

July 2010

The Lightning News



News from the front for Soldiers, families and friends of HHC, 359th Signal Brigade



NEW HOPE
www.nhwc.org

Soldiers of the 359th TSBZ
We the Members of
New Hope Worship Center, Grovetown GA
Appreciate, Miss, and Support You.
Know you are always in our prayers, until you come home safe!

www.mttn.org

Combat patches awarded for wartime service

Brigade Commander thanks each Task Force Thunder servicemember



Above, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Lisa Bryant, engineering noncommissioned officer in charge, receives her combat patch.



Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Wood, senior maintenance officer, shares a joke while getting his patch.



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Top, Army Spc. Corey Smith, command group administrative assistant, takes his boss's heartfelt thanks for his service. Left, Army Sgt. Nicholas Lambert, command group driver, gets his combat patch with a little more force. Far left, Army Sgt. 1st Class Tim Hart, training noncommissioned officer, accepts his patch.



Above, Army 1st Lt. Vincent Cooper, contracting office representative, tries to sneak an extra patch. Right, Army Spc. Courtney Simmons, supply sergeant, listens to Army Col. Chris Kemp, brigade commander, express his appreciation for her service.



Above, Army Sgt. 1st Class Carl Turner, battle noncommissioned officer, receives appreciation from the Task Force Thunder commander, Army Col. Chris Kemp.



Left, Army Col. Chris Kemp, brigade commander, attaches the 359th TTSB patch to the "combat sleeve" for Army Chief Warrant 3 Roderick Daniels, task force property book officer, during the patch ceremony on June 30.



Above, Army Spc. Kimberly Howard, resource management noncommissioned officer, accepts her 359th TTSB combat patch and compliments for her long hours and hard work so far on the deployment.



Air Force Capt. Eric Zamboly
NetOps senior battle captain



Army Lt. Col. Robert Drummer
brigade judge advocate



Army Lt. Col. Teri Hassell
deputy task force commander



Army 1st Lt. Joe Addison, Spc. Ali Al-Srogy, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Armador, Staff Sgt. Tommy Andrews and the rest



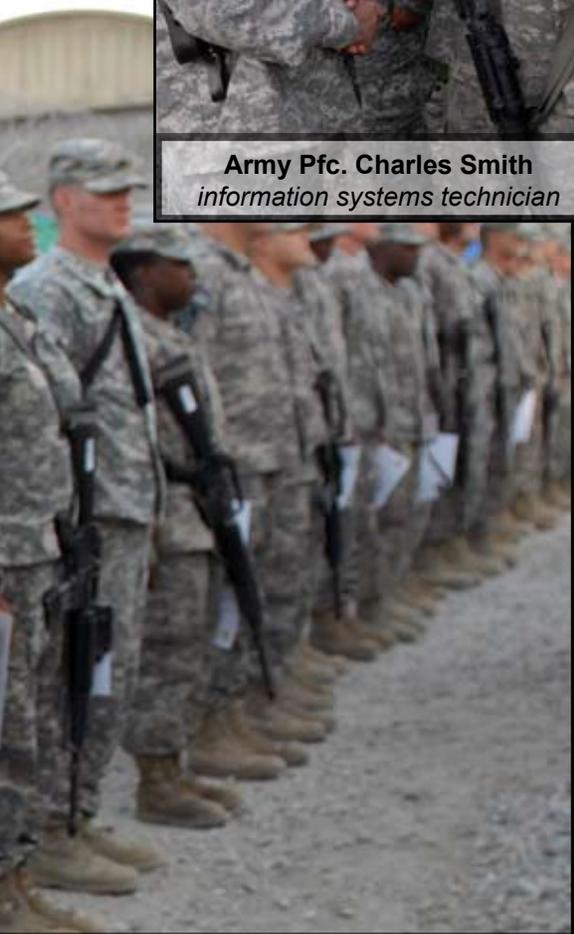
Army Pfc. Charles Smith
information systems technician



