

EEEO



Signal Strong
for a **Strong Europe**

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From the Command Team



The value and importance of Europe to U.S. interests and global security simply cannot be overstated. Our shared heritage and values are the foundation of our relationship — and the reason why we stand together as allies. Europe offers us a strategic location for projecting power over half of the globe, ensuring access and visibility for our Warfighters. Europe also hosts our Army and Joint headquarters for both the European and African Theaters, as well as the headquarters of our NATO Alliance.

But the threats to regional security are real — from aggressions in Eastern Europe, to violent extremism, to the migration crisis and economic instability. The U.S. Army is working to ensure a Strong Europe — to deter aggression, assure our Allies, and promote stability. None of this is possible without strong information technology. Team Signal delivers relevant and reliable information technology, providing the tools our Warfighters need to be successful.



This issue of the ECHO magazine highlights the achievements of the Soldiers, Civilians, and Local National employees of 5th Signal Command and USAREUR G6 in carrying out the important signal mission in Europe. We are proud of the leadership they demonstrate, their examples in the community, and the productive partnerships they have developed. We are also proud of their excellence in craft, as they wield technology as a resource for communication and mission command, and as they prepare the battlefield in the cyber domain.

As we move into a future increasingly dependent on information technology, we recognize both the challenges and opportunities it presents. Team Signal will continue to drive technology to make Signal Strong for a Strong Europe.

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr.
Commander
5th Signal Command

Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado
Senior Enlisted Advisor
5th Signal Command

5th Signal Command (Theater)



Mission

BUILD, OPERATE, and DEFEND Network Capabilities to support the full range of communication, information technology and cyber requirements for Army, Joint, and Multinational forces in the EUCOM and AFRICOM areas of responsibility.



Vision

“IT Delivered: Relevant and Reliable.”



ECHO Magazine Summer 2015

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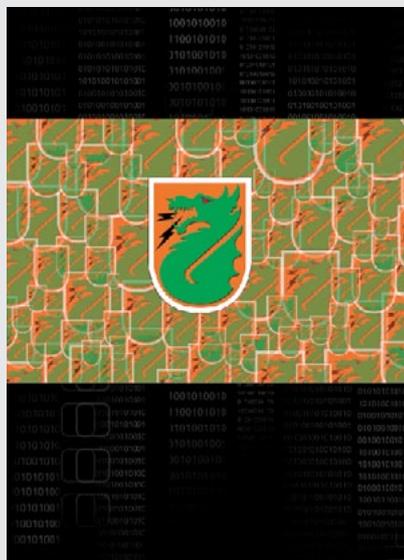
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The ECHO Magazine can be found online at 5sigcmd.army.mil.

Previous page: U.S. Soldiers and Airmen assigned in the Signal Corps participate in a regimental run on Chièvres Air Base's airfield in Chièvres, Belgium, on the dawn of May 11, 2015. The run, hosted by 39th Signal Battalion, was the first event of Signal Week, a Europe-wide event uniting all service members with the corps. (U.S. Army photo by Visual Information Specialist Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie/Released)

Awards *and* Recognition



Gen. Raymond Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army, accompanied by Lt. Gen. Gustave Perna, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, and Brig. Gen. Ronald Kirklin, U.S. Army Quartermaster General, presents a Supply Excellence Award to Taleh Aliyev, 509th Signal Battalion S4, at the Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony June 10 at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. (U.S. Army photo)

509th Signal Battalion wins Army Supply Excellence Award

Story by William B. King

The 509th Signal Battalion in Vicenza, Italy, was recently recognized as one of the Army's best in logistics, being named a winner in the Chief of Staff of the Army's Combined Logistics Excellence Awards (CLEA).

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno presented the unit with a Supply Excellence Award at a ceremony June 10 at the Pentagon, recognizing it for extraordinary supply and support operations, property accountability and resource management.

The CLEA program's objectives, according to the Army Quartermaster website, are to enhance logistical readiness of all Army units, enforce the Command Supply Discipline Program (CSDP), encourage the use of available resources, and provide a structure for recognition of group and individual initiatives.

"Winning the award for us is a validation of our current logistical processes, the technical expertise of our team, and our clear understanding of where we have to excel," said Taleh Aliyev, the 509th Signal Battalion S4.

He said the battalion used "less paper" and "virtual office" initiatives to digitize workflow and reduce or replace many paper and printing requirements. Going paperless allowed the battalion's supply office to conserve paper and reduce their inventory of printers, and allowed for greater visibility and better accountability of supplies and equipment across the battalion and up the chain of command as well.

"This award is recognition of the efforts each company commander and member of 509th Signal Battalion has put toward CSDP," Aliyev said. "It is an achievement to be remembered and proud of for years to come."





