THE 11TH SIGNAL BRIGADE'S



THUNDERBURY

QUARTERLY

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The Army's Premier Unified Land Operations Signal Brigadel

As I evolve as a Soldier, I've come to understand the importance of ridding the Army of sexual harassment and sexual assault. By holding myself, and others, accountable, I am becoming a better Soldier and changing our culture for good.





BELIEVE?

DO YOU

Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP)
www.preventsexualassault.army.mil



Keep a Clean Machine.

- **Keep security software current:** Having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system are the best defenses against viruses, malware, and other online threats.
- Automate software updates: Many software programs will automatically connect and update to defend against known risks. Turn on automatic updates if that's an available option..
- **Protect all devices that connect to the Internet:** Along with computers, smart phones, gaming systems, and other web-enabled devices also need protection from viruses and malware.
- **Plug & scan:** "USBs" and other external devices can be infected by viruses and malware. Use your security software to scan them.

Protect Your Personal Information.

- **Secure your accounts:** Ask for protection beyond passwords. Many account providers now offer additional ways for you verify who you are before you conduct business on that site.
- Make passwords long and strong: Combine capital and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols to create a more secure password.
- **Unique account, unique password:** Separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cybercriminals.
- Write it down and keep it safe: Everyone can forget a password. Keep a list that's stored in a safe, secure place away from your computer.
- Own your online presence: When available, set the privacy and security settings on websites to your comfort level for information sharing. It's ok to limit how and with whom you share information.

Connect with Care.

- When in doubt, throw it out: Links in email, tweets, posts, and online advertising are often the way cybercriminals compromise your computer. If it looks suspicious, even if you know the source, it's best to delete or if appropriate, mark as junk email.
- **Get savvy about Wi-Fi hotspots:** Limit the type of business you conduct and adjust the security settings on your device to limit who can access your machine.
- **Protect your \$\$:** When banking and shopping, check to be sure the sites is security enabled. Look for web addresses with "https://" or "shttp://", which means the site takes extra measures to help secure your information. "Http://" is not secure.

Be Web Wise.

- **Stay current. Keep pace with new ways to stay safe online.** Check trusted websites for the latest information, and share with friends, family, and colleagues and encourage them to be web wise.
- Think before you act: Be wary of communications that implores you to act immediately, offers something that sounds too good to be true, or asks for personal information.
- **Back it up:** Protect your valuable work, music, photos, and other digital information by making an electronic copy and storing it safely.

Be a Good Online Citizen.

• Safer for me more secure for all: What you do online has the potential to affect everyone – at home, at work and around the world. Practicing good online habits benefits the global digital community.

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THUNDERBIRD Q U A R T E R L Y



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11th SIG BDE History

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade, was constituted on 1 September 1943 as the 3103rd Signal Service Battalion and activated 20 December 1943 at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. The battalion departed for England on 23 January 1944 and to France on 31 August 1944 in support of the war efforts. During World War II, the battalion received campaign credit for Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. After returning to the United States, the battalion was inactivated at Fort Monmouth on 8 October 1945.

The battalion remained on inactive status until 4 September 1964, when Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 11th Signal Group, assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington, was activated. The group was reorganized and re-designated Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Group, 25 April 1966. The following December, the group was reassigned to Fort Huachuca, Ariz. and designated on 1 October 1979 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade.

In October 2001, the 86th Signal Battalion deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) until the spring of 2002. In August 2002, the A Co 40th Signal Battalion, deployed to the Horn of Africa. Thunderbirds supported CENTCOM's largest exercise of the year, Internal Look 2002 from Kuwait and continued their participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in the spring of 2003 deploying over 1200 Thunderbirds to the CENTCOM AOR.

From May to October 2005, the 40th Signal Battalion and the 69th Cable Company deployed to support OIF 05-07. Their redeployment was spread from May to September 2006. In August 2006, the 86th Signal Battalion deployed to Iraq to continue to support OIF. The following year, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade, deployed in support of OIF 07-09, 3 October 2007 through 24 December 2008. In December 2007, the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion deployed to Iraq for a fifteen month deployment ending in March 2009.

On 1 October 2009, the 11th SIG BDE transferred command authority from the United States Army Network Enterprise Technology Command and the 9th Army Signal Command (NETCOM/9th ASC) at Fort Huachuca, to the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) and III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas. The 11th Signal Brigade's home base continues to be Fort Huachuca.

In the spring of 2010, the 86th ESB deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11 as "Task Force Tiger" until the spring of 2011. The 40th ESB deployed June of 2010 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn returning June of 2011. The 62d ESB deployed April of 2011 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom returning October of 2011. 62nd ESB deployed again in September 2013 to Afghanistan and returned in June 2013.

57th ESB deployed 2 companies to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Bravo Company deployed in August 2011 and returned in July 2012. Meanwhile, Charlie Company deployed in March 2012 and returned in November 2012.

HHC, 11th SIG BDE deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in January 2012 and returned in December 2012, and then moved the Brigade Headquarters from Fort Huachuca to Fort Hood in June 2013.

In 2013, 62nd ESB deployed to Kuwait in support of CENTCOM. In 2014, 57th ESB deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom until July 2014, 62nd ESB redeployed from Kuwait to Fort Hood in June 2014, and 40th ESB deployed to Kuwait where they replaced the 62nd ESB.

Thunderbirds have supported contingency operations and training exercises at home and abroad in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Somalia, Egypt, Honduras, Korea, Cuba, Haiti, Afghanistan and Iraq. his operational tempo has given rise to the Thunderbirds' claim of the "Most Active Signal Brigade in the Army." "The Sun Never Sets on the Thunderbirds."

