

August 2010

Roaring Thunder

News for the Soldiers, Airmen, Civilians and Contractors of Task Force Thunder

**392nd ESB completes tour
in Afghanistan, Iraq & Kuwait**

*Task Force Thunder announces
Soldier/NCO of the Quarter*



Task Force Thunder **Command & Staff**

TF Commander

Army Col. Chris Kemp

Deputy TF Commander

Army Lt. Col. Teri Hassell

Command Sergeant Major

Army Command Sgt. Maj.

Thomas Wilkerson

Personnel Officer

Army Lt. Col. Orville Jennings

Security Officer

Army Maj. Benjamin Stevens

Plans & Operations Officer/ JNCC-A Director

Army Lt. Col. John H. Phillips

Supply & Logistics Officer

Army Lt. Col. George Brady

Brigade Judge Advocate

Army Lt. Col. Robert Drummer

Chaplain

Army Lt. Col. Gary Williams

Public Affairs Officer

Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Task
Force
Thunder
Commander:

Col. Kemp

Task Force Thunder,

We are at a critical point in our mission. As the surge of servicemembers continues to increase in the theater and the attention moves from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation Enduring Freedom, we must continue to expand and improve the communications networks to support the warfighters. We cannot, and will not fail.

Our mission to develop and expand the communications infrastructure in Afghanistan is essential to support the warfighters' missions. We must continue to thicken the network, making it more redundant, efficient, reliable and secure. This network will not only support our U.S. servicemembers, but our NATO and Afghan partners as well. Make no mistake, this is a joint fight. Though we may only be a small entity, we are a very important part of the operational team.

The road ahead will not be easy, and we will certainly face many more challenges. Given that I have already witnessed your varied abilities and countless accomplishments, I have full confidence TF Thunder will overcome any and all challenges. The intricate details of our mission depend immeasurably on your expertise and coordination with your fellow experts.

Regardless of whether you are a Soldier, Airmen, civilian or contractor, each and every one of you plays a vital role in this effort, and without your part, the circle is broken. Your role may not be well known, or easily understood, but it is important. Success or failure of the warfighters at the point of the spear rest on our team's ability to provide the critical communications links 24 X 7 – dial tone must always be on.

I ask you to stay strong, stay fit and stay focused. We have a long road ahead, but we are on the right path to continued success.

Take exceptional pride in your work, knowing full well that while we all are writing history, you are making a difference each and every day.

Proud to have the opportunity to serve you...
Army Strong!

COL Chris Kemp

Commander, Task Force Thunder

Task Force Thunder

Command
Sergeant Major:

Command
Sgt. Maj.

Wilkerson



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Dear Task Force Thunder,

Honor is the backbone of our Army values.

We all strive for success and greatness in our personal and professional lives, but as Soldiers, we give the greatest gift to our families and friends.

We sacrifice. We fight for this great country. We protect our citizens and our land with the same honor and integrity as those who have come before us.

We instill honor by remaining steadfast in our mission, dedicated to our values and morally sound in our approach to diverse and sometimes complicated tasks. We appreciate the heroic efforts of each person and family who makes the greatest sacrifice for our country with honor and integrity.

Thank you for your honorable service.

Thomas D. Wilkerson
Command Sergeant Major
Task Force Thunder

Task Force Thunder Elements

Task Force Headquarters

HHC, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade
Bagram, Afghanistan

Regional Command - East/Capital

25th Signal Battalion

HHD, 25th SB

C Company 63rd ESB

580th Signal Company

16th Tactical Installation Network

278th Signal Company

Regional Command - South/Southwest

86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

HHC, 86th ESB

A Company 86th ESB

B Company 51st ESB

B Company 307th ESB

C Company 86th ESB

550th Signal Company

Regional Command - North

307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

HHC, 307th ESB

A Company 151st ESB

B Company 44th Signal Company

Task Force Thunder Soldier takes fire

392nd ESB Warrior injured, receives Purple Heart

Story & photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Bagram, Afghanistan – Spc. Garratt Williams, a multi-channel transmission systems operator maintainer, A Company, 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, received a Purple Heart Medal and Combat Action Badge on July 16 after being injured by small arms fire while traveling in a Chinook in the southern part of Afghanistan.

Williams, who was injured in his right eye with bullet fragments, was treated at the Staff Sgt. Heathe N. Craig Joint Theater Hospital in Bagram and prepped for movement to Germany for surgery.

Upon receiving his medal and badge from Brig. Gen. Warren Phipps, deputy commanding general of support, Combined Joint Task Force 101, Williams said he was feeling very lucky.

“I’m just blessed to have my other eye.”

The prognosis on his injured eye will not be concrete until he gets into Germany, said Williams. In addition to military medical support, Williams said he also has a number of connections in the ophthalmology industry in Atlanta through his civilian job as a mobile laser technician. “Ideally, I hope I will get my vision back.”

Though Williams said he feels very lucky considering the situation, there is still one thing that disappoints the Soldier who just requested to extend his deployment. “It upsets me that I cannot RIP [Relief in Place] with my team.”

The Army Reservist deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in January in support of the signal mission for Operation Enduring Freedom. Originally, the Jonesboro, Ga. resident, was assigned to C Company, 324th ESB located in East Point but transferred to the 392nd ESB, a subordinate unit to the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, for the deployment.



Right, Spc. Garratt Williams, a multi-channel transmission systems operator maintainer, A Company, 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, receives a Purple Heart Medal and Combat Action Badge from Brig. Gen. Warren Phipps, deputy commanding general of support, Combined Joint Task Force 101. Above, Spc. Garratt Williams, a multi-channel transmission systems operator maintainer, A Company, 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, speaks with Task Force Chaplain (Lt.Col.) Gary Williams.

Brig. Gen. Brock assumes command of 335th Signal Command

Story & photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Arifjan, Kuwait – Army Brig. Gen. Lawrence W. Brock III took command of the 335th Signal Command (Theater) (Provisional) on the morning of September 2, 2010.

Brock received command from Army Brig. Gen. James T. Walton, who had commanded the unit since July 2008, at the Camp Arifjan Zone 1 Fitness Center during a Change of Command Ceremony.

Brock, the incoming commander, applauded Walton for his accomplishments and promised to make continued progress. “I will do my utmost to maintain the values you have set forth and the contributions you have made these last 26 months.”

Brock began his military career at the Citadel Military College and was commissioned as a Signal Corps lieutenant in the South Carolina Army National Guard. After serving in a number of positions ranging from a systems engineer officer to a battalion commander to the director of communications with Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, Brock joined the Army Reserves and assumed the position of chief of staff with the 335th Signal Command (Theater).

As a civilian, Brock works as the vice president of the Integrated Services Division at Rockwell Collins in South Carolina.

Walton, the departing commander, began his military career in 1977 with the Army Reserves. Outside of serving in positions ranging from scheduling/training officer to inspector general to chief of staff of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, Walton earned a Master of Science in electrical engineering, a Ph.D. in operations research, a masters in business administration and a masters of strategic studies.

When Walton redeploys, he is returning home to California and his job at Boeing.

Walton said he was proud of what the Soldiers of the 335th accomplished under his tenure, “One of the key accomplishments has been the phenomenal work done to reduce the build, transit and installation cycle time of technical control facilities from years to months. These vital facilities are an integral part of the communications infrastructure in the Afghan Combined Joint Operations Area, and represent an investment of well over \$100 million in procurement funds.”

The 335th’s mission is to manage telecommunications infrastructure for the Southwest Asia area. This requires continuous improvements of processes, actions, and training to keep up with the ever-changing technology.



Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, commander, U.S. Army Central, passes the 335th colors to Brig. Gen. Lawrence W. Brock III, incoming commander, 335th Signal Command (Theater) (Provisional); while Brig. Gen. James T. Walton, outgoing commander, performs his last official duty at his change of command ceremony in Arifjan, Kuwait, September 2, 2010.



Brig. Gen. James T. Walton, the outgoing commander.

86th Signal Battalion's Soldier feature:

550th Signal Company warrior discovers inner strength

By Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Kandahar, Afghanistan -- As the war on terror continues, so do the sacrifices of our servicemembers. They forgo the comforts of home for meager accommodations of a deployed base. They relinquish the peace and safety of residence in the United States for the uncertainty of explosions and rocket attacks. They surrender many personal freedoms for regulations and precautions. And, they graciously give up precious time with their family for the opportunity to serve their country. All these sacrifices come with a price; however, not all of these are negative.

Sometimes it takes having nothing to realize what you have and who you are, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Debbie J. Langille, visual information noncommissioned officer in charge, 550th Signal Company, 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. "I didn't know I was strong enough to be here, and I am proud of the strength that I've carried."

Langille, a resident of Fort Meade, Md., has been in Kandahar since September of 2009, and says it is hard to believe all the things she has seen and experienced through the deployment. "I couldn't even imagine this in my wildest dreams."

It is not that Langille is new to the Army, but she was new to the deployment scene. "I never thought that after 17 years I would be actually doing this," said Langille as she explained she was en route to her first deployment on her 17th anniversary in the Army.

Once in country, I quickly learned that Kandahar was a heavily rocketed area, and that took some getting used to, said Langille. When a rocket exploded near her living area there was no time to think. "I hit the floor, the thing shook the whole building, the alarms went off and I knew this was way different." The 17-year veteran said she was shaken up but proud of how she responded. "We never know how we are really going to react until we experience it."

It is not only my military training that gets

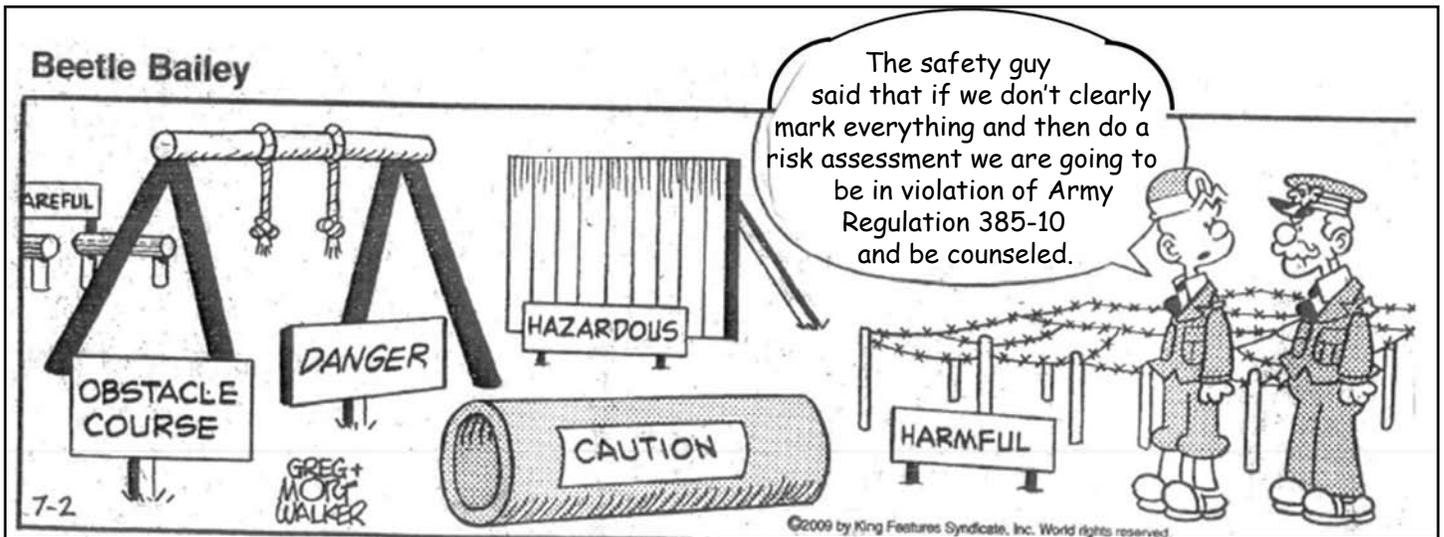


Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

me through the precarious environment here, but in large part, I survive on my beliefs, said Langille. "I have faith in a higher power. I believe He shows me what to do daily."