Right: Sgt. 1st Class Clifford Martin (right), 5th Signal Command assistant inspector general, and Staff Sgt. Joseph Thomas, 5th Signal Command assistant chaplain, coach the Wiesbaden Raptors basketball team during a tournament with U.S. and German teams May 16 at Wiesbaden High School. Above: The Raptors during tournament play. (Photos by William B. King)



Left: Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command, talks to players before the coin toss at the Wiesbaden Phantoms vs Holzgerlingen Twister football game July 4 in Wiesbaden. Above: The coin lands on the Signal Regiment crest side up. (Submitted photos)

STEM/CSI: Cyber Security Initiative

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command, and Sgt. Maj. Robert Brown, 5th Signal Command G3 sergeant major, present award certificates and 5th Signal Command coins to seniors Angelica Doby, Jonah Friel and Kyle Barry at the Senior and Junior Student Recognition & Celebration June 3 at Wiesbaden High School. (Photo by William B. King)





Leader Development



Above: Capt. James Torrence, commander of the 128th Signal Company, 39th Signal Battalion in Chièvres, Belgium, receives the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award presented by Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno (left) and retired U.S. Army Col. William J. Davis, May 29 at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. (U.S. Army photo)

Below: Rene Baldwin (right), 5th Signal Command SGS, leads participants through a team-building exercise during the 2nd Signal Brigade Senior Leader Offsite July 31 in Grafenwoehr. (Photo by William B. King)





“I believe that U.S. Army Europe is the leadership laboratory for the Army as we have the unique advantage of working side by side with our Allies and partners every day.”

- Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, Commander, U.S. Army Europe



Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr. (center right), commander of 5th Signal Command and the U.S. Army Europe chief information officer/G6, leads a delegation of officers and NCOs from Team Signal on a visit of the NATO Command and Control Centre of Excellence July 13 at the Kromhout Barracks, Utrecht, The Netherlands. The purpose of the visit was to advance interoperability between U.S. forces and other NATO forces. (Submitted photo)



Ken Mckenna (left) and Bill Carter, both of 5th Signal Command G3 Plans and Engineering, receive certificates for completing the Civilian Education System (CES) Advanced Course June 26 at Rose Barracks in Vilseck. The course provides senior civilian leaders grades GS-13 to GS-15 with training focused on strategic thinking and assessment, change management, developing a cohesive organization, managing a diverse workplace, and management of resources. (Submitted photos)



Sgt. Bryan Thomas, representing the 5th SC(T), climbs a rope ladder on the tall tower at the Fort Huachuca Obstacle Course during the first day of NETCOM's Best Warrior Competition. (U.S. Army photo)

NETCOM Best Warriors shine in Arizona desert

Story by Eric Hortin, NETCOM

FORT HUACHUCA, Arizona (June 2, 2015) -- From around the globe, Soldiers assigned to theater signal commands under the Network Enterprise Technology Command arrived to compete in NETCOM's Best Warrior Competition. Ten Soldiers representing the best of the commands and headquarters were physically and mentally tested as soon as they arrived.

In the end, Spc. Samuel Cameron, an information technology specialist representing the 160th Signal Brigade, was named Soldier of the Year, and Sgt. Bryan Thomas, a video teleconference technician representing the 5th Signal Command, was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Arriving the afternoon and evening of May 29, the Soldiers were given only enough time to settle into their rooms and start preparing for the next day. Saturday morning, they were hitting the obstacle course for their first event.

"The obstacle course was pretty fun and challenging, except for the rope climb at the end after we did

everything," said Spc. Justin Fleming, representing the NETCOM Headquarters. "That last part was pretty tough."

"It was an exciting event to start the day and the competition," said Spc. Maria Perez, representing the 311th Signal Command (Theater). "The parts where we low and high crawl are things we trained for. Others were really challenging and required a lot of upper body strength."

After finishing their first event, they were greeted briefly by Command Sgt. Maj. Stephon Watson and Maj. Gen. John Morrison Jr., NETCOM's command sergeant major and commanding general. From there, it was immediately into the written exam and essay.

Participants were tested on their knowledge on military history, regulations and a variety of other subjects. The essay subject -- fostering awareness, understanding and tolerance of same-sex marriages in the service -- gave the competitors a relevant and tough subject to write about.

That evening, the Soldiers were out in the Arizona desert finding points in the dark during night orienteering. It was a tough evening for Perez, dislocating her shoulder when she fell down a short hill. After getting her shoulder re-set, she stuck it out for the rest of the competition.

“The courage to keep going, and the encouragement from my peers and sponsors kept me going,” Perez said.

Very little rest followed the end of the nighttime event, as the physical fitness test in modified uniform followed at 5 a.m. Sunday. It would be a tough event for some, unaccustomed to the elevation, lack of humidity and warm temperatures -- even at that early hour. After the weigh-in, it was onto the next task.

With little time to rest, the Soldiers were back out on the post's training areas conducting land navigation, map reading and Global Positioning System operations. Add the blazing sun and warm temperatures, the Soldiers' endurance and fitness was pushed to their limits. The Mystery Task surprised the competitors in the Soldier category -- running a squad PT formation in the hallways of Greely Hall, and marching them to locations in the building. For those in the NCO competition, they were tested on running a firing range at a separate location.

Monday morning, the Soldiers were out early to conduct a 12-mile ruck march with 35-pound ruck sacks and full gear... and it was timed. At the finish line, they were immediately ushered to the range for M-16 rifle qualification. Without a break, the competitors were taken to Barnes Field House and thrown into the pool for combat water testing.

After a short break, it was into the ring for combatives.

“It was a very physically demanding day,” said Spc. Donald Mayville, representing the 7th Signal Command (Theater) and who was selected as the runner-up in the Soldier category. “I liked it, and didn't like it. It forced us to push ourselves further than we thought we could. When we got to the combatives, we were just pushing ourselves even farther.”

“Combatives was fun because it's one of my favorite events,” said Sgt. Jeramy LaBoy, representing the 160th Signal Brigade and who was selected as the runner-up in the NCO category. “It was a little more difficult after everything else that day.”



The final day of the competition was the “easy” day for the competitors. All faced the Command Sergeant Major Board in their Army Service Uniforms; and after facing movements and a close-up inspection of their uniforms, the competitors were grilled in their

knowledge of all things Army, current events and asked to defend their points of view from their essay.

At the ceremony that afternoon, Cameron and Thomas were recognized as the top competitors.

“I'm exhausted but very excited,” Thomas said. “I'm ready to hit the ground running. The next level of competition is going to be high, and I have to be prepared.”

“This has definitely been a rewarding experience,” Cameron said. “Interacting with all the competitors has helped me improve both my social and professional skills. I am very happy.”

Both Thomas and Cameron will represent NETCOM at the U.S. Army Forces Command Best Warrior Competition at Fort Bragg later this year.

Above: Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado present awards to (left to right) Spc. Luke Kaulfuss, 5th Signal Command Soldier of the Year, Sgt. Bryan Thomas, 5th Signal Command NCO of the Year, and 1st Lt. Samantha Wilson, 5th Signal Command Officer of the Year, April 15 in Wiesbaden. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Cline)

Leader Development



Fit 2 Lead program to educate, challenge participants to achieve physical, spiritual, financial and educational goals

What is F2L? Who can participate?

Fit 2 Lead is a holistic approach to encouraging a culture of health and facilitating a balanced lifestyle across the command for Soldiers, family members and civilians.

What's the purpose of the program?

The purpose of F2L is to encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle through increased physical activity, spiritual involvement, financial independence and achievement of educational goals.

How does F2L do all that?

F2L achieves its purpose by breaking down the fiscal year into quarters and focusing on specific themes that incorporate elements of physical activity, realistic challenges and goals and rewards for achievement.

When will the program begin?

F2L will begin Oct. 1 and continue throughout the next fiscal year. Interested participants will be able to register for the program online beginning Sept. 1.

What are the quarterly focus areas?

1st Qtr: Physical; 2nd Qtr: Spiritual; 3rd Qtr: Financial; 4th Qtr: Educational

What will some of the challenges be?

For the 1st quarter, the events include a 100 mile challenge, metabolic challenge and Lift 2 Lead challenge.

Look for more information about the program coming soon through command channels. You can also contact Master Sgt. Strate Flessas, Fit 2 Lead program coordinator, at DSN 565-0018 or email strate.v.flessas.mil@mail.mil.



Above left: Sgt. Maj. Ricardo Samudio, U.S. Army Europe G6 sergeant major, leads Team Signal PT April 17 at Clay Kaserne. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Cline); Above right: Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, 5th Signal Command senior enlisted advisor, present the 5th Signal Command Dragon Warrior Fitness streamer to Capt. Bryce Carlson, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, and 1st Sgt. Terry Grace, HHC 44th ESB company first sergeant, at the 2nd Signal Brigade Senior Leader Offsite July 31 in Grafenwoehr. (Photo by William B. King)

You've Got **Too Much** Mail



DoD Enterprise Email Size Limits

By Europe Enterprise Service Desk

On October 1, 2015, the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) will enforce the 4 GB storage limit for enterprise email accounts. Accounts that exceed the 4 GB storage limit may be disabled. To make sure your account stays active and below the 4 GB limit, you can delete emails or transfer emails from your account on the enterprise server to an archival folder your local drive. Archiving emails allows you to continue accessing them through the desktop Outlook application. Keeping your enterprise account size under this limit will also improve Microsoft Outlook start-up time and increase overall speed.

The ESD Service Bulletin “Enterprise Email Account Size Restriction” explains how to easily manage your enterprise account size by creating “Personal Storage Table” (.pst) files and setting up automatic archival of your emails.

Here's some easy steps you can take to reduce your mailbox size:

1. Delete any old messages you no longer need.
2. Delete your sent items.
3. Empty your trash.
4. Enable auto archiving.

Does your inbox look like this?

Inbox 1,974

For more information visit the Enterprise Service Help Desk portal page (CAC required) at <https://army.deps.mil/netcom/sites/5thsignal/G3/119>

Did you know?

The Enterprise Service Desk receives about **12,000** calls each month! They also have an **85%** first-call resolution rate.

**NEED HELP?
DIAL DSN**

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Expo shows tech for signal, cyber units

Story and photos by William B. King

Vendors from 57 different companies came together to showcase their products and services at the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Tech Expo July 24, 2015 at the Clay Kaserne Fitness Center.

Lauren Peck, event manager with National Conference Services Inc., said the expo primarily featured companies and technology supporting signal, cyber and in analyzing information. She described the expo as an educational and networking opportunity for garrison personnel to connect and network with industry leaders.

“It’s really an opportunity for everyone from the decision makers here on post to the end users to interact with the industry and see what new technology is out there, what might be on the horizon and troubleshoot any technologies that might be in their offices or in the field currently,” Peck said.

