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11th Signal Brigade

THUNDERBIRD

Quarterly

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THUNDERBIRD QUARTERLY

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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. This 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"

Brigade Commander



Col. James C. Parks, III

'Commander's Corner'

Thunderbirds –

To the Soldiers, Families, and friends of the 11th Signal Brigade, as I enter my last three months in command I'd like to thank each of you for the hard work and dedication that keeps the Thunderbird team ready and trained as the Army's premier signal brigade.

First I would like to welcome back the 40th ESB from their deployment to the Middle East. The 40th, who redeployed in February, successfully provided communications support to United States Army Central throughout seven countries (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates) and three campaigns (Operation Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve, and Spartan Shield). Deploying to one overseas country or operation is a challenge enough and the Renegade Battalion not only supported a diverse array of missions but did so with a high level of success. An accomplishment like that does not happen without extraordinary effort and professionalism at all levels.

Our Brigade motto is "The Sun Never Sets" and we continue to live up to that creed as two more units have received deployment orders for the fall. The 16th TIN (Tactical Installation Networking Company) will deploy to the Middle East later this year in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The 16th TIN is one of only two active duty TIN companies and returned from their last deployment to Afghanistan in September 2013.

Also on the patch chart are the Charlie Company, 57th ESB, Vipers. The Viper Company has spent the last year and a half on a PTDO status, while simultaneously supporting signal missions, training missions, and garrison tastings on Fort Hood and across the country. Now they have received the call forward and I have absolute confidence that they will do a tremendous job supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

While supporting our deploying units is our top priority, another important event for our Soldiers is the Signal Regimental Week which will be hosted here at Fort Hood from June 22 – 25. Regimental week is a time for us Signaleers to come together and not just celebrate our history but also to build camaraderie, learn from each other's experiences, and hear from our senior leaders the direction the Signal Corps is heading.

Last and certainly not least, I would like to recognize and thank my battle buddy, CSM Rambert, who is retiring this summer after nearly 30 years in the Army. I couldn't have asked for a better right hand man during the challenging last two years. From rebuilding the Brigade after the move to Fort Hood, managing units at three different installations while simultaneously deploying those units across the globe, and everything good and bad that goes with being a Brigade Command Team, thank you. Thank you also for almost three decades of service to our Army and our Nation, enjoy your last months in the service and I look forward to when we can meet up for a round of golf without having to check our blackberries between every hole.

The Sun Never Sets on the Thunderbirds.

- Thunderbird 6

Command Sergeant Major

'Troop Talk'

Thunderbirds ,

Summer season is already around the corner, and there are two aspects unique to the summer months that I would like to re-emphasize to our Soldiers and Leaders.

First is safety. The summer season brings unique hazards that will affect the safety and welfare of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members. Already this season Fort Hood has suffered a fatality related to a boating incident, we need to ensure that we are prepared for a safe summer – my goal is to eliminate any summertime tragedies from occurring in the Thunderbird Brigade in the first place.

Below are several areas within the safety umbrella that we need to focus on:

- Risk Management. Commanders conduct risk assessments and set safety conditions, but more importantly at all levels we must integrate risk management into all our activities.
- Heat Injuries. The danger of heat injuries is a significant threat to us all. Training on recognizing and preventing heat injuries will effectively raise awareness.
- Destructive weather. Central Texas in the late spring and early summer experiences severe storms, heavy rains, and tornadoes. Pay attention to the weather warnings and plan accordingly.
- Alcohol and substance abuse. It is important to realize the dangerous affects alcohol can have on summer activities especially water activities. Plan ahead and take care of each other to ensure that fun is had in a manner that does not put us at severe risk.
- Motorcycle safety. As the sun comes out, so do the motorcycles. We have an excellent mentorship program in the Thunderbird Brigade, new and old riders alike I encourage you to continue to hone your skills. For those that don't ride, take that extra second when driving to look for motorcycle riders.
- Wellness. While the winter months are most commonly equated with depression and suicide, there is never an offseason for our well-being. Put the training we have to use and take care of your battle buddies. This includes recognizing the signs of suicide and domestic violence and taking the appropriate steps to prevent them.

Second is transition. The summer also is the busiest time for PCS moves which brings a high level of stress particularly to families. Peak moving season runs May through August each year with the peak of the peak between Memorial Day and July 4th. A little preparation and flexibility can enhance your moving experience and make it a less stressful time for your Families. Below are some tips from the transportation office:

- Create a personal move calendar - checklists, phone numbers, and dates.
- Transportation/Shipping Office is your primary point of contact for customer service.
- Once you get orders, immediately start your moving process to help lock in preferred pickup/delivery dates.
- Sign up on move.mil - places you in direct contact with your moving company to manage your move.
- Videos on managing your move are available on Move.mil.

The first stop for assistance should always be your local Personal Property Shipping Office or Installation Transportation Office.

The Sun Never Sets on the Thunderbirds!

Thunderbird 7



Command Sgt. Maj. Maurice A. Rambert

Brigade Chaplain



Lt. Col. Zan Sellers

'Inspirations'

Thunderbirds, isn't spring great? I love the days getting longer and warmer, even hot. I love all of the activity the spring brings, including love. I want to encourage you to take advantage of the Strong Bonds events. The 40th ESB is having a Couples Strong Bonds in Apr. The 57th ESB is also scheduling one Couples event in the spring (Apr-Jun). The 62d ESB and the 86th ESB both have Singles Strong Bonds events for the spring. The purpose of the Singles event is to train single Soldiers in how to select a good marriage partner. These are the 4 Strong Bonds events that are funded so take advantage of these events while you can.