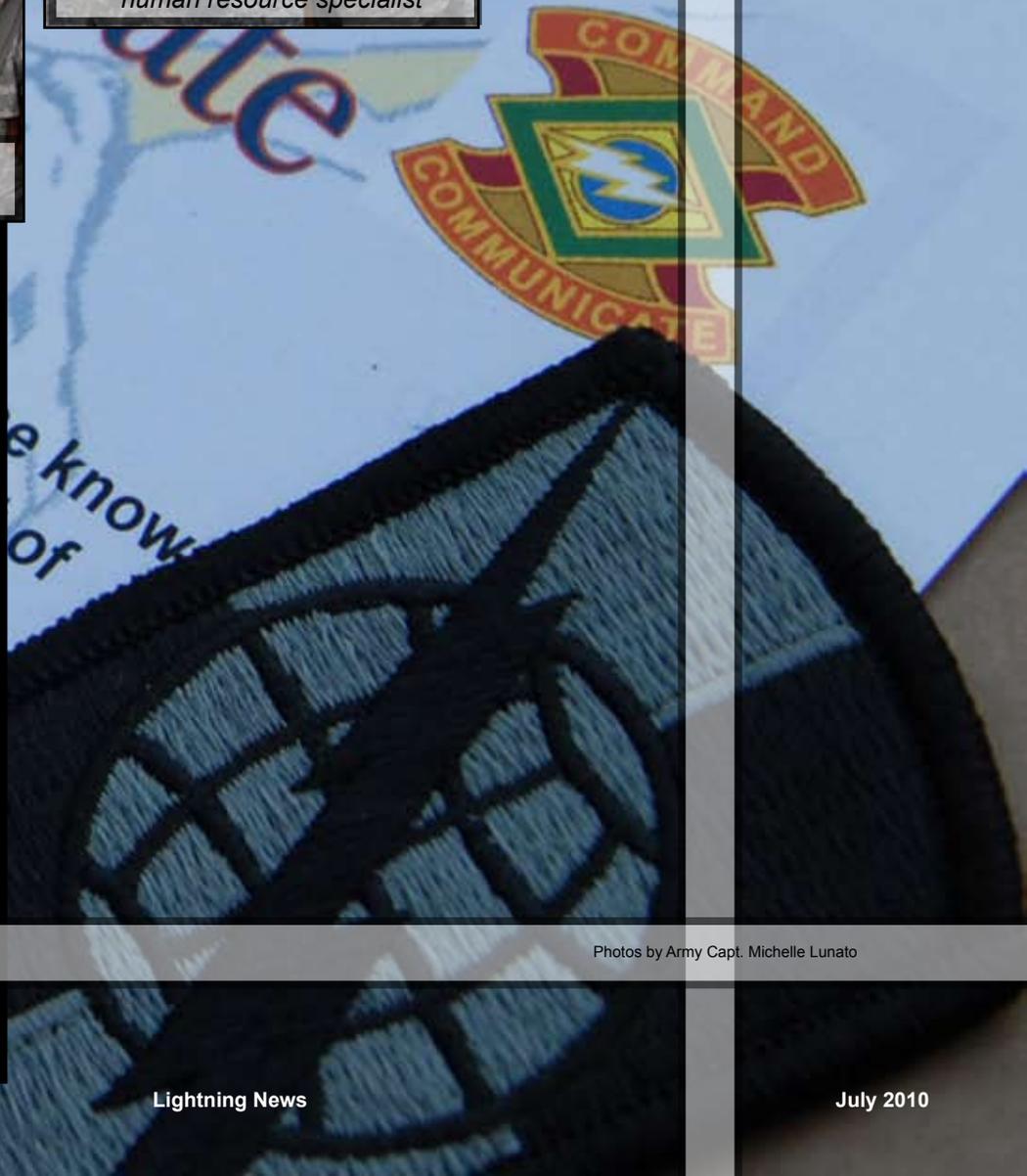
Army Spc. Thomas Robinson
human resource specialist



Army Pv2. Jerminthia Smith
human resources specialist



of the Bagram team at the patch ceremony.



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Promotions & Congratulations



Left, Army 1st Lt. Anthony Hillmon, Network Operations battle captain, Joint NetOps Control Center, speaks to his fellow Task Force Thunder comrades and wife, Joselyn, via video teleconference from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, after getting promoted to captain at the JNCC-A. "I was happy for her to be able to witness the promotion. She deserved it. She supported my decision to deploy for the second time even though I had only been home from my first deployment about eight months. Without her support and encouragement, I could not have made it this far. She helps keep me strong. She is my reason. Also, this is my first promotion in a combat zone."