"The Sun Never Sets on The Thunderbirds"



Brigade Commander

It has been a busy and productive summer, and it has been great to welcome back the 57th and 62nd Signal Battalions from their most recent deployments. The Signal Regimental Week was a chance to get together with our Signal peers from across the Brigade, Fort Hood, and the Army and to reflect on the great accomplishments of the Thunderbird Brigade and the Signal Corps.

Col. James C. Parks, III

whether we are in uniform or not, every minute of every day.

I want to use this edition of the Commander's Corner to re-emphasize the importance and criticality of treating all of the Soldiers and families in our formations with the highest level of dignity and respect. Every single Soldier in the Thunderbird family is important. It is our job as Soldiers and leaders to ensure that we are upholding the values we live by as Soldiers

There is no place in our Army for those that harass and intimidate others. It is our duty to take care of the Soldiers to our left and to our right as if they were our own brothers and sisters. General Dennis Reimer, the 33rd Chief of Staff of the Army, summed this up perfectly with the following quote:

"Do what's right- legally and morally- every day, create an environment where Soldiers can be all they can be; treat others as you'd want to be treated."

This is a **zero tolerance** issue – everyone in the 11th Signal Brigade deserves to come to work and do their jobs in an environment free from bias because of race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other reasons. To treat someone in a way inconsistent with these values is an attack on their humanity, their dignity, and their personhood.

It is my promise to each and every one of you that I will provide that environment at all costs.

The Sun Never Sets of the Thunderbirds.

Thunderbird 6



Thunderbirds, having spent many years at Fort Hood, it still surprises me when I meet Soldiers who are unaware of the recreational activities available both on post and in the surrounding areas. In this Troop Talk with the CSM, I'd like to talk specifically about two of my favorite programs for Soldiers; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS).



Command Sqt. Maj. Maurice Rambert

Fort Hood MWR is a quality-of-life program that directly supports readiness by providing a variety of community, Soldier, and Family support programs, activities and services. Included in MWR are social, fitness, recreational, educational, and other programs and activities that enhance community life. In addition to the traditional MWR facilities, Fort Hood is one of the rare military posts that is on a lake. The Belton Lake Outdoor Recreational Area (BLORA), which is less than 20 minutes from the cantonment area, has mountain biking, paintball, boat rentals, water slides, camping areas, and numerous other water and outdoor activities available to Soldiers and their Families.

The BOSS program is designed to improve the quality of life for single Soldiers living on Fort Hood. At Fort Hood, the events they have organized over the last three months range from zip lining in Austin, going to Six Flags in San Antonio, a recreational day at Lake Belton, pool parties, paintball, and more. The BOSS program also works to schedule weekend trips that are discounted for Soldiers. Past trips at Fort Hood have included Las Vegas and the Bahamas.

Within two hours of us here at Fort Hood are the cities of Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston. Between these five cities, every major sport, concert venue, and amusement park attractions are available and the MWR and BOSS programs both take full advantage of this by enabling Soldiers and their Families to be able to participate.

The MWR and BOSS programs both are staffed and funded to provide a higher quality of life for Soldiers. I highly encourage Soldiers new to the Thunderbird Brigade and Soldiers who have not taken advantage of these programs to use them to their advantage. A full list of what they have to offer is found on their websites and single Soldiers can check with their unit BOSS rep or on the 11th Brigade Facebook page where events are posted.

Signal Strong!

Thunderbird 7

"The Sun Never Sets on The Thunderbirds"



11th SIG BDE CHAPLAIN

INSPIRATIONS

11th Signal Brigade Family, with units deployed and units redeploying, we truly need to not only pray for each other, but also be there for each other.

Military life can be very difficult, however, it can also be extremely rewarding as we find out that together, as a team, we can accomplish almost anything. Military life is not for the loner. It is a team effort that brings about great camaraderie and fellowship that can build life-long relationships.

Chaplain (Maj.) James Blount

With this in mind let us all look for opportunities, for example, to be of assistance to the Family members of our deployed brothers and sisters. Let us also help our Soldiers and Families as they reunite. Every one of us should be part of the support group for someone else. If you cannot personally help them with a certain situation, then please put them in contact with someone in the chain of Command who can, and you can also contact your Chaplain for assistance.

Please remember to let them know that they will have complete confidentiality with the Chaplain. The Chaplain can also put them in contact with a great number of helping organizations. Making our Family members a top priority is part of the overall Mission of the Army and the 11th Signal Brigade. We are stronger and much more resilient when we all stand together as a team and look after each other. Everybody then is your battle buddy! Finally, as always, we pray for safety, protection, and strength for all of those who are deployed and who are redeploying as well as their Family members. We also pray a special blessing upon all of our children!

May God continue to shower his blessings upon the 11th Signal Brigade!

CH Blount





"The Sun Never Sets on The Thunderbirds"

5



The history of the signal corps goes back to June 21, 1860 when Congress authorized the appointment of one signal officer in the Army. 154 years later, signalers from across the Army gathered at Fort Hood where the 11th Signal Brigade hosted regimental Week June 23-27, 2014.

The 11th Signal Brigade has units located here, Fort Bliss, Tx., and Fort Huachuca, Az., and Signal Week was the perfect opportunity for them to reunite with each other and with signal units from across Fort Hood.

Signal Regimental Week is celebrated every year by signaleers around the world, and gave the 11th Signal Brigade and other signal units the opportunity to look back at the rich history of the signal corps, and look

forward to the bright future that awaits it.

As part of celebrating the signal corps birthday, Lt. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, the Army Chief Information Officer, visited Fort Hood from June 26-27 to help commemorate this prestigious occasion.

First, company commanders, first sergeants, and other senior leaders around the brigade participated in a commander's conference at Club Hood hosted by Col. James C. Parks, commander, 11th Signal Brigade. During the conference, leaders heard from numerous on topics relevant to the past, present, and future of the signal corps.

