

228TH THEATER TACTICAL SIGNAL BRIGADE SUMMER 2014



Signal Ready, Signal Strong

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On the Cover



Family day showed a different side of the members of the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade. It gave them the chance to show their families what they do during drill weekends, while also having some fun.



/228thSignalBrigade



/228thSigBDE



/228ttsb

Commander's Corner

*Message from Col. Wally Hall,
Brigade Commander*

Another summer has ended and before we know it the holidays will be here. However, before this year comes to a close, I want to challenge you. I challenge each and every one of you to reach out to a Soldier that you don't usually talk to during drill weekends.

Invite them to eat lunch with you, get a group together to hang out in the evenings, car-pool together, or offer to help them with a task. The simple act of getting to know someone new can be rewarding and improve your mood and outlook. You already share a common interest to serve your country, so break the ice and ask someone why they decided to join the South Carolina National Guard.

I also challenge you to really get to know your battle buddies.



In honor of getting to know each other, Col. Wally Hall shared a photo of him and his wife.

You may hang out during drill weekends, but do you know about their job on the civilian side? Take the time to ask them about their family, school or civilian career and truly listen to what they have to say.

Build these relationships with those you serve with because you will be amazed at how long they last.

It is important to know those you serve with. They are the men and women fighting to your left and right and strong bonds create a stronger military.

As always, I am proud to serve alongside all of you.

Signal ready, signal strong.

National Guard prepares for natural disaster assistance with **HURRICANE HIKE**

“The Hurricane Hike is sponsored by the S.C. State Guard in order to bring awareness to hurricane season in South Carolina and to highlight the Guard’s readiness during these and other disasters,”

Capt. Dwight DeLoach
151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion
Charlie Company commander

By 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly

The third annual 10K Hurricane Hike kicked off in Camden, S.C., Sept. 20, as a way to simulate conditions responders may face in the aftermath of a hurricane making land-fall within the state.

Members of the South Carolina National Guard joined State Guard and active duty service members, along with Citadel cadets and first responders, to complete the 6.2 mile hike through Camden. Participants completed the course carrying 45 pound packs to mimic delivering critical supplies to those in need in the event that roads are made impassable to vehicles during a natural disaster.

“The Hurricane Hike is sponsored by the S.C. State Guard in order to bring awareness to hurricane season in South

Carolina and to highlight the Guard’s readiness during these and other disasters,” said Capt. Dwight DeLoach, 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Charlie Company commander. They do this by, “working together to move materials and aid, simulated by the 45 pound packs, into locations in need of assistance.”

DeLoach added that he has participated in the event in the past years and has seen it grow to more than 100 participants. He has also been activated for natural disasters in the past, such as the recent Winter Storm Pax, and understands the importance of being prepared to respond.

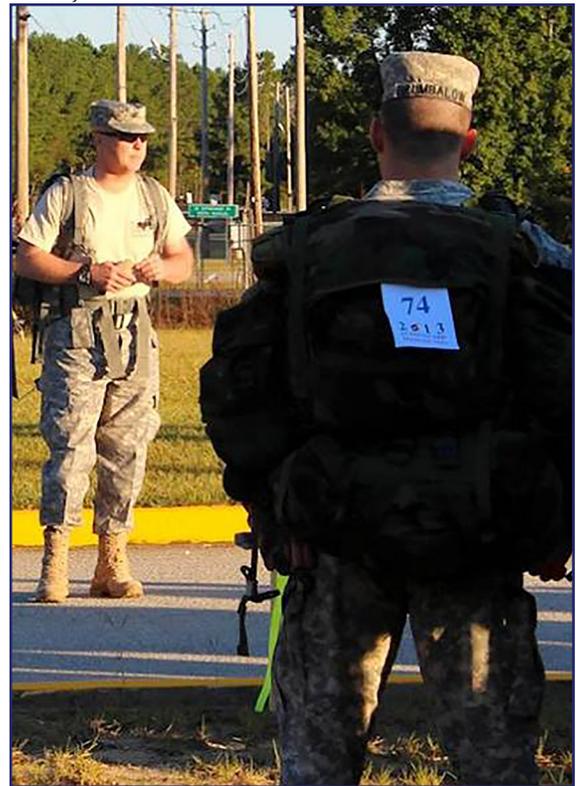
While the Hurricane Hike has a practical application of ensuring preparedness in the face of a natural disaster, it also highlights the importance

of physical fitness in the military.