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Above, Army Spc. Tristan L. Hughel, cook, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, receives a coin of Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale's from Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wilkerson, task force command sergeant major. Left, Air Force Technical Sgt. James Harris, NetOps controller (night shift), was welcomed to the rank of master sergeant.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jose Armador, battlefield Spectrum manager, and Sgt. 1st Class John Hembree, battle noncommissioned officer, both of the Joint NetOps Control Center - Afghanistan, said goodbye to the rank of staff sergeant.



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above left, Air Force Airman 1st Class Pisces Lee, NetOps controller, Joint NetOps Control Center - Afghanistan, receives a coin from Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, commanding general, USFOR-A support, for his continuous performance above the standards. Above right, Army sPfc. Tyler Dietz, intelligence analyst, is applauded by Task Force Thunder members after getting promoted to specialist.



Army Sgt. Maj. John Schiffli at the urban operations training site in Fort McCoy, Wis. in March.

359th TTSB Sergeant Major makes the Command Sergeant Major Select Board

The Department of the Army announced its annual command sergeant major board for the Army Reserves in July.

After a number of sergeant majors turn in their packets, the list was cut down to 160 packets to be reviewed.

Out of those, 50 sergeants major made the final cut, and the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade's Sgt. Maj. John Schiffli, plans and operations sergeant major, was on that list.

"This is no surprise to anyone who knows Sgt. Maj. Schiffli," said Col. Chris Kemp, commander, 359th TTSB. "He is the text book example of what a command sergeant major should be."

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Brigade Highlights:

Plans & Operations Shop



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

From left to right, Army: 1st Lt. Emile Hawkins, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Hart, Sgt. 1st Class Dan Wallen (above), Sgt. Maj. John Schiffli, Maj. Jane Tamboli (above) and 1st Lt. Aaron Brunck. Not pictured, Maj. Ted Smith.

Task Force Thunder S3, the plans and operations shop, serves as the nexus for the flow of information of the command. Divided into three sections, Plans, Projects, and Training, seven dedicated Soldiers provide the oversight, coordination, and synchronization required to provide seamless, superior communication support to the warfighter in the Combined Joint Operational Area-Afghanistan (CJOA-A). Plans & Operations is responsible for developing future Task Force Thunder plans and operations, in addition to, managing daily operations. Projects function is to synchronize and to ensure unity of effort across for project management across the CJOA-A. Training provides training oversight, management, and schools quotas.

Maj. Jane Tamboli, brigade plans and operations officer, is originally from Wisconsin. She

is Active Guard, Reserve (AGR) and was assigned to the brigade in August 2006. She assumed role of the plans and operations officer upon mobilization. One of her goals while deployed is to finish the Advanced Operations Course (AOC).

Operations sergeant major, **Sgt. Maj. John Schiffli**, hails from the great state of Florida and is a die-hard Gators fan, joined the 359th TTSB in 2008. This deployment is his fifth in his 27 year military career. One of his goals is to bench press 405 pounds while deployed.

Maj. Ted Smith, projects officer in charge, works in the newly formed Projects Fusion Cell. A native of Florida, he was cross-leveled into the unit from 329th Chemical Company for deployment with the brigade.

See PLANS, page 15

Honoring Those

Who Serve

Spiritual Care of Families:

Mom (or Dad), why in the world do we have to go to church every week? Can't we just stay home and sleep in like normal folks? I mean, the preacher is old, he drools, his jokes are NOT funny, and nobody goes to church any more anyway! Furthermore, none of my friends are there. COME ON MOM, get with the program!

So why do you take the one day that you have a little time for yourself and a little extra time for sleep to go to church?

Why do you go thru the hassle of waking, convincing, and rounding up the children only to find they fidget and complain all the way there and back? The reason: So they can hear about forgiveness!

Children sin too. Children feel guilt much more than we want to imagine or think! Children should have the opportunity to hear the powerful message of God's love and forgiveness just as adults! There is a verse in the Bible (Romans 1:16) that says that the Good News is the POWER of God unto salvation. That simply means that this GOOD

NEWS cuts thru all the energy and fidgeting and powerfully touches young hearts without them ever realizing it.

Plus, we adults need to be reminded of God's forgiveness and mercy in our lives. Church was never meant to be about what we do for God but rather about what God does for us while we are there; He feeds us with the bread of life and the water that alone quenches our thirst, namely, forgiveness won for us by our Savior.