On the second day of the conference, Bryan W. Ellis,

retired colonel and former brigade commander, was the guest speaker. Ellis spoke to those in attendance reflecting on his over two decade experiences in the military, and gave them valuable knowledge they could use in their own careers.

"To be a good leader you must actively seek out information pertaining to leadership and take every opportunity to listen to leaders," said Capt. Gary V. Romero, company commander, Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade. "The information presented during the commander's conference allowed multiple leaders to share their experiences and philosophies."

The information gained from the two day event was invaluable and gave them insight on tailoring their leadership styles to accommodate the changes in the Army moving forward.

"Those in leadership positions can learn how to transform themselves for the new generation of Soldiers in today's Army and the transition of our Army," said 1st Sgt. Dominique M. Davis, Company Charlie, and 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. "We have to train our Soldiers to prepare for more decisive action operations more so than what has been demonstrated over the past decade."

(Continued Page 7)

On day three, Soldiers and leaders participated in an afternoon golf scramble. The opportunity allowed Soldiers to take a knee, have some fun, and engage in team building with other peers from around the brigade.

The last day of Signal Week was the busiest. Before the sun rose, approximately 300 signal Soldiers from around post were formed up next to the brigade headquarters and prepared to go on a regimental run.

"We're going to have a great and outstanding run this morning," said Parks. "We're really going to show the true spirit of the signal corps and honor 154 years of our history this morning. I am so proud to look out in front of this formation today."

With Lt. Gen. Ferrell and Col. Parks leading the way, Soldiers from HHC, 11th Signal Brigade, 16th Tactical Installation Networking Company, 57th **Expeditionary Signal**

Battalion, 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 62nd Expeditionary Signal battalion, First Army Division West, III Corps, 1st Cavalry Division, and 13th Sustainment Command converged onto Support Avenue singing cadences at the top of their lungs.

"The communicators are always first on the ground always communicating providing what we need for our warfighters," said Ferrell. "This is a great way to bring the community together, this was a great run. <mark>I'm prou</mark>d of each and every one of you. Let's have a great signal day!"

Later in the morning, Lt. Gen. Ferrell spoke with Soldiers and command teams of the brigade during lunch and at a town hall meeting. Lt. Gen. Ferrell shared from his 30 year career as a signal officer so that his experiences could help those in attendance.

The leadership development lunch held with Lt. Gen.

Ferrell for company commanders and first sergeants was very beneficial, said Romero. It allowed leaders to ask multiple questions and receive guidance from a senior signal officer in a small venue making it easier to get f eedback.

Capping off the Fort Hood celebration of the signal corps birthday, a regimental ball was held at the Killeen Civic Center. Leaders and Soldiers joined one another upholding the long tradition of military balls, and enjoyed the opportunity to come together as a cohesive unit.

"My favorite part of the week was the regimental ball," said Capt. Brandon C. Brim, company commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 62nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. "As a branch detailed officer, this was my first signal ball. I really think it was a great idea to invite other signal Soldiers from

across the installation to attend and enjoy the festivities."

As the Soldiers steadily left and the DJ played his last song, the end of the regimental ball signaled the end to another signal week.

As signal Soldiers here and around the world celebrated the regiments 154th birthday, many are already lookforward to having an even bigger celebration next year.

Here's to celebrating year



THUNDERBIRDS GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ADOPTED SCHOOL

Photo and Story By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold

11th Signal Brigade Public Affairs

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade continued their support of Ira Cross Elementary School by speaking to students during their career day on May 29, 2014 in Killeen, Tx.

Giving back to the community is an important part of not only the brigade, but what the military does. When the brigade relocated here from Fort Huachuca, Az. in June 2013, one of the main priorities was finding a school to support.

"Supporting Ira Cross Elementary and the overall Adopt-a-School program is one of the many ways the 11th Signal Brigade can give back to the community that has supported us here at home and throughout many years of deployments," said Gary V. Romero, company commander, HHC, 11th Signal Brigade. "It strengthens the bond that Soldiers from Fort Hood have with the greater Killeen community."

It has been a while since the school had an adopted unit, and having one is significant for not only the school, but the students as well.

"Having the adopted unit at our school is very important," said Alicia Chitty, teacher, Ira Cross Elementary. "It not only raises awareness to our students of the sacrifices Soldiers make for us, but it also helps those students who can relate to the military life feel as if there are people they can talk to and understand how they feel."

At the school's career day, Soldiers talked to second grade students about their daily duties as signal Soldiers, and answered general questions about the Army to the children. The Soldiers spoke with four classes in all, a total of 80 students.

"The students had a blast at career day," said Chitty. "They didn't want the Soldiers to leave and begged me to ask them to eat lunch with us. The students said they feel safe with Soldiers around and honestly it raised a lot of awareness of the different kinds of jobs which are like most of the civilian jobs."

Since arriving here, the Soldiers of the brigade have volunteered to help at not only career day, but have also been active at many other school functions since September 2013. Receiving help from Soldiers means a lot to the school and its students, but it means a lot to Soldiers as well.

"Volunteering to help with all the events at Ira Cross is a way to give back to the community and make a difference in a child's life," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Willis, chaplain assistant, 11th Signal Brigade. "That is why I volunteer to help. Growing up as a kid, the elementary school I attended did not have a mentorship program like Ira Cross. I feel that as an Ira Cross volunteer I can make a difference and that means a lot to me. To give your service for nothing in return is one of life's greatest treasures."

After receiving an award to show the school's appreciation to the unit, the brigade can be proud of the work they have contributed to Ira Cross this school year, and look forward to what awaits next school year.