There will be instances where the National Guard will be called upon

and expected to carry out physically demanding tasks, and carrying a 45 pound pack for 6.2 miles is no easy feat.

Courtesy Photo



The South Carolina State Guard has hosted the 10K Hurricane Hike for the past three years. The hike simulates conditions Soldiers and first responders may face working the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Workshop brings communication to signaleers throughout state

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly

Members of the South Carolina National Guard Signal community from across the state came together for a workshop at the Clarks Hill National Guard Training Site in Plum Branch, S.C., Aug. 2-3.

While the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade is an entire unit of Signal personnel, there are other Signal officers and non-commissioned officers who are stationed at other units throughout the state. These personnel provide signal support to Infantry, Engineer, Aviation and other branches.

They are surrounded by the day-to-day activities of those career fields and can lose touch with the Signal arena, explained Lt. Col. William Brown, 228th TTSB deputy commander. This workshop is a means to bring these Signaleers from the field, back into the communications community to get updated on what's going on in the Signal world and provides resources to bring back to those units.

"One of the key functions of this workshop is to manage signal functions across the state," added Brown. "It provides the personnel with information that can be beneficial to their assigned units."

The workshop focused on ensuring that communication assets are operational across the state, as well as emphasizing the importance of training Soldiers to install, operate and maintain the equipment. Furthermore, the magnitude of cybersecurity and network monitoring was stressed, especially in today's technology centered environment.

The Signal officers in attendance also received an

update from the state's Signal branch manager, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Heaton, which focused on being a Signal leader. Heaton provided an overview positions available, as well as the career progression opportunities for a Signal officer.

"Take pride in being a Signaleer," said Heaton. "South Carolina has a great reputation within the active duty Army's Signal community because of the good work that Signal officers are doing within the state."

The workshop was also used as a means to brief on the role that the Signal community will play within Vigilant Guard, an upcoming statewide exercise used to check the preparedness of first responders and the National Guard during a natural disaster.

"Guess what success leans on in any exercise?" asked Lt. Col. John Ramsey, 228th TTSB Operations officer. "Communications. If we can't talk, we can't work."

Ramsey stressed the importance of ensuring that tactical communication equipment is up-to-date and in working order at all units. In the event of a natural disaster, there is a chance that cellular service will not be available and it is imperative for personnel to be able to communicate. For this to happen, Signal personnel must continue to maintain equipment prior to an emergency situation.

"We want Signal personnel throughout the state to provide the best communication support to their units," said Brown. "This workshop is a way to ensure they have the means to make that happen."



Lt. Col. John Ramsey (left) and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Heaton (above) briefed Signal personnel from across the state during a Signal Workshop Aug. 2.

228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade Family Day

The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade and 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Companies came together for a day of fun for the annual family day at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C. Aug. 3.

Unit members invited their families to the armory for activities, resource information and a chance to meet their National Guard family.

“Family is critical to the National Guard mission. Their support is what drives the Soldiers to continue their service,” said Col. Wally Hall, 228th TTSB commander. “This is why it is so important that we invite them to spend the day and meet those their loved ones serve with every month.”

Activities included a bouncy house and slide for the children, archery, pellet shooting, and a visit from the sheriff’s K9 department, as well as community-based partners coming out and explaining services available to military members and their families.

There was also a fundraising opportunity for the NCO club where key leaders were chosen to get a bucket of ice water poured over them. Unit members and their families could “vote” for who they wanted to get wet by making a donation to the jar. The participants had the opportunity to match the amount donated, or accepted the bucket of ice water.



Four-legged family members were invited to join in on the festivities, too.



The local sheriff’s K9 department visited to explain how dogs are used to help police officers solve cases.



Vendors and community-based partners provided information on services available to military members and their families.

Story and Photos By 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



Unit members could donate money to “vote” for leadership to get a bucket of ice dumped over them in order to raise money for the NCO Club.



The Family Readiness Group provided school supplies for the children of service members.



Inflatables, archery and pellet shooting were available to keep the children entertained.