Springtime is also a time of great religious (and some civic) importance. Here are the faith traditions and the dates this spring:

Christian	Good Friday	3 Apr
Jewish	Passover	4-11 Apr
Christian	Easter	5 Apr
Orthodox	Easter	12 Apr
All Faiths	National Day of Prayer	7 May
Civic	Mother's Day	10 May
Christian	Ascension	14 May
Jewish	Chavuot	24-25 May
Christian	Pentecost	24 May
Islam	Ramadan	18 Jun
Civic	Father's Day	21 Jun

We are a very religiously diverse country as evidenced by this calendar. There are even more days I didn't list. One of our freedoms, that every country doesn't have, is the freedom of religion. For many people, our faith is important to us. I want to encourage you to exercise your faith by attending a worship center of your choice. Make sure you send a card or call your parents (Yes, I guess you can text or email them but I want a call and card from mine) or spouse on their special day.

The 62d ESB and 86th ESB both get new chaplains at the end of April. The BDE Unit Ministry team and each of those battalions are anxiously awaiting their chaplains. Take care and enjoy the warm weather.

— Thunderbird Spirit

Brigade NCO/Soldier of the Quarter

Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold

FORT HOOD, Texas— Noncommissioned Officers and junior enlisted Soldiers from the 11th Signal Brigade competed in the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter competition March 24-25 here.

Participants included Soldiers from the 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion at Fort Bliss, Tx., 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion from Fort Huachuca, Az., and Soldiers from 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and 62nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion stationed here.

The Soldiers competed in a multi-day competition beginning with range qualifications, weapon disassembly and assembly, urban land navigation with Warrior Tasks and Drills stations at each location and a written exam on the first day.

Early the next morning, the Soldiers each took an Army Physical Fitness Test, followed by a formal board in their Army Service Uniform later that morning.

This is the first attempt at a multi-event competition for 11th Sig. Bde. Usually, the Soldiers compete in a board, and the winner is decided from the results.

This quarter, Command Sgt. Maj. Maurice A. Rambert, 11th Sig. Bde., wanted to go with a different approach.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Rambert wanted our Soldiers to be better prepared for the annual III Corps Best Warrior competition,” said Master Sgt. Pedro G. Gonzalez, 11th Sig. Bde.

The new format projects the total Soldier concept and mirrors the III Corps competition.

“This will benefit all Soldiers within the brigade when the NCO and Soldier of the year winners compete at the III Corps Best Warrior competition,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Morgan Barnett, 86th ESB. “They will have a better understanding of how bigger competitions are conducted, and also test their physical and mental toughness.”

The competitors were not accustomed to the addition of the other events but like true Soldiers, they adapted and made the most of the opportunity.

“I wasn't as confident because I really didn't know what to expect,” said Sgt. Jose Hamilton, 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. “As it progressed, I realized it was not as bad as I thought.”

Hamilton, who ultimately won NCO of the Quarter, stayed calmed and relied on training he has received in his three years in the Army to excel in the competition and had some fun with the experience.

“I enjoyed the urban orienteering and the different Warrior task and battle drills that were set at each point.



After disassembling the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, Sgt. Jose Hamilton, 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade, begins putting his weapon back together. During a multi-day NCO and Soldiers of the Quarter competition March 24-25 here, Hamilton was recognized as the

With Hamilton earning bragging rights for his battalion taking the honor on the NCO side, it seemed only right for Spc. Jacquelyn R. Stark, 86th ESB, to also win for Soldier of the Quarter.

"I was proud to earn Soldier of the Quarter and to represent my battalion in a good way," said Stark.

With four different units represented during the competition, it is a credit to the 86th ESB that both winners came from their battalion.

"I feel extremely honored that my Soldiers represented themselves, the battalion and the brigade so well," said Command Sgt. Maj. Barnett. "I am also proud of them accomplishing what they have their first time experiencing the new competition format."

The trial run went well but that will not mean there will not be more things incorporated in the next competition for the brigade.

This was the first time and it went better than expected, said Gonzalez. Next time, the competition will be stepped up another notch or two.

For Hamilton, even though he won, he continues to think ahead to his next opportunity.

For Hamilton, even though he won, he continues to think ahead to his next opportunity.

"Overall, it was a good experience, but I do think I could have done better," said Hamilton. "There's always room to improve and that is what I intend on doing."



Pfc. Travis, 40th ESB, plots his points during the urban land navigation portion of the competition.



Spc. Stark, 86th ESB., pauses before continuing her push-ups during the APFT.



The competitors receive their briefing before navigating the urban land navigation portion of the competition.



Staff Sgt. Garcia observes as Spc. Peace disassembles his M-16.



Clockwise from top left:

- (1) *Command Sgt. Maj. Ronquillo helps conduct uniform inspections before the participants begin the board process.*
- (2) *Command Sgt. Maj. Barnett finishes annotating his scores for the board participants on their respective score sheets.*
- (3) *Sgt. Hamilton represented 86th ESB and the battalion as a whole by being recognized as the NCO of the Quarter.*
- (4) *Spc. Stark, also from 86th ESB, took home the Soldier of the Quarter honors.*

Hood Celebrates Women's History Month

Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold

A Women's History Day observance was held March 18 at Club Hood, hosted by the 11th Signal Brigade and put together by the Equal Opportunity advisers from III Corps and around Fort Hood.

Since 1987, March has been officially designated as Women's History Month with various events held to highlight some of the great moments in women's history.

Women in the military and communities around the world have fought to achieve the same rights and opportunities as their male counterparts.