The staff and students of Ira Cross Elementary definitely appreciate what the Soldiers have done for them, and cannot wait for the next time the brigade can assist the school.

"I would like to thank our adopted unit for coming to our career day and especially bringing smiles which is important," said Chitty. "I am thankful for you guys and hope to see you again soon."







Staff Sgt. Joseph Moody, 11th Signal Brigade, readies a sponge during the sponge throw event at Ira Cross' Field Day on May 23, 2014. (Photo By Staff Sgt. Daniel Willis)



Staff Sgt. Daniel Willis, chaplain assistant, 11th Signal Brigade, receives a award showing the school's appreciation of what the unit has done from Mrs. Kaili Stanton, volunteer coordinator, Ira Cross Elementary. since September 2013 for the school.



Sgt. 1st Class Lonnie Brock and Pvt. Jasmine Stringer, 11th Signal Brigade, share a laugh with the students at the career day for Ira Cross Elementary on May 29. During career day, the Soldiers answered questions for second grade students about their jobs and general questions about the Army. (Photo By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold)



Sgt. 1st Class Lonnie Brock and Pvt. Jasmine Stringer, 11th Signal Brigade, share a laugh with the students at the career day for Ira Cross Elementary on May 29. During career day, the Soldiers answered questions for second grade students about their jobs and general questions about the Army. (Photo By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold)





Story By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold 11th Signal Brigade Public Affairs

In Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade, the Unit Ministry Team of Chap. (Maj.) James Blount and Staff Sgt. Daniel Willis are always hard at work looking out and taking care of the Soldiers of HHC and the brigade. They are there to support Soldiers 24/7, and always make sure they know that. They make their way around the brigade area everyday ensuring Soldiers are not in need of assistant, and are always there to help the chaplains and Soldiers of our other battalions.

One of the big thing they do for Soldiers is organizing the Strong Bond retreats for the Soldiers in the brigade. The retreats are not only for married couples, but they organize ones for single Soldiers as well. The retreats are held at nice resorts and are always free to the Soldiers. The Soldiers participate in a 2-3 hours of training with the ministry team, and the rest of the time is for them to enjoy their environment.

"The Strong Bonds program allows chaplains to provide training to Soldiers and family members in an environment conducive to learning and growth," said Blount. "The goal is to teach skills and ways of thinking that make people more resilient. The Strong Bonds program also opens up opportunities for the chaplain to do future counseling with Soldiers and family members."

The program helps single and married Soldiers with their relationship coping skills. Single Soldiers learn how to avoid being in toxic relationships, and things they can try to find productive relationships. Married Soldiers and their spouses also learn skills they can use in their own relationships. Being able to learn these skills and have a fun time if why Soldiers take advantage of the opportunity.

"I enjoyed my retreat immensely," said Pfc. Adam Passaro, 11th Signal Brigade. "I got a chance to work on my marriage in a stress free environment."

Bringing these opportunities to Soldiers and their family members is important to the UMTs. If you have not taken advantage of one of the retreats, what are you waiting for?

"You simply must go on one of these Strong Bond events," said Blount. "They are free. It will be a wonderful and relaxing experience that you will never forget. I could even be live changing!"





11TH SIGNAL BRIGADE UNIT MINISTRY TEAM



Sgt. Frederick Ciccione and his spouse enjoy some of the relationship building exercises during the May 23-25 Strong Bonds Retreat in Waco, Tx. (Photo By Staff Sgt. Daniel Willis)



Chap. (Maj.) James Blount takes a break during one of his training activities with the Soldiers and family members. (Photo By Staff Sgt. Daniel Willis)



Chap. (Maj.) James Blount and Soldiers and family members during the May 23-25 Strong Bonds Retreat in Waco, Tx. (Photo By Staff Sgt. Daniel Willis)



11TH SIGNAL BRIGADE RETENTION 2014 ARMY REENLISTMENT UPDATE

The U.S. Army is gearing up for a significant reduction of forces which will make it harder for Soldiers to get the reenlistment options that they want. The reenlistment categories continue to be initial-term soldiers with six or fewer years of service, mid-career soldiers with six to 10 years of service, and career soldiers with 10 or more years of service. Staff sergeants and above with 10 or more years of service generally are required to take an indefinite enlistment to remain in service.

Here are the current re-enlistment options for the retention program but make sure that you talk to your local retention NCO so that he or she can advise you on what to do about your specific situation. Soldiers are still required to reenlist at least 90 days before their ETS and there is no plan to change this requirement for now.

- 1. Regular Army. This option does not guarantee an assignment, training or stabilization. Soldiers will be assigned to the needs of the Army, unless they are re-enlisting to meet a service-remaining requirement.
- 2. Current station stabilization. This option generally provides stabilization of one to 12 months for soldiers who re-enlist for three or more years.
- 3. Army training. This option guarantees attendance at a school of choice for specialty or language training. Soldiers requesting airborne training must be in an MOS associated with the parachutist special qualification identifier.
- 4. Overseas assignment. This option guarantees assignment to such overseas tour areas as Europe, South Korea, Alaska and the Pacific region.
- 5. Continental U.S. station of choice. This option guarantees an assignment of 12 months or more to a stateside post for a re-enlistment of three to six years.

Initial-term soldiers. Soldiers who are serving in an over strength MOS, shown in the in/out calls as N/Y, are limited to Options 1 and 3, except if they qualify for the Commander's Allocation Process. Soldiers should ask their retention NCO about CAP, which allows limited re-enlistment opportunities in over strength MOSs. Soldiers who retrain for a new MOS under Option 3 must select a specialty that is understrength or balanced.

Soldiers who are serving in a balanced MOS, as displayed in the in/out calls, are eligible for Options 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. However, if they retrain for reclassification under Option 3, they must

select an MOS that is understrength or balanced.

Initial-term soldiers who are in an understrength MOS are eligible for Options 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Mid-career soldiers. Soldiers who are serving in an over strength MOSs are limited to Options 1 and 3, except if they qualify for the CAP.

Soldiers who are serving in a balanced MOS are eligible for Options 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. However, if they retrain for reclassification under Option 3, they must select an MOS that is understrength or balanced.

Mid-career soldiers who are in an understrength MOS are eligible for Options 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Career soldiers. Specialists, sergeants and staff sergeants with less than 10 years of service who hold an over strength MOS are limited to Options 1 and 3, except if they qualify for CAP. Soldiers who request Option 3 must select a Tier 4 or higher MOS in the Selective Re-enlistment Bonus program.

Specialists, sergeants and staff sergeants with less than 10 years of service who are in a balanced or understrength MOS are limited to Option 1.

Staff sergeants and above who have 10 or more years of service, must re-enlist under the Indefinite Re-enlistment Program. Soldiers can request Option 3 and retrain for a Tier 4 or higher MOS in the SRB program.

Promotable staff sergeants and above who have less than 10 years of service are limited to Option 1.

Rank	Total Active Service in Years	
www.ArmyReenlistment.com		
PVT - PFC	5 Years	
CPL/SPC	8 Years	
CPL(P) / SPC(P)	8 Years	
SGT	14 Years	
SGT(P)	14 Years	
SSG	20 Years	
SSG(P)	26 Years	
SFC	26 Years	
SFC(P)	29 Years	
1SG/MSG	29 Years	
1SG(P)/MSG(P)	32 Years	
CSM/SGM	32 Years	





11TH SIGNAL BRIGADE SHARP

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault has disrupted the mission readiness of every unit in the Army. The 11th Signal Brigade is certainly not immune to the growing epidemic when you see the number of cases our victim advocates provide services for every day. On Fort Hood alone there were almost 200 reported cases of sexual assault in FY14. Sexual harassment cases are even harder to trend due to an absence in reporting.

How do we prevent it you ask? Good Question. We can train and retrain over and over with audience's almost cued responses that match the instruction material almost verbatim. Even with all the training, individuals still sexually harass and assault fellow Soldiers.

With deterrence, training and especially culture changing techniques we can chip away at the status quo, hyper-masculine, misogynistic military culture that trivializes allegations of sexual assault that has dominated our Army for decades. Teaching by small group interaction brings more realistic views on what Soldiers think is right and what they know as right.

We must re-emphasize our organization's culture of respect and dignity. Awareness and action are key aspects of gaining success in changing attitudes and perceptions. The DOD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office website http://www.sapr.mil/provides a vast database with information services for response, assistance and educational materials for Soldiers, Civilians and their families.



11TH BRIGADE SIGNAL FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Congratulations to 62nd ESB and 57th ESB Family Readiness Group (FRG) Leadership for their support of the Soldiers, Family members, rear detachment commanders and staff during unit deployments. Our Soldiers did a great job supporting our nation and the units FRGs were outstanding as well providing support and resources to our Families during the deployment. Our volunteers do many different things that go unnoticed but assist tremendously with accomplishing the mission at home while their loved ones are deployed. It's important for family's members to receive update information and support before, during and after the deployment. Information flow during deployment can be tough and our volunteers were patient and understanding while serving our family members locally and outside the Fort Hood area.

The FRGs coordinated and decorated barracks rooms for single Soldiers ensuring they had comfortable rooms to come home too. There were homemade goodies and soft drinks in their rooms for them to enjoy. For the single Soldiers, planning time with their immediate family and friends is also very important and gives them a sense of belonging as well. For our married Soldiers, it's time to reintegrate back into the Family and understand each Family member's role in the Family and give our spouses praises for the hard work that was accomplished during the deployment.

Along with reintegration our Soldiers are offered many different resources and classes to assist with reintegration. The Unit Chaplain, Army Community Services, Military Family Life Counselors offer counseling and classes for Soldiers and Family members. Take advantage of the following resources available here at Fort Hood.

Brigade Chaplain	254-553-8996
Military Family Life Counselors	254-266-4016
Brigade Family Readiness Support Assistant	254-286-6080
Army Community Services	254-287-4ACS
Family Advocacy	254-286-6774
Army Emergency Relief	254-286-6330
Child & Spouse Abuse	254-287-CARE
Exceptional Family Member Program	254-287-6070
Family Assistance Center	254-288-7570
New Parent Support Program	254-287-2286
Stress/Anger/Conflict & Resolution Training Management Classes	254-286-5338



"Thunderbirds Lead The Way"

The signs are all around it's up to YOU to recognize and act on them

PLS DNT TXT & DRV

Training, Discipline and Standards

Training, discipline and standards are the bedrock of our Army, and as Soldiers, you've been taught what right looks like. As leaders, you have a duty and a responsibility to maintain standards in your formation. You also have an obligation to your Soldiers and their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. In our fight against accidental fatalities, knowledge is the weapon of choice.







GREETINGS RENEGADES AND RENEGADE FAMILY!!

I know this all finds you doing well and having a great day. So my initial impressions of this place are quite frankly, the world here has changed. There are mainstays that are always here (the gym we all use in Kuwait has been here since I can remember- probably the best made tent I have ever seen!) and the dust is unavoidable (it is a very fine sand that we walk in most places) but my, how being connected has changed! Facebook has opened quite a bit of doorways along with the mobile wifi hotspots around. As I have made my initial rounds, I have definitely been making sure your Soldiers have been calling. The response is yes so I hope it to be true. I can assure you that all sites are having a chance to do physical training and talk to you through some means. And I hope they are taking advantage of it. There is work which usually consists of long hours within several locations providing customers with Internet connectivity. But the spirits are moving and just around the corner... two months complete!

Brawler 6





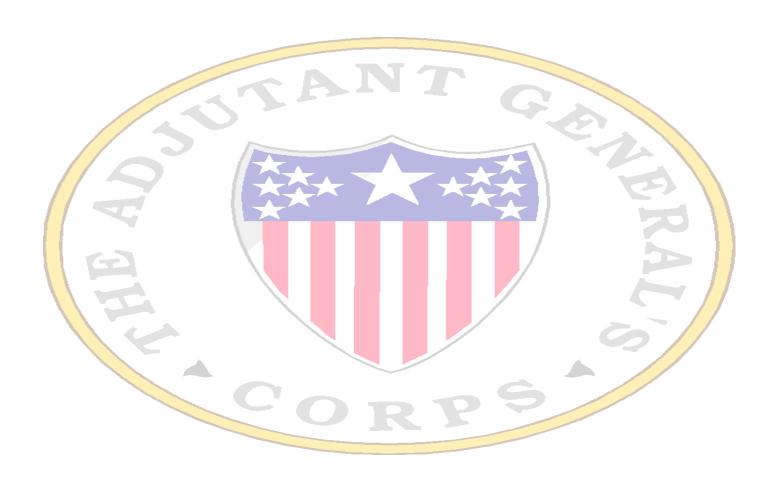


A DAY IN THE LIFE OF S-1 PERSONNEL

Members of the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion S-1 assumed operations from the 62nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion S-1 on May 23, 2014. Since its transition, the Battalion S-1 team, consisting of four highly dedicated human resource professionals, has worked diligently to provide administrative support and guidance to over 360 Soldiers who are currently deployed with the battalion in multiple locations throughout the U.S. Army Central (USARCENT) area of operation.

For example, the daily Personnel Status Report and the Deployed Theater Accountability System are used each day to ensure that the battalion maintains accurate accountability of all personnel assigned and attached to the unit. In addition, the battalion S-1 team has provided essential personnel services such as processing several evaluations, troubleshooting pay issues, conducting one promotion board, processing five release from theater packets, and many other important administrative actions.

These challenges are completed with great pride and professionalism, demonstrating the meaning of the Adjutant General's Corps motto, "Defend and Serve!"







In the middle of the Kuwaiti Desert, the sun hesitating to show its face over the horizon, lays a small camp tucked away between the dunes. The small desert fort looks deserted, but if you listen closely you can hear the sounds of movement in the distance. The Charlie Company Cobras are just waking up and hitting the ground running.

It's been a busy couple months out here in the oasis that is Camp Buehring, with the temperature reaching up to 120 degrees on some days. The Charlie Company Cobras are getting some much needed down time enjoying a Company BBQ on one of these scorching days. Charlie Company has been on the go since they've stepped boots on the ground. Over half of the Company is spread across most of the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Theater Missile Defense. The few that remain near the flag pole have been working day and night to get the Company Tactical Operation Center up and running as well as completing day to day duties of the company. It's not all swimming pools, leisure, and MWR trips yet, but with motivation and dedication towards mission accomplishment, these desert serpents will soon be relaxing in the shade in no time.





GREETINGS FROM 518TH TIN COMPANY

The soldiers of the 518th TIN Company are currently deployed to two countries, Afghanistan and Kuwait, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. We presently have 45 of our Raiders in Afghanistan supporting the 25th Signal Battalion and their mission. The group was split up and sent to two different areas, Bahgram and Kabul. These Raiders have been placed on different teams. Some work in the OSP team accomplishing cable missions and others in the S-3 office making the battalion run smoothly. They represent the whole company and set new standards for the rest of the Battalion, lifting the 518th TIN Co. name up high.

The rest of the 518th Raiders Team resides in Kuwait where the heat plays a huge role in our everyday life, and no I'm not talking about the Miami Heat; their plays weren't huge enough, see what I did there? Anyway, the Raiders here in Kuwait have different missions. We presently have 25 of our Raiders supporting the 519th TCF requiring some of our 25 Bravos to run the help desk. Our Cable Dawgs also help them with everyday cable missions, where our Raiders excel, thanks to the outstanding training we had before our trip into Theater. We have our very own Sgt 1st Class Johnson currently residing in Camp Arifjan were he is the COR (Contracting Officer Representative) and represents all the contractors in this area. Making sure they get paid and they do what it is required of them according to their contract. The rest of us Raiders either work days or night shifts, completing every mission that is tasked. We also help further our career by completing online training or doing college courses to earn promotion points.

Talking about promotions Staff Sgt. Miller, Sgt. Broderick, Sgt. Fryer, Pfc. Rodriguez, Pfc. Gordon and Pfc. Richards where all promoted this past two months, setting the example and path for more of our Raiders to get promoted within the next 7 months. Sgt. Owens and Spc. Grimm both attended the NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Board coming out of it victorious and bringing the titles home.

So whether it is running cable outside, like a true Cable Dawg, making sure contractors do their jobs or even winning the NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Boards. The 518th Raiders keep living up to the company's motto "Raiders Make It Happen!"





The fun killer

Directorate of Communication and Public Affairs U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Fort Rucker, Ala.

Hanging out at the pool or beach on hot summer days is a great way to beat the heat, but water-related activities come with certain risks. Don't let an accident kill your fun this summer — know your limitations and mitigate the hazards to ensure your day in the sun and surf doesn't end in tragedy.

Strong swimming skills are essential if you plan to be on or near the water. If you're not already a swimmer, check with your local Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation directorate to schedule lessons. Organizations off post, including the Red Cross and YMCA, also regularly schedule classes for both novice and experienced swimmers.

We talk a lot about battle buddies in the Army, and spending a day on the water is no time to go solo. Always swim with a buddy; even experienced swimmers can get hurt or become tired and be unable to exit the water without help. A swim buddy can provide valuable assistance or call for help if an emergency happens.

Open bodies of water like rivers, lakes and oceans have a number of hazards that aren't found in regular swimming pools, primarily currents and a propensity for rapidly changing conditions. Therefore, it's ideal to swim only in areas supervised by lifeguards, who are thoroughly trained in rescue techniques. But should you be caught in a current without a lifeguard nearby, don't panic or fight against the water. Swim parallel to shore until you leave the current and gradually make your way back to the sand. If the current is too powerful, float along with it until it slows down to conserve your energy. Exhaustion can set in very quickly when trying to swim out of a current.

Above all, never mix alcohol and swimming. Among other side effects, alcohol weakens your judgment, balance and coordination; impairs your swimming and diving skills; and makes it harder for the body to stay warm. Ensure your buddies stay sober on the water as well — a drunk friend will be of no assistance should you need help and might be inclined to take unnecessary risks that lead to an accident.

To learn more swimming safety, visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center's interactive Water Safety website at https://safety.army.mil/safetycity/pages/water/watersafety.aspx.



200 SOLIDERS RETURN FROM KUWAIT

Photos and Story By Rose L. Thayer Fort Hood Herald

Stephanie Rodriguez drove overnight Saturday to Fort Hood from Arizona, with the excitement of her husband meeting their 3-month-old daughter for the first time keeping her awake.

Among the families and friends of more than 200 soldiers returning from Kuwait with the 62nd Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade, Rodriguez sat in the stands late Sunday at West Fort Hood Physical Fitness Center as Amber drifted off to sleep in her arms.

"I'm looking forward to him being able to be around her. I know he wants to," Rodriguez said of her husband, Spc. Shawn Rodriguez. "I sent him pictures almost every day of her doing crazy stuff like cuddling with the dogs," Rodriguez said.

Not only did the first-time mom give birth on her own, baby Amber also underwent surgery. Messages from her husband and the support of family in Arizona kept her motivated and moving forward, she said.

Just after midnight, the battalion's soldiers entered the gym through smoke machine generated fog to the cheers of hundreds.

"I want to thank the soldiers you see standing before you... for their dedication to the battalion, the brigade and their country," said Col. James C. Parks, brigade commander. "We are blessed to have you back and we're happy you are here."

During the nine months in Kuwait, the battalion served as the tactical communications provider for the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, providing communications in numerous countries and locations that were continually changing, said Lt. Col. John P. Gregor, battalion commander.

"The deployment went very well overall," he said. "Being separated ... each unit had to be self-sufficient in what it did. We had great leadership at each location and they did a phenomenal job."

Not only did soldiers succeed at the mission, Gregor said they also conducted professional development, bettering themselves through schools, academics and fitness.

"Soldiers went above and beyond the mission requirement," Gregor said.

Sadly, one soldier did not make it home. Staff Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull died due to a medical emergency in October.

"Everybody came together as a team and supported his family," Gregor said.

Now, everyone will rest and prepare for some "well-deserved" down time.

Families cheer as soldiers of the 62nd Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade, enter West Fort Hood Physical Fitness Center on Sunday night a! er a nine-month deployment to Kuwait.







Families cheer as soldiers of the 62nd Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade, enter West Fort Hood Physical Fitness Center on Sunday night after a nine-month deployment to Kuwait.



Stephanie Rodriguez hands 3-month-old Amber to her father, Spc. Shawn Rodriguez, for the first time. The soldier was deployed for the past nine months to Kuwait with 62nd Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade.



Sgt. Matias Arzate holds his 1-year-old daughter, Makenna, as his wife, Emma Arzate, watches Sunday night at West Fort Hood Physical Fitness Center.







62ND ESB CHANGE-OF-AUTHORITY

Photos By Sgt. Jacob Mahaffey 11th Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

IOHN S. RONQUILLO

COMMAND SERGEANT NOn June 10, 2014 after over two successful years as the image and major for 62nd Expeditionary Signal A On June 10, 2014 after over the command sergeant major for 62nd Expeditionary Signal Command Sergeant major for 62nd Expeditionary Signal Command Sergeant Maj. Woody B. Carter relinquished and approximately of the battalion. In his place, Command Sergeant S. Ronquillo, stepped in to be the next 62nd ESB command sergeant

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Linion Code of Military was able to accomplish a lot of great things here, and left the bar set

Line Sat. Maj. Carter. The brigade, battalion, and Soldier high. Good luck, Sgt. Maj. Carter. The brigade, battalion, and Soldiers thank you for all that you did. You will be missed.

















86TH ESB TROPO TEAMS READY FOR ACTION

Story By 1st Lt. Kerry Butterworth Photos By 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Lange 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

The Charlie Company Immortals, of the 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion stand ready to receive deployment orders for any or all of their four Light Thermospheric (TROPO) teams over the past year and a half. After taking the Prepare to Deploy (PTDO) mission back in October 2012, Charlie Company continued to prepare, train, and refine their deployment readiness status. Quarterly requirements maintained a battle rhythm to conduct level III Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDRE) as well as validate all four legacy Light TROPO systems.

In the recent quarter, Charlie Company further refined the EDRE process by incorporating a "push team" element where all soldiers within the company formation were recalled. Two push teams were task organized to take all rolling stock and shipping containers through the rigors of Movement Preparation Area (MPA) operations and Air Joint Inspections (JI) essentially freeing up TROPO team soldiers to conduct all road to war briefings, household goods coordination, and various other tasks required for deployment.

From June 16-18, 2014, 2nd. Lt. Elizabeth Lange and Sgt. 1st Class Szandrique Johnson lead the Immortals through the third quarter's second no-notice alert starting at approximately 4 a.m. Immediately the EDRE battle drill took hold. Push team Noncommissioned Officers-in-Charge (NCOICs) Staff Sgt. Kevin Ghee and Sgt. Adrian Encalade executed their roles flawlessly and initiated troop movement by dispatching eight vehicles with eight associated generators, four ISU-90 shipping containers, and four AN/TRC-170 (v), 3 antenna trailers and shelters, as well as preparing all the unit movement and Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) paperwork to load the plane within a condensed 96 hours timeline.

Four TROPO teams were standing tall at the Fort Bliss Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group (ADACG) prepared to board the plane. Even after an exhausting no notice alert, these Soldiers remained fully motivated to continue validating and improving upon their deployment readiness status. The continued improvement and refinement resulting from countless constructive After Action Reviews (AARs) paid off when soldiers began to see how a well oiled machine can lessen the work load and stress with simple organization and practice.







Shoulder to Shoulder

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CHARLIE COMPANY 86TH ESB FRG

Story By Capt. Stefan Wilson Photos By Sgt. 1st Class Gerrine Garcia86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Here we are, already into the heat of the summer. Time seems to be passing by at the usual blazing pace. For the first time in three months, the entire Charlie Company 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion team is together at Fort Bliss, Texas.

After successful completion of missions in support of 1-11th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Mission Readiness Exercise, 2-25th ID National Training Center rotation, and 2-1st AD/BMC Network Integration Evaluation, Charlie Company finally has the ability to conduct some well needed recovery both on the equipment and on the Soldiers and Families.

Taking advantage of this truly precious lull in the operational tempo, Charlie Company leadership worked alongside the Immortal Family Readiness Group to plan several activities. These events targeted various demographics in the company, culminating in an organizational day to bring each of these groups together.

During this quarter we have hosted an array of events. We kicked off the quarter with a Mother's Day luncheon hosted by the Immortal FRG. This luncheon recognized FRG volunteers and honored the mothers both in uniform and at home for their constant support to the mission. Switching gears, 1st Sgt. Garcia along with the senior leaders then demonstrated humility by preparing and serving a spaghetti dinner to all the Immortal Soldiers that live in the barracks.

In recognition of Father's Day, the company FRG served donuts and juice to all of the fathers. Our final event for the quarter culminated in a company organizational day at Biggs Park on Fort Bliss. During this event the company leaders along with the FRG provided BBQ, sides, drinks and desserts for all the Soldiers and Families on the Immortal Team. This event also included a dunk tank, jumper, a game of volleyball, and access to the Biggs Field Splash Park. Overall, throughout this quarter, Charlie Company has maintained a high operational tempo while also focusing on the human capital, and this is what makes us successful.











VIPERS SUPPORT ARTILLERY DEFENSE UNIT

Story By Staff Sgt. Jessica Brown 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

The Charlie Company Vipers were chosen to support the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 4-5 Air Defense Battalion on Fort Hood in support of their recent exercise. There were a total of 90 subscribers spread out over Fort Hood, from West Fort Hood, to Range Road on the east side of Fort Hood. The teams provided NIPR and SIPR voice and data with multiple Battalion Command Post Nodes and Single Shelter Switches. Sgt. Lionel Bailey, who led Command Post Node (CPN) 56's team consisting of 8 Soldiers, said his team did an outstanding job of providing uninterrupted communications to their customers.

"It was a great learning experience. A lot of the inexperienced Soldiers who had not gotten a lot of time with the systems got to learn hands on. One thing I learned how to do, was to connect phones to the call manager and laptops to the network," said Spc. Nathaniel Ramsey.

Sgt. Bailey led his team consisting of Spc. Luis Maymi, on the other side of the training area supporting the 4-5 ADA Battalion headquarters.

"This is our team's third mission together and we are getting better and better, basically running on auto-pilot. This is a great opportunity to get some cross-training in so everyone is learning different jobs," said Bailey.

1st Sgt. Renaldo Armstrong spoke highly of the Charlie Company Vipers who supported his site.

"They gave us outstanding support. The Soldiers and NCOs were extremely well disciplined. We will welcome back the 57th ESB anytime," he stated.

The Vipers worked hard to ensure solid communications, and Cpt.Bryan Swift and 1st Sgt. Dominique Davis ensured their Soldiers were proficient and ready to successfully handle any mission assigned to their company. Cpt. Swift explained, "Our Soldiers exemplify the very standard every Signal unit should strive to emulate. Our Platoon Sergeants are the epitome of what NCO leadership should look like; always leading from the front, and always motivated to accomplish the mission no matter how diverse or complex. We are the first in, first up, and the FIRST to STRIKE!"

The mission was successfully completed, and this was just another example of why the Soldiers, Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) and Officers of Charlie Company 57th ESB are amongst the best in the Army.





"Voice of the Warrior"













THE RENEGADES OF 16 TIN

Once attached to 62nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, the 16th Signal Company became a seperate entity under the 11th Signal Brigade in January 2014 after returning from a deployment in December 2013 in Afghanistan.

Led by Capt. Anthony Severson and 1st Sgt. Kenya Dugger, the 16th TIN Outlaws are currently supporting the Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP) mission with Tactical Installation and Networking teams dispatched across the country in support of the upgrade project.

Locations currently being impacted with the company's support include Red River Army Depot, Tx., Redstone Arsenal, Al., and Fort Bliss, Tx. with future locations including Fort Sill, Ok., Fort Hood, Tx., and Fort Polk, La.

Additionally, the 16th TIN has established a working relationship with the Fort Hood Network
Enterprise Center (NEC), allowing the integration of their military personnel into the daily operations and upgrade projects of the Fort Hood network infrastructure.





RENEGADES DITCH WITCH TRAINING











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