Unit members invited family to visit the armory to see where they go on drill weekends and meet the Soldiers they work with.



Do you have a plan if a Soldier comes to you with thoughts of SUICIDE?

Images from <http://soldiers.dodlive.mil>



Commentary by Capt. Ryan Purdie

What would you do if someone told you they were going to commit suicide? Would you know what to say or who to direct them to?

It's important as leaders we have a plan. It might not be a perfect plan, but

being prepared might be what saves your Soldier's life. We should all know, at a minimum, a point of contact of someone who can help.

We carry around our ACE (Ask, Care and Escort) cards, but do we understand them?

We have Soldiers in our units who have Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, but do your Soldiers know who they are? The only way to prevent future suicides is to stay vigilant and proactive.

What would you do if you saw a Soldier put something on Facebook that didn't look right? Would you call them and see how they're doing or just blow it off or get one of their battle buddies to

give them a call? We all need to have our own plan on how we would react.

It is important for us to let all of our Soldiers know how much we care about them and that there are people who can help. Start developing a plan and know what resources are available and who you should call in this situation.

If anyone has any questions please feel free to give me a call at any time.

Capt. Purdie is the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, as well as a Service Member and Family Care projects officer, full-time. If you have questions about developing a plan, contact Purdie a call at (803) 299-2664 for more information on actions to take.



South Carolina National Guard Leader's Guide for Helping "At-Risk" Soldiers

The importance of recognizing at-risk Soldiers is always a top priority. Soldiers, and their family members, are essential in completing missions and we all need to do our part in reaching out to those who we feel may be having trouble. Here are some of the signs that someone may be in need of help and some steps you can take to make sure your battle buddy gets the support they need.

Risk Indicators: Employment/unemployment problems, financial issues, legal trouble, family/relationship problems, substance abuse, pre- or post-deployment stress, health problems, expresses depression or suicidal thoughts, anger problems, risky behaviors, sleep problems, recent death/suicide of someone close, drastic change in work performance/attitude

How to Determine Risk: Get to know your Soldiers – talk to them every drill about how things are going in the unit, at home, at work, etc., as well as reach out to them between drills; look for changes in their normal behavior – are they usually on time, but have recently been late to drill? Are they forgetting to accomplish tasks? etc.; use the battle buddy system within your unit or shop to help identify at-risk Soldiers; and if you have any question about a Soldier ASK if they need help

What to do if a Soldier is Identified as "At-Risk:"

1. Listen. Give the Soldier an opportunity to talk about their problems, take notes, and express concern over noticeable behavior changes. Let the Soldier know you are concerned about them due to these changes.

2. Advise the Soldier of resources available to them within the unit and state (including, but not limited to):

- *Military One Source* – 24/7 on-call resource for almost all at-risk issues. Provides a multitude of free services to include financial, substance abuse, mental health and crisis counseling. 1-800-342-9647 or www.MilitaryOneSource.com

- *Unit Chaplain* – Good resource to help find support, counseling and spiritual guidance. 228th Signal Brigade – Chap. (Maj.) Charles Poore (843) 356-5833 or Charles.e.poore.mil@mail.mil

- *Prevention, Treatment & Outreach* – Substance abuse education, assist Soldiers with referrals to treatment services and conduct outreach and informational referrals to military families. Staff Sgt. Mitch Dean (803) 299-1402 or Mitchell.c.dean.mil@mail.mil

- *ESGR* – Refer unemployed Soldiers to appropriate agencies, provides mediation between Soldiers and their employers when required. Mr. Don Shumpert (803) 299-2515 or Donald.e.shumpert.ctr@mail.mil

- *Employment Services* – employment/under-employment assistance, employment readiness training/occupational cre-

dentizing, unemployment insurance claims filing, jobs registration, veterans transition officers, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, assistance in resume writing, job searching and labor market information, on-site professional workshops. Spartanburg rep: Mr. Charles Rochelle (843) 992-6027 or Charles.d.rochelle.ctr@mail.mil; Anderson/Greenville rep: Mr. George Case (803) 299-4534 or (864) 430-2924 or georgeid@bellsouth.net; Columbia rep: Mr. John Govan (803) 239-8706 or (803) 737-4450 or jgovan@dew.sc.gov – Useful links: <https://jobs.scworks.org/vosnet/default.aspx>; www.midlandsonestop.org; www.midlandsworkforce.org

