates, additionally the Lieutenant is required to attach a piece of flare. The piece of flare can be anything, the current adoring flairs range the full spectrum from funny to personal, these items include a siren light, "Half of my heart is in Iraq" bumper sticker, cell phone and a CB radio last added by 2nd

Lt. Turchany.

This flair truly is the personality of The Pole. It allows the newest lieutenant to leave their feelings with the Battalion, mostly in the form of tacky additions. One unknown lieutenant added a bottle opener to the side of the upper arm. Baker can only assume that during this lieutenant's time as the keeper, The Pole was the life of the party.

1st Lt. Hendel's addition to The Pole was his "Follow Me" unit patch from Officer Candidate School. This patch is significant to him as a leader. Hendel added the "Follow Me" patch because OCS changed to another unit patch sometime in early 2010. "I felt that the experience I had in OCS helped make me the officer and person I am today so I wanted to honor the history of OCS by affixing the "Follow Me" patch to The Pole," said Hendel.

The tradition of The Pole is significant in the 51st ESB, as the battalion was the first telegraph battalion in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, commissioned on July 1st, 1916. This history of telegraph poles is located on the battalion's Distinctive Unit Insignia, Coat of Arms, and outside the Battalion HQ. The tradition of The Pole has carried on for almost two decades and Baker expects this tradition to carry on long after he has PCSed from the battalion, with his own flair and story added to The Pole.



The origins of the plaque.



2nd Lt. Turchany with The Pole just prior to transitioning it to the 2nd Lt. Baker during a battalion hail and farewell at Cheney Stadium for a Tacoma Rainier's Game.



Mercury Challenge I,

Leadership Professional Development

*Story by 1st Lt. Kris Conklin
25A, Executive Officer, C Co.*

Leaders from the 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) conducted Leadership Professional Development May 22- 23, 2012 on the Eagle Creek Trail which is located on Columbia River Gorge, Oregon. The trail is 14 miles roundtrip and has an elevation gain of 1,700 feet. The trail was built by Italian engineers in 1910 to help bring tourists to the newly constructed Columbia River Highway. The area is so dense with rain forest that anything above the 800-foot mark is considered wilderness.

The waterfalls are breathtaking and if you don't pay attention, the trail will take your life. There are numerous sections of the trail that have vertical drops of over 100 ft down into Eagle Creek. In fact Eagle Creek is one of the most notorious trails in the Pacific Northwest because of the deaths that happen on an annual basis.



1st Lt. Imboden encounter one of the six waterfalls during the march.

Once the leaders from the 51st SBE arrived at the release point they were briefed by Maj. Vinson and given their first challenge. The first company-team to setup an OE-254 and make a radio check to Mercury 3 would earn the right to depart first. Every team after would have to wait an additional 30 minutes before being allowed to depart. The warrant officers were the first to establish communications and awarded an early departure.

This LPD was different from what many were used because none of the participants knew the general plan. All that was known was what to pack and that the weather would probably be wet. This we would later realize would be a complete understatement. There would be three surprise events along the trail. The first was a cache class where leaders were taught how to properly cache supplies and ensure the enemy could not find them. A strip map was given to each team which gave them a general idea of where their MRE dinners could be found. In a real life "Hunger Games", Teams that couldn't find their food did not eat well. Other events included a medical evacuation class and instruction on how to build a field expedient antenna. If challenging terrain with approximately 80 pounds of gear weren't enough, teams also had to contend with the slick, muddy terrain and narrow mountain trails as they navigated the seven mile hike to their campsite. All leaders were mindful of their surroundings and footing, or they could find themselves falling nearly 200 feet to the bottom of the Eagle Creek River Valley.



1st Lt. Conklin and Sgt. 1st. Class Buffet watch their footing as they crossed Eagle Creek



Team 51 pose for a group shot after completing Mercury Challenge I at Eagle Creek, Ore.

Upon reaching the final destination for the evening, teams immediately began establishing their campsites. The rain came down hard at this point, so building shelters took priority. Once the shelters were built the search for firewood began. Officers and NCOs soon found out that wet fire wood is not conducive to large, warming fires. Many leaders reverted to survival and Boy Scout techniques that they had acquired and stripped the wet outer bark off of the logs to help it dry faster. Each person had to take turns fanning and blowing on the fire while others scavenged the rain-forest for any dry piece of wood they could find, in the northwest downpour. For many individuals, this was a testament of their will to endure, as they contended with the rain and cold weather throughout the night.

After waking up the next morning, many leaders were still wet and cold from the night before and had received little sleep. Some however, felt right at home as they curled up in their sleeping bag. Teams quickly broke down their campsite site. Before stepping off, each team had to utilize their knowledge of field expedient antennas with their radio in order to place a call to request a movement time. The march back to the start point was even more difficult; given that all the wet supplies that everyone carried added another 10 to 15 pounds of weight to their packs. When all teams had reach the bottom there was one more surprise waiting for them. Many teams stopped to create a photo opportunity and take in the scenery. Even through the heavy rain one could still sit and admire the wonderful scenery around them. A 25 meter rope bridge was waiting for them. Each Officer and NCO tied on a Swiss seat and then hooked onto the rope. Everyone made it across and joined the rest of the leaders for a small Barbeque and some refreshing beverages.



Charlie Company Cobras pose for a Team Photo.

Overall, the experience was a great bonding experience for the company and battalion teams. The LPD gave every leader the chance to exercise their mind and body. Officers and NCOs from all the companies were able to spend quality time together and continued to improve the working relationships they have. To sum up our wonderful trek across the Oregon Rainforest, 1st Sgt. Kirk Shriver, of Charlie Company 1SG stated, "Don't wait for the storm to pass....Learn to dance in the rain."