Having faith doesn't mean that I don't get frustrated though, she explained. "I have times where I get resentful at those who don't have this kind of hardship, but I was one of them for 17 years." When you live in the comforts of the United States, it is so easy to take things for granted, said Langille. "I remember when I used to, but I don't know how you don't."

As a visual information sergeant, Langille is responsible for photographing events, designing a regular newsletter, and archiving it all for historical record. It is an important job that people in the military don't always understand,



Weapons safety is everyone's responsibility

Year-to-date there has been 61 negligent discharges in the RC-East area of responsibility alone. That number exceeds the total for the previous year. To fight negligent discharges we must change the way we think about, and handle weapons. It is everyone's responsibility to set the example for others and make on-the spot corrections as needed. Your actions could save a life.

- Treat every weapon as if it is loaded.
- Handle every weapon with care and maintain muzzle awareness.
- Never point your weapon at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until firing.
- Ensure Soldiers are trained on their assigned weapons.
- Conduct routine weapons refresher training.
- Do not horseplay with a weapon. Ever.
- Educate Soldiers on, and enforce weapons clearing procedures.
- Use buddy system when clearing weapons and leadership verify.
- Post/issue weapons safety related material to all Soldiers.
- Conduct frequent weapon checks to ensure it is on SAFE and the chamber is empty.

Do not permit complacency!

General Order # 1 Violations on the Rise

Reported incidents of General Order #1 violations are on the rise. CJTF-101 General Order #1, dated June 18, 2010, is aimed at helping commanders maintain good order and discipline throughout the entire Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan (CJOA-A).

The most common violations thus far involve alcohol possession and/or consumption and room visitation.

Leaders are encouraged to reinforce the standard of compliance with this punitive regulation at every given opportunity, including, but not limited to professional development sessions, command information briefs, and other training events.

Similarly, Soldiers are reminded that violations of *any provision of this General Order* subjects them to administrative (e.g., separation), non-judicial punishment, (e.g., Company Grade or Field Grade Article 15s) or judicial punishment (i.e., courts-martial action) under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Administrative actions may include not only oral or written reprimand, but also involuntary separation from the Army.

Punishment may include administrative reprimand, as well as extra and/or restricted duty, reduction in grade, forfeiture of pay, and suspension of favorable personnel actions, such as promotions.

Judicial punishment (i.e., courts-martial action) for violation of Article 92, failure to obey order or regulation, carries a maximum punishment of a Dishonorable Discharge, confinement for up to two years, and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

General Order #1 applies to all U.S. military personnel, as well as civilians serving with,

employed by, or accompanying the Armed Forces of the United States. U.S. civilians serving with, employed by, or accompanying the force who violate this General Order may face criminal prosecution or administrative action, to include termination of employment and re-deployment.

Specifically, General Order #1 governs the following:

a. **Weapons.**

(1) *Loaded Weapons.*

Unless directed otherwise by appropriate authority, required for a specific mission, or for reasons of self-defense, individuals will **not** chamber a round in their individual weapon. Weapons that use magazines will have a loaded magazine locked into the weapon, but no round chambered.

Individuals assigned a belt-fed weapon will keep the rounds in the bandolier or ammunition carrying case. All individuals will clear their assigned weapon before entering U.S. or Coalition installations.

(2) *Positive Personal Control.*

Personnel issued a weapon will maintain positive personal control of their weapon at all times. "Positive personal control" means the weapon is carried by the person, is under the control (guard) of a known individual, or is secured behind **two** doors (e.g., a locked wall locker inside a locked room). When outdoors, personnel must carry their issued weapon at all times, except when conducting physical training or for *brief periods of time* (e.g., latrine breaks, smoke breaks) and, depending on the force protection level.

(3) *Purchase, possession, use,*

or sale of privately-owned firearms, ammunition, explosives, or the introduction of these items into the CJOA-A is prohibited.

b. **Minefields.**

Damaging or removing minefield markings is prohibited. Knowingly entering a marked minefield or an area where there is information that mines may be located is prohibited for all personnel except mine-clearing personnel in the performance of their duties, unless absolutely necessary for mission accomplishment as determined by the on-scene commander.

c. **Alcohol.**

Individuals are prohibited from the introduction, possession, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of any alcoholic beverages. Non- U.S. Coalition forces authorized by their command to consume alcohol will only do so within their discrete camp area, will not allow consumption to detract from mission accomplishment, and will not introduce, sell, or transfer alcohol to U.S. military or civilian personnel under any circumstances.

d. **Drugs & Drug Paraphernalia.**

Individuals are prohibited from introducing, possessing, selling, transferring, manufacturing, or using any chemical, product, or substance with intention of obtaining an altered state of mind or an unnatural feeling of euphoria. Also prohibited are paraphernalia used to facilitate the manufacture or use of any such substance. This is intended to prohibit the intentional misuse of certain products (e.g., paint products, glue, nitrous oxide, prescription or over-the-counter medicines, and other similar substances) for a pur-

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86th Signal Battalion's Soldier feature:

392nd ESB Warrior learns appreciation through deployment



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Interviewed by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Army Pfc. Jakeyla M. Jordan

Automated logistics specialist

A Company, 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Why did you join the Army?

"It's a good experience for getting your life on the right track."

Have you been surprised at all the morale activities here in Kandahar?

"Yes. I wasn't looking to come over here and do all of that."

Do you think the variety of morale activities are important to have on deployment?

"I think it's important because the Soldiers would be more stressed without them."

you were on leave. How do you feel about that?

"Even though I wasn't there, I run to the bunkers. I think it could have been me. I could have been there."

How is your family handling your deployment?

"I tell my mother, 'Unless I call you personally about something, don't listen to the news. I am fine.'"

What keeps you going each day here?

"I look at it as she [my daughter] is my motivator. If I didn't have her, I wouldn't be in the military."

What do you want your daughter to know?

"That her mom strives to be the best at what she does, and that I did it all for her."

A rocket came close to your sleeping area when

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pose other than for which they were manufactured. This prohibition does not apply to the use of tobacco or caffeine products.

e. Gambling.

Gambling of any kind, including sports pools, lotteries and raffles is prohibited.

f. Pornography and Sexually Explicit Material.

Introduction, purchase, possession, transfer, sale, creation, or display of any pornographic or sexually explicit photograph, video tapes or CDs, movie, drawing, book, magazine, or similar representation is prohibited.

g. Living Spaces (for purposes of this paragraph, includes offices or work areas that contain or are directly connected to personal sleeping areas).

(1) *Cohabitation.* Males and females will not cohabit with, reside with, or sleep with members of the opposite sex in living spaces of any kind. This prohibition may not apply in situations where a military exigency necessitates mixed residency arrangements, as determined by the brigade commander. Furthermore, lawfully married spouses will be permitted to reside in the same living areas together, provided adequate accommodations are available as determined by the brigade commander.

(2) *Visitation.* Personnel may enter the living space of the opposite sex as long as all persons living there agree, and all visitors remain in open areas and not behind closed doors, partitions, or other isolated or segregated areas. When a living space has only one occupant present and a member of the opposite sex enters that living space, the out-

side door to the living space will remain completely open.

h. Sexual Conduct.

Sexual relations in a deployed environment can have an adverse impact on unit cohesion, morale, good order and discipline, and jeopardize unit readiness as well as mission accomplishment. All persons subject to this General Order are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that recognizes this reality. Personnel whose sexual behavior adversely impacts unit cohesion, morale, or good order and discipline, or jeopardizes unit readiness or mission accomplishment may be punished.

i. Muslim Dead.

Muslim dead, including enemy dead, will be treated with respect and to the greatest extent possible without compromising ongoing military operations, will be interred in accordance with Muslim religious practice and customs. The guidance contained in CENTCOM Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Muslim Burial Practices, dated 4 June 2004, will be followed. Muslim dead will not be burned or cremated under any circumstances. Every effort will be made to bury Muslim remains within the first 24 hours following death. The maximum time for burial should be 72 hours. Local religious leaders will, if possible, be consulted to ensure the proper actions are taken.

j. Afghan Culture and Religion.

(1) Due to the unique challenges inherent in providing military and civilian support to a Muslim nation, it is essential that all personnel remain focused at all times on the culture and mores of the sovereign nation in which we operate. Accordingly, all persons subject to this General Order are charged with the individual duty to become familiar

with and respect the laws, regulations, and customs of Afghanistan insofar as they do not interfere with the execution of their official duties. Words, gestures, and acts that are disrespectful to Afghans, their cultural practices, or their religious beliefs are likely to have a significant negative impact on the mission and safety of U.S. and Coalition forces in Afghanistan. Any word, gesture, or act directed at, conveyed to, or made in the presence of any Afghan citizen by any person subject to this General Order, with the intent to insult, disrespect or degrade Afghan citizens, their culture, or their religious beliefs, is prohibited.

(2) *Entrance into a Mosque or other site of Islamic religious significance by non-Muslims unless directed to do so by military authorities, required by military necessity, or as part of an official tour conducted with the approval of military authorities and the host nation, is prohibited.*

(3) Removing, possessing, selling, defacing or destroying archeological artifacts or national treasures is prohibited.

l. Proselytizing of any religion, faith or practice is prohibited.

m. Vehicle Operations.

(1) *Seat belts.* When available, seat belts will be worn when traveling in all vehicles.

(2) *A ground guide will be used for backing all tactical vehicles.*

(3) *Open-air vehicles & heavy equipment.* All personnel will wear a reflective belt, an advanced combat helmet, a ballistic helmet, an approved safety helmet, or a hard hat, and protective eyewear when driving or riding in



Army Sgt. 1st Class Shawn R. Paine

Command Sgt. Maj. Carl S. Adams, 25th Signal Battalion command sergeant major, and color bearer Sgt. 1st Class Matthew A. Long, 25th RNOS NCOIC, lead the Enlisted E-spirit D' Corps Run down Disney Drive at Bagram Airfield.

ATV/UTV Safety

- Vehicles without operational lights will NOT be used during limited visibility.
- 4WD mode is NOT permitted on paved surfaces.
- All personnel must wear a helmet (ACH/hard hat) that is properly fastened.
- Personnel/weapons WILL NOT ride/be stored in cargo area.
- Seat belts, when present, will be worn by all occupants.
- As a minimum, the driver will wear a reflective belt that is visible from all sides.
- Eye Pro will be worn by all occupants regardless of presence of windshield.

Did you know?

You can submit your photographs, stories, cartoons, etc. for publication in the Task Force Thunder Magazine, Roaring Thunder.

Or, feel free to invite the public affairs officer to your event or mission for coverage.

Contact Army Capt. Michelle Lunato at michelle.lunato@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Electrical Safety

- Never overload circuits.
- DO NOT daisy chain power strips and extension cords, and DO NOT stack adapters.
- Regardless of outlets in a power strip, NO MORE THAN four items may be plugged into a single power strip at any time.
- Unplug all items that are not being used.
- Use only approved heaters and electric blankets.

Signal Mission ~ not just an Army team Air Force plays a critical role in Afghanistan



Story & photo by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

As the war in Afghanistan progresses, so does the mission for signalers. The requirements of the warfighters mature each and every week. Without the means to communicate effectively, their tasks are more intricate, more dangerous. For Task Force Thunder personnel, this translates into a constantly developing and increasingly complex set of tasks.

To support this continually changing environment, the signal team must expand and diversify. It is not just a mission for Soldiers. It is a joint effort that requires signal expertise from Airmen as well.

Having a varied team is exactly what it takes to keep up with the challenges in communication technology while at war, said Air Force Lt. Col. Janice G. Gray, deputy director, Joint NetOps

Control Center – Afghanistan. “We are a different flavor based on our knowledge and experience.”

Being signal experts who were trained in a dissimilar type of environment than Soldiers, gives us another perspective, she added. “We are able to look at the mission in a different way and bring our expertise to the table.”

Getting the mission done is the bottom line of course, but, there are always different ways of doing things, said Air Force Master Sgt. John L. Milne, noncommissioned officer in charge, joint automation management operation at the JNCC-A. “It is almost a mirror image, but with a little twist.”

With the vast growth of troops in Afghanistan, the signal needs have grown exponentially, said Air Force Capt. Eric Zymboly, officer in charge, NetOps, JNCC-A. “There is so much more complexity to the network now.”

And that complexity is exactly why the Air Force needs to be a part of the team, said Army Master Sgt. Steven Rumsey, noncommissioned officer in charge, NetOps, JNCC-A. "With the diversity that they bring, they help us put it all together so there is no gap."

Breaks in network service to the warfighters can be critical and try to be avoided at all costs, said Gray. So when the signal task force headquarters rotated Soldiers from the 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade to the 359th TTSB, the Air Force team was there to maintain mission consistency, added Gray. "We were able to bridge the gap, and hopefully, make it a little more seamless of a change over."

Consistency in service doesn't mean there is a lack of development though, said Air Force 1st Lt. Gilberto Perez, senior battle captain, NetOps, JNCC-A. "Our different perspectives help us get out of the monotony of doing the same things over and over again."

Like all technology, things change at light speed here, said Milne. Now, add the challenges of war on top of that, and you have a complex mission that requires a lot of expertise, said Army Sgt. Maj. Andrew J. Scheuermann III, sergeant major, JNCC-A. "The Air Force personnel we have assigned to the JNCC are all extremely proficient in their fields," and having that "allows us to look at and attack problems from more than one view point."

Without different vantage points and skill sets, the mission could not be completed as efficiently and successfully, said Army Lt. Col. Teri A. Hassell, deputy commander, Task Force Thunder. "Make no mistake, this is a team effort. Without everyone's help, we could not support the warfighters."

By supporting the warfighters via a successful signal mission, there is a future benefit for the country, said Army Lt. Col. John H. Phillips, director, JNCC. "We are building an infrastructure that will benefit the Afghan population."

So together, Airmen and Soldiers build a team and get the job done. Yes, one service could do the mission, but, there is more success with a diverse team, said Scheuermann.

"Regardless, the mission will be complete, but I sure would not want to be here without the Air Force."



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

1st Lt. Roberto Rodriguez, company executive officer, reads the certificates accompanying flags flown in country for the company commander and sergeant major, which were gifts from A Company Soldiers.

A Co. 392nd ESB completes tour

Alpha Company, 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, completed their deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan, after being replaced by B Company, 51st ESB. (The 392nd in Iraq and Kuwait was replaced by the 151st ESB.)

Alpha Company was the first Reserve unit to replace an active-duty unit with the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, and remained 95% operational while serving under two separate signal battalions, said 1st Lt. Roberto Rodriguez, company executive officer.

The unit, which was comprised of over 60% cross levels, operated at 12 different locations outside of their headquarters at Kandahar.

"I couldn't be more proud of each and every Soldier in Alpha Company. Our mission was demanding and our challenges were many, but the WolfPack performed exceptionally well," said Capt. Christopher Layer, commander.

Signal Mission Highlight:

392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Iraq & Kuwait



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Above, Spc. Damian Rich, cable and wire installer/maintainer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, lays out fiber optic cable in Baghdad, Iraq.



Above, Spc. Edward Kyser, satellite operator, and Sgt. Bryce McCusker, cable and wire installer/maintainer, both C Company in Arifjan, Kuwait, set up a line of site antennae. Top left, Sgt. Chris Taylor, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company multi-channel transmission operator/maintainer in Baghdad, Iraq, pulls fiber optic cable. Bottom left, Sgt. Phillip McCauley and Spc. Kristoffer Aganon, both C Company satellite operators in Arifjan, Kuwait, cross train by setting up a line of site antennae.





Above, Spc. Roberto Vazquez, a D Detachment cable installer/maintainer installs patch cables at a new office in Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Right, Spc. Beau Bernard, C Company, sets up guide wires in Arifjan, Kuwait, during a signal exercise conducted before the company redeployed.



Above, Spc. Aaron Cook, C Co. cable installer/maintainer in Arifjan, Kuwait, unwinds fiber during a signal exercise. Below, Spc. Justin Sherard, a D Detachment cable and wire installer/maintainer, lays cable under a newly-constructed hut in Al Asad, Iraq. D Detachment 'cable dawgs' were working up until the day they received their awards.



Above, Staff Sgt. Brian Lee, C Company satellite operator in Arifjan, Kuwait, shoots an azimuth.



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any open-air vehicle (such as a Gator or 4-wheeler) and operating heavy equipment (e.g., a forklift or other construction equipment).

n. Smoking in tents/buildings is prohibited at all times.

o. U.S. and Other Property.

(1) *U.S. personnel are prohibited from giving host nation civilians any property belonging to the United States Government (such as ACUs, DCUs, Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), beverages, scrap wood, or other supplies) unless authorized by an appropriate U.S. official with authority to do so.*

(2) *U.S. personnel are prohibited from giving host nation civilians any personal property that is identical or bears a strong resemblance to property belonging to the United States Government (such as privately owned ACUs or DCUs, or other uniform items) unless authorized by an appropriate U.S. official with authority to do so.*

p. Proxy Web Servers.

A proxy web server is a computer network internet service that allows clients to make indirect network connections to other network services. Users mask their surfing habits by going to a web proxy server to surf from that location, thereby circumventing the measures put in place to enforce DoD and CENTCOM policies. Proxy web servers not located on the DoD network are unauthorized, and their use to access web sites is prohibited.

q. Videotaping/Photography.

Unofficial videotaping or photography of the following are prohibited: flight-line operations; Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) or damage resulting from

an IED strike; casualties; detainees; memorial services; casualty transfers; and destroyed or damaged Coalition equipment; and any depiction that violates or discloses operational security measures or tactics, techniques, and procedures of Coalition forces. Regarding Mine Restraint Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, unofficial videotaping or photographing of the following is prohibited: the interior; the ballistic hull or any armor design; the underside; any government furnished equipment; any vehicle performance testing results.

r. War Trophies & Souvenirs.

Taking or retaining of public or private property of an enemy or former enemy will comply with the provisions of USCENTCOM General Order Number 1B (Reference to this General Order).

s. Driving Regulations.

Safe driving practices save lives and enhance our relations with the people of Afghanistan. Commanders at all levels will publish and implement policies that implement safe driving practices and will, at minimum, establish maximum speed limits and minimum safe following distances, prohibit unsafe lane changes, and prohibit aggressive driving while operating both tactical and non-tactical vehicles. Do not point weapons at civilians unless required for force protection, and properly apply escalation of force procedures when circumstances allow. Unless otherwise dictated by tactical circumstances, drivers will serve as models for Afghan citizens, and will convey respect for the Afghan citizenry and their laws.

t. Installation Policies.

Commanders on bases and installations shall familiarize themselves with the specific policies of their installation/AO regarding the

following:

(1) Force Protection Measures.

At a minimum, these measures will address base defense drills, positive personal weapon control, loading and chambering ammunition, weapons clearing procedures/requirements, vehicle speed limits, operation standards, and other appropriate traffic regulations, installation access and vehicle search procedures, individual access badge/escort requirements, and installation curfew.

(2) Individual Movement Policies.

At a minimum, these policies will address buddy teams, body armor requirements, and restricted areas on or near each installation.

(3) Uniform Wear and Appearance.

At a minimum, these policies will address duty and PT uniforms, and the wear of civilian clothing, and will state requirements for U.S., Coalition, and civilian personnel.

u. Installation Management.

At a minimum, these policies will address smoking, fires, use of real estate, tents, water and electricity use.

v. Unit Commander Responsibility.

Commanders and military and civilian supervisors are charged with ensuring that all personnel are briefed on the prohibitions and requirements of this General Order.

Commanders and supervisors are expected to exercise discretion and good judgment in enforcing this General Order.

Subordinate commanders may further restrict the conduct of their forces at their discretion.

However, any further restriction related to the content of this General Order must be provided to the brigade judge advocate.

For more information, contact the TF Thunder BJA at robert.g.drummer@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Task Force Thunder holds Soldier/NCO of the Quarter board



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Top, The board panel: Sgt. Maj. John Schiffli, Sgt. Maj. Mary Howard-Edwards, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wilkerson, Sgt. Maj. Andrew Scheuermann, Master Sgt. Ricardo Pastrana and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephfon Watson, review the packet for the next Soldier appearing before the board. Above, Soldier of the Quarter - Spc. Joshua M. Brown, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, with his sponsor, 1st Sgt. Williamiaetta Pernel and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wilkerson, Task Force Thunder command sergeant major. Left, NCO of the Qtr.- Sgt. James C. Washington, 25th Signal Battalion, sits in front of the board. The Soldiers were tested on: NCO/Soldiers Creed, chain of command, U.S. Army history, drill and ceremony, battle focused training, uniform and awards, supply economy, weapons, land navigation, leadership, military justice, current events, and first aid.

There are many types of addictions

Is yours something that should be dealt with?

Most people have addictions. It is a very normal thing.

We needn't be ashamed to come and seek help, and we certainly aren't alone. Some addictions are seemingly innocent, some are dangerous to others, but all bring about great anxiety and guilt.

Some addictions are: biting your finger nails; drinking soda; eating ice cream and consuming sugar; alcohol; gambling; and sexual addiction.

Addiction is a serious moral issue for more than a few reasons, but most of all because it tends to negatively affect the people that we love.

Instead of providing for our family, via our hard earned income, we spend it on our

addiction and fail to meet our responsibility. We tend to become very self-centered regarding our time and so instead of investing our heart and mind in our families, we invest mostly if not all in self. Selfishness always breeds discontentment.

I was reading on the internet and found the following about internet addiction: "Are you addicted to your online connection? Are you one of those crazy folks that can't wait to read the e-mail with your morning coffee? Doctors are calling it serious addiction combined with: cyber-sexual addiction, computer addiction and cyber-relational addiction. They even managed to stamp cool names for it, like Internet

Addictive Disorder (IAD) or the Internet Overuse Syndrome (IOS)."

If you think you have a problem with any kind of addiction, come and seek help. If you don't care to see me, seek someone else you think you might feel comfortable with such as Combat Stress at the hospital or your chaplain 'pastor.'

God's power of love is more powerful than any addiction.

However, it does take work and commitment on your part to get it under control.

Please let me know if I can help.

Sincerely,
Chalain (LTC) Gary Williams



Photo Courtesy

Coalition Training: Spc. Paulius Manomaitis, senior command post node operator, A Company, 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, trains on the firing range with an Australian Special Forces Soldier.

JORDAN, continued from page 9

When you went home on leave, you said you got stuck in Atlanta for two days, and, the USO treated you to a hotel, aquarium, and etc. What was that like?

“It felt good for one, and that’s the main thing I like about the military.”

Do you feel different than other 22-year-olds because of your military experience?

“I feel like that I am more mature than they are.”

I’ve told some of my friends,
“It’s time to grow up and take care of yourself.”

What is one of the things you have learned from your deployment?

“You have to appreciate everything you have, and open your eyes and see it all.”

You’ve seen some of the huts the locals live in here and kids playing in the fields. What did you think about that compared to your life in America?

“We take a lot for granted in America.” They are so self sufficient. “They can’t go to the grocery stores. They have to plant their food or be escorted.”

Who have been your role models?

“My grandma, she is 63-years-old and still working.”

“My mom is a role model for me. She took care of four kids, had two jobs and did it all on her own. And now, all her kids are grown and she is taking care of my baby [while I am deployed].”

Do you want to be like your mother?

“I think I am. I had a lot of males tell me, you are going to make it. You are a strong woman.”

What are some of your goals?

“In 2011, I want to have a five-bedroom house and take my mother on vacation for keeping my daughter.”

I want to get degree in criminal justice with a minor in business so I can have my own business that searches for missing children.

What do you miss about your mother the most?

“I miss her guidance and an opinion on what is right and wrong, and looking at how others may feel. If I have any problems, I go straight to her.”



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Pfc. Jakeyla Jordan, automated logistics specialist, takes a break after an award ceremony.

How does your job fit into the signal mission here?

“If our job wasn’t here, they wouldn’t have the things they need.”

“I don’t think they could function. They would have no radios, and their trucks would not work. “

Do you feel that the deployment is a sacrifice for your country like people say?

“If you have kids, you are making a big sacrifice.” They need you, and you are missing so much (birthdays, graduations, and “just them growing up.”)

What is Pfc. Jordan like as a Soldier?

“She has been a model Soldier, and truly a pleasure to

have. She is bright, articulate and doesn’t require over the shoulder supervision,” said Capt. Christopher Layer, commander, Alpha Company, 392nd ESB.

“She is a young Soldier who is mature for her age. She is really dedicated to her job, and for her first deployment she has done extremely well,” said Sgt. Maj. John Miles, sergeant major, Alpha Company, 392nd ESB.

Maj. Gen. Vangjel: Information is everything



Left, Maj. Gen. Peter Vangjel, deputy commander, 3rd Army/U.S. Army Central New Kabul Compound, discusses the signal mission in Afghanistan with Sgt. Maj. Andrew Scheuermann, Joint NetOps Control Center sergeant major, and rest of the Task Force Thunder staff.

Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Army Sgt. 1st Class Shawn R. Paine

Above, Maj. Gen. Peter Vangjel, deputy commander, 3rd Army/U.S. Army Central New Kabul Compound. Right, Lt. Col. Teri Hassel, deputy commander, Task Force Thunder, explains the goals and challenges of the mission.



Army Sgt. 1st Class Shawn R. Paine



Above, Lt. Col. Ivan Montanez, commander, 25th Signal Battalion, shows the general the progress and needs of the fiber at Bagram.

Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

LANGILLE, continued from page 6

said Langille. “I work as a one-man shop, and I really have to sell myself” to make sure Soldiers see the value.

Without this job though, the military would have nothing to refer back to, said Langille. “If it’s not documented, it’s like it didn’t happen.”

With company Soldiers all over Kandahar, capturing the main events can sometimes be a challenge, but it needs to be done, she said. “I try to capture the whole company. They can’t do it themselves.” The tedious detail of archiving things properly and designing a newsletter can be overlooked by people when they think you just take pictures, said Langille with a laugh. “A nice product just doesn’t happen. It takes work.”

Outside of her tasks in visual information, Langille is also assigned as the family readiness liaison and unit victim advocate. With a variety of serious responsibilities to channel, Langille has stayed busy throughout her time in Afghanistan, but she wouldn’t have wanted it any other way.

“I would rather keep myself busy so the time flies.”

Now, as she packs up and prepares to redeploy, she said she will keep those things of value and throw out the rest. “I know there will be a lot of fond memo-

ries. I will take what I like and leave the others behind.” Because of this deployment, the few things I will always have in my toolbox now are: strength, courage and knowing how to take care of myself, said Langille.

And with those things, what will I do after deployment? “I guess anything I want.”

*“I didn’t know
I was strong enough to be here,
and I am proud
of the strength that I’ve carried.”*



Staff Sgt. Darian George, visual information supervisor, 25th Signal Battalion, and a Soldier from the 3rd Infantry Division, attend a Combat Life Saver training course on July 28 conducted at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Shawn R. Paine

Know the Task Force...

Regional Command - East/Capital : 25th Signal Battalion

The 25th Signal Battalion provides operations and maintenance support for DISN services in support of USCENT-COM forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Qatar.

