



# NEWSLETTER

## The Signal Strike

*Ready Lightning!*

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### *160<sup>th</sup> Story Feature*



*The 160th Signal Brigade conducted an official change of command ceremony Aug. 4, 2016 in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, formally oversaw by Brig. Gen. Stephen Hager, the commanding general of the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional.*

### *INSCOM Story Feature*



*Brig. Gen. Robert Michnowicz, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Intelligence Security Command, and Sergeant Maj. Michael Quinn, INSCOM's operations sergeant major, visited soldiers of the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, Aug. 8-11, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.*

### *Featured Photo*



*Shown right, Master Sgt. Mark Tripp (front) and Pfc. Juan Rodriguez (rear) respond as a quick reactionary force to Camp Arifjan's perimeter during a training exercise for base security.*

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# 160th Signal Brigade Change of Command

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By 1st Lt. Tara Matchulat, 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**— The 160th Signal Brigade said farewell in August to their highly respected commander of two years, Col. Duane Green, and welcomed a new brigade commander to take over, Col. Kevin Griggs. The official change of command ceremony took place Aug. 4, 2016 in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and was formally oversaw by Brig. Gen. Stephen Hager, the commanding general of the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional. Hager took the brigade's colors from Green and passed them to Griggs, symbolizing his trust in Griggs' to take charge and lead the brigade forward.



The traditional passing of the colors between outgoing and incoming commanders. Col. Duane Green (right), Brig. Gen. Stephen Hager (center), and Col. Kevin Griggs (left).

Under Green's leadership, the brigade consistently placed a heavy emphasis on soldier readiness. Because of his focus to stress the importance on always being ready no matter the situation, the 160th possesses a reputation throughout U.S. Army Central Command, as a highly reliable organization, comprised of professionals. This is quite a feat for a brigade that rotates twenty five percent of its workforce every quarter.



Col. Duane Green (left) and Brig. Gen. Stephen Hager (right) prior to the start of the ceremony Aug. 4, 2016 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The brigade perfected the onboarding of new personnel to its missions seamlessly, and were additionally recognized by Network Enterprise Command for developing a thorough training system, which allows new soldiers to quickly integrate into its ranks. Green's next assignment takes him to Washington D.C. to serve as the deputy director of information technology services on the J-6 staff at the Pentagon.

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The new brigade commander, Col. Kevin Griggs is a native of Hartsville, South Carolina. He possesses a range of expertise in the information technology realm, and most recently served as the chief of the enterprise services division in Stuttgart, Germany for U.S. Africa Command. He holds a proven track record of outstanding military signal experience coupled with a background in academia, as he holds a



Col. Kevin Griggs, new commander of the 160th Signal Brigade, giving remarks at the Change of Command Ceremony Aug. 4, 2016 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

master's degree in telecommunications management from Webster University. Having commanded signal professionals at every level, Griggs was an easy selection to take over the signal brigade. His challenge going forward lies in maintaining the 160th Signal Brigade's motto to ensure the unit remains, "*the finest of the first.*"



Col. Kevin Griggs (left), Brig. Gen. Stephen Hager (center), and Col. Duane Green (right) standing together at the conclusion of the Change of Command Ceremony Aug. 4, 2016 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

# U.S. Army Intelligence & Security Command Team Visits Kuwait

By 1st Lt. Tara Matchulat, 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**— Brig. Gen. Robert Michnowicz, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Intelligence Security Command, and Sgt. Maj. Michael Quinn, INSCOM's operations sergeant major, visited the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, Aug. 8-11, 2016 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. U.S. Army Intelligence Security Command plays a leading role in cybersecurity, which strongly connects them to the 335th Signal Command. The two forces work together to enhance network security measures throughout the world's largest domain, the cyber domain.

Cyberspace remains the most difficult domain to protect because the enemy can operate within it from anywhere in the world. As a former tanker in the Army's cavalry, Michnowicz explained the importance of maintaining the advantage in the cyber world during a professional development class to soldiers of the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional and the 513th Theater Intelligence Brigade.

"Cyberspace is a component of maneuver space. We need to take and maintain the initiative, supporting the Army core competency of combined arms maneuver in the cyber environment. *Semper en hostes!* (always into the enemy)," said Michnowicz.

INSCOM began a pilot program, October 2015, to address the issue of accurate intelligence reporting on cyber threats. Partnered with the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, the two commands successfully stood up a theater-defensive cyberspace operational intelligence support team.



Brig. Gen. Michnowicz and Sgt. Quinn conduct a leaders' professional development during lunch, Aug. 10, 2016 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

This T-DCOIS team consists of intelligence analysts and network professionals, who accurately track and assess the enemies' capabilities, techniques, and procedures operating in cyberspace.

Brig. Gen. Michnowicz leads an instructional professional development class to soldiers of the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, Aug. 11, 2016 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



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Additionally, INSCOM continues to fund necessary intelligence training for IT professionals on the use of intelligence systems where they can track adversarial actions and protect the American public. During the trip to Kuwait, Michnowicz and Quinn received a tour of the construction site for a new secured facility building where the T-DCOIS team will operate to collect and analyze data sets.

Collaborating efforts between the U.S. Army's signal and intelligence communities are achieving sizable feats in securing the cyber domain and protecting the American public with their combined T-DCOIS team of professionals. Together, through their continued partnerships, these teams will not only keep the DOD network secure, but will ultimately provide an advantage in cyber operations.



Staff Sgt. Pedro Aleman III, a project manager assigned to the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, receives a coin from Brig. Gen. Robert Michnowicz for his attention to detail in maintaining the security of the command's Facebook page from suspected terrorists, Aug. 11, 2016.



Lt. Col. William Bardon Jr, deputy director of the Southwest Asia Cyber Center, takes the opportunity to ask Brig. Gen. Michnowicz a question during his leaders' professional development class to the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, Aug. 11, 2016.



Brig. Gen. Robert Michnowicz introduces himself to members of the Southwest Asia Cyber Center, Aug. 9, 2016, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Capt. You Li, a watch officer assigned to the Southwest Asia Cyber Center, giving Brig. Gen. Robert Michnowicz a tour and briefing him on the network setup, Aug. 9, 2016, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

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## Commanding General Hosts a Key Leaders' Engagement with Kuwaiti Forces

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By 1st Lt. Tara Matchulat, 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**— Brig. Gen. Stephen Hager, the commanding general of the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional and the U.S. Army Central Command G-6, hosted a key leaders' engagement with members of the Kuwaiti J-6 directorate, Aug. 24, 2016 in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The two parties' discussion centered on fostering their current relationship and enhancing it by conducting additional training exercises together more frequently in the future. Brig. Gen. Mohammad Al Enezi, the Kuwaiti J-6, and his Deputy Director Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ahmad Al-Kandri expressed their excitement to learn from the U.S. Army Central Command G-6 team.

The Kuwaiti J-6 is a young organization, having only been in-place for a year. They hope to seek more joint training opportunities with the U.S. in order to learn tactics, techniques, and procedures in the signal realm and increase their operational efficiency. During the key leaders' engagement, the U.S. extended an invitation to a future cybersecurity training exercise for the Kuwaitis to observe and learn network security techniques.

Additionally, the two Kuwaiti leaders displayed eagerness in hosting a future meeting with U.S. G-6 team members at their work site, which is located at a Kuwaiti base nearby. The command is devoted to fostering its relationship with its host nation and is excited to help the Kuwaiti J-6 team grow in its capacity.



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## U.S. Army Central Signal University

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By 1st Lt. Tara Matchulat, 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**— U.S. Army Central's Signal University is brought to soldiers by the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, headquartered in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The Signal University offers numerous training courses that result in highly desirable certifications in commercial networking and information technology. Students throughout U.S. Army Central Command's area of operations have the opportunity to sign up and take a variety of classes while serving overseas. These classes assist soldiers in bridging the gap between the military and the civilian sector's communication and automation technology that's used throughout the theater.

In the past two months, Army Central Signal University has provided sustainment training and certifications to soldiers across multiple countries. The university sent Mobile Testing Centers and Mobile Training Teams to Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and Camp Al Jaber, Kuwait, which resulted in the graduation of 460 soldiers, who gained certifications in signal related courses. Additionally, 65 soldiers were credentialed as certified project management professionals. The demand for courses is so great, that the command's G-4 and university's commandant and non-commissioned officer-in-charge are working together to buildout additional classroom facilities at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



The ARCENT Signal University Commandant, Capt. Jose Ventura and his Non-commissioned Officer in Charge, Master Sgt. John Fields in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Col. Annie Murchison, chief of staff for the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, speaks at an Army Central Signal University graduation ceremony Sep. 2, 2016 in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



Army Central Signal University instructors give a tour of their classroom facilities to Command Sergeant Major James Wills, the command sergeant major of U.S. Army Reserve Command, during his trip to Kuwait, May 18, 2016.



Master Sgt. John Fields (left), the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of Army Central Signal University, Command Sergeant Major James Wills (center), the command sergeant major of U.S. Army Reserve Command, and Staff Sgt. Ryan Klagenburg, Army Central Command University's operations non-commissioned officer, discuss opportunities offered by the university during Wills travel to Kuwait May 18, 2016.



Command Sergeant Major James Wills (right), the command sergeant major of U.S. Army Reserve Command, presenting a coin to Staff Sgt. Ryan Klagenburg (left), Army Central Command University's operations non-commissioned officer, for his outstanding leadership and services to the university's students May 18, 2016.

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## G-4 Contributions to the Force

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By 1st Lt. Tara Matchulat, 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**— Almost every mission performed by the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional involves assistance from the G-4 staff section. These personnel have been instrumental in providing updated communications infrastructure across the U.S. Army Central Command area of operations, which consists of 20 countries.

The staff section is led by Col. Jesse McCurley, who previously deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait while serving as U.S. Army Reserve Command's G-4 liaison officer from August 2010 to September 2012. McCurley brings an array of experience to the team, having served for over 36 years in the U.S. Army. Under his leadership, the G-4 has consistently provided oversight and management of the acquisition, storage, and movement of the command's signal assets for both the 335th Signal Command's subordinate units and U.S. Army Central Command's subordinate units across the theater of operations.

Since Detachment 10's arrival in theater, the G-4 has coordinated 300 air transportation movements of personnel traveling across Southwest Asia and coordinated cargo shipments worth over \$800 million. This staff section supplied units under U.S. Army Central Command with over 1,100 voice over IP telephones so soldiers could properly communicate and leaders could effectively conduct mission command.

Notably, the G-4 acquired a warehouse for the command's technical engineers to use and build network infrastructure. This facility has been vital in allowing the command to engineer communications equipment and test its functionality prior to distributing the gear throughout U.S. Army Central Command area of operations. Before the G-4 secured the use of this building, the command only had availability of a small, rundown warehouse to store vital equipment worth more than \$40 million. This previously used area had no air conditioning, which greatly damaged the life-cycle of the highly expensive gear. Thanks to the G-4's procurement, the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional is now able to engineer, integrate, test, and distribute tactical and strategic communications equipment in less than 30 days, which formerly took as long as five months.

Col. Jesse  
McCurley,  
the  
command  
G-4 of the  
335th  
Signal  
Command  
Theater  
Provisional





The G-4 staff section consists of six personnel. Fortunately, two of its members will stay in rotation for the next detachment. Capt. Solomon Preko, the G-4 operations officer-in-charge, serves in the Active Component and will assist the next detachment in its transition in taking over operations. 1st. Lt. Vchi Vue, the G-4 transportation officer-in-charge, is a traditional Reservist who has volunteered to extend in order to help the new detachment as well. The command is grateful for all that the G-4 accomplishes and is happy to have professionals such as these within its ranks.



1st. Lt. Vchi Vue (left), Col. Jesse McCurley (center), and Capt. Solomon Preko (right).



G-4 Team Left to Right: Master Sgt. Iris Everett, Sgt. Darian Russell, Col. Jesse McCurley, Sgt. 1st. Class Lisa Lee, Capt. Solomon Preko, and 1st. Lt. Vchi Vue.

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## Greetings from the Command Chaplain

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By 1st CH (LTC) Dan Knaup, 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**— Greetings 335th Team, Family, and Friends!

Detachment 10 has reached its 90-day mark remaining in theater (God willing!), so I'd like to share with our family and friends a quote that I briefed in last week's command and staff meeting,

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree” (Martin Luther).

To quietly and peacefully go about our business sometimes requires great courage and strength of will. Events in the world, or in our lives overseas, or back at home, may make us want to scream and wail, tear our hair out, or beat our heads against a wall. As some of us near the homestretch in our deployment, we might be tempted to look ahead to the end and forget about the task at hand. However, I do not see our soldiers doing any of these things, but instead they square their shoulders, look straight ahead, and carry out their assigned, daily routines, focused on the mission here and now. As human beings, we try to restore normality to what sometimes feels like chaos.

We all admire people who just keep going without bragging or making a big deal out of it. We can be one of those people too. I will try to enjoy this moment just where I am at. I will live in this moment just as it is, knowing that it will make the ending that much more satisfying! To our soldiers, keep your heads up, and to our families and friends, rejoice in knowing that soon you will be reunited with your deployed loved ones back on the home front.

Keep up the positive motivation and God Bless!



Sgt. 1st. Class Gretchen Sedoff (far left), command sexual assault response coordinator and CH (LTC) Dan Knaup (center), command chaplain, posing together with soldiers during their visit to Qatar, Sep. 3, 2016.

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## Command Congratulations

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By 1st Lt. Tara Matchulat, 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait**— The 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional extends a warm congratulations to our soldiers and their families who have reason to celebrate recent joyous occasions and achievements. We are proud of our families and our professionals. Keep up the good work!



Shown above, Angelise Garcia sprinting into the homestretch during her 5k race and winning a placement medal.

The command extends congratulations to Staff Sgt. Richard Garcia, a G-3/7 projects non-commissioned officer for the 335th Signal Command (T) (P), whose daughter, Angelise Garcia, recently won a medal in the Marana Solstice Invitational during the 5k race. Angelise is a 15-year-old sophomore and co-captain of her school's cross-country team. She is not only talented in athletics but also in academics, and has earned a 4.0 grade point average by challenging herself and taking advanced placement classes in Chemistry, History, and English. As the class leader of her school's Naval JROTC Command, her goals include one day attending the U.S. Naval Academy. We wish you the best of luck Angelise and are certain you will reach that goal! The U.S. Armed Forces would benefit greatly by having you as one of its leaders.



Congratulations Sgt. Maj. Carol Hymes, sergeant major of the Southwest Asia Cyber Center, whose daughter, Teairra Hymes, graduated from Sam Houston State University, Aug. 6, 2016 with a Bachelor's in Accounting, Banking and Finance. The command is proud of your hardwork and studious achievements that led to your baccalaureate degree. Best of luck in your future endeavors and keep up the great work!

Teairra Hymes (far left) with her mother, Sgt. Maj. Carol Hymes (right) at her graduation ceremony from Sam Houston State University.

Shown below, Sgt. Christine Clark, of the Southwest Asia Cyber Center, was presented an Army Achievement Medal from the 335th Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Stephen Hager, for her fast and efficient processing of cyber incidents while working in the defensive cyber operations division. Sgt. Clark has proven herself as a phenomenal leader and was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant after completing the basic leader course in Camp

Buehring, Kuwait.



Spc. Christine Clark (right) with 1st. Sgt. John Burt, first sergeant of the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional.



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Lt. Col. Jason Dickinson, G-2 for the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, proudly shared his excitement with the command after his son completed a youth leadership program at Wentworth Military Academy this summer. Ashton Dickinson, excelled during his time at the military camp, where he stood out by exceeding physical fitness standards and was presented a presidential fitness award, the National Physical Fitness Award, upon completion of the program. Ashton also recently celebrated his thirteenth birthday, Aug. 7, and the command wishes him a Happy Belated Birthday!



Spc. Benjamin Baneck (shown left), blackboard administrator assigned to the Southwest Asia Cyber Center, demonstrated outstanding technical expertise by raising the unit's training compliance by 97 percent. Baneck's standardization of the administration page allowed users to navigate faster and more easily through the website. Additionally, his provided training guidance ensured all personnel were familiar with enrolling in online courses and how to keep track of their training. The command thanks Spc. Baneck for his assistance in making the Southwest Asia Cyber Center run more efficiently.

Vicki Stouffer, wife of CH (Lt. Col.) Daniel Knaup, recently accepted a new position as the assistant dean for medical school development at Central Michigan University. Reporting directly to the Dean, she will be leading the team responsible for the external affairs of the new medical school. Vicki comes to CMU from her previous position as the associate dean for development at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.



The command wishes a Happy Anniversary to Master Sgt. Jon Fields, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Signal University, and his wife, Christine Fields, who are celebrating their second wedding anniversary today, Sep. 20, 2016. We are all motivated by your genuine love and support to one another, especially during times of separation while deployed. Happy Anniversary you two!



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Col. Christopher Mason, G-1 for the 335th Signal Command Theater Provisional, was promoted to the rank of colonel Jul. 23, 2016 by Commanding General Brig. Gen. Stephen Hager. The promotion to O-6 in the U.S. Army is a high achievement and honor and the command is lucky to have officers of his caliber leading the ranks. Congratulations Col. Mason!



**Congratulations!**