"Women's History Month highlights the diversity and progress within the Army and United States as a whole," said Capt. Jacquie Bjorlin, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Sig. Bde. "The examples set by women such as Gen. Anne Dunwoody, Brig. Gen. Anna Mae Hays and Madeline Albright serve as constant reminders to fight through every challenge and pursue your goals."

Throughout the history of great accomplishments in women's rights, both in and out of the military, there have



been many key figures. This year, the 11th Sig. Bde. was able to find a pioneer for women in the military, retired Col. Deb Lewis, as their guest speaker.

On July 7, 1976, Lewis and 118 other female cadets attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. West Point was founded in 1802, and it has been the cornerstone for training cadets into the officers that have led Soldiers throughout history, but it had not allowed female cadets to that point.

"When I entered the military academy, we faced tremendous opposition and very low expectations of what we women could accomplish," Lewis said.

It was a tough task, not only adapting from being a civilian going into the military lifestyle, but also overcoming the challenges of being the first female class in the 174 year history of the academy.

"Early on my classmates and I learned the cost of important social change and how unpopular it can be," Lewis said.

Although it was a tough journey, Lewis was one of the women that graduated in May 1980.

"Our training activities were tough but mostly fair," Lewis said. "Thankfully, 62 tenacious women out of the 119 original women did graduate."

“Our training activities were tough but mostly fair,” Lewis said. “Thankfully, 62 tenacious women out of the 119 original women did graduate.”

As Lewis shared her early experiences in the military and overcoming the barriers that existed back then, it gave those in attendance time to reflect on the same issues as they relate today.

“I entered West Point nine years ago,” Bjorlin said. “At the time, it was unthinkable for women to join combat arms and I was advised against entering any of the more male-dominated branches. Now, women routinely tab Sapper School, excel in every branch open to females and are preparing for Ranger School.”

During observations such as Women’s History Month, it is beneficial for leaders, Soldiers and their Family members to take the opportunity to learn from the experiences of the people that have been through some remarkable and thought provoking times.

Staff Sgt. Frederick Ciccione, HHC, 11th Sig. Bde., brought his daughter Daniella to the event, and he was glad he did.

“I feel it is important for young ladies who are approaching adulthood to see positive, influential women in our history who are worthy of emulating,” Ciccione said.

Another leader that used this opportunity to inspire his daughter was Lt. Col. Ricardo Bravo, Equal Opportunity Office, III Corps.

“It is a true testimony to share with my daughter, Angelica, who is only 9 years young,” Bravo said. “It allows her to see such a wide array of accomplishments that women have achieved through very difficult times not only in our nation, but across international boundaries.”

The theme of this year’s Women’s History is “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives,” and Lewis thought about the theme as she reflected on her life and Women’s History Month as a whole.

“I was blessed to be born in a time when doors were just being cracked open to allow women to serve our nation in military uniform side by side with men,” Lewis said. “I faced many challenges because of what I was, and allowed to do many extraordinary jobs and go to amazing places because of who I was.”

The concept of making equal treatment a complete team effort is something that is becoming more prevalent the more people look back at achievements in Women’s History and make a commitment to keep improving it every day.

“As men, it is my deep belief that we need to continue to open the doors of opportunities for women,” Bravo said. “Their achievements have greatly contributed to the quality of life for both men and women, and will continue to bring positive changes to the human race.”

Although there have been many strides made in respect to gender equality and equal rights, there is always more that can be accomplished.

“We must not waiver in our efforts as much work still remains,” Lewis said. “We must find better ways to consistently create high-trust and high-respect environments that include absolutely everyone.”





Clockwise from above:

- (1) *Spc. Jones, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade, enjoys time with her fellow Soldiers before the start of the observance.*
- (2) *Guest speaker Col.(retired) Deb Lewis, speaks with the crowd about some of her experiences in and out of the military.*
- (3) *In honor of Women's History Month, pictures of influential women sat on display around the observance hall.*
- (4) *A beautiful cake was made to commemorate the event.*
- (5) *Sgt. Holmes, 1st Cavalry Division Band, sings as the rest of the band provides him with a nice melody.*

HHC, 11th Sig. Change-of-Responsibility

Photos By Capt. Pete Bogart

After serving as the first sergeant for 6 years between Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and Company Charlie, 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, at Fort Huachuca and HHC, 11th Signal Brigade, the brigade said good-bye to 1st Sgt. Stewart in a COR ceremony held on Thunderbird Field, and welcomed 1st Sgt. Seaton from the brigade S-1 shop.

1st Sgt. Stewart helped train a mentor many Soldiers throughout the brigade and always strived to make each Soldier and his fellow noncommissioned officers better in an effort to prepare the Soldiers for future leadership roles, and to help strengthen the backbone of the Army, the NCO Corps.



Capt. Marcelline receives the NCO sword from 1st Sgt. Stewart signaling the beginning of the change-of-responsibility.

1st Sgt. Stewart was a stable in the Thunderbird family for almost a decade, and his leadership and mentorship will be greatly missed.

As he moves on to the next part of his journey at the Resiliency Academy here on Fort Hood, the Soldiers and leaders of the 11th Sig. Bde. Would like to say thank you, and wish him the best.





Clockwise from above:
(1) 1st Sgt. Seaton completes the transfer of responsibility.
(2) Command Sgt. Maj. Rambert thanks 1st Sgt. Stewart for all he did for the brigade during his tenure a first sergeant.
(3) Command Sgt. Maj. Rambert stands with the newly pinned first sergeant of HHC, 11th Sig., 1st Sgt. Seaton.