518th TIN performs ARCYBER Cable Installation

Story by Capt. Ryan Boileau
25A, 518th TIN Company Commander

The Army's newest major command, US Army Cyber Command, headquartered in Fort Meade, Maryland, quickly outgrew its communications infrastructure after its activation in late 2010. To resolve the infrastructure problem, ARCYBER created a plan to remodel an existing structure, adjacent to its current headquarters, in order to allow an expanded footprint. The existing communication services in the new building came via a 50-pair copper cable, with 37 voice subscribers already assigned. To meet the need of its planned 270 offices, ARCYBER required an immediate infrastructure upgrade. During their cost analysis process, the ARCYBER G6 and the Network Enterprise Center determined that it would be cost-prohibitive to use a contractor.

In January 2012, ARCYBER and the Fort Meade NEC asked the 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company if the unit could support their upgrade requirements. The 518th TIN seized the opportunity, as it provided the unit the chance to validate its outside plant installation capability with actual customers.

During mission analysis by ARCYBER and a site visit by a team of 518th TIN personnel, the plan began to form: A team of ten Soldiers from 518th TIN would install 1,500 feet of 600-pair copper cable from the NEC's hub building to the ARCYBER headquarters entry, and 300 feet of 300-pair copper cable would splice into the larger cable and lead to the new building, leaving the remaining 300 pair for future expansion should the NEC require it. The statement of work also stipulated that 518th would perform Quality Assurance and Quality Control of all terminations and splicing prior to final acceptance of the project by the Fort Meade NEC.

The 63rd Signal Battalion ordered all materiel through purchase contract, and the contractor assured final delivery of

equipment for 9 April 2012. The team of Soldiers – led by Sgt. Barrett Christian and consisting of Sgt. Nathaniel Fountain, Sgt. Alrice Barnes, Sgt. Jason Morabito, Spc. Rahquwan Brooks, Spc. Joseph Proctor, Spc. Franklin Santos, Spc. Toby Skandier, Spc. Lakirk Straughter, and Pfc. Malcolm Goode – arrived that same day, and began installation of the 600-pair cable on 10 April 2012. While the bulk of the team routed the heavy cable through the 1,500 feet of conduit through the manhole system, Spc Skandier worked to connect the 600-pair cable inside the hub building to the NEC's SL-100 voice matrix. This critical step ensured that existing users in the building automatically transitioned to the new cable as soon as the 518th TIN completed splicing. Between wiring the SL-100 connections and running the 600-pair cable, this portion of the installation consumed three days of work.

On 13 April 2012, the 518th TIN company commander, Capt. Ryan Boileau, arrived for a site visit. He met with the Army Cyber Command G6, Col. Olen Kelley, and discussed the way ahead. An interesting side note, the 518th was a unit under then-Lt. Col. Kelley's command when he served as battalion commander of the 56th Signal Battalion. Together, Kelley and Boileau surveyed the 600-pair installation, as well as, performed a walk-thru of the new building where the Soldiers would install the 300-pair cable. Sgt. Christian and Steve Goodman, from Fort Meade NEC, determined they would have to remove the existing 50-pair cable before installing the



300-pair, due to the size constraint of the conduit. This resulted in loss of voice communications for the building, but did not affect the data capability.

After approval from the Fort Meade NEC, Christian cut the 50-pair cable and the team replaced it with the 300-pair. This larger cable required significantly more effort to route into the building, as it nested against the fiber-optic data cable, which the NEC and the 518th did not want to disturb. All ten team members as well as Boileau participated, with some in the manhole, others in the basement, and the remainder in the crawlspace of the building below the new communications closet. The NEC timed the cessation of service to begin at 1200 to minimize the impact on the subscribers, and for the next 7 hours the team worked to splice the 300-pair cable into the network, re-connect all users into new punch-down blocks, and ensure that existing services were properly restored.

On 18 April 2012, the Chief of Staff of Army Cyber Command presented the 10 Soldiers of 518th with coins from the Army Cyber Command chief of staff on behalf of Lt. Gen. Hernandez, the ARCYBER Commanding General, and Command Sgt. Maj. Blackwood, the ARCYBER Command Sergeant Major.



From left to right: Sgt. Barret Christian, Sgt. Nathaniel Fountain, Sgt. Alrice Barnes, Spc. Jason Morabito, Spc. Toby Skandier, Spc. Rahquwan Brooks, Spc. Franklin Santos, Pfc. Malcolm Goode, Spc. Joseph Proctor, Spc. LaKirk Straughter, Col. Moore.

Photos by Mrs. Jennifer A. Downing-Li, ARCYBER PAO.



Sgt. Christian and Spc. Proctor prepare the 300-pair cable for installation.



63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion 2012 Annual Easter Egg Hunt

*Story by 2nd Lt. Alexandra Willauer
25A, BN S3 Plans Officer, HHC*

On March 29th, the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Freedom Park Pavilion. As Soldiers and their families arrived, they were greeted by a cheerful Easter Bunny who showed up with welcoming arms for the Soldiers and their families.

The master of ceremonies, SGT Leslie, gave a brief introduction and spoke about the history of Easter traditions. It said that legends of the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunts began in Germany. German children would leave out nests for an egg-laying hare named "Osterhase". Immigrants brought this tradition to the state of Pennsylvania in the 1700s. The festivities soon spread across the nation, and baskets replaced nests. Eventually, the game evolved into a treasure hunt, and the prizes expanded from just hard-boiled eggs to chocolate, candy, toys and some that included monetary prizes. In many families, the Easter Bunny leaves eggs, as well as a baskets filled with gifts to find.

Shortly after the brief history of the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunts, LTC Garwold gave opening remarks and words of encouragement to the children before the Egg Hunt began.

The children were divided into two age groups, ages three and under, and ages four through twelve. The three and under age group had an area next to the pavilion that was host to almost 100 eggs. After SGT Leslie, gave the "get ready, get set, GO!" the little

ones were a forced to be reckoned with. The egg hunt was complete within minutes.

Meanwhile, the other age group, the four through twelve year olds, lined up along the fence around the perimeter of the park with the four through seven year olds on one side and the eight through twelve year olds on the other. On their mark to "GO!" all the children managed to clean sweep the park in a matter of minutes. The park was sprinkled with more than 500 eggs.