Too many parents allow themselves and their children to become spiritually anorexic. It may appear as though they don't get anything out of it (because of all the complaining and unfocused energy) but I can assure you that when the GOOD NEWS is spoken, it has power to touch hearts beyond our wildest imagination. Hence, let me encourage you to take your children to church so as to be FED by our very gracious and loving God!

If you have questions or need help in ANY way, please e-mail me at nutsforicrecream@yahoo.com. Please leave your phone number and I will call you.

Chaplain (LTC) Gary Williams

HOLY BIBLE
KING JAMES VERSION

HHC Soldier Feature:

Making a difference, being creative

By Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Many people say a good leader does not make something out of nothing. However, there are a few positions in the Army where that trait is actually desired.

As an Army cook, Spc. Tristan L. Hughel, Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, has to do just that each and every day. With limited supplies and thousands of Soldiers to feed, Hughel doesn't see a problem; he sees a challenge. "At home, I like to find hard recipes," said Hughel.

Though this is Hughel's second deployment with the signal brigade, this is the first time he has gotten to serve as a cook overseas. "I was like hired help before," he said as he explained how he did everything from inventory to supply to mail in Kuwait. The change of duty is a welcome task to the trained cook. "I feel like I am doing a little more for the war effort. And, it is like my creative outlet here."

Since the 359th TTSB does not run its own mess hall, Hughel has been working in the dining facility run by the 3rd Infantry Division (Aviation) at Bagram. Working along a new set of comrades was not a problem for Hughel, said Sgt. Crystal Bryant, first cook, 3rd ID. "He came here and fit right in, just like family."

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Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

When Hughel was awarded a coin of Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale's, the commanding general, USFOR-A support, by the 359th TTSB command sergeant major for all his hard work, Bryant was not surprised. He is a good Soldier and eager to learn, said Bryant. "You tell him to do something and he executes. I like that."

His upbeat, can-do attitude is also noticed by the leadership in the 359th TTSB. "Spc. Hughel, is definitely a Soldier that's on his way to becoming a fine NCO [noncommissioned officer] one day," said Army Capt. Gervis

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Army Spc. Tristan L. Hughel, cook, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, uncovers pies for the dinner meal at the 3rd Infantry Division Aviation Dining Facility. Hughel works for the 3rd ID so he can use his military job skills and since the 359th TTSB does not run its own mess hall.

Carlisle, commander, HHC.

Although Hughel is delighted to be in a kitchen for this deployment, he said he has different goals for the future. Upon redeploying back to Texas, the cook said he plans to complete his software engineering degree at University of Texas at Arlington. "Ultimately, I want to design video games," said Hughel. "I would really like to make a Final Fantasy game. I have been playing that since I was seven. Now, that would be really cool."

See HUGHEL, page 14

Page 10

Brigade Commander: *Celebrating Independence Day deployed is an honor*

Dear friends and families of the 359th TTSB/
Task Force Thunder,

I hope that all your Fourth of July celebrations were enjoyable and safe. Though our tributes to the day were not filled with fireworks, cookouts or parades, we had a deep sense of the significance of Independence Day.

Being deployed across the globe and away from our families and the comforts of home is never easy, especially on the holidays. But, on this particular holiday, as we paid tribute to the freedoms that many nations crave, it was a particular honor to wear the uniform.

Regardless of the individual reasons we joined, we all have one thing in common - we all had the choice to volunteer, or not. We know that we had the freedom to choose a profession because of the actions of those veterans before us. Their fight for freedom did not go unremembered by us as we strive to assist the people of Afghanistan with their war on terror.

Like us, the Afghan people want the freedom to raise their children in peace, to live without fear and to create their own way ahead. They are mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters just like us. As Coalition Forces work side by side with our Afghan partners, there is one thing we all seek – Independence from terror.

So I ask that you remember this holiday, not as the



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Army Col. Chris Kemp, commander, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade/Task Force Thunder, speaks with task force members after the combat patch ceremony.

time your Soldier missed a family event, but as a time your Soldier sacrificed their freedom for another to have a chance at freedom.

Honored to served you and your Soldier,

COL Chris Kemp
359th TTSB Commander

Smoke Detector Do's and Don'ts

- * Do check and replace detector batteries regularly.
- * Don't remove a battery and not replace with a new one.
- * Do perform routine maintenance on all detectors.

