

THE NETCOM VOICE

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WINTER/SPRING 2014



IT TAKES THE
VOICE OF THE **ARMY**

TO
ENABLE
OUR

*Globally Responsive,
Regionally Engaged Force*



U.S. ARMY

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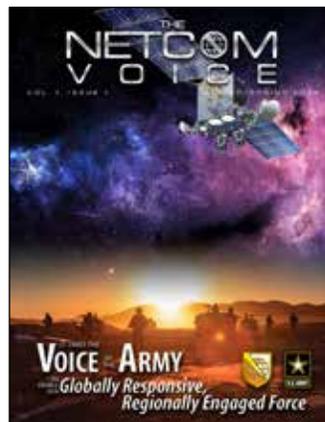
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ON THE COVER

Cover Image: It takes NETCOM's full complement of personnel, and ground and space-based capabilities to support the total force – at home station or wherever they are forward-stationed or deployed. (U.S. Army illustration by Lawrence Boyd)



THE NETCOM VOICE

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CG's Corner

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the "NETCOM Voice". I am honored to usher in this first issue as your commander. This timeless name reflects our mission and is a constant reminder that NETCOM truly is the Voice of the Army! On 1 March this command celebrates its 50th Birthday. Fifty years ago, NETCOM's predecessor, Strategic Communications Command (STRATCOM), was activated at various locations around Washington, D.C. It's astounding to reflect on just how far NETCOM, the Army and the Nation have progressed in the Information Technology realm since this command's inception. Dr. Mills, our Command Historian, prepared an informative article highlighting key historical events since 1 March 1964, impacted by many on the current NETCOM team, and by the many who came before us. See his Historian Corner in this edition.

The theme for this inaugural issue is, "Globally Responsive and Regionally Engaged". I encourage you to read about some of the exciting new capabilities and stage setting events across our world-wide command, including the ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Regional Cyber Centers in Southwest Asia (SWA) and the Continental United States (CONUS); the activation of the newly formed Cyber Mission Brigade and multiple Cyber Protect Teams at Fort Gordon; and other feature articles highlighting the latest advancements in technology and service delivery, policies, issues and trends that enable and focus our efforts.

As we plan to welcome Brigadier General John Morrison and his wife, Ann, to assume the leadership of NETCOM, our priorities continue to guide us as we press forward to maintain irreversible momentum and continuity throughout 2014. These priorities are:

1. **Developing Adaptive Army Leaders for a Complex World** – Develop leaders of character to lead our Army and the Signal Regiment well into the future.
2. **Globally Responsive and Regionally Engaged** – Enable mission command for our Army to win the current fight and respond to any global contingencies; provide a dependable, secure, and responsive LandWarNet as a utility for daily Army operations and business.
3. **Ready and Modern Army** – Optimize NETCOM force structure, technology and processes to enable Army 2020, LandWarNet 2020, and the Joint Information Environment (JIE).
4. **Committed to Our Army Profession** – Build strong bonds of trust and positive relationships with ARCYBER, CIO/G-6, DISA, ASA/ALT, INSCOM, community partners and other key stake holders to deliver advanced IT and Cyber capabilities for our Army.
5. **Premier All Volunteer Army** – Enable and empower a ready, resilient and disciplined team of Soldiers, Civilians, and Families.

Your experience, knowledge and skills are absolutely critical for NETCOM to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us. NETCOM and the entire Army endured a multitude of complex challenges over the past year, to include sequestration, furloughs, a government shutdown, a hiring freeze, and fiscal uncertainty. Through it all, we achieved unprecedented success in modernization efforts and building capacity to improve overall network security. This was due to the great leadership and collaboration of the entire NETCOM team. Your dedication and professionalism ensured NETCOM was hugely successful in accomplishing its missions over the past year, and have set the conditions to embrace the year ahead.

Enjoy this issue of your NETCOM Voice. I appreciate all of your sacrifices and contributions on behalf of NETCOM, our Army and our Nation.



Brig. Gen. Peter A. Gallagher

Voice of the Army! Army Strong!

CSM's Corner

Team NETCOM, I too want to welcome you to this first edition of *The NETCOM Voice*. Throughout 2014 I'm confident we will meet every challenge, as we did in 2013. Just like last year, your professionalism and dedication will prove key to accomplishing all of NETCOM's assigned Army missions.

The Army needs each of us to continue to strive for excellence in all that you do. Our global responsibility to provide, operate, maintain and defend the Army's Network Enterprise is more essential now than at any time in our history. So, I urge each of you to take advantage of every training opportunity for personal and professional growth.

In this issue the commander shares his priorities for NETCOM. One key priority is to ensure our great team of hardworking professionals remains healthy, both physically and spiritually. Balancing a work life and non-work life is something each of us must do.

It is important we realize how important the support of our family is to the success of our mission and our Army Profession. At every Army Post, Camp and Station are services and support systems to help you and your family gain the strength and resilience necessary for the Army life we lead. Use these support systems – they are for you.

In the upcoming year, I look forward to meeting and working with all of you to meet every challenge and achieve the same high level of success that NETCOM is known for.

I am honored to bring you this first issue of *The NETCOM Voice* as your Command Sergeant Major. May the New Year bring the best to all of you, as we continue to provide the Army with a secure, capable and cost effective Network Enterprise.



Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Allen

Voice of the Army! Army Strong!



U.S. Army photo by Gordon Van Vleet

Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Allen, NETCOM command sergeant major, speaks at the end of the NETCOM Prayer Luncheon, Sept. 10, at the Thunder Mountain Activity Centre.

Signal Battalion defies convention during deployment

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Veronica Place

Company A, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (October 18, 2013) – There are endless opportunities to learn in a deployed environment. For a tactical signal company platoon leader, recognizing opportunities to learn is more than a desire; it's an absolute necessity.

Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Schweinfurt, Germany, were well versed and trained on the various nodes as well as all of the accompanying equipment necessary to deploy a Direct Signal Support Team (DSST) into an unknown environment and provide tactical communication systems. Falling in on an existing strategic network in a deployed environment, however, was unknown to this DSST and presented quite a challenge.

While the unknown is usually feared, this particular DSST contained some of the most promising

young Soldiers the Army has to offer. These Soldiers jumped into the mission in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, which was operating and maintaining a strategic signal network for all forward operating base assets. While none of these Soldiers had been specifically trained for this mission, they were trained to learn and embrace every opportunity to learn. The DSST was not only exposed to a new environment by being deployed, they also saw a whole new side of the Army's signal profession.

"Alpha Company, 72nd normally performs a tactical mission supporting up to eight maneuver battalions and two brigade headquarters," said Lt. Col. Hugh P. McCauley, commander, 72nd ESB.

The DSST focused on learning the daily routine as quickly as possible to provide a seamless transition in mission accomplishment for the units on the ground. The Outside Plant (OSP) team carried one of the highest workloads in Afghanistan. Since the DSST lacked a variety of military occupational specialties, the Soldiers were forced to cross train into the cable systems installer-maintainer (25L) positions. The information technology specialists (25B) were able to jump into work quickly as help desk technicians, working with customers to troubleshoot, create accounts, base-line machines and ensure trouble ticket requests were created in the system accurately.

"I am so proud of these Soldiers for performing so well in combat in such a non-standard mission," said McCauley.

For the DSST officer in charge and the DSST noncommissioned officer in charge, this type of working environment provided different obstacles. Learning to work with brigade signal assets, while remaining outside the sphere of the brigade's influence, was often a challenge. Although this was an uncommon working situation, the OIC and NCOIC were able to show the brigade the benefit of having an independent DSST available to the FOB. This allowed the DSST to focus more on ensuring all units on the FOB had adequate communication systems.

One of the many benefits of running the strategic network on a FOB is the network of professional acquaintances that are available. The DSST Soldiers were able to cross train with brigade Soldiers on radio equipment and tactical equipment. Soldiers were also able to meet with military members from



Pfc. Don Sumic, Outside Plant technician with Company A, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, conducts a class on cable installation for some of his fellow Soldiers.

See "Deployment," on page 15



Spc. Sean Murray, 56th Signal Company, ensures the destruction of equipment is thorough.

U.S. Army photo

First In, Last Out

160th Signal Brigade Soldiers Conclude Operations in Iraq

By Capt. LaToya C. Hall
56th Signal Company

(Editor's Note: Though many of the media reported the last U.S. troops departed Iraq in Dec. 2011, the reality is that it was the last of the combat troops who departed. Since that time, there has been a very limited number of support personnel on the ground, which included Signal Soldiers.)

The Signal Corps is consistently counted on to be first on the ground and the last to leave. The United States mission in Iraq was no exception to this rule. For 18 months, the 160th Signal Brigade has continued to run communication operations in Iraq to support the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq (OSC-I) and officially culminated at the start of 2014.

In April 2012, the 50th Expeditionary Signal Battalion transferred authority to the 54th Signal Battalion in Kuwait as the Signal support for the Iraq mission. The 56th Signal Company, entrusted to perform a mission formerly performed by a battalion while still operating and maintaining the region's Standard Tactical

Entry Point site and Regional Hub Node, focused on providing Network Operations Center support, contract oversight, OSC-I customer support, and closure of Department of Defense sites (former Technical Control Facilities).

The 56th Signal Company teamed up with the 54th Signal Battalion's contractor workforce to operate eight sites in Iraq. The 56th representatives specialized in contractor oversight and ensured the contractors covered all performance objectives, operated in the scope of the contract, and maintained a cooperative business relationship with the customer.

Over the course of 18 months, the unit rotated six technical monitors and two Soldiers through the country of Iraq to provide hands on support. The first two monitors, Capt. Chris C. Causey and Staff Sgt. Alan S. McMillion, conducted the initial inventory of all equipment during the fall of 2012, which was imperative to the success of future TMs. In January 2013, the 56th Signal Company completed a closure plan for each TCF, executed by the four subsequent monitors: Staff Sgt. Bradley S. Greene, Staff Sgt. Jonathan W. White, Staff

Sgt. Isaac D. Sims, and Staff Sgt. Markes O. Johnson. The plan required the monitors to notify local customers pending closure, submitting Communication System Requirements Document, inventorying equipment, submitting “Diplomatic Notes” required by the Iraqi government for shipping the equipment, submitting all transportation moves for equipment, transitioning local communication from strategic communication to tactical communication, and maintaining accountability of all contractors as they departed the country.

These Soldiers had to possess exceptional interpersonal skills as they were working with field grade and General Officers. Finally, before departing a site, the monitors were responsible for decommissioning the SIPR/NIPR Access Point (SNAP) terminals and ensuring all contractors had departed.

The monitors ensured the performance of all duties mentioned above for site closures while simultaneously preparing for the future TCF closures. Greene and White closed two sites during the spring of 2013 and transferred one site during the summer of 2013 to the Department of State. During this entire process, the monitors consistently informed all property book managers from the company to brigade of all property moves, destructions, and shipments. The equipment identified to return to Kuwait was reutilized for other missions in the U.S. Central Command Combined Joint Operation Area.

Although the customer’s requirements and expectations varied often as closure timelines approached, the unit maintained situational awareness, which enabled 56th Signal Company to modify the network to fit the customer’s needs. When the customer requested continued service on the Iraq domain as the 56th closed the main Iraq Tech Control Facility, the 56th Signal Company coordinated outside support for a solution to this issue. 160th Signal Brigade and 335th Signal Command (Theater)(Provisional) engineered, developed, and installed a continuation of the Iraq network in the Technical Control Facility in Kuwait. The monitors provided all necessary data to the installation team and facilitated all customer support that became necessary with this transition. With network continuity in place, Johnson and Sims, augmented by Spc. Leo Westhusin and Spc. Sean Murray, continued the mission to prepare for the other five site closures.

In the last three months, the monitors’

jobs consisted of destroying and packing equipment, submitting necessary paperwork, and providing contract oversight. When contractor support dwindled before the site closure date, the Soldiers took on the additional duty of operating and maintaining the SNAP terminals. In early December 2013, Sims closed and departed Iraq. In January 2014, the last NETCOM Soldier, Johnson, departed Iraq.

All of this was completed while maintaining a unique relationship with OSC-I. The 160th Signal Brigade operated and maintained the network, but the customer counted on the OSC-I J-6 (Signal) to provide network support. The 56th Signal Company “maintained a seat at the table” and bridged communications between the communications provider and the customer. Maintaining these relationships enabled 56th to understand the requirements and expectations at each site. The Soldiers all left with an increased understanding of the importance of building positive business relationships, managing customer expectations, accountability, and working with personnel from all military service components. As customer expectations change, it not only shifted the timeline, but it also affected contract requirements, equipment, and the architecture of the network.

Soldiers of the 56th Signal Company understood the importance of the Iraq mission and executed above and beyond for mission success. Many of their lessons learned were used in preparation for the current network retrograde in Afghanistan. ❖



U.S. Army photo

Staff Sgt. Jonathan White, 56th Signal Company, takes inventory of computer workstations and servers. Officially, Johnson was the last NETCOM Soldier to leave Iraq in January 2014.

Army Reserve Command's senior enlisted Soldier welcomes future leaders

Story by Staff Sgt. Joy Dulen

335th Signal Command (Theater)

EAST POINT, Ga. – The 335th Signal Command (Theater) welcomed nine Soldiers into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps during an induction ceremony in East Point, Ga., on Nov. 3.

The Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Induction Ceremony is a proud tradition that dates back to the beginning of the Army and marks the transition of Soldiers from junior-enlisted to junior NCOs. Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Thomas, Jr., United States Army Reserve Command Sgt. Maj. and Laurinburg, N.C., native, attended the ceremony after spending the day with troops. He said leadership is critical as we transition from an army of war to an army of preparation, and NCOs must provide that leadership.

“Making the transition from enlisted Soldier to noncommissioned officer is one of the most drastic changes a Soldier may experience in their entire military career,” Thomas stated. “It changes the dynamic of what will be expected of them from this point forward, most critically the fact that they are now responsible for the lives, actions, equipment and duty of the Soldiers they lead.”

Thomas took part in the ceremony that included the time-honored traditions of the reading of the history of the Army NCO, the crossing of the swords and the newly-promoted Soldiers’ stepping forward into the NCO Corps.

“The Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony serves the purpose of not only welcoming newly promoted noncommissioned officers into the NCO Corps, but to take the opportunity to set the foundation for their success,” said Thomas. “It also serves to honor the memory of those men and women of the noncommissioned officer corps who served with pride and distinction.”

Newly promoted Sgt. Phonecia Pope, an administrative NCO with Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 335th Sig. Cmd. (T), and Raleigh, N.C., native, began her Army journey as a private and worked her way up the ranks. She said having the top enlisted Soldier in the Army Reserve attend the ceremony was extra meaningful.

“It meant a lot to me to have Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas here at the ceremony because he is probably the most important person in the Army Reserve,” said Pope. “For him to come all this way to honor us in person ... it



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Austin Berner

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Thomas Jr., the Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Reserve, shakes the hands of new leaders during a Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony for Soldiers assigned to the 335th Signal Command (Theater) in East Point, Ga., Nov. 3.

meant a lot.”

Pope said she was set up to succeed through good mentorship from NCOs in HHC and throughout the 335th Sig. Cmd. (T).

“Being here as a new Soldier in the 335th, the leadership has been good. The NCO’s have been nice, but straightforward,” added Pope. “They’ve been strict when they needed to and haven’t sugar-coated anything, so I feel like they’ve steered me in the right direction and have set me up for success.”

After the NCO creed was recited and the Army song sung, invited officers, NCOs and lower-enlisted Soldiers alike gathered in a line to congratulate the newest members of the NCO Corps with welcoming smiles and handshakes. Thomas left all NCOs with a few challenges and thoughts for their future.

“Our profession is a commitment to learning and you have to embrace this,” Thomas said. “Your decisions as a noncommissioned officer can have a lasting effect, either positive or negative, on your Soldiers, their families, and our nation. Do not take it for granted.”

Now that she’s an NCO, Pope says her role has changed a lot. She’s had to go from being a friend to being a boss and has had to step up to the challenge of learning to correct, guide, lead, and mentor.

“I feel proud to have gone through an NCO Induction Ceremony,” added Pope. “I’m ready for the challenge to not only represent my unit, but the entire NCO Corps.” ❖

69th Signal Battalion gets Fit to Lead

Story and photo by Sgt. Marshall R. Mason

5th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs Office

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany (October 25, 2013)

– High in the trees of upper Bavaria, 5th Signal Command's 69th Signal Battalion held a master resiliency training event for its Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members here Friday. The MRT was developed and implemented under the guise of the "Fit to Lead" initiative.

This marked the third time leaders with 69th Signal Battalion have held an MRT with "Fit to Lead" as an underlining theme. The event featured a high ropes obstacle course located at the Morale Welfare and Recreation outdoor facility. The event also included a five kilometer walk.

"We designed our training program with Fit to Lead in mind," said Master Sgt. Roscoe Johnson II, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, master resiliency trainer, 69th Signal Battalion.

"Fit to Lead" is an initiative developed by 5th Signal Command to help promote a culture of health, fitness and balanced lifestyles throughout the U.S. Army Europe community.

"This program was implemented so that our Soldiers, civilians and their families would have the opportunity to get outside, get some exercise and talk about being resilient," said Johnson.

"The high ropes obstacle course gives everyone a chance to climb the ropes, and for some, an opportunity to conquer some of their fears," said Johnson.

Periodically throughout the day, instructors conducted MRT, which focused on the importance of understanding, obtaining and teaching resiliency. Soldiers, civilians and family members participated in several group discussions where they learned strategies to develop and maintain resiliency.

"Some people may have had a traumatic experience in their lives," Johnson added. "This training stresses the importance of developing ways to bounce back from those experiences."

In previous MRT events, the unit has featured a ten kilometer walk and a group bicycle ride to include the element of outdoor exercise.

"The first time we did this, we started off with a bike ride through the woods and then we followed that up with a walk at the second event," said Cristi L. Brewitzer, civilian deputy of operations, 69th Signal Battalion.

Unit leaders plan to conduct this "Fit to Lead" method of MRT once every quarter to reinforce the importance of being resilient. They are confident the training has been effective as evidenced by the continually increased participation by unit members and their families.

"More and more family members are participating," said Brewitzer. "We even have a family member who took her kids out of school today because she thought this was the perfect opportunity to do something outdoors as a family."

"We are learning to be fit and resilient as a family and as an organization," said Johnson. "That is what this is all about." opportunities." ❖



Spc. Monica Robledo, an Army paralegal specialist and Spc. Peter Roman, an information technology specialist, both with the 69th Signal Battalion, prepare to traverse the next stage of the high ropes obstacle course.

Celebrating 50 Years

U.S. Army STRATCOM established after world-changing crisis

By Dennis Mills

NETCOM Command Historian

Fifty years ago, on March 1, 1964, the U.S. Army created the Strategic Communications Command (STRATCOM) sited at various locations around Washington, D.C. The command subsequently moved to Fort Huachuca, Arizona in early 1967.

Why did the Army decide to stand up STRATCOM?

First, the Chief Signal office was terminated due to the growth of functional commands' involvement in Army-wide research and development, training, electronics, and personnel assignments which increasingly exceeded one command's span of control.

Monitoring the burgeoning Military-Industrial Complex overwhelmed any one office. Finally, nuclear weapons and an almost calamitous face-off between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR)-sponsored Cuba forced the U.S. to eliminate inter-service rivalries, duplication, and parochialism, and create a communications system to withstand natural disasters or global conflagration.

Shortly after WWII, political leaders recognized the impossibility of ever initiating a nuclear first-strike option. Hiroshima and Nagasaki left no doubts as to the weapon's horrors that killed thousands and left others to die of radiation sickness. Unfortunately, by the early 1960s, the U.S. and Soviet military included





new and smaller tactical weapons into their battlefield options and consequently created more possibilities for nuclear applications. In addition, the U.S. relied more and more on those weapons to offset a growing disparity of Warsaw Pact forces. With only the WWII examples, both U.S. and Soviet political leadership struggled with how and when to bring these weapons to bear.

In January 1955, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles announced that the U.S. would react to military aggression anywhere with “Massive Retaliation”. However during the years after the declaration, and with the increasing smaller, tactical nuclear weapons availability, Dulles questioned whether all-out nuclear war was necessary. An example of this evolution took place during a April 7, 1958 National Security Council meeting in which Dulles presented the dilemma to the U.S. service secretaries and the Joint Chiefs of Staff in which he asked what efficacy were these growing nuclear arsenals when their use would initiate massive retaliatory strikes making the “Northern Hemisphere uninhabitable”.

The more disturbing problem Dulles focused on was “U.S. reaction to ambiguous Soviet aggressive moves”. Up to then, deterrence was just a theory because there had never been nuclear weapons used exchange since August 1945; no way to test the idea. Specifically, this meeting centered on a Soviet invasion of Germany, Iran, or Turkey. If the Soviets launched a limited conventional attack, should the U.S. use nuclear weapons? Ironically, the next nuclear weapons crisis came not over a blatant Soviet military attack, but rather over the insertion of Soviet nuclear weapons near U.S. sovereign territory.

During the few years prior to 1964, the U.S. and the USSR had engaged in several escalatory steps. In January 1960, Soviet Union Premier Nikita Khrushchev had pledged support to the Cuban Revolution and other “wars of national liberation”. On May 1, 1960, relations between Khrushchev

and President Dwight D. Eisenhower became tense after the Soviets shot down a CIA U-2 spy plane and captured the pilot, Frances Gary Powers. Khrushchev was mercurial, sometimes jovial and buoyant and other times menacing. During a June 1961 Vienna summit between the Chairman and President John F. Kennedy, Khrushchev felt the U.S. President was weak. In August of that year, U.S. and Soviet tanks faced off over dividing Berlin with a wall separating the Soviet from the Allied zones. Next came the November 1961 failed Bay of Pigs operation. In a plan that began with the Eisenhower Administration and accepted by Kennedy, exiled U.S. trained and equipped Cubans were annihilated on the beaches while the President declined to provide more direct military U.S. support. After that, Castro and Khrushchev grew bolder in their relations with the U.S.

In retaliation for the Bay of Pigs and to deter another invasion, Khrushchev authorized positioning Soviet nuclear-armed missiles within range of Washington, D.C. and conventional bombers on Cuban soil. By October 1962, the U.S. possessed enough evidence to declare a “quarantine” or blockade against offensive military equipment being sent to Cuba. Communications between the two most powerful leaders in the world occurred by letters and intermediaries leaving plenty of room for misunderstanding which proved very dangerous as the potential of a nuclear-armed context escalated.

After the crisis, both countries agreed to a direct means of communication to avoid this dangerously ambiguous situation and negotiated a limited nuclear test ban.