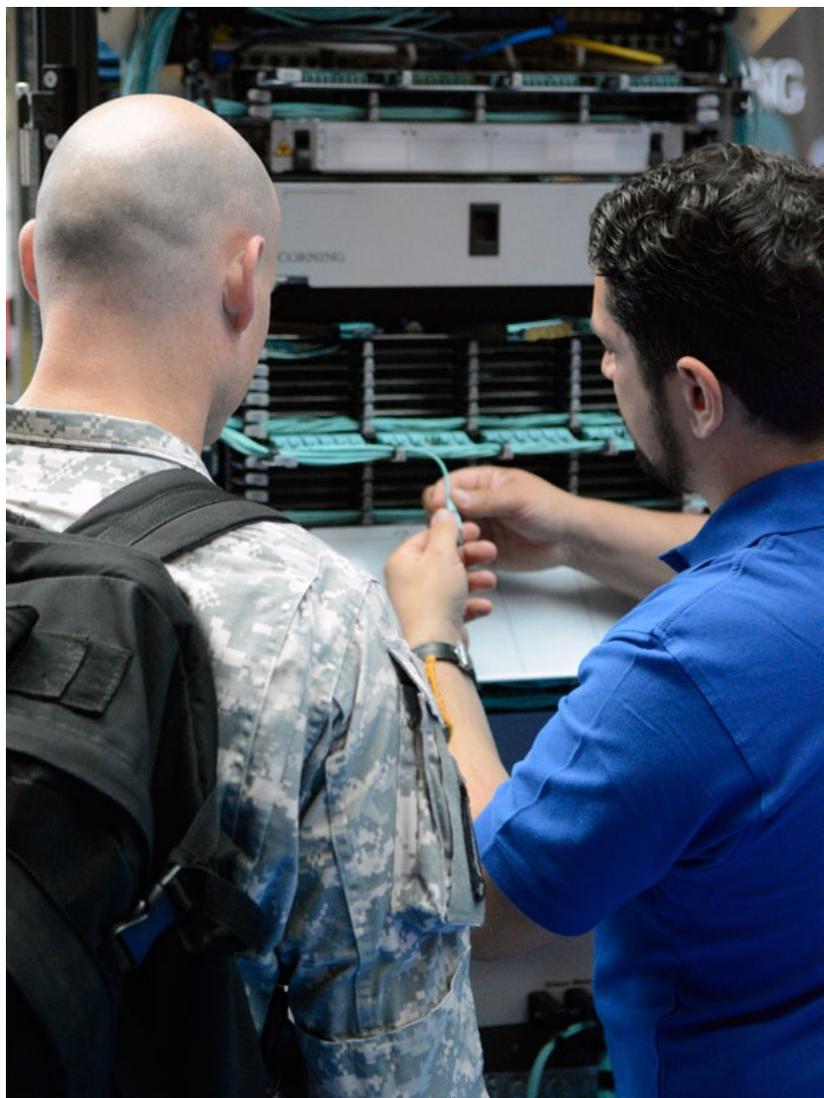
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eugene Gardner, senior signal warrant officer, 5th Signal Command, said the

command worked closely with NCSI to help bring the right products and vendors that could best support the unit’s mission. He said several of the vendors had products that could allow for greater interoperability with our German and other NATO Allies.

“With the goal of the U.S. working in a coalition atmosphere for future operations, this technology is right on time,” Gardner said.

A group of German Soldiers from the Bundeswehr Communication and Information Systems Command (BwCISCOM) visited the expo and spoke with several of the vendors. Capt. Rafael Kowalski, the group leader from BwCISCOM’s 282nd CIS Support Battalion in Kastellaun, said it was new for the Germans to see this type of expo on a military installation.

“It’s very interesting to see all of the U.S. Army partners here,” Kowalski said. “For me, I’m especially interested in IT solutions.” 



US, Allied cyber defenders discuss interoperability at Cyber Summit

Story and photos by William B. King

More than 140 cyber, communications and intelligence professionals from across Europe and as far away as Hawaii gathered in Wiesbaden July 27-29 for the Cyber Summit 2015.

The summit was hosted by the U.S. Army Europe G6 with the theme “Cyber Strong keeps Europe Strong.”

“The goal of the summit was to bring together the cybersecurity workforce to share interoperability best practices from U.S., NATO Allies and the corporate world,” said Dan Hingtgen, one of the summit organizers from USAREUR G6 Cybersecurity Division. “Interoperability is all the different forms of media and communications, including cyber.”

He said in addition to the presentations and hands-on lab demonstrations, attendees also gained valuable insight through partnership, team building and networking events and opportunities at the summit.

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., USAREUR chief information officer/G6, welcomed the attendees and defined the overall theme for the summit – how to protect our critical networks and infrastructure, but still achieve interoperability with our Allies in the cyber domain.

“We must figure out a way to collaborate, to share information,” Hall said.

Right: Max Shier from U.S. Army Europe G6 Cybersecurity Division leads attendees through a hands-on lab about Secure Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) Scanning and Application during the Cyber Summit 2015, July 28 in Wiesbaden.

Top right: Therese Metcalf, a contractor with the MITRE Corporation, gives a presentation on the “Top 10 Strategies of Cyber Ops” during the Cyber Summit 2015, July 28 in Wiesbaden.



Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal, USAREUR chief of staff, said NATO and Europe is in desperate need of a common communications and cyber defense network.

“Enabling the alliance means also protecting your network. Cyber defense, network defense is one of the most important parts of interoperability,” Laubenthal said.

One of the first presenters at the summit was Col. Ray Adams, U.S. European Command J6 deputy director, who spoke on the topic of “Theater Cyber Strategy.” He said EUCOM uses a continuous, vigilant vulnerability identification process, including working with partners and Allies.

“There is no one better to work with you and determine what your threats are than your coalition partners,” Adams said.

Attendees hailed from several Allied and partner nations, including Romania, Estonia, Ukraine, Poland and Germany.