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Deployed Soldiers Back On Home Turf

Story By John Hess, Sierra Vista Herald/Photos By Mark Levy, Sierra Vista Herald

It was about 9:57 p.m. Wednesday when a Delta commercial jet touched down at Libby Army Airfield.

Inside the plane were 257 soldiers of the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion returning from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The plane's main cabin door opened at 10:07 p.m. and soon the soldiers began walking down the steps to be greeted by senior post officers and others of the 40th who were on hand to welcome them back to their home turf.



Commander of the 11th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade, Col. James Parks, greets soldiers as they arrive from the middle east Wednesday evening on Fort Huachuca.

At the bottom of the steps was the commander of the 11th Tactical Theater Signal Brigade — the unit to which the 40th Renegades belong — Col. James Parks, who greeted the returning soldiers.

“I saw them off (on May 4, 2014) and I was going to be here when they came home,” Parks said. He and his wife drove from Fort Hood, Texas, where the brigade headquarters are located.

Also welcoming the 40th back home were Maj. Gen. Robert Ashley, commander of the Intelligence Center of Excellence and Fort Huachuca; Maj. Gen. John Morrison Jr., commander of the Network Enterprise Technology Command;

and Garrison Commander Col. Thomas Boone.

After shaking hands with a number of people, the returning GIs made their way through a cordon of American flags held by bikers, who have been at every deployment from the fort, as well as the events welcoming them back.

Waiting for the 40th contingent were friends and families who were at Barnes Field House, where after a short ceremony they would wait for the order, “release your units to their families,” signaling the completion of the trip home.



Soldiers with the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion disembark from a plane on Libby Army Airfield Wednesday night on Fort Huachuca. The soldiers have been in the middle east since deploying there last May.

40th Makes It's Return Official

Story By John Hess, Sierra Vista Herald/Photo By Fort Huachuca Public Affairs Office

A time-honored Army tradition officially marked the return of the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion to its home post in Arizona Friday morning.

Signifying its return, the battalion stood on Brown Parade Field as the unit's flag, held by Spc. Jessica Mortimer, was uncased and unfurled by the battalion's commander, Lt. Col. David Thomas, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Reinburg. At the same time three of the battalion's companies which had deployed had their units' guidons uncased and unfurled by the companies commanders and first sergeants.

"Today is a great day to be a Thunderbird, a great day to be a Renegade and most importantly a great day to witness a time-honored Army tradition," said Thomas, after the uncasing and unfurling. "The uncasing of a unit's colors to symbolize their return to home station from a deployment."

His use of the word Thunderbird recognizes the nickname of the brigade the 40th is part of and the Renegade is the nickname of the 40th.

The 40th traces its lineage to World War II when the unit was established on Sept. 21, 1942, as the 40th Signal Construction Battalion, was sent to Europe providing communications cable construction during the campaign to free northern France.

Over the years the battalion has been deactivate and reactivate with it seeing battle during the Vietnam War from Sept. 16, 1966, to June 28, 1972.

The 40th was assigned to Fort Huachuca on Jan. 22, 1973, and since the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the United States has deployed numerous times to the Middle East and Afghanistan.

It recently completed nine-month deployment supported four operations — Spartan Shield, Enduring Freedom, Resolute Support and Inherent Resolve — in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

"In total, the Renegades were deployed to seven countries throughout southwest Asia, supporting a number of different units, and a variety of missions sets," Thomas said. "Regardless of locations these soldiers successfully met every challenge, performed exceptionally, and always went above and beyond the standards set for them."

And while deployed they could not have been successful without the support of the post and Sierra Vista communities, he said.

Taking time to thank the families and those who supported them, Thomas said, "many of the soldiers standing on the parade field have multiple combat tours. But I truly believe it is harder on the family that stays behind than the soldier on the field that goes forward."

With that said he thanked the families for supporting their soldiers as he added, "We can never thank you enough for all that you do."

On Monday the returning soldiers will start a three week leave but before dismissing them Friday Thomas said, "Thank you again for your professionalism and dedication. Command Sgt. Maj. Reinburg and I are proud to serve with you."





Masterful Performances Propel Chefs to Victory

Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold, 11th Sig. Bde PAO
NCOIC & Fort Huachuca PAO

Chefs from 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade, and Network Enterprise Technology Command competed during the 40th annual Military Culinary Arts Competitive Training Event March 7-12 at Fort Lee, Va.

With chefs from various military bases, countries and branches around the U.S., the United Kingdom and Germany, the culinary arts team made up of six chefs from Fort Huachuca was among the 28 teams consisting of 281 culinary professionals competing this year.

Although this is an annual competition, this marks the first time units from Fort Huachuca had participated since 1998. Sgt. 1st Class Donald Stewart, Dining Facility manager, 40th ESB, has been on Fort Huachuca since July 2013 and was familiar with the event.

Always looking for ways to train and mentor Soldiers, he wanted to get his team involved in this unique opportunity.

“I became aware of the funding available for units to come here during the Food Service Management course here,” said Stewart. “I was eager for my Soldiers to experience it and brought it up to the command. With NETCOM’s help, we were able to get the right funding and equipment and the Soldiers are now reaping the benefits.”

With three of the six chefs having only the cooking experience from being in the military for two years or less, the chefs from Fort Huachuca worked together and came ready to make an impact on the competition.

“They trained hard to prepare,” said Stewart. “After working their normal DFAC shifts they trained during their off duty hours to be ready for the competition.”

The head of the team, Staff Sgt. Matthew Flemister, NETCOM, and his experience helped mentor the Soldiers during preparation.

“After high school I went to culinary arts school,” said Flemister. “I worked with a civilian chef for almost 12 years before joining the military.”

The remaining Soldiers, Spc. Andreas Bell, Pfc. Shakira Arnold, Pfc. Louie Burgos, Pfc. Joshua Ruiz and Pfc. Carey Lee, all from 40th ESB, competed in the Patisserie or Hot-Food category respectively.

Adding to the legitimacy of the competition was the fact that the judges were all American Culinary Federation certified and were using the same ACF judging standards.

Even though Flemister was the only member of the team with experience in this type of competition, three other chefs were able to medal in their categories.

Pfc. Arnold has only been a chef in the Army for the past 7 months, but she has been cooking all her life and was confident cooking for the judges.

After making a sweet potato, apple and walnut strudel with ginger maple ice cream in the Patisserie category, she walked away with the silver medal.

“It wasn’t too stressful for me,” said Arnold. “This is my element and what I love to do.”



Staff Sgt. Matthew Flemister, Network Enterprise Technology Command, finishes plating his seasonal pork entrée during the Military Masters Champion category of the 40th annual Military Culinary Arts Competitive Training Event.



Pfc. Carey Lee, 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, prepares his bone-in lamb loin for plating.

Her teammate Bell, who had never cooked with anything more than a microwave before joining the Army, took the gold medal in the category for his strawberry cheesecake with sorbet and basil syrup.

“I was in awe,” said Bell. “I put my all into it. It was a great experience I will never forget.”

After cooking a BBQ duck with black bean corn and relish for the Hot-Food category, Burgos came away with the silver medal for his dish.

It was nerve-racking and exciting at the same time, said Burgos. It was great gaining this experience and also getting to see what chefs can do outside of the DFAC.

Flemister competed in the Military Masters Champion category and received the top honor for his three variations of pork loin.

“I had a game plan coming in and I felt confident that if I stuck to it, I could win,” he said.

Even though two members did not place in the top three, they both received honorable mentions and will learn from the experience and use it for motivation next time around.

The strong noncommissioned officer leadership and dedication from the Soldiers was the perfect recipe for success and made the experience enjoyable for the team.

“I couldn’t be any prouder of our team,” said Flemister. “For their first time competing it’s remarkable for them to have the success they had.”

After a 17 year absence from the competition, the culinary team from Fort Huachuca showed they have what it takes to be a force annually.



Pfc. Burgos finishes preparing his entrée and prepares to take the completed dishes to the judges table.



40th ESB 1st Quarter Hood Hero

Photos: By: Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold



Sgt. Corey Bender was recognized at the first quarterly Hood Hero Award Ceremony and Luncheon of 2015 on Feb. 17 at Club Hood.

Sgt. Bender was recognized by III Corps for winning the III Corps Chef of the Quarter board. He was also recognized by the brigade for his hard work and dedication.

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HHC, 62nd ESB CBRN Training

Story By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold, 11th Sig. Bde PAO NCOIC

Photos By Lt. Jonathan Treft, HHC, 62nd ESB

Spc. Shayna Ebel, HHC, 62nd ESB, finishes making adjustments so her protective mask fits properly. During CBRN training, Soldiers from the 62nd ESB learned how to correctly put on their equipment before entering the chamber.



Approximately 50 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 62nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade, recently participated in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear training at Fort Hood.

When the war in Iraq began and the military forces were concerned with weapons of mass destruction and the use of chemical weapons, CBRN training was a necessity and part of every unit's training program.

Now, Soldiers typically go through the training during their basic training, and don't get to experience it again for a while, especially signal Soldiers.

For Capt. Brandon Brim, company commander, HHC, 62nd ESB, the long layoff from CBRN training was something he felt he needed to change. He seized the opportunity on March 31.

"This training opportunity was important because many of the Soldiers haven't conducted any CBRN-related training since initial entry training," Brim said. "I believe it is important for us to train on CBRN-related tasks to ensure we maintain the necessary skills to protect ourselves in any combat environment."

CBRN training requires Soldiers to use equipment that could save them in situations while deployed or during other critical missions to which they may be assigned.

With often large gaps between CBRN training, Soldiers may sometimes lose familiarity with the equipment, such as how to properly don their protective masks, or how to correctly put on their Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology.

Four years removed from her IET, Spc. Shayna Ebel, HHC, 62nd ESB, had no issues with her CBRN equipment.

"I was very comfortable with my equipment and training before entering," she said. "I have had CBRN training before, just without going to the gas chamber."

Leading up to the CBRN training, Soldiers were given some classes so they could be familiar with the equipment required to navigate the chamber, and that helped Soldiers like Ebel have faith in the equipment they were using.

"The Soldiers were quite comfortable prior to entering the chamber," Brim said. "We provided several classes prior to entering the chamber that allowed the Soldiers to wear and test their gear."

Receiving the training was one thing, but putting it all together and then going into the CBRN chamber was a game changer all together.

After entering the chamber over four years ago in IET, Spc. Soledad Martinez, HHC, 62nd ESB, said she will never forget her first experience.

"Going during basic training back in November 2010 was awful," Martinez said. "They made everyone walk into the chamber single file. Once everyone formed up inside the chamber the drill sergeants instructed the Soldiers to remove their masks and recite the Soldier's Creed. Once that was said and done with, they let everyone out of the chamber."

Being inside the chamber and removing the protective mask is a demanding experience, but it is the only way for Soldiers to feel the possible effects of not having their equipment on, or not having it on properly.

Breathing with the mask on and also not being able to breathe without the mask on inside the chamber was difficult, said Martinez. It was a good experience and good training though overall.

Even though it is never a pleasant experience going through the chamber, the Soldiers involved were happy with the training they received.

“I think the training went well and the instructor did a great job explaining the tasks,” said Ebel.

The training also helped those Soldiers that are actually CBRN trained an opportunity to hone their skills.

“Another positive note was allowing the CBRN Soldiers execute the training plan and develop their confidence in their Military Occupational Specialty. Many times unit level CBRN Soldiers don't get the opportunity to do their job, so this was an outstanding chance to test their skills.”

As always, any opportunity for Soldiers to train is always a plus.

“I think the training was very successful,” said Brim. “Any opportunity to train and improve our skills leads to improving our craft and making us better and more proficient professional Soldiers.”



Pvt. Steve Orellana, HHC, 62nd ESB, releases gas into the chamber to test the readiness of the Soldiers and their equipment during CBRN training March 31 at Fort Hood.



Sgt. 1st Class Alan Chon, HHC, 62nd ESB, makes his way to the door after taking off his protective mask inside the chamber March 31 at Fort Hood.

HHC, 62nd ESB 1st Quarter Hood Hero

Photos: By: Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold



Staff Sgt. Mark Davis was recognized at the first quarterly Hood Hero Award Ceremony and Luncheon of 2015 on Feb. 17 at Club Hood.

Staff Sgt. Davis was recognized by III Corps for going above and beyond and helping to positively contribute to Fort Hood and the surrounding community.

62nd ESB Chef of the Month Competition

Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold, 11th Sig. Bde PAO NCOIC

Staff Sgt. Alexander, Company Charlie, 62nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, organized a Chef of the Month competition at the Always Ready Dining Facility on West Fort Hood on January 30.

This consolidated DFAC has some of the brightest culinary arts specialists in the brigade, and they work tirelessly to provide the Soldiers and leaders that eat there with a great dining experience each and every time they walk through the doors..

The contest was created to highlight the talents of the chefs and prepare them for bigger competitions at III Corps and Fort Lee, Va.

The competition is set-up as a Master's Chef type of contest which even further challenges the chefs. Each month, Staff Sgt. Alexander and his team will think of new ways to test their culinary arts team and ensure they will have to think outside the box to achieve the title of Chef of the Month.



Col. Parks presents Staff Sgt. Alexander with a coin for his hard work and dedication..



The Soldiers prepare their entrée for the Chef of the Month competition.



Spc. Ruffin finishes plating his dish, and prepares to take it out so the judges can taste his entree.



Spc. Brette finishes applying the finishing touches to his dessert..



Spc. Edwards adds a few spices to enhance the flavor of his sauce.



Spc. Joseph finishes off her dessert by adding just the right amount of chocolate syrup..



Command Sgt. Maj. Rambert serves as one of the judges critiquing the chefs meals..



The Soldiers anxiously wait to see who will be crowned the first Chef of the Month.

After the judges tasted the entrees and desserts for all five contestants, Spc. Amon, 62nd ESB, ended up taking the title of Chef of the Month.



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86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Soldier Spotlight

Company Charlie, 86th ESB is the Soldier Spotlight for the week of February 9-13, 2015. The Soldiers, NCOs and Officers built bonds and training standards during a two week Field Training Exercise. The Soldiers came together to support the mission. Every Soldier from private to captain worked tirelessly to ensure mission success.

Company Charlie was able to validate and certify their two Command Post Node teams to standard. The teams growth during this exercise was tremendous. They have worked through multiple challenges and were successful in building strong teams.

As they prepared for the departure of nine out of 12 sergeants in the company in the next 5 months due to Permanent Change of Station, Estimated Time of Separation or retirement, the specialists stepped up and learned high standards and were constantly enforcing them. The specialists in Company Charlie have a new level of motivation and leadership as a result of this most recent exercise.

Staff Sgt. Reddick and Spc. Bridgewater the 92G Soldiers who are not in Photo due to standing over hot ovens and boiling water assisted in keeping the overall morale up during the FTX with providing outstanding **chow** daily.



11th Signal Brigade January Spotlight Soldier

Sgt. King demonstrated a pattern of outstanding performance during the preparation, execution and closeout phases of Operation Clean Sweep 2015. She was able to turn in equipment valued at \$513,903.45.

Sgt. King came to work every day with a positive attitude, prepared and ready to go. She turned in over 600 pieces of organizational and excess property during clean. Without her diligence, dedication and hard work day in and day out, Operation Clean Sweep 2015 would have been unsuccessful.

Sgt. King's tireless work ethic allowed the battalion to gain better control over inventories, excess equipment, and supplies, ensuring deployment readiness. Her efforts during clean sweep improved 86th ESB overall organization property accountability baseline.



Brigade NCO of the Quarter



Sgt. Jorge Hamilton
86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Brigade Soldier of the Quarter



Spc. Jacquelyn Stark
86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

THINGS YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO DO ALONE: **HIKING**

Hiking Tips

Avoid hiking alone because the "buddy system" is safer during any type of activity. If traveling with a group, never stray from the group. If hiking alone, pick a well traveled trail. Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.



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57th ESB NCO Induction Ceremony

Photos By Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold



57th ESB hosted an NCO induction ceremony for NCO's around the brigade.

The NCO induction ceremony is a celebration of the newly promoted joining the ranks of a professional noncommissioned officer corps and emphasizes and builds on the pride we all share as members of such an elite corps.

The ceremony also serves to honor the memory of those men and women of the NCO Corps who have served with pride and distinction.





Soldiers make pledge; take steps towards financial readiness

Story and Photos by- Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold, 11th Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade, participated in a Military Saves week event Feb. 25 at Fort Hood. The event was hosted by the 57th ESB command team, Lt. Col. David W. Gill and Command Sgt. Maj. Maurice Greening, the unit's Command Financial Specialist (CFS), Staff Sgt. Mark Davis, and a personal financial readiness specialist from the Army Community Service (ACS), Sylvia R. Gavin.

An annual event around the military and for units here on Fort Hood, Military Saves week goes from Feb. 23-27 this year, and helps change the way Soldiers and family members look at financial readiness.

Military Saves week works in conjunction with the Department of Defense's Financial Readiness Campaign, said Gavin. The program seeks to motivate, support and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt and build wealth.

As part of the event, Command Sgt. Maj. Greening was "jailed" inside of a makeshift facility in front of the unit and the only way for him to be released was for the Soldiers to take the pledge to save. The magic number set for pledges was 200.

Upon pledging, the Soldiers agreed to help themselves by saving money, reducing debt, and building wealth over time. They were also pledging to help their family members and others to do the same.

Spc. Jennifer L. Parker, 57th ESB, became the 57th Soldier to pledge during the event, and received a comp day from Command Sgt. Maj. Greening for being the 57th pledge in honor of the unit.

Parker was not aware she would be rewarded for pledging and was just looking to help not only her unit, but herself in the process.

"I decided to pledge to support my command sergeant major," said Parks. "I am also trying to become more financially sound."

After over two years as the CFS for 57th ESB, Davis not only gets the Soldiers to take the pledge to save, but has also seen the benefits of pledging himself.

"From personal experience taking the pledge I have been able to reduce debt and increase savings," said Davis. "I have learned about how banks work to better understand how credit reports work hand-in-hand with interest rates and how you're valued as a customer because of your credit score."

Military Saves happens once a year, but the ACS and the CFS representatives around post offer many other avenues for Soldiers and their families to increase their financial situations year round.

ACS and the Army Emergency Relief (AER) can provide no interest loans for those in need, said Davis. There are also one-on-one counseling sessions, Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) classes, and monthly car purchasing, debt management and credit boosting classes.

While working in the financial readiness branch since 2011, Gavin sees the benefits classes such as these provide Soldiers and their families.

"These classes and information are the right tools needed to focus, plan and save for the future," said Gavin.



The members of the 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion's Color guard prepare to march to the school's flagpole to raise the American and Texas flag as part of the school's annual ceremony. .



Staff Sgt. Mark Davis, Command Financial Specialist (CFS), 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, answers some questions a pledging Soldier has about Military Saves week.



Sylvia R. Gavin, personal financial readiness specialist, Fort Hood Army Community Service (ACS), helps Sgt. Matthew Burdell, 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, by answering some financial questions he has.

Being able to help Soldiers everyday as a CFS and also as a Soldier that has taken control of his financial goals, Davis had a few words for other Soldiers.

“Plan a budget that will allow you to save 20% of your earnings and stick to that plan,” said Davis. “Being prepared financially is the key to a successful life, career and retirement.”

Being prepared financially is a goal every Soldier, loved one and family member should strive for. With the help of CFC representatives and the ACS, that goal is closer than ever.

“We have many classes to offer and we want Soldiers to be educated about their personal finances,” said Gavin. “We will bring the classes to the units or you are able to come to our classrooms. Please take advantage of this free information.

As a whole, the Army’s goal was to gain 10,000 pledges. Locally, Fort Hood had a goal of 2000 pledges. The Army surpassed its goal by gaining 11,636, and has extended taking pledges until the end of the month. Fort Hood also reached a higher total of 2522 pledges, and is also still taking pledges.

For more information about Military Saves or any other financial programs ACS has to offer, please contact Sylvia R. Gavin at 254-288-6868.

57th ESB 1st Quarter Hood Hero

Photos: By: Staff Sgt. Kelvin Ringold



Sgt. Richard Murphy was recognized at the first quarterly Hood Hero Award Ceremony and Luncheon of 2015 on Feb. 17 at Club Hood.

Sgt. Murphy was recognized by III Corps for going above and beyond and helping to positively contribute to Fort Hood and the surrounding community. He was also Recognized by the brigade for his dedication and selfless service.



57th ESB NCO of the Quarter



Sgt. Shelby L. Christensen



As a kid, I had two dreams. My first dream was to become a pilot and fly; my second was to own a motorcycle. After starting flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama, I finally had the money to make that second dream come true and bought a Kawasaki Ninja ZX-6R.



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PMV-2 MISHAP'S CLAIM SOLDIER'S LIVES:

Soldier on transitional leave died from injuries sustained in a private motor vehicle (PMV-2) crash that occurred on 7 November 2014, at approximately 1800 local, in Waynesville, MO. The 47-year-old SFC was operating his motorcycle when he was struck by a four-wheeled vehicle. The Soldier was wearing a helmet and was pronounced dead at the scene.

A Missouri Army National Guard Soldier died from injuries sustained in a private motor vehicle (PMV-2) crash that occurred on 28 September 2014, at approximately 0530 local, in Aurora, MO. The 59-year-old SGT was operating a 1992 Honda motorcycle en route to his drill location when he lost control on a curve and struck a tree. The Soldier was wearing a helmet and was pronounced dead at the scene. The Soldier was reportedly not licensed for motorcycles and had not taken the MSF Course.

Soldier died from injuries sustained in a private motor vehicle (PMV-2) crash that occurred on 6 September 2014, at approximately 0245 local, in Vicenza. The 26-year-old SPC was operating 2005 Honda CBR 600RR when he struck the rear end of a commercial truck. He was ejected from the motorcycle and was struck by a second vehicle while he was on the roadway. Soldier was pronounced dead at the scene. He was trained and wearing full PPE.

ANOTHER SOLDIER LOST



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Assume that ANYONE can see any information about your activities, personal life, or professional life that you post and share.

Ensure that your family takes similar precautions with their accounts; their privacy and sharing settings can expose your personal data.

Avoid posting or tagging images of you or your family that clearly show your face. Select pictures taken at a distance, at an angle, or otherwise concealed. Never post Smartphone photos and don't use your face as a profile photo, instead, use cartoons or avatars.

Use secure browser settings when possible and monitor your browsing history to ensure that you recognize all access points.

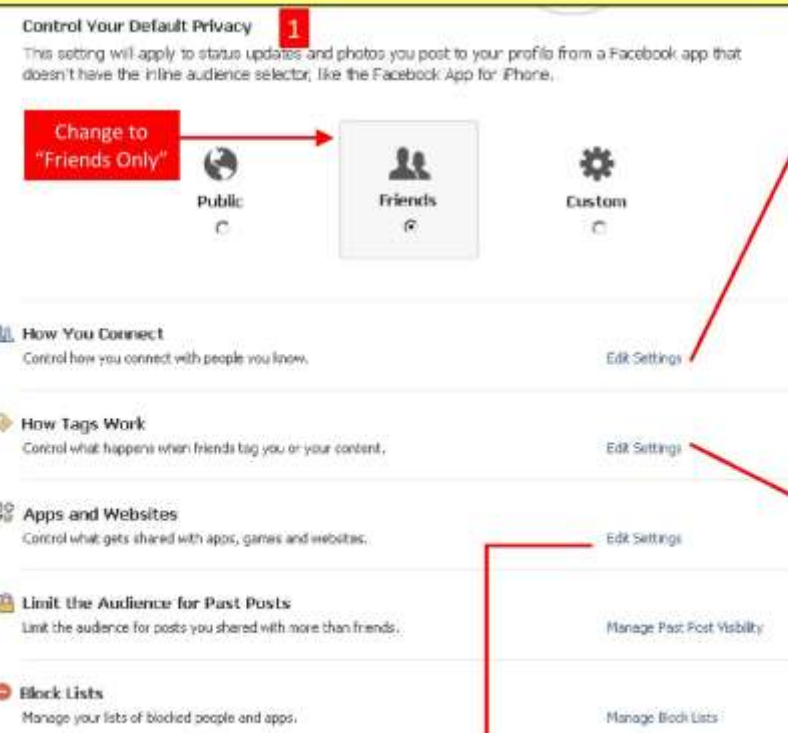
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Access Facebook Privacy Setting Here

Facebook has hundreds of privacy and sharing options. To control how your personal information is shared, you should use the settings shown below (such as *Only Me*, *Friends Only*) for (1) **Privacy**, (2) **Connecting**, (3) **Tags**, (4) **Apps/Websites**, (5) **Info Access through Friends**, and (6) **Past Posts**.





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Jason Smith
Born on May 25, 1978

Work and Education
Employer: Where have you worked?
College/University: Where did you go to college/university?
High School: Where did you go to high school?

Arts and Entertainment
Share Your Interests: Add Music, Add Books, Add Movies, Add TV Shows, Add Games

Activities and Interests
Other: Sakin, NPR Music, Words With Friends

Basic Information
Sex: Male

Contact Information
Email: jason.smith7825@yahoo.com
Add / Remove Emails
Screen Names: AIM
Add another screen name
Phone: Mobile, United
Add another phone
Address: City/Town, Zip, Neighborhood
Website

Privacy Settings (indicated by red boxes and arrows):
 - Work and Education: Change to Only Me
 - Arts and Entertainment: Change to Friends Only
 - Basic Information: Change to Only Me
 - Contact Information: Change to Only Me
 - Screen Names: Change to Only Me
 - Phone: Change to Friends Only
 - Address: Change to Only Me
 - Website: Change to Friends Only

Other Settings (indicated by red boxes and arrows):
 - Music: Change to Friends Only
 - Books: Change to Friends Only
 - Movies: Change to Friends Only
 - Television: Change to Friends Only
 - Games: Change to Friends Only
 - Activities: Change to Friends Only
 - Interests: Change to Friends Only
 - Current City: Change to Only Me
 - Hometown: Change to Only Me
 - I Am: Male
 - Show my sex in my profile: ☒
 - Birthday: May 25 1978
 - Show my full birthday in my profile: ☐ Show Birthday
 - Interested In: ☐ Women ☐ Men
 - Languages: Change to Friends Only
 - About Me: Change to Friends Only

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Security Settings

Secure Browsing	Secure Browsing is currently disabled.	100
Login Notifications	Login notifications are disabled.	100
Login Approvals	Approvals are not required when logging in from recognized devices.	100
Recognized Devices	No recognized devices.	100
Active Sessions	Logged in from New York, NY, 10 and 2 other locations.	100

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To **delete your Facebook account**, go to **Help Center** from the account menu. Type **Delete** into the search box. Select **How do I permanently delete my account** then scroll down to submit your request here. Verify that you want to delete your account. Click **Submit**. FB will remove your data after 14 days post security check.

Useful Links

A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety
Wired Kids
Microsoft Safety & Security
OnGuard Online

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www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/social-networking.aspx
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