- *Family Services:* Mrs. Jennifer Wolff (803) 834-0013 or jennifer.j.wolff@ahsg.us

1. Military and Family Life Consultant – mental health professional who provides non-medical, short-term, solution-focused counseling to Soldiers, couples, families and groups focusing on life skills and military lifestyle topics including deployment and reunification, communication, stress management, couple-related issues, grief/loss & parenting

2. Child & Youth Military Life Consultant – non-medical, short-term, solution-focused counseling to military families, children and youth (ages 0-18) in individual, group and family settings

3. Personal Financial Consultant - financial counseling to include budgeting, debt management and long-term planning; as well as help to families in need of financial assistance by referring them to appropriate agencies

- *Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program* – coordinates sexual assault awareness, prevention and support briefs and workshops to increase the understanding of what constitutes sexual assault, to reinforce that it is a crime and to ensure that personnel know the full range of reporting options. 1st Lt. Sharnte Jamison (803) 299-1312 or sharnte.jamison.mil@mail.mil

- Useful links: www.sapr.mil, www.sexualassault.army.mil, www.safehelpline.org (24/7 hotline) 1-877-995-5247

- *Survivor Outreach Services* - long-term support for survivors – support groups, life skills education, counseling resources. Mrs. Beth Warren (803) 299-1565 or Elizabeth.a.carney.ctr@mail.mil

3. Offer to be with the Soldier as they make the call to the available resources listed above for help

If the Soldiers does not want you to be there, agree with them on a time (within 3 days) that they will get back to you and let you know who was contacted and what action is being taken

4. Continue to follow-up with the Soldier until the issues have been resolved or they have received the support they need

SCNG, 228th TTSB transition to Guard Knowledge Online

*By Lt. Col. John Ramsey
228th TTSB Operations officer*

The South Carolina National Guard has enabled the traditional-Guard Soldier with access to the South Carolina Information Portal through Guard Knowledge Online.

The SCNG has transitioned its former SharePoint site to the Guard Knowledge Online site: <https://states.gkoportal.ng.mil/states/sc/SitePages/Home.aspx>

This GKO SharePoint site now allows for both full-time staff and M-day, or traditional-Guard Soldiers, access to day-to-day operations, key information and collaboration.

The Soldiers and Airman in the SCNG can access this site from any computer with a Common Access Card (CAC) reader and registered CAC. This allows our Soldiers and Airmen the ability

to download/upload files, such as Yearly Training Guidance or IDT Training date memos, manage/edit documents, such as Operations Orders, and view calendars for drill dates or other key events. The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade has scheduled classes at the brigade headquarters at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C. to assist those that need training on or familiarization with the GKO SharePoint site.

You can visit the 228th TTSB site at https://states.gkoportal.ng.mil/states/SC/MS/228_SIG_BDE/SitePages/Home.aspx

For more information, contact Maj. Shawn Kernan at (803) 299-1001 for training and Maj. Seth Horrell at (803) 299-1241 for site permissions for the 228th TTSB or Lt. Col. Jeffrey Heaton at (803) 299-1245 for the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, respectfully.



Photos by Sgt. Bethany Witherington

Maj. Shawn Kernan, 228th TTSB system control officer, conducts a class teaching Soldiers how to use the Guard Knowledge Online website at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., Sept. 27. The GKO site is being implemented as a way to streamline communications not only within in the unit, but for the National Guard as a whole.



PMA HOF INDUCTION, CLASS 65 COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

The Palmetto Military Academy Hall of Fame Induction ceremony and PMA Class 65 Commissioning ceremony took place at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover, S.C., Aug. 16.

Col. Wallace Hall, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade commander, was inducted into the Hall of Fame, along with Col. Eric Alford, Col. James Harmon, Col. Michael Hildreth and Col. Raymond Strawbridge. Twenty-two officer candidates marked their completion of the 16-month Officer Candidate School by accepting their commission as a second lieutenant in the South Carolina National Guard, or deciding to accept their commission at a later date. The new lieutenants will be assigned to units across the state, including the 228th TTSB.



Col. Wallace Hall, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade commander, was inducted into the Palmetto Military Academy Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover, S.C. Aug. 16.

Candidates had friends and family pin on their second lieutenant rank during the commissioning ceremony, Aug. 16.



Photos by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



Candidates wait to be pinned as second lieutenants in the South Carolina Army National Guard after completing the 16-month traditional Officer Candidate School through the Palmetto Military Academy.

SCENES FROM AROUND DRILL

First Sgt. Ken Green, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant, was promoted to sergeant major Aug. 3, at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C. In his new capacity, Green will serve as the operations sergeant major for the 228th TTSB.



First Sgt. Robert Kappel, 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Bravo Company first sergeant, was promoted to sergeant major Aug. 1, at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C. During his career, Kappel has deployed three times, most recently as the first sergeant for the 198th ESB, B Co., which returned earlier this year. In his new capacity, Kappel will serve as the operations sergeant major for the 151st ESB. "Very few Soldiers make it to the rank of sergeant major, but he has all the qualities you would want in an E9," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Heaton, 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion commander.



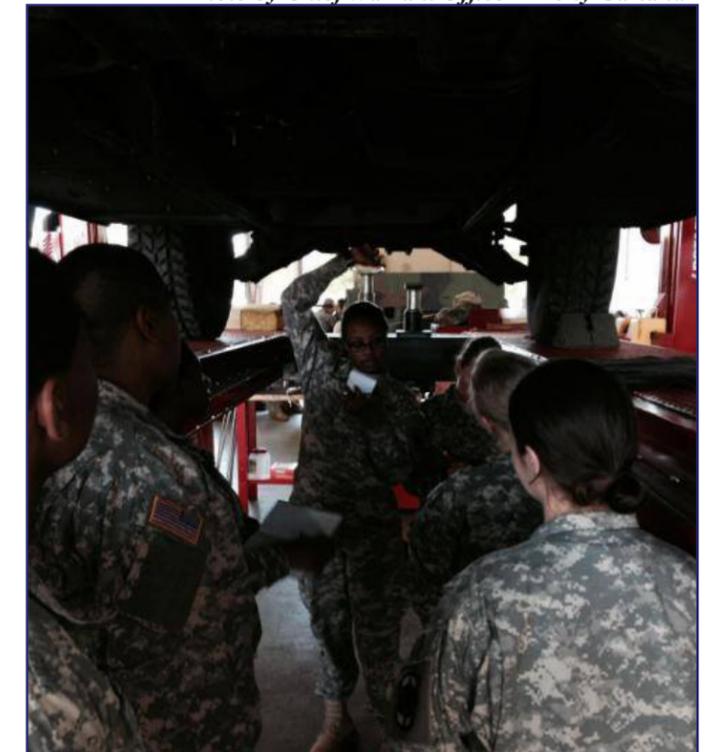
The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company conducted Resiliency training at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., Aug. 2, with a focus on assertive communication. They practiced communicating with each other using the IDEAL method - IDENTIFY the problem, DESCRIBE the problem, EXPRESS concern, ASK for the perspective and a reasonable change, and LIST positive outcomes of making a change. The class broke into groups and discussed situations where the IDEAL method could be applied.

Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Tony Garland

Photo by Sgt. Bethany Witherington



Soldiers with the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company conducted their annual Army Physical Fitness Test at the University Readiness Center and Boiling Springs High School in Spartanburg, S.C., Sept. 27 & 28.



Soldiers with the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Alpha Company, conducted drivers training at the Greenwood armory, Aug. 3. Pfc. Myia Johnson volunteered to describe the different components underneath a Humvee to her peers.

Capt. Elizabeth Tallent was promoted to major at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., Aug. 3. Tallent serves as the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade Logistics officer.



Photos by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly unless otherwise noted

Final Frame

Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



Master Sgt. Gregg Dixon gets surprised with a bucket of ice water poured over him during family day, Aug. 3. The ice water was part of a fundraising opportunity for the NCO club where key leaders were chosen to get a bucket of ice water poured over them. Unit members and their families could “vote” for who they wanted to get wet by making a donation to the jar. The participants had the opportunity to match the amount donated, or accepted the bucket of ice water.

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