(As dirt and dust mimic the carbon particulates found in smoke, the smoke detectors are some times not capable of recognizing the difference in the two. If your smoke detector goes into alarm on its own, and there is no sign of smoke or fire, do not remove the battery to correct the problem! First, attempt to blow out the detectors using compressed or canned air. This should restore the smoke detector to a properly functioning condition.)

- * Don't remove unserviceable detectors and not replace with a new one immediately.
- * Do include detectors as part of regular household inspections.
- * Don't wait until there is a need for a replacement to order/buy.
- * Do ensure that each room/office has sufficient working detectors.



Spc. Eric Mahaffey
July 12

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Staff Sgt. Chelsea Helsley
July 15



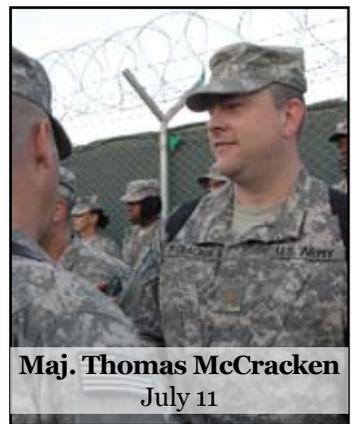
Warrant Officer 1 Clarence Toland
August 8



Sgt. Shauna Phillips
August 17



**Chief Warrant Officer 2
Marcus Fife ~ July 24**



Maj. Thomas McCracken
July 11



Sgt. Luis Arias
July 18

**HHC
Soldiers
with
July
&
August
B-Days**



Spc. Tyler Dietz
August 7

Happy Birthday HHC Soldiers!



Lt. Col. Orville Jennings
August 4

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

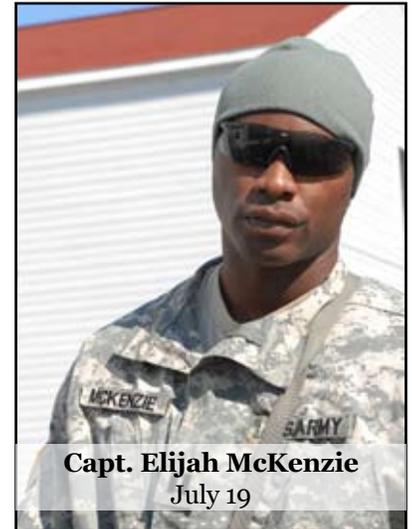


Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jose Serrano-Sanchez ~ August 21



Capt. Michelle Lunato
July 5

Army Chief Warrant 2 Cynthia Thomas



Capt. Elijah McKenzie
July 19



Capt. Anthony Hillmon
August 3



Sgt. Todd Tinker
August 15



**Chief Warrant Officer 2
Cynthia Thomas** ~ August 16



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Left, Army Spc. Tristan L. Hughel, cook, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, takes a break in the company area. Above, Hughel looks for the “enemy” during urban operations training at the Readiness Training site in Fort McCoy, Wis. in March.

(HUGHEL continued, page 10)

Unfortunately, the deployment to Afghanistan interrupted the Reservist’s new found determination to finish his degree though, said Hughel when he explained that he just started college courses again after a break. “I was just too immature before. Now, I know that school is the priority.”

He is not too worried to start

classes again nevertheless, since his refocused attitude was proving to be genuine, said Hughel as he explained that he made the dean’s list in the fall of 2009 at the community college in Arlington, Texas. “I was shocked. If I can do that at UTA, then, I will be pretty proud of myself.”

To not fall to behind or lose the motivation to continue his education, Hughel said he plans to sign up for some online classes while serving in Afghani-

stan. So, in between his creative means of cooking and his research on video games, the Soldier will hit the books as well.

Keeping busy in a war zone is just what needs to be done, said Hughel. And when Hughel thought about his younger brother who is at Marine basic training now, he laughed and said he probably has it better off as a cook in a war zone.

“I bet he would like to trade places with me now.”

Thank you to the Fort Belvoir US~
Right, Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Outley, senior human resources sergeant, shows off his care package from the Fort Belvoir USO. Every member of the 359th received care package that included snacks, a razor, crossword puzzles, sunblock, wet wipes, a travel bathroom bag and a phone card.



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



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Army Staff Sgt. Cassandra Jackson, human resources noncommissioned officer, gives a class on the prevention of sexual harassment at the North dining facility.