The children slowly trickled back into the pavilion area as the eggs were gathered. At the pavilion there was cake, cookies and refreshments for everyone to enjoy as they mingled and socialized with one another. The Easter Bunny was also available to take pictures with the Soldiers and their families.

While the Soldiers and their families were enjoying their refreshments, SGT Leslie made the announcement that one yellow egg per each age group was marked with a black 'X', and that the child who had found the egg was the winner of a \$25 gift certificate. The winner of the three and under age group was James Lary (age 3), son of 2LT Lary (Charlie Company). The winner of the four through twelve age group was Annalise Myers (age 4), daughter of SGT Myers (Bravo Company).

As the event came to a close, and the Easter Bunny made its grand exit, the Soldiers and their families left with happy children and baskets full of Easter candy.

Special thanks goes out to the soldiers who assisted with setting up the event and Battalion FRG representatives, Mrs. Garwold and Mrs. Eder who took time to assist with the planning of the event and gathering of the supplies needed to make the event special for the Soldiers and their families.



Sgt. Myers, and his daughter Annalise



All Photos by Spc. Christopher Puthoff



2nd Lt. Kunkle and his Family with the Easter Bunny



Capt. Jones, B. Co. Commander, with the Easter Bunny and B. Co. Soldiers



Children lining up to look for Easter Eggs





Charlie Company's Change of Command

Story by Capt. Alexander Hoffman
25A, C Co. Commander

On the early spring morning of 4 May 2012, Soldiers and Family members of the 63rd Signal Battalion gathered to watch Charlie Company execute a time honored tradition. Charlie Company bid farewell to Capt. Chantaine Caban, who commanded Charlie Company since April of 2011. In that time, Capt. Caban led her Soldiers with enthusiasm and a maternal no-nonsense attitude. By always expecting the best from her Soldiers, she ensured each and every Rock Soldier exceeded expectations. On the morning of the Change of Command Ceremony, Captain Caban welcomed Captain Alexander Hoffman and family into the Rock Quarry. Captain Hoffman brings years of experience as an Artillery Officer serving in various positions throughout the 3-82nd Field Artillery Battalion.

Colonel Pugh and Command Sgt. Maj. Ramos, Commander and Command Sergeant Major of the 35th Signal Brigade, attended the ceremony, showing their support to Lt. Col. Garwold and the respective commanders. During the ceremony, Capt. Caban's husband, Josè, was presented with a bottle of wine to show the units appreciation for his service. Capt. Hoffman's finance, Alishia was also presented with yellow roses to welcome her to the command.

Lieutenant Colonel Garwold conducted the passing of the Guidon with the respective commanders, and the narrator illustrated the lineage of Charlie Company, 63rd ESB. Charlie Company is the only Heavy Signal Company in the Battalion, capable of supporting communications at



Photos by Spc. Christopher Puthoff

Capt. Caban, Lt. Col. Garwold, Capt. Hoffman, and 1st Sgt. Shepherd stand in preparation to pass the Guidon.

echelons above Corps level. By entrusting Capt. Hoffman with the mission of training, guiding, and deploying a diverse company of 149-plus Soldiers, Lt. Col. Garwold openly demonstrates his confidence in Capt. Hoffman's ability to command Charlie Company.

Upon taking command of Charlie Company, Capt. Hoffman's brief speech summarized his humility at being afforded the opportunity to command, "This is Charlie 6 signing in." Capt. Hoffman and Charlie Rock wasted no time in getting to work, preparing for their upcoming Battalion Field Training Exercise. The following duty day saw the entire company in the field during the Battalion FTX and preparing for the upcoming Corps JOAX mission and Brigade FTX both at Fort Bragg.

"Rock Hard, Rock Steady!"



Capt. Hoffman standing as the new commander in his formation.



C. Co. in formation with 1st Sgt. Shepherd



Josè Caban receives a bottle of wine for the units appreciation of his service



Removing **Carpet** to Feed the **Hungry**

Story by Capt. Ryan Boileau
25A, 518th TIN Company Commander

The Golden Harvest Food Bank, www.goldenharvest.org, has operated for over 30 years in the Augusta area, and is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that provides quality food and other grocery items to those in need. In cooperation with several large corporations, the organization is able to turn one donated dollar into between five and seven dollars worth of food.

51 members of the 518th SC (TIN), fully one-third of its personnel, volunteered at the Golden Harvest Food Bank in downtown Augusta March 9 and 10, 2012. The members of the company helped remove carpet from the administration offices of the company so new carpet could be installed. This colossal task, done overnight on the evening of the 9th, required the Raiders to shift office furniture around to get at the carpet, and then relocate the furniture to the cleared spaces so they could get the next area. Over the course of several hours, the volunteers removed more than 2,000 square feet of carpet and shifted – multiple times – several thousand pounds of furniture.

In much of the area, the previous carpet proved difficult to remove. Years of traffic over specific portions ground the carpet so firmly into the subfloor that it required a lot of physical labor to scrape and remove. The Raiders proved up to the task, creating rotating teams who would attack the carpet vigorously, then swap out once fatigue set in to allow another to resume the task.

Early the next morning, a second team of volunteers from the 518th arrived to assist in the installation of new carpet. For the next 13 hours, these Soldiers methodically moved room to room with the installer team, shifting thousands of pounds of furniture to allow the laying of the new carpet and, once the carpet had been installed and the glue dried, moving the furniture back into its original locations.

Tammie Jackson, volunteer coordinator for the Golden Harvest Food Bank, stated that while she never has a shortage of volunteers, it is difficult to leverage those personnel in a specific time and place for a major event such as this. Without the timely solicitation of a volunteer opportunity



Photos by 1st Lt. Da Veena Cooper

Members of the 518th Signal Company, TIN, stand outside the Golden Harvest Food Bank after they completely removed all of the existing carpet 9 March 2012.

nity from the 518th Commander, she would most likely have had to pay for the removal of the old carpet and installation of the new. Removal of the old carpet had been estimated to cost \$4,000, and installation of the new carpet would cost \$6,000. Once she knew the 518th could provide a large number of volunteers for this project, she was able to accomplish the task for only a 500 dollar payment to a team of three professional carpet installers for their labor only, as another organization donated the actual carpet.

By providing the physical labor to the Golden Harvest, the 518th Raiders have enabled the Golden Harvest to reallocate the 10 thousand dollars into other areas, such as purchasing between 50 and 70 thousand dollars of food to assuage hunger in the local area.

Additionally, the 518th has established an enduring relationship with the organization, and is available on short notice to assist with other events until its upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.



Soldiers work to remove ages-old carpet from one of the offices.



Platoon Leader Generator Maintenance Training

*Story by 1st Lt. Vernon D. Shank
25A, BN Motor Officer, HHC*

Platoon leaders of 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) increased their maintenance proficiency on power generation equipment in preparation for upcoming mission requirements.

Mr. Buchanan, 2nd Lt. Penn, and 1st Lt. Kinsey conduct maintenance training.

The power generation training took place on 23 May 2012 at 0900 in the 63rd ESB Motorpool, building 81324 on Fort Gordon, Georgia. 1st Lt. Vernon Shank, 1st Lt. Anthony Hensley, 1st Lt. Ian Kinsey, 2nd Lt. Walter Reall, 2nd Lt. Kashmir Rhymes, 2nd Lt. Salita Bellamy and 2nd Lt. Jasmine Penn participated in the power generation training, and learned valuable maintenance skills.

With upcoming exercises beginning, 63rd ESB units were tasked to Engineer, Install, Operate, Maintain, and Defend their equipment to support Mission Command networks and systems. Mr. Dino Buchanan, GS-12, CECOM Power and Environmental Logistical Assistance Representative, provided training to seven 63rd ESB platoon leaders. The training equipped the platoon leaders with basic preventive skills needed to manage the operation of their power generation equipment.

Areas of emphasis included: proper grounding management, fueling procedures,



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Nims.

load set procedures, licensing requirements, and hands-on operation. "This training provided me the tools needed to better maintain my equipment", said 2nd Lt. Jasmine Penn of Charlie Company, 63rd ESB. After instruction and testing, all platoon leaders received qualifications as licensed operators for 5k and 10k generators. "It is good to see leaders stepping up and expanding their proficiency in maintenance. These skills help units improve and maintain their readiness status to be successful in their various mission requirements", said Mr. Buchanan.



Mr. Buchanan, 2nd Lt. Penn, and 1st Lt. Kinsey conduct maintenance training.





Photos by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

518th Deploys to Afghanistan

Story by Capt. Devon O. Thomas
35th TTSB, Public Affairs OIC

A deployment ceremony was held on June 14, the Army's 237th birthday, for approximately 125 Soldiers of the 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade at Gym 3 on Fort Gordon, Ga.

The 518th TIN Co. will deploy to Afghanistan to provide communication support to forces in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Soldiers of the 518th follow the calling of the millions who've gone on before them," said Lt. Col. Keith A. Garwold, 63rd ESB commander. "They have the distinct privilege to serve with the rest of the 94,000 Soldiers deployed today."

The company participated in Enterprise Email migration at the Pentagon, completed a cable upgrade at the U.S. Army Cyber Command, and executed a training event in March to validate their deployment readiness, said Capt. Ryan C. Boileau, the 518th TIN Co. commander.

Soldiers and their family members attended Family Readiness Group meetings to prepare for the deployment, said Boileau. The FRG will allow our Soldiers' families to assist each other throughout the deployment.

"My mantra has been I don't want the first time you meet somebody to be the first time you need somebody," said Boileau. Family members from all over the country visited many of the Soldiers before they set to deploy. Spc. Morris B. Boakai's family

came down to Fort Gordon from New Jersey to visit him the week before the deployment ceremony.

My family will continue to trust in God throughout the deployment to ensure that I come home safe, said Spc. Boakai.

Pfc. Marquaze D. Carr's family already prepared care packages to support the Soldier. Pfc. Carr's mother, Staff Sgt. Veda Bingham, an automated logistic supply specialist, was assigned to the 518th TIN Co. and deployed with the unit.

We want to maintain communication with him to let him know that we are here for him and that we love him, said Jahmar Bingham, Pfc. Carr's father.

Support from outside organizations aided the Soldiers as well. Every Soldier received a blanket from a group of quilt makers from Sheboygan County Wisconsin. American Legion Department of South Carolina paid for the shipment.

"We want these gentlemen and ladies to be comfortable while they are in the war zone," said Norma Walker, historian for the American Legion Department of South Carolina.

Lt. Col. Garwold offered advice to Soldiers of the 518th TIN Co.

"Do not become complacent in taking care of yourself or taking care of your battle buddy," Garwold said. "We need everyone in this formation to complete the mission to the very best of their abilities and for everyone to come home safe."







HHC Welcomes a New Commander

Story by Capt. Alexander Stevenson

25A, Commander, HHC



Photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

On 16 March, 2012 Headquarters & Headquarters Company conducted its Change of Command Ceremony on Barton Field as Capt. Sergio Contreras, Jr. relinquished command to Capt. Alexander Stevenson Sr. The ceremony was a success and Lt. Col. Daniel L. Kuntz thanked Capt. Contreras and his family for his hard work and their dedication to the HHC family and the 67th Signal Battalion. Capt. Contreras thanked the many Soldiers of HHC and shared brief moments of remembrance about times shared in garrison and while deployed. Capt. Stevenson shared brief remarks, thanking Col. Thomas A. Pugh and Lt. Col. Daniel L. Kuntz for the opportunity to command "signed on the net" as the new Spartan 6. The ceremony was concluded as Capt. Stevenson turned over the company to 1st. Sgt. Pablo S. Cadena.

Additionally, the Family Readiness Group (FRG) leadership received its newest member. HHC 67th gladly welcomed Mrs. Jamie Rozell as the Family Readiness Group Leader. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience and will no doubt serve well in her capacity as our FRG leader. This month, we look forward to many exciting ventures and will no doubt have a Spartan good time.

A. Co. FRG Barbecue Gators Style

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Hector Fontanez
25W, Platoon Sgt., A Co.

The Alpha Company Gators ended a fast paced 2nd quarter of the fiscal year with a little R&R for the Soldiers and families alike with a company barbecue April 13, 2012. The Commander, Capt. Derrek T. Hopper, put the wheels in motion for executing a Family Readiness Group BBQ in March, and the FRG team saw the plan through to another successful event.

Having recently completed a rigorous two week training event, the break couldn't have come at a better time. The Gator Soldiers and families enjoyed an afternoon meal of hamburgers, hotdogs, and endless side dishes. After the meal everyone enjoyed a volleyball tournament for the adults and a plethora of children's toys and games courtesy of the FRG Leader, Ms. Michele Smith. All in all, the event was a complete success and enjoyed by all.

At the end of the day, Capt. Hopper surprised the company by announcing that they were granted a day off on the following Monday. He requested the day to make up for off time missed over the past two weeks of training. His announcement was the perfect ending to a perfect day. The FRG is planning to conduct another BBQ in the near future. Mission accomplished.

"Gators lead the way!"



Gator Soldiers and families enjoy food, fun and volleyball during the March 22nd FRG BBQ



Gators enjoy their new barracks volleyball court during the FRG BBQ





Sgt. Zandro Wolverton grilling steaks.

Bulldog Cooks, Feed the Best

*Story and photos by Capt. Thomas Cayia
Commander, B Co., 67th ESB*

March 28, 2012 was just another day for the food service specialists of Bravo Company, 67th ESB. Bravo Company's field feeding section had been called out to the field multiple times to support the Battalion's Signal Gunnery Iteration. B CO's cooks have assisted in feeding all four of the company's Soldiers as they rotated in and out for the Signal Gunnery Training spending approximately five weeks in the field over the last five months.

For Sgt. Zandro Wolverton of Laurens, Mississippi the experience was well worth it. "The best part of being out here is seeing the Soldiers eat and be happy after a hard day of training," said Wolverton. Each night Wolverton signals the start of dinner service by singing so loud that you can hear him across the training area. Steak with onions and peppers was on the menu that night. Spc. Cory Lee, of Augusta, Georgia, stated that "The trick to cooking a good meal is using all the ingredients available to you." Doubtless, the two honed their cooking skills growing up in the South.

The Signal Gunnery field exercises have provided the Soldiers with a valuable opportunity to deploy their Mobile Kitchen Trailers to the field and actually perform their Military Occupation Specialty specific duties. In addition to operating the MKT, the Soldiers had to establish a field sanitation point, coordinate for Class I supplies, and operate a refrigerated cargo truck. Being a



Spc. Cory Lee prepares the potato wedges.

food service specialist is hard work. Often times, the cooks are the first ones up in the morning preparing breakfast hours before everyone else crawls out of bed.

The best signal teams in the 67th ESB earn a special designation they get to display proudly on their vehicles. Oftentimes, the people behind such outstanding performances in the field go unnoticed and rarely earn official recognition. For the Bulldog food service specialists, the smiles they see on hungry Soldiers faces are all the recognition they need.

Alpha Company Signal Gunnery

*Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Garnett Lias
25A, Platoon Leader, A Co.*

There are many times Soldiers are called upon to test their proficiency with their equipment and execute the task at hand with confidence. From April 16th to April 20th, Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Platoon participated in Operation Gator Strike ,Signal Gunnery Challenge. The Signal Gunnery was comprised of teams throughout the 67th ESB competing to validate on their assigned equipment in the fastest time possible. The teams' task was to properly and safely deploy all equipment in one hour or less to validate their assigned equipment and ensure proficiency while performing their assigned duties.

The standard for the competition was to install and operate the AN/TSC-185 STT and AN/TRC-190 (HCLOS V-(1)) in less than one hour and complete a phone

call across the HCLOS while pulling pages via TDMA. Alpha Company, 1st Platoon led the way by exceeding the battalion standards of 1 hour with all five teams validating in less than forty minutes. SGT Menning, team chief of Command Post Node 57406 led the way for 1st Platoon with a

total time of 32:39. Overall, the 1st Plt. Gators finished with all five teams in the top six places across the battalion. The training event not only developed team work and esprit de corps, but reinforced the teams technical skills and leadership.



Pfc. Thompson hammers in ground stakes during crew drills.



Spc. Nguyen setting up a fire point during validation; mission first and safety always.

Training to Maintain

*Story by Capt. Alexander Stevenson
25A, Commander, HHC*

Training to maintain has been around since the evolution of our Armed forces. There is never a time of day when the opportunity to train doesn't exist or a time that we can't pause to review our proficiency in our professional skills. We are a busy armed forces, no doubt about it, but training to maintain our Core METL Tasks, physical fitness, Army Warrior Tasks, and routine battle drills is paramount to our success both on and off the battlefield. This is one of the most important aspects of what we do as Soldiers and no other area of our business is more important. In the words of General Douglas MacArthur, "In no other profession are the penalties for employing untrained personnel so appalling or so irrevocable as in the military."

So, why so much training? Why now? Well, our world remains a dangerous one and threats abound from indi-

vidual threats, land and aerial vehicles, and weapons of a massive destructive force. Additionally, our safety from chemical and biological threats is still threatened. For these reasons, we must remain vigilant and always ready to counter the threats from our adversaries or rogue nations who would threaten our freedom and way of life.

As Soldiers, we should never pass up the opportunity to train on waning tasks, train to sustain known tasks, and seek opportunities to broaden our horizon with new technologies and information. Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, SPARTANS! are taking such opportunities as they inspect, inventory, and install the M20AL Simpli-

fied Collective Protective Equipment, also known as the SCPE , pronounced Skippy. The SCPE provides collective protection for up to 10 personnel against NBC agents and allows personnel to perform their duties in a clean air shelter unencumbered by their individual protective equipment. What a great opportunity to train and the Soldiers learned much from this opportunity to test their skills. SPARTANS! Give 'em Hell!



Spc. Jang and Spc. Gibson perform PMCS operations on the M20 M20AL Simplified Collective Protective Equipment



Sgt. Brandon S. Sierra avoids the opposition as he makes a play on the football field.

Photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

Alpha Company Heritage Week

*Story by 2nd Lt. Jessica Garcia
25A, 2nd Plt Leader, A Co.*

The Alpha Company Gators recently participated in the 67th ESB's Heritage Week that was held during the week of May 7th through the 11th. The week kicked off with a battalion fun run, where families were encouraged to come out and participate. Some of Alpha Company's leadership and soldiers then attended the battalion dining out that Monday night. Everyone involved had a great time and enjoyed the night's events to include a skit put on by a few Gators.

The next event was the Leadership Professional Development trip, which was attended by Alpha Companies leadership. The trip started on the USS Yorktown, at the National Medal of Honor Museum. Everyone was given the morning to walk

around the ship and glance back in time at what the conditions on the ship used to be for the Navy, the aircrafts that have been used over time, and look at the history of the Medal of Honor and its recipients. Leadership then took a ferry ride to Fort Sumter, the location of the first shots in the Civil War, to take a close look at a place that shaped our country's history.

Thursday evening the entire battalion came out to Organizational Day, which was hosted by Alpha Company, at Pointes West Army Resort. Families could be seen enjoying the outdoors, playing in the lake, and having a good time with friends. Heritage Week concluded with Sports Day, in which each company put together a team to compete in the



1st. Lt. Conway and Sgt. First Class Bullins at Fort Sumter during the LPD.

tug-of-war, volleyball, football, and the Lightning Challenge. The Alpha Gators put together 4 great teams and gave their best effort in every event. The Gators proved to be the best company in the battalion yet again by

winning 1st place in football! This win was the perfect ending to a great week of celebrating the 67th ESB's heritage.

"Gators lead the way!"





RETENTION

BEAT THE

DRAW DOWN



*Story by Sgt. 1st Class Deatra Wilkes
Career Counselor, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)*

Good Day Lion Country. During this quarter, we bid farewell to two outstanding Career Counselors MSG James Nolen of 35th Signal Brigade and MSG Enrique Rose of 63d Expeditionary Signal Battalion. In return we gained an equally outstanding Career Counselor SFC Deatra Wilkes of 63d Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

Fiscal Year 2012 has been full of changes in the Retention community. The days of high end reenlistment bonuses and Soldiers in the ranks of E4 to E6 reenlisting for choice of duty assignment has ended. One of the biggest hurdles was the reenlistment window changing from a revolving two year window to splitting the year into two phases allowing only seven months to accomplish the bulk of the mission beginning 1 March 2012. Recognizing what could

be a possible challenge and along with some friendly competition amongst counselors, 67th Expeditionary Recruiting Battalion took the bull by its horns and accomplished 100% of its annual retention mission in all categories within the first two months. Congratulations to the entire 67th ESB Retention Team...HOOAH!

The Army's optempo is high and ever changing. The plan is in motion, the Army is well under way with drawing down its ranks using such programs as Bar to Reenlistment, QSP, QMP and Medical Boards. We as leaders must continue to keep our Soldiers informed of the Army's bigger picture. Yes, this is still a volunteer Army however the Army ONLY wants to retain "the Best Soldier" not "the Subpar Soldier." So inform all eligible Soldiers to get on board, stand out as best amongst their peers and Stay Army Strong... Reenlist.

Resilience

*Story by Sgt. 1st Class Terry Moore
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade*

Hello "Lion Brigade"! This is SFC Terry T. Moore again. During the 4th Quarter, FY 12, we will learn Problem Solving and Active Constructive Responding/Praise. Problem Solving is a skill used to increase flexibility and accuracy in thinking about the causes of problems and to develop effective solution strategies. Active Constructive Responding and Praise is a skill used to respond to others with authentic, active and constructive interest to build strong relationships; Praise to build mastery and winning streaks. Lion Brigade, this will be my last article for I will be transitioning to PCS in August. It has truly been a pleasure working with each of you and thank you for all your support. My replacement is SFC Stevens and he is coming from Korea. Please welcome him with open arms and give him the same support. He brings a lot of knowledge to the fight. Along with CSF training continue to educate our Soldiers on Suicide Prevention. One life lost is one too many. Education and taking care of Soldiers are key principles in suicide prevention. When you find yourself in a difficult situation always use the acronym "ACE" which means: Ask, Care, and Escort. In



closing, I will say, continue to "Hunt the Good Stuff" and stay Resilient! During this quarter families will receive the following training at the Resilience Universities.

FT. Gordon: Assertive Communication (11 Jul/1300), ATC (18 Jul/0900), Put it in Perspective (25 Jul/1300), Real Time Resilience (1 Aug/0900), Active Constructive Responding (8 Aug/1300), and Family Readiness Symposium (21-22 Aug/TBD). All classes are held at the Family Outreach Center.
FT. Bragg: Spouse Resilience Academy 16, 18, 20 Jul (0900 – 1600); 7, 9, 13, 15, 17 Aug (0900 – 1300); 25, 27, 29 Sep, 2 Oct (1800 – 2100). All classes are held at the Family Readiness Group Center.
JBLM: Spouse/DA Civilian Resilience Academy 27-29 Aug (0900 – 1630; ACS Annex, Bldg. 2166); 17-19 Sep (0900 – 1630; Family Readiness Center).

"Utmost of Our Ability; We are the Lion Brigade!"





Equal Opportunity

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Berry

EO Advisor, HHC, 35th Signal Brigade

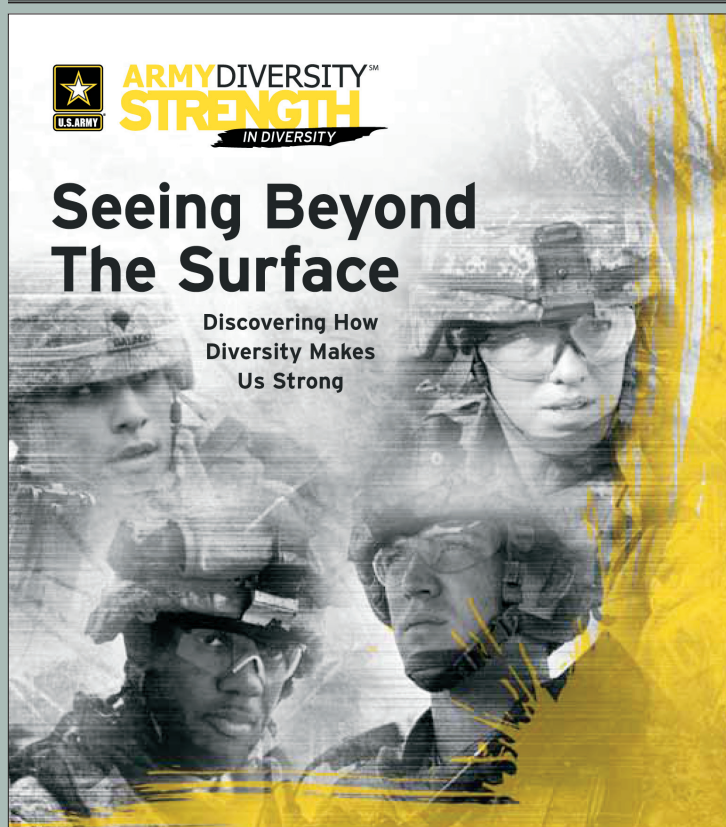


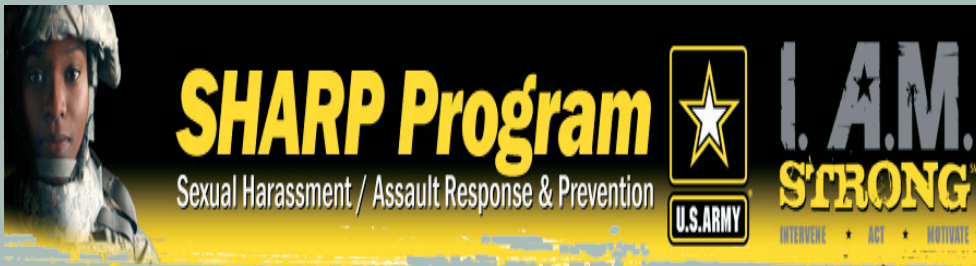
Over the next few months, two of our Army Programs will undergo a reorganization or update. The Army EO Program will turn over all Sexual Harassment complaints to the newly formed Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program on 1 October 2012. This new program will be responsible for all Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault complaints. The EO Program will still be responsible for the five protected categories: Race, Religion, Color, National Origin, and Gender. This summer the Army is also proposing Hazing as an issue to be handled by Equal Opportunity Advisors and Leaders. If a Soldier has a complaint that does not fall under one of these categories, the IG Office is responsible for all other issues to include Sexual Orientation and Reprisal. Here is a quick chart to show the different responsibilities for each office.

| EO | SHARP | IG |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Race | Sexual Harassment (1 July 2012) | Sexual Orientation |
| Religion | Sexual Assault | Reprisal |
| Color | | Other Issues |
| National Origin | | |
| Gender | | |
| Hazing (pending approval) | | |

We also recognized two national observances this quarter: Holocaust Remembrance Day/Days of Remembrance (April) and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May). In April, our own 51st Signal Battalion Soldiers had the opportunity to participate in the Fort Lewis' Days of Remembrance Command Program. The ceremony recognized the civilians who chose to act and shared many stories of rescue. It was an emotional and moving event that ensured we will never forget our past.

Martin Luther King's Birthday (17 January)
 African American/Black History Month (February)
 Women's History Month (March)
 Holocaust Remembrance Day/Days of Remembrance
 (April or May)
 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May)
 Women's Equality Day (26 August)
 Hispanic Heritage Month (15 September – 15 October)
 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October)
 National American Indian Heritage Month (November)





Three Categories of Sexual Harassment:

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Michael T. Perkins
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade

Did you know that studies have shown that sexual harassment is a precursor to sexual assault? Sexual Harassment is defined as a form of gender based discrimination that involves unwelcomed sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature between two people regardless if the genders are the same or not. You should keep in mind that even if your behavior is directed toward one person and someone else is offended by the incident; you are just as guilty as if you directed the comment or behavior toward that person. Even if the intended party has no problem with what happened. Despite the fact that you had no intention on offending anyone, it all depends on the people that are exposed to the conduct and how the conduct is perceived. Perception is the key word here and my perception is my reality.

There are three categories and two types of sexual harassment. The categories are Verbal, Nonverbal and Physical Contact. Any conversation that involves "sex talk" could be perceived as verbal sexual harassment. This includes but is not limited to making sexually oriented jokes, comments, threats, cadences or even using sexually explicit profanity and whistling could be considered sexual harassment. Remember, some of the things that you did back home may not be appropriate for the environment where you now work and play. If you are from the south, it may be common to call someone, "honey", "sugar" or "baby". These common terms of endearment are not appropriate for the military environment. Nonverbal sexual harassment include things like licking your lips, winking, blowing kisses, drawing or displaying cartoons, sending notes, letter, texts and

emails that are sexual in nature. As far as physical contact is concerned, I'll have to tell you like my mama told me, "Don't put your hands on anything that doesn't belong to you." Physical sexual harassment includes touching, bumping, grinding, patting, pinching, kissing, cornering and blocking a passage, making it impossible for the person to pass without making contact with your body. The most extreme form of physical contact is sexual assault and rape. If any of these acts occur, we not only have a right to report it to our chain of command, it is our responsibility to do so. Everyone has the right to work in an environment that is free of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is serious-just take a look at the news and in history. It brings down morale and destroys a unit's cohesion. Sexual harassment is something that can be avoided. We must treat each other with the dignity and respect. Everyone is susceptible and no one is immune. People from all walks of life have had to

deal with incidents where harassers felt they had the right to say or do what they wanted to others. It has happened to government officials, teachers, students and even sports figures. I have heard people say, "She/he could have any one they want. How could they do something like that?" News Flash-you can't necessarily have anyone you want, but you can have anyone who wants you. It is all about consideration of others. In the military we sometimes spend more time with our coworkers than we do with our families at home. Treat your coworkers like you would one of your family members that you actually like. Be aware of your surroundings. The work place is not the proper setting for "sex talk". You could find yourself in a situation where you are being accused of sexual harassment. If you have inadvertently harassed someone in the past, just stop! Your victim will appreciate it.

SHARP
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION

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and Sexual Assault.

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the Army Values.

I Am Protecting
the Members of My Team.

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www.PreventSexualAssault.army.mil DoD Safe Helpline: 1-877-995-5247

LOYALTY DUTY RESPECT SELFLESS SERVICE HONOR INTEGRITY PERSONAL COURAGE



Photo by Army Capt. Devon O. Thomas

The memorial dedicated to Sgt. Christopher M. Adams on June 21st at Alexander Hall. Sgt. Adams served as a Multichannel Transmissions Systems Operator/Maintainer assigned to C Co., 67th ESB, 35th TTSB.

Sgt. Adam's Memorial

Story by Capt. Devon O. Thomas

Public Affairs OIC, 35th TTSB

Soldiers, family members, and civilians of the 35th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade said their good byes at a memorial service on June 21 for Sgt. Christopher M. Adams, 26, at Alexander Hall.

Adams, who deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during his six-year Army career, served as a Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator/Maintainer in Charlie Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th TTSB.

"Sgt. Adams willingly dedicated himself to be part of the less than 1 percent of the population who volunteer to defend our nation from all enemies-foreign and domestic," said Lt. Col. Daniel F. Kuntz, the

67th ESB commander. "Sgt. Adams took his obligation freely to make this world a better and safer place for his family, his friends and each of you today."

According to senior leaders, peers and subordinates throughout the Brigade, Sgt. Adams was a well-respected noncommissioned officer who lived the Army values.

"If I could, I would have 50 more Sgt. Adams in my unit," said Capt. Michael R. Davis, the commander of C Co. "He was a rare case where all the good qualities that you want in a Soldier came together and made a great NCO."

Staff Sgt. Jason M. Queen, the C

Co. Training NCO, read a letter written by Sgt. David T. Herrmann, a co-worker and close friend of Sgt. Adams, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

"Do not cry and feel down because everyone here that knew him well enough would know that he would hate it," Queen said. "He would want everyone here to celebrate life and enjoy living it because that is what he chose to do everyday."



Chaplain's Corner



Photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

Chaplain Capt. Joseph Lea and Spc. Dominique Carbajal, Chaplain Assistant, stand in front of the Chapel sign.

Archbishop Broglio's Visit to Fort Gordon

*Story by Chaplain, Capt. Joseph Lea
63rd ESB Battalion Chaplain*

On 21-22 April, the Roman Catholic community on Fort Gordon was honored to welcome Archbishop Timothy Broglio on his pastoral visit to Fort Gordon. Archbishop Broglio is the head of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for Military Services, USA (AMS). The Archbishop has pastoral responsibility for Catholics serving in all branches of the US military. The AMS presently serves approximately 1.5 million men and women across the military – active, reserve and veterans affairs. Prior to his visit to Fort Gordon, the Archbishop visited Robbins Air Force Base and later was moving on to visit Fort Stewart. In 2011, the Archbishop spent over 200 days on the road visiting Catholics on U.S. military installations throughout the world.

Before being appointed to the AMS, the Archbishop previously served as a Papal Nuncio (Vatican ambassador) in several countries, including the Ivory Coast, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic. He also held the Vatican's position providing diplomatic oversight for all of Central America. Having served the Catholic Church for many years in Rome, the Archbishop now brings broad experience and professionalism to the AMS. He was named the fourth Archbishop for Military Services on 19 Nov 2007.

The Archbishop's visit to Fort Gordon was for pastoral reasons – to share the Sacrament of Confirmation with seventeen of our young people who belong to St. Michael's Catholic Community here





Photos by Lola Rivera

Chaplain, Capt. Lea, Archbishop Brogilo, and Capt. Bontea pose for a photo prior to Mass.



Archbishop Broglio conducts Mass.

on Post. Following the Confirmation Mass, there was a reception for the Archbishop at the Gordon Club. Leading members of St. Michael's Parish Council and ministries as well as the 63rd ESB Command Team and other chaplains joined us for the dinner. The following day, the Archbishop celebrated two Sunday Masses and baptized one of our newest members – baby Amaree Lynch.

The Archbishop's pastoral visit

to Fort Gordon connects our local Catholic community on Post to the broader Catholic community across the military and throughout the world. In his recent visit with Pope Benedict XVI, the Archbishop and his three auxiliary bishops represented the specialized spiritual needs of Catholics serving in the United States military while also deepening our relationship with the Holy

Father. The Archbishop's pastoral visit to Fort Gordon was an important element in his overall mission to guard and shepherd the Catholic flock scattered wherever US Catholic men and women serve our Nation.



Confirmation 2012
St. Michael Church, Fort Gordon, Ga.









The Lion's Roar needs YOU! How would you like to get involved in your Brigade magazine! Get YOUR story and photos published and tell your unit's story!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!!!

The 35th Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office is looking for talented photographers, news and sports writers to contribute to the 35th Signal Brigade quarterly publication. If you see action happening in your unit, get involved and spread the word!

Photos and articles must be in good taste and the editor reserves the right to edit submissions as per commander's intent, Associated Press Style Guide, and Department of Defense requirements.

"Get the message through."

Send all submissions or inquiries to dianne.m.carter.mil@mail.mil