The 25th Signal Battalion was constituted February 3, 1944 and was activated April 14, 1944 as a light signal construction battalion at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. On June 26 of the same year, the battalion was reorganized as a heavy signal construction battalion.

During World War II, the 25th served in Europe and the Far East and is one of the few units of its type to claim this distinction. The battalion earned three battle streamers for its participation in the Campaigns of Central Europe, Rhineland, and the Asiatic Pacific Theater.

On April 6, 1946, the 25th Heavy Signal Construction Battalion was inactivated at Yokohama, Japan. The battalion was reactivated on November 20, 1951 and was designated as a signal construction battalion at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. The unit aided with the restoration of communications lines in several New England states after destruction left by Hurricane Carol in 1954.

In the spring of 1956, the battalion was transferred to Europe in support of the 7th Army and in 1957 the unit installed in

excess of 2,000 miles of cable through the forests of Germany.

Again, in 1966 the battalion was inactivated except for Charlie Company which was attached to the 440th Signal Battalion.

Later, on 1 October 1968, C/25 was redesignated as



the 541st Cable Construction Company thus completing the inactivation of the 25th Signal Battalion.

On January 18, 1971, the battalion was reactivated at Fort Bragg and designated the 25th Signal Battalion (Operation).

At that time, the unit was one of four signal battalions within the 35th Signal Group. The unit's mission was one of four

signal battalions within the 35th Signal Group. The unit's mission was to install, operate, and maintain a portion of the integrated signal communications systems within the theater Army Communications Zone.

On March 16, 1984, the battalion was reorganized as the 25th Signal Battalion (Corps Area). It was assigned the mission to assist the 35th Signal Brigade in its communications support of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

The battalion consisted of four corps area signal centers plus a battalion headquarters and was capable of world wide message and voice switching with the tactical automated message and voice switching.

The battalion provided the XVIII Airborne Corps with sustainment base communications for Operation Just Cause from December 1989 to March 1990 in addition to tasking its FM RETRANS assets for use in Panama.

Less than one year later, the 25th Signal Battalion was participating in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Southwest Asia. The battalion deployed all of its assets to Saudi Arabia except for the majority of A/25th, which was left at Fort Bragg to provide sustainment base communications. Soldiers from the 25th Signal Battalion supported the Southwest Asia

25th SB Crest and Patch Symbology:

~Crest~

Purple discs ~ symbolic of grapes typical of the Rhineland and central Europe, where the battalion was awarded battle honors during WWII

Weathercock ~ a signal of the wind's direction that is used with four lightning flashes to represent communications in any quarter of the world

*Lion** ~ an embodiment of strength and courage that commemorates the unit's wartime service awards in WWII and Southwest Asia

*Red lightning flash** ~ reflects the Meritorious Unit Commendation awarded to the unit



~Patch~

Blue globe ~ refers to the unit's capability to support the combat mission and denotes its worldwide scope

Yellow flashes ~ an allusion to the basic communication mission of the organization and also indicate the unit's affiliation with the United States Army Communications Command

Orange background ~ the traditional color for signal units

On old crest:

*Palm Frond** ~ expressive of victory and represents the campaign participation credits earned in Southwest Asia

Campaign from September 1990 to July 1991 installing part of the largest tactical network at that time.

From October 1991 through July 1992, the 25th Signal Battalion was responsible for supporting most of the XVII Airborne Corps' communications missions while the other three battalions within the brigade underwent Mobile Subscriber Equipment fielding. In March of 1992, the 514th Signal Company (Light Troop) was attached to the 25th Signal Battalion.

In August 1992, the battalion was called upon to deploy to southern Florida to aid in the recovery of the area after the destruction caused by Hurricane Andrew. The battalion provided

key command and control communications to units assisting in the restoration of the area. It also provided Soldiers to help with cleanup efforts and other humanitarian actions.

On March 16, 1993, the battalion received notification to inactivate with an effective date of 16 October 1993. Elements of the 25th Signal Battalion and 514th Signal Company remained after the inactivation and were reassigned to the 327th Signal Battalion under a new organizational concept supporting force protection warfare. Bravo Company of the 25th Signal Battalion was re-flagged as Delta Company 327th.

On September 1, 2003 the 25th Signal Battalion Activation

Ceremony was held. The Brigade Commander Colonel John M. Blaine III and Lieutenant Colonel Leith A. Benedict activated the battalion. On October 16, 2003, the battalion was officially activated by Headquarters Department of the Army, Permanent Orders Number 180-7.

The mission of the Battalion will be to maintain a combat-ready, forward stationed Signal Battalion tasked to install, operate, maintain, protect strategic sustaining bases, and tactical C4I systems in support of USCENTCOM combatant and non-combatant forces, coalition allies and other US government agencies across the spectrum of conflict.

NEVER UNPREPARED!

The Signal Soldier Creed

I am Signal, the voice of command. Hear me. I will defend my country in the face of any danger. Nothing can deter me; I will get the job done, and I will win. I believe in my training, my equipment, my comrades and my leaders. I depend on them, and they depend on me.

I am Signal. Hear me.

I am the nerve system of our nation's defense. I connect companies, brigades, entire armies; I speak from foxholes and from the White House. Through me, the commander's will is done anywhere in the world – and beyond.

I am Signal. Hear me.

I am proud of my heritage, of my achievements, and of the triumphs of my corps. I am honored to walk in the hallowed footprints of those who served before me: at Bull Run and the Argonne; on Guam and Midway; in Korea and Vietnam; and in the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

I am Signal. Hear me.

For a hundred years and more, I have spoken my country's freedom – and my voice has never faltered. This is the way it will always be, for I am Signal and I will never fail the corps, the Army or my country.

I am ready, I am willing and I am strong; I will shoot, move and communicate. I will always get the message through.

I AM SIGNAL! HEAR ME!