As a result of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U.S. and the USSR agreed to establish a “Hot Line” to reduce the chances of misunderstandings in future foreign relations. In addition, the Army conducted a series of studies on the crisis and recommended that STRATCOM be established as a major field command, directly reporting to the Chief of Staff. ❖

Pacific Signal Soldiers read to Elementary School students

By Liana Kim and Maj. Avon Cornelius

311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs Office

HONOLULU, Hawaii – About a dozen Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 311th Signal Command (Theater), paid their monthly visit to Fern Elementary School to read books out loud to students Friday.

“It’s a great partnership we have with the school,” said Maj. Gen. James Walton, Commander, 311th SC(T), who enjoyed his first experience reading to the students Friday. “It gives our Soldiers and Families an appreciation of the community we are a part of, and allows us to be an active, contributing part.”

Read Out Loud!, the cooperative program between the unit and school, allows Soldiers to read to and interact with groups of students in the library and class rooms on the first Friday of each month throughout the school year. It has received accolades from teachers, as the interaction with Soldiers has reportedly inspired improved behavior among the students.

“The joy and excitement on [the students’] faces, when the Soldiers are engaged with them, shows us that it means a lot, that someone else cares about them,” said fourth grade teacher Mark Atta of the book reading program. “It’s great to have the Soldiers come here and give them that extra support.”

The Soldiers of HHC have been partnering

with Fern Elementary since 2011 for various events throughout the school year, such as the school’s annual Drug Free Jump Rope for the Heart field day to promote active healthy lifestyles and introduce students to positive role models and professional opportunities.

“Your efforts help us reinforce a culture of reading, where every child knows how to and wants to read,” said Fern Elementary School counselor Cedric Chu. “This is a very different world from the one I grew up in. I actually see students bringing books to school to read for leisure, thanks to an emphasis on reading in our schools, the media, community agencies like Read Aloud Program, and support from our community members, such as the military.”

The unit’s Family Readiness Group has organized a Back to School donation drive for school supplies the past two years, with the 2013 drive resulting in a truck load of donations, triple the size of the 2012 drive.

“Your coming in to bring the donations really helps open up my students’ perspective of other people trying to help them succeed in their learning,” said Leanna Agcaoili, a 4th grade teacher at Fern. “It lets them know there are military families who care about a better future for our students... it really helps me as a teacher, to help them succeed.” ❖



U.S. Army photo by Liana Kim

Maj. Mikel Hugo, Secretary of the General Staff, 311th Signal Command (Theater), reads a book to group of Fern Elementary School students during Read Out Loud! The cooperative program between the unit and school, allows Soldiers to read to and interact with groups of students in the library and class rooms on the first Friday of each month throughout the school year.



With the symbolic cut of the scissors, the CONUS Theater Network Operations and Security Center and the CONUS and South Regional Computer Emergency Response Teams were officially merged Oct. 29, to become the 7th Signal Command (Theater), 2d Regional Cyber Center, a single unit tasked with the authority to operate, maintain and defend the cyber realm within the Western Hemisphere. Cutting the ribbon are (from left to right): Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Brooks and Brig. Gen. John Morrison, 7th Signal Command (Theater) command sergeant major and commanding general; Gail Volz, Defensive Cyber Operations division chief (South); Lt. Gen. Edward Cardon, Army Cyber Command commanding general; Lt. Col. Gregory Griffin, 2d Regional Cyber Center director; and Kathy Buonocore, Defensive Cyber Operations division chief (CONUS).

2d Regional Cyber Center opens for business

Story and photo by Gordon Van Vleet

NETCOM Public Affairs Office

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. – In the Art of War, the front lines were something that could be defined and visualized; but in today’s battle space, the easy-to-define front lines are no more. It is the virtual front lines that we have to defend and the Army is one step closer to doing just that.

With the symbolic cut of the scissors, the CONUS Theater Network Operations and Security Center and the CONUS and South Regional Computer Emergency Response Teams were officially merged Oct. 29, to become the 7th Signal Command (Theater), 2d Regional Cyber Center, a single unit tasked with the authority to operate, maintain and defend the Army’s cyber realm within the Western Hemisphere.

“The intent of forming the Regional Cyber Center is two-fold,” said Lt. Col. Gregory C. Griffin, 2d RCC director. “First, it fuses the operation and maintain

mission to the defend mission giving the responsibility for both missions to one unit and reporting to one theater command. Second, it integrates an organic intelligence function into the organization to improve our ability to defend the LandWarNet against a pervasive, adaptive and ever-changing enemy.”

Regional Cyber Centers are organizations that provide LandWarNet service to their theaters while simultaneously defending the network from cyber threats and they operate around the clock, said Griffin. “Regional Cyber Centers are the focal point of cyber resources in the theater to bring capabilities to the Army and link jointly across services.”

The 2d Regional Cyber Center will be located in the Network Operations Facility in Greely Hall on Fort Huachuca. The Network Operations Facility, which opened in 2009, is an \$18 million, two-story, 53,250 square-foot facility. The facility is a ‘purpose built,’

See “Cyber Center,” on page 15

307th ESB's OEF redeployment concludes

Story and photos by 1st Lt. John Maham

516th Signal Brigade

HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION, Hawaii – Forty-two members of the final group of Company A, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion Soldiers returned home Sept. 5, one month after their redeployment began. A redeployment ceremony was a culmination of a steadily rising current of cheerfulness among 307th Soldiers and family members, ignited when the first group arrived Aug. 6.

Company A Soldiers supported multiple regional commands in Afghanistan, under the command of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion out of Yonkers, N.Y., over their nine-month deployment.

Interestingly, 307th ESB supported the same mission, in the same building, during Operation Enduring Freedom 2010-11. Capt. Robert Bergdorf, the Co. A commander, was a first lieutenant during his first deployment with the 307th, serving as a network operations officer.

“It was an honor and a privilege to fall back into the mission and provide support,” Bergdorf said. “I was proud that my Soldiers continued the mission this time.”

The 307th ESB provided substantial variations in mission support throughout their deployment. A few Soldiers assisted in running help desks and hub nodes at the Regional Commands. Many directly supported the Warfighter at the infantry brigade level, while others supported security force assistance teams.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Diaz, Company A, 307th ESB welcomes back the final group of Co. A, 307th ESB Soldiers to Helemano Military Reservation after their nine-month Afghanistan mission.

Soldiers assigned to SFAT teams assisted with providing various types of training for Afghan National Army Soldiers, all the while watching and guiding them with the intent of maturing the Afghan Soldiers as a unit for their eventual service.

Prior to Deployment, Co. A had participated in sling load training with the assistance of Hawaii Army National Guard pilots and their Chinook helicopters, at Wheeler Army Airfield. This training was hands-on,

and intended to prepare them for potential, real-world mission requirements. Not long after arriving in Afghanistan, Co. A. executed an impressive 24 sling load missions. They used the valuable sling load knowledge that they acquired in Hawaii to move their equipment to 21 points of presence outside of Bagram Air Base.

A few of the Soldiers were assigned to forward operating bases that were occupied by foreign militaries. Satellite Communication Operator Spc. Jocelyn McLean was assigned to a FOB controlled by New



Spc. Steven Montague and 41 fellow Company A, 307th ESB Soldiers situate themselves before their friends and loved ones at a redeployment ceremony held Sept. 5, at the Helemano Military Reservation Dining Facility. Spc. Montague was among the members of the final group to return to Hawaii, following their nine-month, Operation Enduring Freedom deployment.



Sgt. Jacob Wheeler, Company A, 307th ESB, and wife, Cindy, embrace at 307th ESB Dining Facility on Helemano Military Reservation, Sept. 5, following the unit's redeployment ceremony. Co. A Soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan for nine months.

Zealand and Malaysian forces in the Bamian Province.

“The new Zealand Soldiers, or Kiwis, were a fun group of people that made my time at the FOB unforgettable and enjoyable. They had culture nights and did the Maori Haka Dance for all of us. The Malaysians were equally memorable with their Mui Thai dancing” McLean happily recounted. “I’m much more accepting of different cultures now, and seeing so many new things was eye-opening.

Two other Satellite Communication Operators, Spc. Stephen French and Spc. Kyle Sharp, were assigned to a remote Polish FOB, situated more than 9,000 feet above sea level, and on top of a mountain. During their three and a half month stay, the Soldiers and their Polish counterparts shared many aspects of their respective cultures.

“We exchanged a lot of music, learned about weapons systems and even fired the weapons with them” explained Sharp. “There were a lot of Polish Soldiers that spoke English really well, and we had fun playing soccer and videogames with them.”

“It was a lot easier to work with other nations’

militaries and get along with them during the process than I would have imagined. Although it seems like they only eat pork, and rub mayonnaise onto themselves before bathing in the sun, they were a really great group of Soldiers” said equally optimistic and culturally traumatized French.

Aside from their signal missions, Co. A accomplished a lot during their nine months downrange. Twenty-eight Co. A. Soldiers reenlisted, and one Soldier was named 160th Signal Brigade NCO of the quarter. Twenty-six completed Signal University courses and received many certifications. They also volunteered hundreds of hours at the Combat Stress Clinic, Operation Care, Navy Mental Health Team and the BAF USO.

The Dark Knights used their time in Afghanistan wisely, and provided outstanding support to their customers. Many left with more than tougher dispositions and broadened skill sets.

“Deployment had its ups and downs, but altogether was a really good experience” said Spc. McLean. “we all came home, and that’s the biggest thing.” ❖

Seeking Soldiers, Civilians to serve on specialized Cyber Protection Teams

By Siobhan Carlile

7th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs Office

FORT GORDON, Ga. – 7th Signal Command (Theater) is standing up a new Cyber Mission Unit (Provisional) to conduct focused defensive operations aimed at better protecting the Army's networks. To do so, the command is actively recruiting highly qualified and motivated Soldiers – officer and enlisted – as well as Department of the Army civilian operators, analysts, planners, and leaders to serve on specialized Cyber Protection Teams.

The CPTs will conduct global cyberspace operations to deter, disrupt, and help defeat the nation's adversaries in cyberspace. They will rapidly evaluate, and act proactively and reactively to dynamic cyber situations.

Department of Defense and military leaders are on record saying they believe being able to conduct successful operations in cyberspace while defending networks from attacks is crucial to our nation's security.

"Many of our adversaries lack the ability to confront our forces physically, choosing instead to employ virtual weapons with potentially devastating effect," said General Raymond T. Odierno, Army Chief of Staff. "We must take full advantage of these technologies, building our own capabilities to operate in cyberspace with the same level of skill and confidence we enjoy on the land. We will either adapt to this reality or risk ceding the advantage to future enemies."

The new CMU with its CPTs, will employ advanced cyber capabilities that will secure the Army's networks in a more proactive manner than in the past, according to Lt. Col. Philippe Persaud, CMU commander, Fort Gordon, Ga.

"It really goes back to how we've been conducting cyber defense before this point in time," Persaud said. "We were looking at the network in a passive manner. We would develop policies and procedures to defend the network. We put antivirus out there and we would patch vulnerabilities in computers, but unfortunately that was not enough. This was essentially a net that caught the big fish but allowed the little fish to sneak into the network. The only way you can truly get those



sophisticated threats which I refer to as the little fish, is by changing the way you defend the network."

The CPTs will provide a comprehensive, dynamic cyber defense in-depth capability which provides a more proactive cyber defense posture with more sophisticated tools in the tool box, including greater coordination with military intelligence assets according to Persaud.

"Together, with our military intelligence partners, we will provide that dynamic cyber defense capability for the

nation's combatant commands' and Army's networks. We have a variety of networks we are defending and we're going out there in a proactive fashion to find those sophisticated threats that may have gotten through our defensive perimeters," Persaud said.

Coordination between the many different cyber efforts is critical according to Persaud.

"We may not want to simply push the enemy out of our network. We may want to, for example, exploit this opportunity to gain more information on an intrusion," he explained. "So it goes farther than just defeating the network intrusions... to defeat the threat."

The first group of people selected to serve in the CPTs are currently in training, but more are needed to fill slots for teams being planned for FY 14 and beyond. The new CMU is still in the developmental stage.

"We are forging the way for what a successful cyber defense capability looks like," Persaud said. "In the end, our cyber warriors will be highly trained and qualified. Ultimately it will be their training, cunning and intuition that will all come together to effectively defeat the enemy in the cyber domain."

Soldiers and DA civilians will initially be selected for the CPTs from the ranks of Signal and Intelligence units. The next phase will include all interested applicants; anybody who has the types of skills needed on the CPTs. ❖

Note: Additional information and applications can be found on the 7th Signal Command website along with all required forms at <http://www.7sigcmd.army.mil/CPTWeb/>.

Soldiers get down and dirty during confined space training

By Cpl. Jong Soo-Oh

1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREY, South Korea – Soldiers from 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and 36th Signal Battalion came together for three days to participate in confined space training at Camp Humphrey, near Pyeongtaek, Sept. 27.

“Confined space training in a manhole with carbon monoxide gas can be dangerous,” said Staff Sgt. Damon Young, 293rd Signal Company, 36th Signal Battalion. “That’s why we also brought professional civilians along for support.”

The 36th Signal Battalion has been trying to establish a new program tentatively called Fiber/Cable University, to teach Soldiers in relevant units confined space safety procedures and the use of fiber optics and copper technology, said Young.

This three day training even was a part of this initiative.

“We taught Soldiers how to splice fiber optics, put on connectors, and the use of manholes in the duct system,” said Young, a native of New York. This training is particularly important as fiber optics is one of the communication backbones of Korea.



A Soldier from 1st Signal Brigade, enters a manhole during 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and 36th Signal Battalion’s joint confined space training at Camp Humphrey, Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Sept. 27, 2013.

The training provided soldiers a unique experience of going down in a manhole.

“Unlike many fellow Soldiers here, I have been to a number of similar classes previously, but they were rather boring,” said Spc. Robin Williams, a native of Atlanta, Ga., and member of 501st Signal Company.

“This training was much more fun as it enabled active participation on top of classroom-type training, and I am sure that most trainees share my view.”

Utilizing his 17 years of experience in cable installation and maintenance, Young delivered a safe and fun experience while successfully executing this training course.

“I try to teach not just the job, but life,” said Young. “I am glad to see that my efforts paid off and that the soldiers were very opened and motivated throughout the training.” ❖



A Soldier prepares to enter a manhole during 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, and 36th Signal Battalion’s joint confined space training at Camp Humphrey, Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Sept. 27, 2013

Tears of the Rose

Witnessing an end of life experience becomes a learning experience

By Chap. (Maj.) Alan T. Savage

NETCOM Command Chaplain Office

The nurse escorted me down a long hallway that opened into a dark lab room. Through the shadows I saw an old woman sitting next to a gurney. The nurse nodded in her direction and then closed the door behind her as she left. With hesitation leaking out of my voice, I introduced myself as the duty chaplain for the Army post and offered my condolences.

After what seemed like hours, she looked up with tear-stained eyes and softly replied, “Thank you for coming.”

Feeling a bit awkward and searching my mind for something appropriate to say, I wisely resigned myself to silence and quietly pulled up a by her side.

She lovingly stroked his forehead and then leaned forward and kissed

his now blue lips.

“It’s going to be alright my love – you rest now,” she whispered.

Rose and her husband had been married for nearly 45 years and had settled in the area after his retirement from the Army 20 years previous. Hot tears fell from her chin onto the cold skin of her husband’s face, as she continued to gently run her fingers through his hair.

Realizing that I was witnessing a very sacred experience, I excused myself and pulled my chair to the back wall several feet away. For the

next 20 minutes or so I sat silently and watched Rose speak softly to her husband, telling him how much she loved and missed him. All the while she gently stroked his head, kissed his face and quietly wept over his body. Tears rolled down my own face as I took in this deeply provocative example of relational intimacy.

By watching her suffer through the issue of death, she taught me a great lesson on the value of life.

It reminded me of the sage advice of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow when he wrote: “Take this sorrow to thy heart and make it a part of thee, and it will nourish thee until thou art strong again” (Hyperion, 1839).

The thorns of life not only failed to forbid her to grow, but actually facilitated her to bloom.

I’ll never forget the tears of the Rose.



U.S. Army illustration by Eric Hortin

Deployment, from page 3

different branches of service, which allowed them to share experiences. DSST Soldiers began to build relationships with local nationals by playing billiards and volleyball with Afghan National Army Soldiers, which spawned friendships with the forces who assist our military. Through these interactions, Soldiers were able to gain a better understanding of

Afghanistan and the Afghan people.

Throughout this nine-month tour of forward deployed duty here, this team of Soldiers grew as individuals, as Soldiers, and as a team. By taking advantage of the opportunities to learn, each Soldier gained real world experiences. Though not immune to the hardships of danger, loneliness, and uncertainty; out of this deployment

rose a group of Soldiers ready to take on the next mission, knowing they have what it takes to succeed.

“These incredible Soldiers provided strategic communications to five entire FOB’s for an estimated 15,000 coalition forces all over Regional Command East,” said McCauley. ❖

Cyber Center, from page 7

world class network operations center with the physical and network capacity to service all of the Regional Cyber Center’s needs, both now and in the future, said Griffin.

“The formation of the Regional Cyber Center unites the operations and defensive chains of command under one theater commander,” said Griffin. “This allows for the Army Cyber Command commander to hold one commander responsible for all things in his or her theater.”

“Our Army always has to adapt to the technology, to the national strategy, the economic and the demographics, and today we are adapting to meet the opportunities and challenges of cyberspace,” said Lt. Gen. Edward Cardon, Army Cyber Command commanding general. “This new cyber center is the embodiment of that effort to adapt, for what you do is critical for both our Army and our nation because you are here every day protecting the nation against increasingly sophisticated, ever-growing and ever-evolving cyber threats.”

The combination of the RCERT and the CTNOSC will bring efficiency in a different way, because as the threats grow, the Army has to adapt its organization in such a way as to increase the width and depth of the security it can provide, said Cardon.

“This center will improve our ability to defend the nation’s network against the most serious threat to our economy and national security,” said Cardon.

The structure of the Regional Cyber Command will be made up of approximately 30 Soldiers, 30 Government Civilians, and roughly 350 contract personnel, said Griffin. Their responsibilities will include the full range of operations, maintenance and defensive functions of the LandWarNet.

The initial transition to a Regional Cyber Center involves bringing the existing organizations together and enhancing some existing processes and relationships, said Griffin. “The growing and manning of the in-house intelligence capability and the establishing of habitual relationships with external organizations to support other new capabilities will take 6-12 months.

“The idea of a Regional Cyber Center has been in development for over a decade,” said Griffin. “This last push to make this happen came from both the 7th Signal Command (Theater) and Army Cyber Command leadership. As early as this past April, the TNOSC and RCERT leadership teams in CONUS have collaborated on the mission, capabilities, structure and manning of the Regional Cyber Center, which culminated in contributing to the recently published order directing the formation of the Cyber Center.”

Although no costs were involved in the merger of the two entities, as the Army moves forward in developing new capabilities, there will be some additional personnel with specific skill sets and some facilities modifications required to complete the transformation to a fully operational Regional Cyber Center, said Griffin. ❖

Military Auxiliary Radio System still relevant in Internet age

By David Vergun

Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Dec. 16, 2013) – Years before Soldiers used cell phones and social media, and when long-distance calling was expensive, service members would often communicate from remote areas to home via “MARSgrams” or MARS telephone patches.

These services were provided free of charge by the volunteer amateur or ham radio operators worldwide who make up the Military Auxiliary Radio System service, known as MARS.

Surprisingly, MARS and MARS operators still exist today in the Army in both the active and reserve components. They exist also in the other military services.

The Army’s Network Enterprise Technology Command at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., is responsible for the Army MARS Program. Its main focus is providing contingency communications support to the Army and Department of Defense. The command also provides support to civil authorities, said Paul English, Army MARS program manager.

The military and the rest of the government, as well as the private sector, rely on satellites for much of their communications. MARS does not, English said. He explained that it instead relies on high-frequency radios which bounce their signals off the Earth’s upper atmosphere, known as the ionosphere, to provide long-distance communications.

The ionosphere is a layer of the earth’s atmosphere that begins at about 53 miles above the ground. Signals bounce off this layer and then back to Earth and then back up again. It may take up to five bounces to get from one continent to the next, English said. The majority of MARS messages are transmitted via various military standard data modes and also voice.

While the main mission of

MARS is contingency communications, English said that it still can and does provide phone patches for Soldiers and units.

In fact, Army MARS is working with the National Guard Bureau to expand this phone-patch capability.

“Currently, Soldiers are dependent on using their personal cellphones to call the satellite-control facility to coordinate bringing their satellite terminal up,” English said. Army MARS has run several proof-of-concept tests with the Guard Bureau to use MARS phone patches as an alternative to cellphones.

The Army too is coordinating this work with other agencies.

While most of the 1,300 Army MARS stations are in the United States, there are also many overseas, English said.

The majority of MARS stations are manned by volunteers, usually in their homes. But there are also several hundred government-run MARS stations at both the state and federal level. The latter include the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Transportation Security Administration.

Army MARS operators participate in a number of exercises throughout the year. In August, MARS



U.S. Army photos by Steve Wolkovitz

Mark Emanuele (left), Army Military Auxiliary Radio System Region 2 emergency officer, and Tom Logan operate their Ham radio, relaying emergency information during Hurricane Sandy, in 2012.

participated in an international humanitarian assistance disaster relief exercise conducted by U.S. Pacific Command. The exercise simulated a devastating hurricane hitting the country of “Pacifica,” role-played by personnel from Nepal.

MARS members worked with Nepalese amateur radio operators to demonstrate the utility of amateur radio and MARS to pass situational awareness information to DOD units to assist in developing a military response in the Pacific region, English said.

Also participating in that exercise were MARS operators on the West Coast, Hawaii, Japan, and Afghanistan. Simulated disaster information was successfully passed via high-frequency radio from amateur radio operators to MARS operators then sent on to staff officers in U.S. Pacific Command, he continued.

In October, MARS operators from around the continental U.S. participated in an international high-frequency radio exercise sponsored by the Canadian Signal Forces to celebrate their 110th anniversary.

“This exercise further tested MARS members’ ability to communicate with international signal units from Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand,” English said. “Future exercises such as this are now being planned as annual training opportunities.”

In November, MARS planned and executed a national-level exercise with DOD partners, numerous active duty and reserve component units, as well as some 15 state emergency operations centers.

“This exercise simulated a wide-spread communications outage affecting landline telephone, cellphones, and Internet,” English said. The 48-hour exercise was a graded event designed to stress the MARS volunteers’ ability to handle and respond to message traffic.

For the exercise, there were 350 participating Army MARS members who were joined by another 140 MARS members from the Air Force and Navy. The volunteers logged more than 5,500 hours of on air support to handle the exercise message traffic.

MARS operators have participated not only in exercises, but also in real-world disasters, where most forms of communications were down.

During Hurricane Sandy, Mark Emanuele, Army MARS Region 2 emergency officer and fellow HAM operator Tom Logan, relayed important emergency messages from the hard-hit areas along the coast to other parts of the country.

To facilitate operations, the MARS regional map of the U.S. mirrors FEMA’s 10 regions. Region 2 includes



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Omarl Bernard

Ron Keech, secretary of the Elmendorf Amateur Radio Society in Alaska, operates a HAM radio in support of the Military Auxiliary Radio System in a Civil Air Patrol building.

New York and New Jersey.

The two were operating from the Army MARS position in the AT&T Disaster Recovery Station on the AT&T Labs Research and Development Campus in Middletown, N.J.

“We were on commercial power until about 8 p.m. Monday, when the campus switched over to the primary campus generator,” Emanuele said. That’s Oct. 29, 2012, the day Hurricane Sandy made landfall in New Jersey.

“At about 10 p.m. the primary generator failed, and we reverted to central office battery power for a minute or so until the backup generator kicked back in with limited power, which remained on for the duration,” he continued.

“During the height of the storm we could feel the five-story steel and reinforced concrete building shake with the high winds,” Emanuele said.

In 2013, Army MARS volunteers logged more than 257,000 hours of participation to the MARS program, English said.

English said one of those volunteers even wrote software that allows MARS members to encrypt message traffic prior to transmission over the radio. “Even though all the information being passed on MARS networks is unclassified, due to operational security concerns, encrypting our traffic eliminates the ability for the messages to be received and read by the general public,” he said.

Former Soldier and Vietnam War veteran Jacques Bannamon said he is glad to see the MARS system is still around. Bannamon said he used MARS to keep in touch with his family from Vietnam and other areas of the world where he was stationed over the years. ❖

Lynn relinquishes command to Gallagher

By Gordon Van Vleet

NETCOM Public Affairs Office

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. – Excelling at everything is a rare trait. But for one general officer, it is something he has done since completing ROTC as a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1979, and it has held true throughout his career to include excelling as the commanding general of the Network Enterprise Technology Command for just 12 short months. Those accomplishments were recognized Aug. 15, during a Relinquishment of Command ceremony in the NETCOM auditorium, on Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Maj. Gen. Alan R. Lynn relinquished command of NETCOM to Brig. Gen. Pete A. Gallagher, NETCOM's Deputy Commanding General, in front of a packed audience of military, government civilians, family members and members of the local community. The ceremony was presided over by a previous NETCOM commanding general and current Army Chief Information Officer/G-6, Lt. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence.

The ceremony consisted of the symbolic passing of the unit colors from Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Allen, NETCOM Command Sergeant Major, to Lynn, who then passed the colors to Lawrence signifying his passing the command to his senior, and then Lawrence passed the colors to Gallagher giving him the responsibility to oversee the command until the Army Chief of Staff appoints a new commanding general.

After the ceremony, the three general spoke. Lawrence started the remarks by stating that ceremonies



U.S. Army photo by Eric Hortin

Maj. Gen. Alan R. Lynn (left), outgoing commander, speaks with Brig. Gen. Peter A. Gallagher, incoming commander, prior to the relinquishment of command ceremony Aug. 15, at Greely Hall, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

such as this have been a proud tradition of the Army for more than two centuries.

“As one commander departs, he ensures that all know his successor is vested with full responsibility, authority and accountability,” said Lawrence.

Speaking of Lynn's time with NETCOM, Lawrence said “I can unequivocally say that his departure is heavily tinged with sadness.” As she pointed out that Lynn Loves Soldiers and he loves having his hands deep in the operational side of the Army, but that although the decision to move him to the Defense Systems Information Agency after only 12 months of command here was a hard one, she said it was the right one because he is the right leader at the right time to send to DISA.

“Thank you for standing by my side during the tough times,” said Lynn as he spoke about the sequestration and the many other challenges NETCOM faced during the past 12 months. “You are all true patriots, tough and resilient.

“As I look into the audience, I

recognize so many people that I want to thank; but I know in doing so I would lengthen this speech, which is never a crowd pleaser,” Lynn said. “I am not good with goodbyes because honestly, I don't want to let go of any of the great patriots and friends I have met here, so let me just say... until we meet again.”

Following

Lynn's remarks, Gallagher spoke about how much he appreciated Lawrence coming to officiate at the ceremony.

“It is truly special for the NETCOM and Sierra Vista community that she is back home in Fort Huachuca officiating today's ceremony as one of her final formations before she brings her distinguished career of honorable and faithful service to a close,” Gallagher said, noting Lawrence will soon retire after 41 years of service to the Army.

Gallagher spoke about how he knows he is being entrusted with the care and leadership of the great men and women of NETCOM.

“The demands of this trust are not to simply ‘hold down the fort,’ but to lead this great organization with every ounce of my heart, mind, body and soul to provide the best possible services we can for our Army in a time of fiscal uncertainty,” Gallagher said.

Gallagher concluded his remarks by quoting from a past Army leader, Gen. Matthew Ridgeway.

“You will have my utmost, I shall expect yours.” ❖



STOMP-ing out accidents

By Driving Task Force

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

The overwhelming majority of Soldiers who die in off-duty privately owned vehicle (POV) accidents do so needlessly, according to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center (USACR/Safety Center). Despite the fact Soldiers are taught a disciplined approach to on-duty safety through composite risk management (CRM), accident reports identify Soldier indiscipline as the primary cause of these fatal crashes. It is obvious such training works because of the declining number of on-duty accidents. Unfortunately, many Soldiers leave CRM behind when they leave the post. The result has been an alarming increase in off-duty POV accidents, especially those involving motorcycles.

Although Leaders are engaging Soldiers on the importance of applying CRM to off-duty safety, far too many Soldiers make flawed risk decisions and suffer the consequences. Recognizing that, the USACR/Safety Center has developed the Sedans, Trucks, Off-road vehicles, Motorcycles and Pedestrians (STOMP) program. The program's goal is to develop a media campaign to provide Soldiers with constantly updated information on driving safety.

The key to STOMP is monthly Training, Indiscipline, Planning and Safety (TIPS) messages designed to help Soldiers transition the CRM training they've used on duty to the challenges they face on the road. A major component of TIPS will be monthly posters and advertisements provided electronically to Army publications. Because these will be provided in electronic form, installation publishers can modify them to suit the needs of their audience.

Why this new emphasis and program? Leaders understand their ability to directly oversee their Soldiers' safety often ends when that Soldier drives or rides off post. The choice to be safe must also exist within the individual Soldier if off-duty POV accidents are to be reduced. STOMP and TIPS are designed to help Soldiers accurately assess their risks on the road and make wise, life-saving choices.

While the ideal goal would be an accident-free Army, that lies beyond the realm of possibility. However, what is possible is that Soldiers can take responsibility for their safety, regardless of their duty status, and dramatically reduce driving and motorcycling fatalities. STOMP and TIPS are tools designed to help make that happen. ❖

Army Safe is Army Strong!

NETCOM non-rider leaders get trained

Story and photo by Eric Hortin

NETCOM Public Affairs Office

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. – For the most part, the moderate Arizona weather makes motorcycle riding a year-round activity. Add to that the freedom that comes with more relaxed laws in regards to protective equipment wear, and it's not surprising to see riders in shorts, T-shirts, tennis shoes and no helmet. While it may be state legal, for Soldier riders it is not.

Department of Defense Instruction 6055.04, DOD Traffic Safety Program, requires service members to wear helmets, eye protection, gloves, sturdy footwear and protective clothing. Not knowing the regulations and effectively emphasizing this requirement is a challenge to leadership... made even harder if the leaders are not riders themselves.

“The biggest challenge that non-riding leaders can face is the problem of how to advise a Soldier on a piece of equipment that they themselves are not familiar with,” said Master Sgt. Brian O’Leary, Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command. “This is why programs are designed to train non-riding leaders, like the one here at NETCOM, are so important to the safety of Army motorcyclists.”

Getting non-riding leaders familiar with the inspections and gear riders use is what O’Leary set out to accomplish Aug. 26, during a training session at the Digital Training Facility in Greely Hall. The training was a combination of classroom presentation courtesy of the Army Safety Center, and hands-on training with motorcycles brought in by volunteers.

A portion of the classroom presentation focused on the kinds of personal protective equipment used by riders, and the kinds of equipment that shouldn't be used. Novelty helmets, O’Leary noted, have far less protection than is required for Department of Transportation certification. Soldiers who use gear that doesn't meet requirements may be in for an unpleasant surprise if something unforeseen happens.

“Soldiers and families can be denied benefits if the line of duty investigation shows they were not following DoD requirements,” said Jeff Speer, NETCOM Safety Office.

Additionally, properly worn protective gear can greatly increase the chance of surviving an accident. According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, study researchers analyzed 3,600 police reports of on-highway Motorcycle crashes and determined that helmets save

lives by reducing the occurrence of head injuries, and that the wearing of a helmet does not reduce essential vision or hearing.

Along with the discussion of protective equipment, attendees were introduced to varying state laws, leader and rider responsibilities, and proper inspection and maintenance of motorcycles. It is the inspection of equipment that is most essential, O’Leary said.

“Mechanical failures can lead to a serious accident on a motorcycle,” O’Leary said. “Some of the main culprits of these accidents are defective or worn tires, poorly maintained chains, and engine failures leading to seizing or locking while in motion.”

Members of the NETCOM team taking the class were given the MSF maintenance checklist – commonly referred to as TCLOCK (tires, controls, lights, oil, chassis, and kickstand) – to inspect the individual bikes brought to the class. Not only did the participants inspect

See “Cycles,” next page



Master Sgt. Brian O’Leary gives a tip to measuring tread depth by using a coin.

MARS members excel during national exercise

By Bill Sexton

Army MARS Public Affairs Officer

SARASOTA, Fla. – Army Military Auxiliary Radio System operators were tested in a national 48-hour exercise Nov. 3-5. The scenario – a catastrophic and hostile contingency operation – brought out the best the MARS members had to give.

Army MARS Chief Stephen Klinefelter declared the multi-faceted national communications exercise, “an unequivocal success.” He thanked all three MARS branches and the other participating military units and civil agencies for their “hard work, long hours, and dedication to the mission.”

“This 48-hour exercise was designed to test and stress our networks and our members’ ability to process and respond to a variety of message traffic,” Klinefelter said in a message addressed to all participants. “This was an event of which you should be proud.”

In the drill scenario, a catastrophe wiped out normal phone and Internet links. Communication was by voice and digital high-frequency radio, most of it encrypted as it would be in a hostile contingency. From 1 p.m. Sunday to 1 p.m. Tuesday, nets operated without a break throughout the 48 contiguous states with military MARS stations

overseas also connected.

Klinefelter said those who were monitoring the exercise were impressed at the efforts and amount of traffic handled by the MARS members, and exceeded expectations in participation. More than 5,500 hours operation was reported by the Army MARS participants alone.

In addition to National Guard and civil agencies, the American Radio Relay League activated its MARS station at the League’s Newington, Conn. headquarters, and the Massachusetts Amateur Radio Emergency Service handled exercise traffic. ❖

Cycles, from previous page

the motorcycles, they were able to see four different motorcycles to help them understand the differences between each of them. Along with a sport bike and cruisers, there was a fully customized motorcycle to show the extent riders are able to modify their rides.

Measuring tread depth, checking oil and looking for cracks and corrosion on the chassis, participants looked over the motorcycles with the owners standing by and showing them the locations of the different areas they were to inspect.

“The first thing that caught my attention was the vast differences in the motorcycles,” said Sgt. Maj. St. Claire Allen, NETCOM Operations. “Although three of the four bikes for inspection were cruisers, each one was different and each posed different challenges with locating their inspectable items. This training gave me hands-on experience with locating inspectable items and allowed experienced riders to ‘school me’ on what to look for when conducting my inspections.” ❖

ON CYBER PATROL



ciog6.army.mil/OnCyberPatrol.aspx



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Philip Diab

A Day in Their Boots

(Above) Maj. Kyle Yates, commanding officer of the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), coaches his family members on the simulated rifle range during “A Day in Their Boots” at Fort George G. Meade, Md., Sept. 27, 2013. Families and spouses participated in multiple events to experience the daily life of being a Soldier.

(Left) Family members of Soldiers assigned to the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera) push a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle tire during the company’s “Day In Their Boots” event at Fort George G. Meade, Md., Sept. 27, 2013. Teams must work together to flip the two hundred pound tire four times to experience the daily life of being a Soldier.





Army selects NETCOM's future commander

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. (NETCOM) – The chief of staff, Army announced the following assignment in a Jan. 8 news release:

Brig. Gen. John B. Morrison Jr., currently the commanding general of the 7th Signal Command (Theater), Fort Gordon, Ga., has been chosen to

be the commanding general of U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command.

Morrison assumed command of 7th SC (T) on August 21, 2012.

The date of Morrison's assumption of command ceremony is currently scheduled for April 2, 2014.

Army & Defense News

Army adjusts retention control points for junior enlisted

Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Feb. 5, 2014) – The Army has announced changes to retention control points for Soldiers in the ranks of corporal through sergeant. The changes took effect Feb. 1.

Retention control points, or RCPs, refer to the number of years a Soldier may serve to, at a particular rank. For example, the retention control point for a staff sergeant is 20 years. He must retire at 20 years, unless he is promoted to sergeant first class.

Army ALARACT 026-2014, "Change to retention control points for enlisted Soldiers serving in the regular Army or under the Active Guard Reserve Title 10 programs," released Jan 31, spells out the changes in detail.

The new RCP for promotable corporals and specialists is eight years. That is down from 12 years,

as spelled out in an earlier 2011 ALARACT. The new RCP for sergeants is 14 years, up from 13. And the new RCP for promotable sergeants is 14 years, down from 15.

For full story and links, go to http://www.army.mil/article/119549/Army_adjusts_retention_control_points_for_junior_enlisted/

Officials Warn of Scam Targeting Soldiers, Families

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. Feb. 7, 2014) – The Army's Criminal Investigation Command is warning about a new website scam in which criminals are attempting to take advantage of soldiers and their families.

The "My Army Benefits" website at <http://www.usmilitarybenefit.org> is not an official website, officials said, and is neither affiliated with nor endorsed in any way by the United

States Army. The Army does, however, have an official website called "MyArmyBenefits" at <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil> that is operated by the service's Retirement Services Office.

The primary purpose of the fraudulent site is to collect soldiers' Army Knowledge Online, or AKO, email accounts and passwords, officials said. It also makes the false claim that the U.S. military has granted access to unclaimed and accumulated benefits for active duty soldiers, and that benefits not claimed within the stipulated period will be available for claims after 60 months.

Criminal Investigation Command officials strongly recommend that soldiers, Army civilians, retirees and family members avoid the website and ignore any information or claims posted on it.

For full story, go to <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=121627>

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