Josh Knisley, an attendee from U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii, said PACOM faces similar interoperability challenges. He said just as in Europe, PACOM leaders believe that should they be called to fight, they won’t fight alone but rather as part of a coalition.

“It’s important to connect with countries and leverage other people’s work. That [coalition] is the fight of the future, and we have to plan for it,” Knisley said. 

Enabling the Alliance



US, German signal units strengthen partnership through training

Story and photos by William B. King

A team of Soldiers from the 102nd Signal Battalion participated in the Bundeswehr Communication and Information Systems Command's (BwCISCOM) SYSNET 1-15 exercise June 15-20, 2015 at the 282nd CIS Support Battalion headquarters in Kastellaun.

The purpose of the exercise, according to a slide presentation, was to prepare key leaders and expert staff for upcoming missions abroad and to close skill gaps. A total of 207 German and U.S. Soldiers participated in the exercise in Kastellaun and surrounding sites.

“One of the main aims of exercise SYSNET was the interconnection of Bundeswehr and U.S. CIS systems

in order to check on the feasibility of interoperability,” said Maj. Henning Schwichow, the 282nd CIS Support Battalion S3.

Sgt. 1st Class Albert King, who was on the 102nd Signal Battalion's team at Kastellaun, said some of the interoperability challenges they overcame included language barriers and the configuration of systems.

“The 282nd has been exceptional in providing assistance when we needed it,” King said.

Schwichow said his Soldiers had to teach the Americans how the German equipment worked, but that there were no significant technical or cultural issues.



“German and American IT Soldiers can work together without any difficulties because of the same hardware and software components, a similar IT training and the same cultural background,” Schwichow said. “Conducting missions and exercises together is a very likely scenario which makes it even more important to conduct IT training and to improve the interoperability of the respective CIS of our partner nations.”

The 282nd CIS Support Battalion and the 102nd Signal Battalion are dedicated partner units. Lt. Col. Chris Keeshan, commander of the 102nd Signal Battalion, said the units started with ranges and are now moving into more technical aspects of the partnership.

“We’re learning a lot more about each other and our capabilities,” Keeshan said.

Brig. Gen. Dr. Michael Faerber, BwCISCOM deputy commander, was in Kastellaun June 16 to observe the training and receive a briefing on the progress of the exercise. He emphasized the importance of training together to build trust and partner capacity.

“If you start to train all of this in peacetime, then that’s the best thing you can do in order to prepare for operations,” Faerber said.

Keeshan said the units are currently discussing the potential for cross training that would “break down the barriers of language, training and equipment and get us to a common place.” 

Opposite page: Brig. Gen. Dr. Michael Faerber, BwCISCOM deputy commander, and Lt. Col. Chris Keeshan, 102nd Signal Battalion commander, receive a briefing on German systems June 16 in Kastellaun.

Top: Lt. Col. Chris Keeshan, 102nd Signal Battalion commander, presents a commander’s coin to a German BwCISCOM Soldier June 16 in Kastellaun.

Left: Maj. Christopher Hall, 102nd Signal Battalion S3, listens to German Soldiers discuss the capabilities of a German 34 meter (111.5 foot) antenna and line of sight system June 16 in Kastellaun.

SENIOR LEADERS SOUND OFF!



“In training, as in battle, we must learn how to work together, and communication is the key to our interoperability.”

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr.
Commander
5th Signal Command

“Interoperability is the key to success.”

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges
Commander
U.S. Army Europe



“We [Team Signal] are doing real work and building real capabilities for the Alliance.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado
Senior Enlisted Advisor
5th Signal Command



“Enabling the Alliance means also protecting your network. Cyber defense, network defense, is one of the most important parts of interoperability.”

Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal
Chief of Staff
U.S. Army Europe



Stoney Run III proves US, British communications capabilities

Story by William B. King

U.S. and British signal units joined together June 6-25, 2015 for exercise Stoney Run III at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

The exercise brought together Soldiers and equipment from the U.S. Army's 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the British Army's 30th Signal Regiment.

Lt. Col. Pete Wilson, commander of the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, said the goal of the exercise was for the Allies to work together to pass voice and data through each other's line-of-sight and satellite systems.

"This would enable us to tunnel through their equipment so that we could have a user be able to call or send an email to a U.S. station on the other side, and not necessarily have to have two different pieces of equipment there," Wilson said.

He said the British are close Allies and his unit has a good relationship with the 30th Signal Regiment.

"We have a commonality in that we're all signal. We can start from a common standpoint, our equipment is very similar, and the work that both units did in advance of this exercise has helped us start running rather than trying to plan and work through some of the obstacles we could have had," Wilson said.

Staff Sgt. Matt Griffiths, a foreman with the 250th Gurkha Signal Squadron, said the goal for the British was to try and exploit each other's bearer systems and prove the concept for passing voice and data.

"The best way to train is the way we fight, and the way we fight is, more often than not, as a coalition. So, if we train that way, then it makes things flow much better when we're actually on ops," Griffiths said.

Some of the equipment used during the exercise included U.S. CPNs and British Falcon vehicles.

1st Lt. Alyssa Tran, a platoon leader in Company B, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, said the key to the exercise was partnership.

"We're learning how to work with each other, technically how we can link our systems," Tran said.

Wilson said the exercise was a success and met all of its training objectives. He said the next step may see some of his Soldiers and equipment deploy to the UK for a similar exercise.

"We will build on this – I anticipate we'll try more solutions through satellites. I see us both maybe deploying to a new location and setting up on the ground and trying this as if we were deploying for a real-world operation," Wilson said. 



Spc. Josue Vazquez, a LAN manager in Company B, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, talks with British signal officers during exercise Stoney Run III in the Grafenwoehr Training Area. (Submitted photo)

Enabling the Alliance

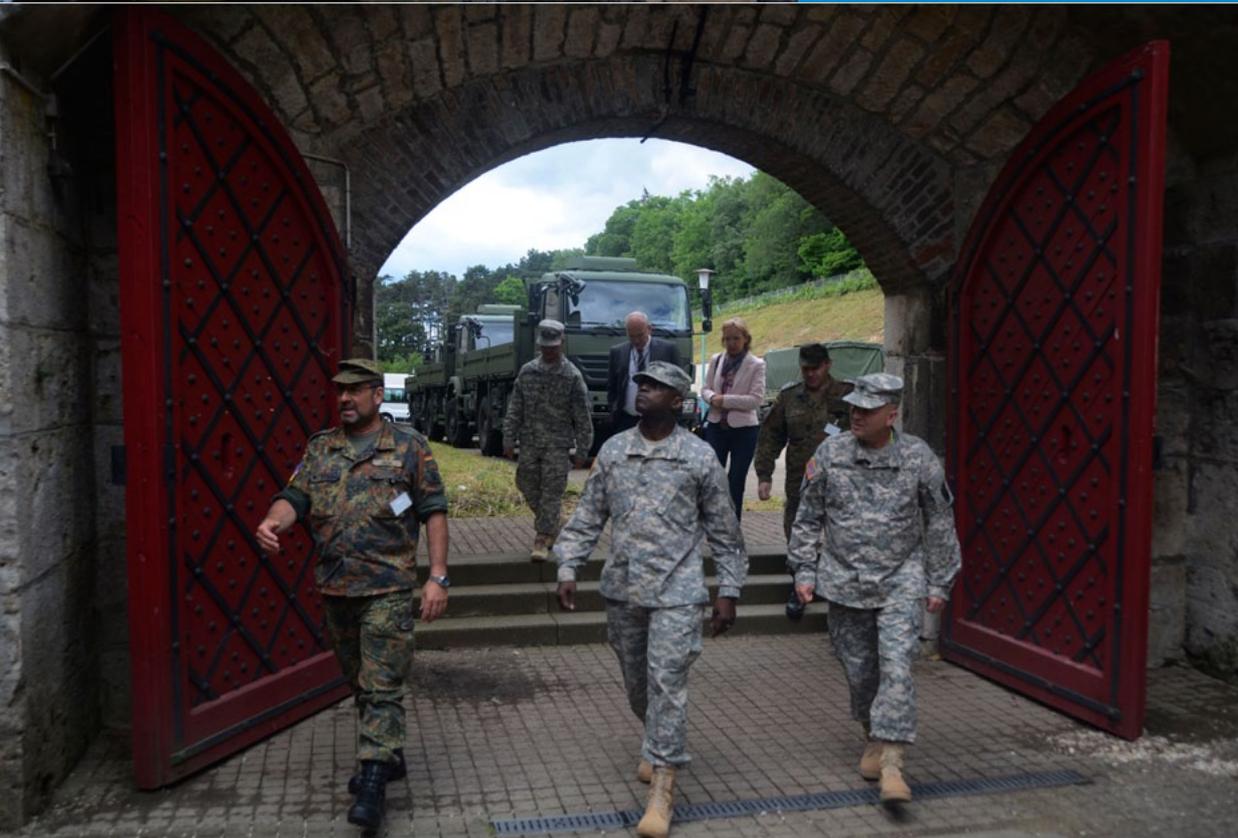
Partnership in Action



Left: Sgt. 1st Class Chestine Sanders III, 102nd Signal Battalion, helps a German Soldier from BwCISCOM's 282nd CIS Support Battalion to position an M-16 rifle during a small arms range Aug. 5, 2015 at the Wackernheim Range Complex near Mainz. (Photo by William B. King)



Above: Brig. Gen. Dr. Michael Faerber, deputy commander of the Bundeswehr Communication and Information Systems Command, and Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command and the U.S. Army Europe Chief Information Officer/G6, sign a German-U.S. interoperability cooperation agreement May 27, 2015 at the 5th Signal Command headquarters on Clay Kaserne. The agreement establishes an Interoperability Cooperation Group and formalizes a cooperative relationship initiated last year to share best practices, conduct cross-training and develop interoperability between BwCISCOM and 5th Signal Command. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Cline)



Left: Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, 5th Signal Command senior enlisted advisor, visit the Multinational Joint Headquarters June 23 in Ulm. The purpose of the visit was to gain knowledge on tasks and responsibilities of MN JHQ Ulm and exchange information and lessons learned with the CJ6 of MN JHQ. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Cline)

New USAREUR CSM visits 5th Signal Command

Command Sgt. Maj. Sheryl Lyon, the new U.S. Army Europe senior enlisted advisor, visited 5th Signal Command and the Lt. Gen. Robert E. Gray Cyber Center June 29. During her visit, Lyon spoke with senior leaders and learned about the mission and capabilities of the command.

Lyon assumed responsibility as USAREUR's senior enlisted advisor during a ceremony May 29 at Clay Kaserne. At the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, USAREUR commander, said, "(Lyon) was probably one of the easiest choices I've ever made," Hodges said. "Not because the others weren't good ... but I knew that Sgt. Maj. Cheryl Lyon was exactly the right person for us. Because when you look at U.S. Army Europe, who we are and all the stuff that we do, I thought it was time to get someone who has a set of experiences that was different than what I have."

According to her official biography, prior to coming to USAREUR, Lyon was the senior enlisted leader for the Joint Functional Component Command, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. She has held every leadership position from team sergeant to first sergeant to command sergeant major at the brigade level and senior enlisted leader at the nominative level.

Command Sgt. Maj. Sheryl Lyon, U.S. Army Europe senior enlisted advisor, speaks with Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, 5th Signal Command senior enlisted advisor, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Schehl, 2nd Signal Brigade senior enlisted advisor, June 29 at the 5th Signal Command headquarters building on Clay Kaserne. (Photo by William B. King)



Operational Camouflage Pattern Army Combat Uniforms available July 1

U.S. Army News Release

The Army announced the release of the Operational Camouflage Pattern in Soldier uniforms, available for purchase in select military clothing sales stores beginning, July 1.

Stores will receive the uniforms over a period of six months from July to November, and new Soldiers will receive Operational Camouflage Pattern Army Combat Uniforms, or ACUs, beginning in January 2016. The Operational Camouflage Pattern was selected following the most comprehensive uniform camouflage testing effort ever undertaken by the Army, reflecting the Army's paramount commitment to force protection.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey encouraged enlisted Soldiers to purchase new uniforms with their annual clothing allowance. "All enlisted Soldiers receive an annual stipend for the purchase of uniforms and accessories. I myself will wait until I am issued my clothing allowance before purchasing a uniform with the Operational Camouflage Pattern. I encourage all Soldiers and leaders to do the same by budgeting for a new uniform, belt, boots, and T-shirts as you receive your clothing allowance over the next 2-3 years."

The cost of the uniform in the Operational Camouflage Pattern will be similar to the cost of the uniform in the Universal Camouflage Pattern. Enlisted Soldiers will continue to receive a clothing allowance to replace their worn uniforms.

Uniforms and equipment in the Operational Camouflage Pattern will be available for U.S. Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, and Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps during summer 2016.

Soldiers are authorized to mix and match T-shirts, belts, and boots with either the Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern or the Operational Camouflage Pattern during the transition period - expected to run through Oct. 1, 2019. To further ease the change, Soldiers, who already have Flame Resistant ACUs in the Operational Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern, will be authorized to wear them during the transition.

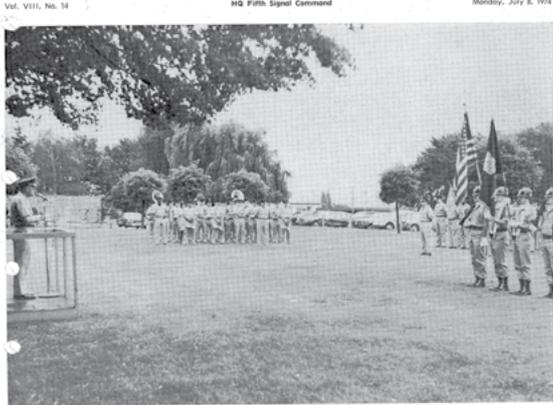
"I have asked noncommissioned officers to ensure their Soldiers understand that during this transition period, several uniforms and variations will be authorized in our formations," Dailey said. "Presenting a professional appearance is very important to Soldiers. But, we will not inconvenience or burden our troops. We will still be the most lethal fighting force the world has even known even if our belts don't match for the next few years."

In addition to the camouflage change, the Operational Camouflage Pattern ACUs will incorporate minor design changes. These include redesigned shoulder sleeve pockets with a zipper opening, no trouser drawstring, a button on the lower calf pocket, two pen pockets on the sleeve instead of three, and the elimination of the elbow and knee patch hook and loop.



5th Signal Command History

ECHO



Brig. Gen. Richard W. Swenson addresses the men and women of the 5th Signal Command during the command ceremony at Kilbourne Kaserne on July 1, 1974.

Command enters 2d decade with new name

By CPT Charles R. Sells

This command entered its second decade with a new name and a new command structure.

These changes were announced by Brig. Gen. Richard W. Swenson during a command ceremony at last week's anniversary celebration activities.

The redesignation of ACDMM-Europe as the 5th Signal Command became effective on 1 July and is part of the worldwide name changes involving subordinate commands of the US Army Communications Command, Fort Huachuca.

The restructuring of this command within the Federal Republic of Germany realigns two signal groups along geographical lines as opposed to the former functional-oriented structure. Signal Group 22 has been redesignated as the 2nd Signal Group and Signal Service Group 4 is now the 36th Signal Group. Both groups have assumed a geographic communications responsibility for northern and southern Germany respectively.

The colors for the 6th, 2nd and 36th groups flew for the last time of the command ceremony before entering retirement. The colors of the 2nd Signal Battalion were also represented in the ceremony.

In his comments during the command ceremony, Brig. Gen. Swenson also noted the progress being made in the relocation of the command headquarters, support elements and affiliated organizations to Tauckunen Barracks in Worms.

After the command ceremony, the day's activities continued outdoors despite the imminent threat of rain and an occasional drizzle accompanied by high winds.

A picnic-style barbecue lunch began at noon followed by an hour and half musical show performed by the TASCAM Showband. This 22 member group from Worms treated the elements to a highly simplified performance with a repertoire ranging from rock, soul, country and western to popular Broadway show songs. The Showband could not have fared their performance better, when their last song ended the departure began.

About the same time on the other end of Kilbourne Kaserne the volleyball tournament was drawing to a close. The winning team was led by victory by SSG Jerry Holmes, DCSPER. Team members were SGT Heiner Bannier, DCSOPIC; SSG Thomas Jailer and SFC Henry Johnson both of Triple C, and PFC Norman Galstian and PVT Lewis Smith both newly arrived in command.

SSG Holmes' team made a clean sweep winning all their games in addition to beating CELEA-EUR tactics, both in the initial competitive and in a repeat grudge match.

With the end of all the planned activities came the rains and then fit, ten minutes later for the first time that day the sun began to shine.

ECHO from the past

Summer 1974, 41 years ago, was a busy time for 5th Signal Command. July 1, 1974, Army Communications Command-Europe reorganized to become Headquarters, 5th Signal Command. The first commander of the newly designated 5th Signal Command was Brig. Gen. Richard W. Swenson.

The photo to the left is a scan of the ECHO publication from July 8, 1974 with a story about the command ceremony. The ceremony was followed by a barbecue picnic with live music, games and a volleyball tournament.

August 1974 the command moved from Kilbourne Kaserne in Schwetzingen to Tauckunen Barracks in Worms where it stayed until 1996. The 2nd and 160th Signal Groups were assigned, as well as the 6981st Labor Service Group. Learn more about our unit history at <http://www.5sigcmd.army.mil/5thSignalHistory>.



6981st Civilian Support Group

The 6981st CSG is a direct descendant of the first German Labor Service (LS) Units activated in August 1948 during the Berlin blockade. Despite many changes over the years the 6981st has continued its original mission, including installation of high frequency antennas and maintenance and operation of microwave radio equipment and power generators. Since 1974 the 6981st has worked side-by-side with 5th Signal Command to build communications capabilities and infrastructure for users across Europe.

Signal Strong for a Strong Europe!

Left: (from left to right) Holger Noll of 6981st engineering and evaluation section, Thomas Mueller, a technician with the 6981st Stuttgart detachment, and Rob Payne, 52nd Signal Battalion chief of plans and programs, review a map of facilities and infrastructure on Patch Barracks May 28 in Stuttgart. (U.S. Army photo)

Riders get revved up for Motorcycle Safety Day

Story by William B. King

Several riders from the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community gathered for summer riding season refresher training during Motorcycle Safety Day July 17 at McCully Barracks.

The training, hosted by 2nd Signal Brigade, was for licensed riders of various skill levels and meant to increase riders' knowledge and experience by assessing their skill, style and risk.

Bob Wise of 2nd Signal Brigade, the primary instructor for the day, said it's important to do routine training and exercises on motorcycle safety and handling your motorcycle properly.

"It's a shame, but far too many military bikers end up in an accident because they're not practicing their skills," Wise said.

Spc. Robert Luurtsema of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Signal Brigade, said the Motorcycle Safety Day training focused on quick stop, box turns, "s turns" and slow rolls.

As motorcycle safety program representative for 2nd Signal Brigade, Luurtsema checks personal protective equipment and ensures all training and paperwork is up to date for riders in his unit.

"The motorcycle program instills safety, camaraderie and morale for fellow riders and Soldiers," Luurtsema said.

One of the recurring themes from instructors and students alike was that no matter a rider's skill or experience level, it's always important to review the basics of riding and safety.

1st Lt. Phillip Hoying of 24th Military Intelligence Battalion, a student at the training with five years riding experience, said the training gave riders a chance to practice what happens in emergency situations.

"I think it's important for motorcycle riders to have the opportunity to do training like this because it gives us the experience of practicing in a controlled environment. A lot of times when you're on the road you have to deal with emergency situations that come up because of other drivers not being courteous – this is an opportunity to practice what happens in those situations," Hoying said.

After the initial refresher training period at McCully Barracks, the group then went on a ride through the area before returning to Clay Kaserne for an after action review.

Luurtsema, who's been riding for about 10 years, said if there are any beginners who want to get into riding, then they should not hesitate to give it a try.

"It's an experience that I think everyone should endure in their lifetime," Luurtsema said. "I call it freedom."



Middle: Capt. Nathan Folgert, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Signal Brigade, negotiates the training course during Motorcycle Safety Day July 17 at McCully Barracks. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Cline)

Bob Wise of 2nd Signal Brigade speaks to riders from the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community about motorcycle safety and riding basics during Motorcycle Safety Day training July 17 at McCully Barracks. (Photo by William B. King)



If you're going to *ride*, then have the right gear!

Helmets: Minimum must be DOT or host nation approved

Goggles and face shields: Impact/shatter resistant goggles or full-faced shields attached to the helmet; must meet or exceed ANSI Code Z87.1 for impact and shatter resistance

Garment visibility: Riders are encouraged to incorporate bright colors and/or reflective material into their protective clothing



Protective clothing: Includes long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers and full-fingered gloves or mittens made from leather or other abrasion-resistant material

Sturdy footwear: Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes required



Do you have a question about **SHARP**?
Need help? Contact your unit representative
for more information.



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A color guard from 2nd Signal Brigade participates in a Memorial Day ceremony May 24 at the Normandy American Cemetery in France. "It felt really good to represent the Army at the ceremony and to work with the French and other services," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Vickers, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the color guard. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Cline)