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Suicide Prevention Class - Army Captain (Lt. Col.) Gary Williams, brigade chaplain, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, tells Task Force Thunder members the warning signs of depression and suicide so that they may help each other in times of need and prevent a comrade from being in danger.

Suicide Warning Signs:

- * Appearing depressed or sad most of the time.
- * Talking or writing about death or suicide.
- * Withdrawing from family or friends.
- * Feeling hopeless and/or helpless.
- * Feeling strong anger and/or rage.
- * Feeling trapped -- like there is no way out of a situation.
- * Losing interest in most activities.
- * Acting impulsively.
- * Exhibiting a change in personality.
- * Performing performing poorly at work.
- * Experiencing a change in sleeping habits.
- * Experiencing a change in eating habits.
- * Giving away prize possessions.
- * Writing a will.
- * Feeling excessively guilt or shame.
- * Acting recklessly.

(PLANS continued, page 8)

Plans officer in charge, **1st Lt. Aaron Brunck**, from Clyde, N.C., and was cross-leveled into the brigade from A Company, 324th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. During the deployment he endeavors to obtain Information Technology certifications and learn Jedi mind tricks.

Projects officer, **1st Lt. Emile Hawkins**, claims Georgia as home, and brings considerable signal experience to the team. He was cross-leveled from C Company, 324th ESB for the deployment and is pursuing his masters degree while deployed.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Wallen, plans and operations noncommissioned officer in charge, calls Stockbridge, Ga. home. An AGR Soldier, Wallen joined the unit in January 2010. While deployed, he is attending online college courses to earn his bachelors degree.

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Hart, the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) and training noncommissioned officer resides in Debary, Fla. Cross-leveled from the 329th Chemical Company in Orlando, Fla., his goal during this deployment is to provide chemical guidance and productive training to Soldiers in Task Force Thunder.

Having fun at the JNCC-A

Sometimes being silly is a requirement of war



Left, from left to right, Air Force 1st Lt. Gilberto Perez, battle captain; Air Force Master Sgt. John Milne, joint automation management noncommissioned officer; Army Sgt. Shawn Bose, authorized service interruption manager; Air Force Capt. Aaron Molletti, enterprise deputy officer in charge; Air Force Capt. Eric Zymboly, senior battle captain; Air Force Master Sgt. Steven Campbell, enterprise noncommissioned officer in charge; and Air Force Airman 1st Class Pisces Lee, NetOps controller; all crowd around Army Staff Sgt. Chelsea Helsley, intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge, on her birthday.

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Air Force Staff Sgt. William Naron, project manager, attacks Air Force 1st Lt. Gilberto Perez, battle captain, a little less than tactically outside the Joint NetOps Control Center.

Below, Army 1st Lt. Damon Pipkin, knowledge management officer, is all smiles as his work day at the Joint NetOps Control Center - Afghanistan is over before the sun went down. The JNCC has personnel working 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Air Force Airman 1st Class Pisces Lee, NetOps controller, is notorious for playing "The Circle Game" throughout the work day at the Joint NetOps Control Center.



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2, enterprise system administrator, tries to keep Army Master Sgt. Steve Rumsey, NetOps noncommissioned officer in charge, from trying to escape the Joint NetOps Control Center.



Left, Air Force Airman 1st Class Kyle Wilson, information assurance/computer network defense technician, strikes the "Captain Morgan" pose while outside of the Joint NetOps Control Center in Bagram, Afghanistan.



Above, Army Sgt. Natanisha Hershberger, JNCC supply sergeant, and Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jovar McKeller, network management technician, are chilling in the break area at the JNCC. Left, Air Force 1st Lt. Gilberto Perez, battle captain, and Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Steven Campbell, enterprise noncommissioned officer in charge, are looking a little guilty.

Leadership on all fronts

and levels



Army Lt. Col. Orville Jennings

Headquarters and Headquarters Company leadership ~ Army Capt. Gervis Carlisle, commander, and Army Andree Lipscomb, first sergeant, at the HHC office.

Regional Computer Emergency Response Team (Army) ~ Capt. Jonathan Berliner, intelligence chief; Lt. Col. Karl Gossett, director; Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Robertson, Computer Defense Assistance Program (CDAP) analyst; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Leon Staton, CDAP analyst; and 1st Lt. Jason Gorey, Southwest Asia team liaison; at the Joint NetOps Control Center.



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato