

ΕΣΣΕΘΟ

2016



5TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER)

One TEAM
One NETWORK
One MISSION



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: One Team - One Network - One Mission: Enabling mission command at the speed of decision

2nd Signal Brigade



Mission: 2d Signal Brigade Builds, Operates, Defends Mission Command System and Networks in order to support Unified Action anytime -- anywhere.

Vision: Brigade of Excellence... One TEAM of INNOVATIVE professionals enabling mission command with INTEGRITY and BALANCE.

Priorities: Service Delivery; Interoperability and Engagement; Leader Development; Comprehensive Fitness.

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Front cover: U.S. Army Sgt. David Barber, a Phoenix team chief assigned to Alpha Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, checks the status of his systems during Exercise Anakonda 2016 June 8, 2016 at the National Defense University in Warsaw, Poland. "We're enabling mission command to perform unified land operations," Barber said. (Photo by William B. King, design by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline and William B. King)

Back cover: One Team, One Network, One Mission photo strips. (Design by William B. King)

Opposite page: Photos from the 2nd Signal Brigade senior leader offsite July 2016 in Grafenwoehr. (Photos by 2nd Signal Brigade)

Next page: U.S. Army Soliders Spc. Samuel Latimore, 52nd Signal Battalion, Pfc. Trevonn Fuller, 39th Signal Battalion, and 1st Lt. Octavio Mota, 2nd Signal Brigade, participate in the 12-mile ruck march during the 5th Signal Command (Theater) Best Warrior Competition April 29, 2016 in Wiesbaden, Germany. (Photo by Pfc. Chase Williams)

CONTENTS

ECHO Magazine
2016

FEATURES

4 | Dragon 6 Sends - Command Vision

Col. Rob Parker, commander of 5th Signal Command (Theater), lays out his vision for the command

6 | Sergeant's Time - Embracing Change

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Gutierrez, 5th Signal Command (Theater) senior enlisted advisor, provides guidance and focus for noncommissioned officers and junior enlisted Soldiers

14 | South of the Alps

The 509th Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade in Vicenza, Italy is engaged in building partnerships and relationships with their Italian allies "South of the Alps"

40 | Testing your METL: Assessing readiness within a NEC

A three-step process for developing and assessing training and readiness measures within a NEC

SECTIONS

8 | One Team

26 | One Network

48 | One Mission

24 | Awards and Recognition

30 | 2016 "Top Shots"

56 | SHARP

57 | Safety

58 | EOA

60 | ECHO from the Past



Leadership Message - Dragon 6 Sends



Command Vision

Since taking command I have been greatly impressed by the dedication, innovation, and sheer effort I have seen from the Dragon Warrior team. They recognize the tremendous scope of our mission and the importance it holds for the success of the two Army Service Component Commands and two Combatant Commands we support. Our team's vision of success incorporates the broader strategic outlook of security in the European and African theaters.

**“One Team - One Network - One Mission:
Enabling Mission Command at the Speed of Decision.”**

One Team

This element of our vision refers more to unity of purpose than to any organizational designations. With a mission as complex as ours, we must work as a team, not only within the command and our subordinate units, but also with stakeholder organizations and international partners. Our team includes Soldiers, Civilians, and Local Nationals, as well as personnel from Coalition, Joint, Active, Reserve, and National Guard elements, all united in purpose and effort.

One Network

As the base platform for all of the Army's warfighting systems and functions the network requires critical management and robust defense. 5th Signal Command leads the DoD's Joint Information Environment (JIE) initiative to consolidate the military's disparate networks into a single joint platform, improving efficiency, strengthening security, and enabling new capabilities. We also must continually invest in the network to ensure a stable infrastructure, effective systems, and secure network operation.

One Mission

5th Signal Command delivers the full range of communication, information technology, and cyber requirements for Army, Joint, and Coalition forces in the EUCOM and AFRICOM areas of responsibility. We ensure persistent availability and robust network defense from the strategic communications backbone infrastructure to the tactical edge. Regardless of our individual functions or job titles, we recognize the Warfighter's success as our reason for existence.

2017 is a year of leadership for 5th Signal Command. We are leading the Army's network infrastructure and systems-modernization efforts. We are setting the theater for integration of the Regionally Allocated Forces and their continuous rotations in Europe. We are driving the Army's cybersecurity as an early adopter of the Windows 10 operating system. We are enabling and enhancing interoperability with partners and allies. And we are leading the global restructuring and streamlining of the signal force.

Every aspect of the warfighting mission depends on the information technology we provide. We take our

responsibility seriously. As Dragon Warriors, you have our commitment to develop leaders, teams, and families with the skills and dedication to carry this mission into the future. 🐉

COL Rob Parker
Commander
5th Signal Command (Theater)





LEADERSHIP MESSAGE SERGEANT'S TIME

Embracing Change

As we closed out another successful year for the U.S. Army, we find ourselves in a movement of change. Although change introduces new challenges to our menu, 2017 will bring more capacity to our formations. Recently, our Army was granted approval to regrow our formation, which opens the door of opportunity for each and every one of us. It is with this open door that we can embrace our mission sets with a revitalized approach in that our end state will be one of more capability to execute daily operations.

As we move aggressively through 2017, it's vital that each of us remain competitive in all that we do whether it's a promotion board file or simply setting the example for our most junior personnel. Continue to strive toward excellence and do not allow yourself to become complacent. Our purpose in the Army is not only to conduct our wartime mission, it's also to learn from each other and create interoperability internally as well as externally to our own team. The key to our overall success will be in how well we execute as a team. It's from that perspective that I pass a sincere "thank

you" to the entire 5th Signal Command (Theater) with a special emphasis of gratitude for our civilian workforce that has ensured much of the success of this command regardless of its home based location.

I firmly believe that within our own formation right now is the generation of Company First Sergeants, Command Sergeants Major, Battalion and Brigade Commanders as well as Senior Executive Service civilians. It's for that reason that I'm both inspired and proud to serve with you and because of you, each and every day.

CSM Frank Gutierrez
Senior Enlisted Leader
5th Signal Command (Theater)

NCO Induction

Members of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux stand up to welcome the Official Party, Command Sgt. Maj. Joe C. Birkhead IV, 39th Signal Battalion (left) and Sgt. Maj. Gustava Gurolla, Public Health Command Europe (right), during U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) Induction Ceremony hosted by 39th Signal Battalion in Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) main Building auditorium, Mons, Belgium, 18 Nov. 2016. (Photo by Visual Information Specialist Henri Cambier)



STAY ARMY | STAY SIGNAL

A new year brings new career opportunities

By Master Sgt. Santantoniano Smith, 5th Signal Command (Theater) Career Counselor

WIESBADEN, Germany (Jan. 23, 2017) -- The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which took effect Jan. 1, 2017, provides service members with a 2.1 percent raise as well as provisions for growth of the Armed Services. As we transition from downsizing our military to increasing its forces, the Army has released unprecedented incentives to the Army Retention Program.

You may ask, "How does this affect me?" The incentives released provide a unique opportunity for service members (SM) who have a fiscal year (FY) expiration - term of service (ETS) of 2017 (Sept. 30, 2017 and before), to be able to reenlist or extended and receive a bonus of \$10,000. If the SM Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) is currently listed on the Selective Retention Bonus (SRB) military personnel message, they will receive their bonus amount plus a \$13,000 kicker.

SMs with a contracted ETS date of FY 2018 (Sept. 30, 2018 and before) have an array of bonus amounts along with reenlistment options for which they may be qualified. If they are a careerist SM, with less than 10 years of active federal service at date of discharge, they may now be eligible for movement options. Additionally, for SMs in the grade of E-4(P) and E-5(P) in a balanced or shortage MOS, current retention control point (RCP) is now extended to 10 years for E-4(P) and to 15 years for E-5(P).

To check your qualifications for these new programs, please speak with your local Career Counselor or Retention NCO, or contact me at santantoniano.j.smith.mil@mail.mil or (DSN) 565-0018 for assistance.



**STAY ARMY,
STAY SIGNAL,
STAY 5th SIGNAL COMMAND
(THEATER)!**

It's your career, get some counseling...
Contact your career counselor today!
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565-0018



**5th Signal Command
(Theater)**

2016 COMMAND TEAMS

One Team, One Network, One Mission



5th Signal Command (Theater)



2nd Signal Brigade

CURRENT



COL Rob Parker
July 2016 - Pres



CSM Frank Gutierrez
March 2016 - Pres

CURRENT



COL Jeff Worthington
June 2016 - Pres



CSM Gregory Rowland
July 2016 - Pres



PREVIOUS



COL Jimmy L. Hall Jr.
May 2014 - July 2016



CSM Harry Mercado
January 2014 - March 2016

PREVIOUS



COL Ed Buck
July 2014 - June 2016



CSM Kevin Schehl
July 2014 - April 2016



Spc. Samuel Latimore (center left) of the 52nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, and Sgt. Carlos Flores (center right) of the 39th Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, receive an outbrief after completing a formal board during the 5th Signal Command (Theater) Best Warrior Competition, April 27, 2016 in Wiesbaden, Germany. (Photo by Pfc. Chase Williams)

5th Signal Command names best warriors of the year

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (April 28, 2016) -- 5th Signal Command (Theater) selected a new officer, noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the year after conducting its Best Warrior Competition April 24-27, 2016 in Wiesbaden.

The winners are 1st Lt. Octavio Mota, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Signal Brigade; Sgt. Carlos Flores, 39th Signal Battalion; and Spc. Samuel Latimore, 52nd Signal Battalion.

Latimore was also recently named the Soldier of the year for both U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and Installation Management Command-Europe.

The Best Warrior Competition events included a 12-mile road march, weapons qualification, physical fitness test, day and night land navigation, combatives, written test and a formal board.

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Gutierrez, 5th Signal Command senior enlisted advisor, said the competition was challenging and brought out the best in the competitors across a wide range of skills and scenarios.

“This year’s 5th Signal Command Best Warrior Competition was a true testament to the Total Soldier Concept,” Gutierrez said.

He said that while some competitors outperformed others in the formal board, for example, the winners were the ones who best demonstrated their skills across the full range of events.

“All the different events were challenging, but if I had to pick one it would be the ruck march,” Flores said.

He said the competition is a great way to meet other Soldiers and NCOs from across Europe.

“There are going to be times where you are tired, a little sleep deprived and wonder what you got yourself into. When it’s all said and done you will have done something that not a lot of Soldiers and NCOs have done,” Flores said.

Flores and Latimore will represent 5th Signal Command in the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command Best Warrior Competition later this year at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. 🇺🇸



Spc. Samuel Latimore



52nd Signal Battalion Soldier of the Year

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Service Member of the Year, E1-E4 Category

U.S. Army Installation Management Command - Europe Soldier of the Year

5th Signal Command (Theater) Soldier of the Year

U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command Soldier of the Year

US, German signal leaders learn about Cold War history, NATO future

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (April 28, 2016) -- U.S. and German signal leaders learned about the history of a divided Germany and the future of the NATO alliance during a joint staff ride to the Point Alpha Memorial April 27-28, 2016 near Geisa, Germany.

Point Alpha was a U.S. observation post overlooking the strategic "Fulda Gap," the point where Western military planners believed the Soviets and Warsaw Pact countries would have initiated an attack on West Germany and NATO.

The Point Alpha staff ride brought together signal leaders from 5th Signal Command (Theater) and the Bundeswehr Communications and Information Systems Command (BwCISCOM), and, according to organizers, was the first of its kind to combine a site visit with a formal program of instruction.

"It's a way to gain historical knowledge of the role of NATO during the Cold War and a better understanding and link to NATO today," said Christine Straus, 5th Signal Command political advisor and one of the staff ride organizers.

The signal leaders toured the House on the Border Museum, walked the Path of Hope along the former East German patrol road and visited the former Point Alpha U.S. camp. There were also presentations about the history of the Bundeswehr during and after the Cold War, an introduction to how NATO works, and a future-oriented, scenario-based panel discussion.

Dr. Martin Rink, a Bundeswehr historian, described some of the immediate and ongoing changes within the Bundeswehr after reunification.

"Within a short period of time there were huge organizational transformations," Rink said.

Col. Juergen Schick, from the BwCISCOM's Concepts and Developments Branch, was one of the officers charged with integrating former East German Soldiers into the Bundeswehr after reunification. He said he entered the Bundeswehr in 1976 and remembers well the border and conflict between the Warsaw Pact and NATO states.

"We stood at a point on the border where I stood 30 years before, then it was a border and I couldn't cross it, but now I can. It was very emotional for me to look back at what was, what is now, and I see now it's much better," Schick said.

Jerry Deaver, 5th Signal Command G-3 command portfolio manager, served two tours along the East-West German border, including with the 7th Corps Artillery which had responsibility for the Fulda Gap.

"The camaraderie we had on the American side and the friendships we made with the West Germans were very high," Deaver said.

He said it was very nostalgic and emotional for him to return to the former border area.

"Standing there where the former GDR troops once trudged up and down the border, it was kind of surreal. When I was here, it (reunification) was just something that we felt would never happen, but standing there and physically crossing that line, I felt a little teary eyed," Deaver said.

Volker Bausch, director of the Point Alpha Foundation, said the foundation and memorial want

to show how the commitment of NATO Soldiers along the border ensured West Germany's freedom and helped shape the future of a unified Germany. He said the history of the Cold War and specifically the Point Alpha Memorial site offer important lessons for contemporary times.

"We need to have a political communication process between the military blocs and adversaries, but we also need to have a credible deterrence -- both are necessary and both form part of an overarching strategy," Bausch said.

Schick said the staff ride provided an important look back at history that will be especially beneficial to his younger Soldiers, many of whom weren't born when the wall came down.

"For the younger guys it was a good look back at what your comrades have done in that time, and maybe we can learn from that," Schick said. 🇩🇪



view online: www.army.mil/article/166940



Jerry Deaver (center), 5th Signal Command (Theater) G-3 command portfolio manager, walks along the former border area between East and West Germany April 27, 2016 at the Point Alpha Memorial near Geisa, Germany. (Photo by William B. King)

Building partnerships and enabling the alliance “*South of the Alps*”

2nd Signal Brigade staff ride teaches history, honors fallen Soldiers in Italy

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (Sept. 19, 2016) -- In the final months of World War II, Carlo Bombardelli, 9 years old at the time, remembers looking out over Lake Garda from his home in Torbole, Italy, wondering when the Americans would arrive and the war would be over.

“Everybody was waiting for the Americans. Every day the children asked their parents when the Americans are coming,” Bombardelli said through a translator.

Then, on the evening of April 30, 1945, Bombardelli said he was outside his home when he heard screams for help coming from the lake. He raised the alarm, ran down to the water and managed to help save one person, U.S. Army Cpl. Thomas Hough, a lifeguard before joining the Army. However, 25 other Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division, including artilleryman Pfc. Frank Miller, drowned when their overloaded boat lost power and sank in the lake. A few years ago the boat was discovered sitting upright on the lakebed in about 250 meters (820 feet) of water; however, no remains have ever been recovered.

The event went largely unrecognized until this past April 30, 71 years later, when a monument to the fallen was erected next to a church by the lake in Torbole. The monument was placed adjacent to another monument for Brig. Gen. William Darby, an assistant division commander in the 10th Mountain Division and founder of the Army Rangers, who was also killed April 30, 1945 in Torbole by shrapnel from a German shell.

Just two days later on May 2, 1945, all Nazi German forces in Italy surrendered unconditionally to the Allies. The war was over for Bombardelli and the people of Italy.

“I always asked myself why the Americans came here and lost so many Soldiers for us,” Bombardelli said.

On Sept. 15, one day before National POW/MIA Recognition Day, leaders from across 2nd Signal Brigade gathered for a staff ride in the Verona and Lake Garda area. The staff ride was hosted by the 509th Signal Battalion and included presentations on World War II and modern history of the area, cultural excursions and team-building activities,

as well as a ceremony to honor Darby and the 25 Soldiers who died crossing the lake. Several friends and relatives of Miller were present for the ceremony, including his daughter, Joanne Lien, and son, Arnie Miller. Other special guests included the mayor of Torbole, members of the Italian Alpini and the local historical society, historians, friends, and now 81-year-old Bombardelli.

Speaking at the church in Torbole where the monuments are located, Gianni Morandi, mayor of Torbole, said, “We’re honored to welcome our American guests and to honor the lives that were lost here in the Second World War.”

continued

Lien said she was just 2 years old when her dad died. She had never been to Italy before and said visiting the area where her father and the others died was an emotional experience for her.

“I’m amazed at all this community has done to try and keep the memory of this going and give them some deserved recognition -- I’m kind of in awe of that. It makes me realize what a wonderful people the Italians are and it advances the cause of friendship between our two countries,” Lien said.

Col. Jeff Worthington, commander of 2nd Signal Brigade, said events such as the staff ride expand professional knowledge and are important for building relationships, esprit de corps and for strengthening the team.

“I think it’s very important to bring people to someplace like this where we can touch some of the past and understand some of what the Italians have gone through. It’s different than learning from a book or in a classroom -- you get to see on the ground how things happened,” Worthington said.

Sgt. Christopher McCullough from the 2nd Signal Brigade S-6 said he learned a lot on the staff ride just by being able to interact with senior leaders.

“The knowledge you can get from them, picking their brains, knowing what to look for, what to understand, what’s the important goal, has helped me so I can pass it along to my fellow Soldiers,” McCullough said.

He said he didn’t know much about the history of what happened in the area during World War II, but was glad to learn from historians and locals and to honor fallen Soldiers.

“It’s always an amazing thing to be able to honor fallen veterans. I think it’s nice that as an Army we are still able to look back at our veterans and thank them for what they’ve done and the sacrifices they made,” McCullough said.

Danny Dusatti, a member of the Torbole city council, said, “It’s an honor to be free, but it’s not to be taken for granted.”

Bombardelli agreed.

“It’s a great, great thing to have this occasion to remember. I hope that something like this war will never happen again,” he said. 🇺🇸

photo descriptions online: www.army.mil/article/175341



(Photos by William B. King)



One Team, One Network, One Mission



(submitted photo)

US, Italian signal Soldiers build partnership, strengthen alliance

By Capt. H. Hannon, 509th Signal Battalion

WIESBADEN, Germany (Oct. 19, 2016) -- U.S. Army Soldiers from the 509th Signal Battalion met with Italian soldiers from the 32nd Signal Regiment for a partnership building event between the two NATO Allies Sept. 21 in Padua, Italy.

Both units perform similar functions for their respective armies; the 509th Signal Battalion, headquartered in Vicenza, delivers communications support to U.S. forces across Italy, the Balkans, the Black Sea region and Africa, while the 32nd Signal Regiment is responsible for designing, building, managing, controlling and maintaining the Italian Army's information and communication systems in northern Italy.

Following official greetings the U.S. Soldiers received a mission briefing and tour of the Italian unit's facilities, including a meal at the dining facility. The day concluded with both units signing a formal partnership agreement followed by photos and an official exchange of gifts.

Sgt. Maj. Albano Battistella, Italian Liaison Officer to U.S. Army Garrison Italy, helped facilitate the new partnership between the two units. He said building partnerships helps build trust and understanding between different countries.

"The 509th has really made it a priority to seek out new partnership with our Italian Army units, and this means a lot to us -- we learn from one another and help each other," Battistella said.

"Partnerships such as this are key to America's ability to operate in a complex environment," said Maj. Brian Stieritz, 509th Signal Battalion executive officer.

The 509th Signal Battalion and the 32nd Signal Regiment plan to further their new partnership in the coming months through several site visits and technical interoperability exercises between the two organizations. 🇺🇸🇮🇹

(submitted photo)



US, Italian partnerships build a Stronger Europe

By Maj. Brian Stieritz, 509th Signal Battalion

U.S. Army Soldiers from the 509th Signal Battalion are working hard to create lasting partnerships with Italian Army Soldiers from the 184th Italian Signal Regiment, headquartered in Treviso, Italy. Both units perform similar functions for their respective armies, and the natural bond between Signal Soldiers has blossomed quickly into a true cross-cultural friendship.

The partnership began one year ago, when the Italian Army unit invited leaders of the 509th Signal Battalion to visit their Army base in Treviso, Italy. The 509th's Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Brent Skinner, saw the event as an opportunity to build a lasting partnership between the two NATO Allies and quickly accepted.

In return, the 509th Signal Battalion invited members of the Italian unit to visit their Army base in Vicenza. This was the first time the 184th Signal Regiment had ever visited a U.S. military base in Italy and they were very impressed with the

facilities provided to the American Soldiers.

"It is evident by the impressive facilities located on Caserma Del Din and Caserma Ederle that the American Army takes exceptional care of their Soldiers and families living abroad -- we thank the

"Partnerships such as this are key to America's ability to operate in a complex environment -- They strengthen our military alliance and are crucial to building a Stronger Europe."

- Maj. Stieritz

#SignalStrong
#StrongEurope

509th unit for inviting us into their home," said Lt. Col Daniele Versaci, the 184th Signal Battalion Commander.

The friendship between these two Army Signal units has continued to grow. The 509th continues to receive invitations to Italian events and ceremonies across northern Italy. One event was a WWII military ceremony in the northern Italian town of Fregona where members of the 509th participated in an Italian soldier's prayer and memorial ceremony, saw a speech by the Mayor of Fregona and a static display of historical and modern Italian communication systems by the 184th. Most recently, the 509th attended the Italian Change of Command ceremony for the 184th Italian Signal Regiment, as Col. Marola relinquished command to Col. De Manna. The 509th Signal Battalion and the 184th Signal Regiment continue their partnerships through different training events, site visits, and interoperability opportunities. 🇺🇸🇮🇹

(submitted photo)





Commanders team up for Windows 10 commercial on AFN
 Col. Jeff Worthington, commander of 2nd Signal Brigade, and Col. Rob Parker, commander of 5th Signal Command (Theater), recorded an AFN commercial October 28, 2016 for the ongoing Windows 10 upgrade for all computers and network users in Europe. To see the video go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUeachZkNxY or click the photo above. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)



One Team, One Network, One Mission



Team Signal Soldiers from 5th Signal Command (Theater), 2nd Signal Brigade and 102nd Signal Battalion conduct refresher training on Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills during Commander's Prime Time Training (CPTT) Oct. 17-20, 2016 at the Wackernheim Training Area in Mainz. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)

Team Signal Soldiers ready for prime time, train Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills

By Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (Oct. 25, 2016) -- Team Signal Soldiers from 5th Signal Command (Theater), 2nd Signal Brigade and 102nd Signal Battalion conducted refresher training on Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills during Commander's Prime Time Training (CPTT) Oct. 17-20, 2016 at the Wackernheim Training Area in Mainz.

The CPTT event focused on individual Soldier tasks such as tactical movement, tactical combat casualty care, chemical decontamination procedures and urban operations.

"CPTT provides an opportunity to go back to the basics, get some revision on it, read up, study and then actually put it into practice," said Capt. Beatrice Finnegan, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 102nd Signal Battalion.

She said Soldiers often focus primarily on job-specific tasks and need periodic refresher training on basic skills the Army expects all Soldiers to be able to perform. CPTT, Finnegan said, is an opportunity to ensure proficiency at those basic Soldier tasks.

Spc. Marisa Patton, a paralegal attached to the 102nd Signal Battalion, said, "The training was very thorough, we went over a lot."

The training culminated in a squad-level situational training exercise incorporating the tasks that the Soldiers trained on during the previous days.

"The end state, the goal, is always to make Soldiers better than the last time," Finnegan said. 🇺🇸



39 x 6981 = Cross Training in Confined Space



U.S. Army Soldiers from the 39th Signal Battalion conduct training at the 6981st Civilian Support Group's Confined Space Training Facility May 11, 2016 in Gernersheim, Germany. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)



Active duty, National Guard signal Soldiers support Combined Resolve VII

By Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (Sept. 9, 2016) -- U.S. Army Soldiers from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB), 2nd Signal Brigade, and South Carolina National Guard Soldiers from the 151st ESB, 228th Signal Brigade, teamed together to provide communications and network support to U.S. and multinational forces during exercise Combined Resolve VII at the Hohenfels Training Area.

Exercise Combined Resolve VII is a major exercise involving more than 3,500 participants from the U.S. and 15 NATO Ally and partner nations at the Army's Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas in southeastern Germany, Aug. 8 to Sept. 15, 2016. The exercise is designed to provide Regionally Allocated Forces with multinational training and partnership opportunities that will enhance the flexibility, agility and ability to better operate alongside NATO Allies and partners in Europe.

The National Guard signal Soldiers worked side-by-side with the 44th ESB in support of the 3rd Infantry Division, Europe's designated Regionally Allocated Force, and Romanian and Polish forces during the exercise.

"Supporting Combined Resolve VII provides an opportunity for our teams to understand the operational environment, interact with partners and Allies and work through communications challenges," said Lt. Col. Adam Sannutti, commander of the 44th ESB. "The goal is to provide robust and resilient communications capabilities to multinational forces enabling speed of recognition, decision and assembly."

1st Lt. Samuel Hronesz of the 151st ESB said his Soldiers were eager to work with the 44th ESB and

observe how foreign signal soldiers operate as well. "It is different for us going from just one weekend of a month to being here for four weeks. Having us come over here and support missions like this is helping build that connection between the National Guard and active duty, as well as the U.S. Army and foreign militaries," Hronesz said.

He said the goal for the 151st ESB Soldiers at the exercise is to build working relationships with the active Army, become more mission ready and learn how to operate new equipment.

"One thing we have learned is that we have to keep working with the active-duty units to help build that relationship. I believe being here has changed a lot of people's image of the National Guard for the better," Hronesz said.

Integrating Reserve and National Guard forces is one of the pillars of U.S. Army Europe's "Strong Europe" framework and provides increased manpower and capability to forces stationed in Europe.

"It's about meeting the operational need, making 30,000 look like 300,000. We look forward to bring these guys over again soon," said Sgt. Maj. Ron Yingling, 2nd Signal Brigade operations sergeant major.

The 44th ESB and 151st ESB have established a formal partnership and are looking for more joint training opportunities in the future.

"This is an incredible opportunity for both organizations and I believe we have laid the foundation for a mutually beneficial relationship moving forward," Sannutti said. 🇺🇸



Above: U.S. Army Soldiers from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, and South Carolina National Guard Soldiers from the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 228th Signal Brigade provide communications and network support to U.S. and multinational forces during exercise Combined Resolve VII in Hohenfels, Germany, Sept. 7, 2016. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)

Below: Staff Sgt. Will McGuire, a South Carolina National Guard Soldier from the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 228th Signal Brigade, conducts help desk operations in support of the Joint Multinational Readiness Training Center's communication team during exercise Combined Resolve VII in Hohenfels, Germany, Sept. 7, 2016. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)



Awards & Recognition



(photo by USAG Bavaria)

James Joyce, USAG Bavaria 2016 Volunteer of the Year

5SC(T) G-4, 2016 NETCOM Supply Excellence Award and CSA Supply Excellence Award winner



2015
U.S. Army Europe
Keith L. Ware
Public Affairs
Awards

1st Place
ECHO Magazine



5th Signal Command (Theater), USAG Wiesbaden Green Boot Award



509th Signal Battalion, CSA Supply Excellence Award winner

Spc. Travis S. Chenette, 2016 U.S. Army Adjutant General Soldier of the Year and U.S. Army Europe Vollrath Award winner



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eugene Gardner, 5th Signal Command (Theater) senior signal warrant officer, receives an award at the Hessentag Awards Ceremony May 28, 2016 in Herborn, Germany. (Photo by Hessen State Command)

Hessen State Award

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eugene Gardner distinguished himself by rendering exceptionally meritorious service to the State of Hessen when he helped at the scene of a head-on collision between a car and a motorcycle in Wiesbaden in the evening hours of June 24, 2015. Gardner instantly took control of the accident scene by first ensuring police and emergency services were called by local national personnel who stopped to help. He went back to his vehicle and retrieved his vehicle first-aid kit and gloves and issued them to the personnel who had stopped to assist and were rendering first aid to the motorcycle driver who was lying face down in the street, unconscious and bleeding from the head. Chief Gardner continued to manage the traffic scene, directing additional police and emergency personnel en-route while the police on-site surveyed and secured the accident scene. He finally turned over his civic responsibility to the police 30 to 45 minutes later, when they asked him for a statement and thanked him for helping out.



(photo by USAG Stuttgart)

52nd Signal Battalion, USAG Stuttgart Best Barracks, 2nd Qtr.

U.S. Soldiers earn German Schützenschnur Badges



Full-production Rollout

Team Signal sends kudos and thanks to all of the users and technicians who participated in our highly successful Windows 10 Pilot. With your help we tested over 2,000 systems, identified key technical obstacles, and cleared the way for our full-production rollout set to begin at the new year. We now have 10% of the machines in theater migrated to the new operating system, and our target is 10% per month beginning in January, which should bring us to 100% by September, three months ahead of the Army's deadline.

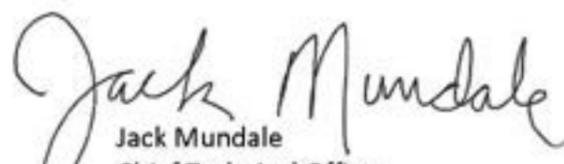
Achieving these targets will require close collaboration among the signal battalions, network enterprise centers (NECs), technicians, and users of the various units throughout the theater—all with the support of unit leadership.

Users – Although much of the transition is technical in nature, the group most affected are the individual users. You can help to determine how well this transition goes for yourself by *becoming familiar* with the new operating system and *preparing for the migration*. Most users will find no significant difference between Windows 10 and our current operating system. There are, however, some new capabilities that users can take advantage of. Visit the Windows 10 portal page at www.119.army.mil for guidance and resources. The most important thing for users to do is to prepare your data for migration (e.g. archiving files). Contact your local Information Management Officer (IMO) to get specific instructions on your unit's migration schedule and requirements.

Technicians and Signal Experts – You are likely already heavily involved in preparing for the migration. Unit G6/S6 staffs and IMOs should work with their local NECs and servicing signal battalion to develop implementation plans and carry out the technical work. IMOs should communicate with both your leadership and with your individual users to make sure everyone understands the plan. Also, make sure to keep up-to-date on the latest technical implementation guidance and provide feedback on the "technical resources" section of the Windows 10 portal page (www.119.army.mil).

Unit Commanders and Senior Leadership – Information systems are essential to mission command. Knowing this, leaders must proactively and enthusiastically support the migration to Windows 10 as a critical cybersecurity measure. Leaders should understand their unit's implementation plan and should work with their G6/S6 staffs to resolve concerns and check on progress.

As the Army's lead on Windows 10, Europe and Africa are on track for a successful implementation. Thanks for your help!


Jack Mundale
Chief Technical Officer
5th Signal Command



We're Upgrading to !

Windows 10 User Migration Guide

As directed by the Department of Defense, we are upgrading all computer systems in the theater to Windows 10. Your local Information Management Office (IMO) or Network Enterprise Center (NEC) will provide you with specific instructions and will handle the actual updating of your machine. Follow the guidance in this document to help prepare for this transition.

How YOU Can Prepare

1. **FAMILIARIZE** yourself with the new operating system.

Windows 10 has the same feel as our current Windows 7 system, but there are some new features that you should know about. Visit 119.army.mil for instruction videos, migration guidance, and other resources to get you ready for the transition.

2. **BACKUP** your data.

Updating the operating system is like getting a brand new computer. You need to make sure all of your files and data are backed up (either on a network drive or a CD/DVD). This includes your Outlook personal storage (PST) files, and anything saved locally on the hard drive. Also make sure to let your IMO or NEC know about any unique software that needs to be installed on your machine.

3. **HAVE FUN** and **WORK HARD** with Windows 10.

As the newest operating system, Windows 10 is a powerful tool to help you get your work done. Once your local IMO or NEC has upgraded your system, you should be able to work right away. Refer to 119.army.mil for tips and tricks, and advice on how to make the most of Windows 10.

Why Windows 10? Security!

Windows 10 is the most secure operating system available for our computers. It uses integrated cyber defense technology to protect our networks, data, and users from the ever-increasing cyber threat. In addition to the security benefits, Windows 10 also streamlines our network management and offers new IT capabilities for users.

HELP!
Help
If you need help preparing for the migration, contact your local IMO or NEC.

If you have trouble using Windows 10, check out the training videos and frequently asked questions on 119.army.mil. If you're still having trouble, call DSN 119 to submit a trouble ticket.

For more information go to www.119.army.mil (CAC required)

Cybersecurity Awareness Month brings activities, lessons to community

By Capt. H. Hannon, 509th Signal Battalion

VICENZA, Italy (Oct. 21, 2016) -- Autumn is the time of year that brings to mind pumpkin spice lattes, candy and trick-or-treating. This month, there is one trick nobody hopes to experience: a breach in cybersecurity.

Observed across the Department of Defense, October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and is designed to raise awareness of cyber risks and educate the community about safe cyber practice.

Daniel Jackson, chief of cybersecurity, 509th Signal Battalion, is leading this year's cyber awareness program across the United States Army Garrison Italy community. The 509th uses this month as an opportunity to educate the community on the threat of cyber-attacks and steps community members can take to secure their networks.

Though the "Small but Mighty" 509th secures the Army's cyber assets throughout the region, cybersecurity is the responsibility of every Department of the Army civilian, Soldier, contractor and family member.

The battalion's awareness plan includes a four-phase strategy: leadership awareness, individual awareness, collective training, and home and family cybersecurity.

The focus for the first half of October was phases I and II; teaching safe and secure practices to our community leaders. In association with U.S. Army Europe, trainers from 509th offered two classes to leaders across the garrison about the importance of cybersecurity and appropriate procedures for mitigating vulnerabilities. Individual awareness included various community events and activities,

one of which was hosted at Vicenza High School. At the school, students created and filmed videos related to social media and cell phone security. Videos were judged by 509th Commander Lt. Col. Brent Skinner, and the winning team's video will air on AFN Vicenza and YouTube.



At Vicenza Middle School, students had the opportunity to participate in a poster contest. Students designed and created posters to illustrate the importance of social media and cell phone security. The contest winner will receive an AAFES gift card, and the runner-up will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

Posters will also be displayed throughout the Vicenza Middle School to share the message with students, teachers and families.

Finally, the 509th Cyber Security Team taught community members the importance of securing their smartphones, iPads and laptops by conducting a "simulated wireless scan" of unprotected cellular devices.

Scanning devices were set up in front of the Caserma Ederle Post Exchange Oct. 18 to teach community members the importance of securing personal electronic devices. Along with the demonstration, the 509th's Cyber Security Team taught community members how to secure devices and protect against identity theft.

It is critical that everyone knows cybersecurity is a team responsibility. Through awareness and education, the entire community can increase readiness by preventing cyber attacks.



One Team, *One Network*, One Mission

Gray Cyber Center new gold standard in Army green building

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (June 29, 2016) -- The Lt. Gen. Robert E. Gray Cyber Center Europe was recognized as the Army's newest green building at a LEED Gold plaque unveiling ceremony June 27 on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Design, is an internationally recognized program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. Gold is the second highest rating a project can receive after platinum. The Gray Center is the first Department of Defense building in Europe and the first throughout the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command to achieve a LEED Gold rating.

The Gray Cyber Center makes use of several energy-efficient features, including a state-of-the-art electrical and thermal co-generation unit, that allows it to achieve about 42 percent in energy savings each year, or about \$500,000.

"The building uses 47 percent less potable water and 78 percent of the construction waste has been diverted from landfill. These are big numbers that make a real difference to our environment," said Kay Killmann, president of the German Green Building Association.

"This is remarkable, especially for an energy intensive building such as a data center," Killmann said.

The Gray Cyber Center is named after Lt. Gen. Robert E. Gray, a former U.S. Army Europe deputy commander and Chief of Signal. The 52,000 square-foot facility manages and defends the U.S. Army's communications network throughout Europe and Africa.

"It is only fitting to have some of the most technically proficient teams executing the Army's cyber operations and initiatives in one of the most advanced and environmentally friendly facilities," said Maj. Roberto Santiago, Gray Cyber Center director of operations.

Albin Toth, an architect who helped design the Gray Cyber Center, said his team looked for opportunities to maximize energy efficiency in every design decision.

"We didn't spend more money to achieve gold, it was just the result of a very efficient design," Toth said.

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr. commander of 5th Signal Command (Theater) and the U.S. Army Europe chief information officer/G6, described the project as a leading example of the Army's Energy Security and Sustainability Strategy published last year.

"We also recognize this initiative as an important achievement in interoperability and partnership," Hall said.

He said interoperability isn't limited to military capacity, but also builds partnerships with government and industry, and works together to have a positive effect on the environment.

"This is a testament to U.S. Army 5th Signal Command's dedication to investing in your Soldiers, Civilians and their environment. Furthermore, it shows that the U.S. Army is committed to building sustainable military engineering solutions while working closely with host nation building counterparts," Killmann said.



> October is National
Cyber Security Awareness
Month

STOP | THINK | CONNECT



2016 "Top Shots"

One Team | One Network | One Mission

44th ESB sling load ops



2nd Signal Brigade change of command



44th ESB small arms range with German signal soldiers in Grafenwoehr



Tossing a football at port in Belgium



52nd Signal Battalion change of responsibility in Stuttgart



U.S., Polish soldiers share a meal at Anakonda 16

Polish soldier at Combined Resolve VII



Best Warrior Competition rifle range



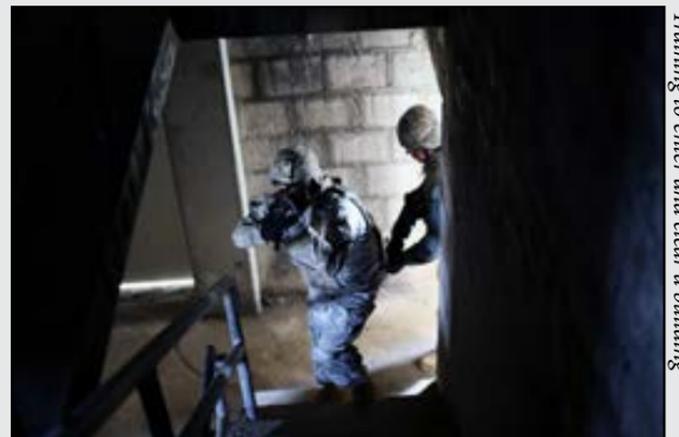
44th ESB air load training at Ramstein



Training for the German Schützenchur badge, Kastellau



Training to enter and clear a building





Above: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathan Bazer, a cyber security technician at the Lt. Gen. Robert E. Gray Regional Cyber Center -- Europe (RCC-E), speaks about incident response and the role of the RCC-E at the Cyber Summit 2016, July 28, 2016 in Wiesbaden, Germany. (Photo by William B. King)

Cyber professionals share best practices at Cyber Summit 2016

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (July 29, 2016) -- More than 150 cyber professionals from military and industry gathered for a series of presentations, lab demonstrations and professional networking at the Cyber Summit 2016, July 25-28 in Wiesbaden.

“It (the summit) brings together cyber professionals for professional development and to learn from each other new tactics to counter the threat,” said Dan Hingtgen, one of the summit’s organizers from the U.S. Army Europe G-6 Cybersecurity Division.

He said in addition to U.S. service members, civilians and contractors there were a number of cyber professionals in attendance from several allied and partner nations, including Germany, Poland, Romania, Lithuania and Ukraine.

One of the presenters, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathan Bazer, a cyber security technician at the Lt. Gen. Robert E. Gray Regional Cyber Center -- Europe (RCC-E), spoke about incident response and

the role of the RCC-E.

According to Bazer’s slide presentation, the goal of incident management is to ensure the overall health and functionality of defended networks by being proactive and responsive to perceived threats, detected daily.

“It only takes one event with one bad code on it to take out the network,” Bazer said.

He said the RCC-E is constantly on duty to monitor and protect U.S. Army networks in theater to allow commanders to accomplish their mission, something he called a continuous learning process.

Other presentations at the summit focused on emerging industry technology, cyber lessons learned from recent exercises such as Anakonda 16 in Poland, and updates on cyber related training and readiness across Europe. 🇪🇺



Above: Raymond Brown, Regional Hub Node (RHN) station manager, speaks to attendees at a conference between the RHN and the Regional Cyber Center -- Europe (RCC-E), hosted by 181st Signal Company, 102nd Signal Battalion, April 18, 2016 in Landstuhl, Germany. The purpose of the conference is to streamline and improve processes and procedures between the RHN and the RCC-E to better serve warfighters in theater. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)

ROC drill develops best practices for reliable, resilient communications in Europe

By Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (April 20, 2016) -- Leaders from the Regional Hub Node (RHN) and Regional Cyber Center -- Europe (RCC-E) met April 18-19 in Landstuhl to discuss how to streamline services and develop best practices to provide more reliable and resilient communications to warfighters in theater.

The RCC-E and the RHN provide similar, but distinct, services to the end user which can lead to confusion on who to contact when issues arise. The conference, hosted by the 181st Signal Company, 102nd Signal Battalion, was meant to resolve common issues and streamline the reporting and troubleshooting efforts of both organizations.

“We are working the ‘how-to’ to make the communication process better -- this is an efficiency exercise,” said Capt. Matthew Gabriel, 181st Signal Company executive officer.

The conference included a ROC drill (Rehearsal of Concept) exercise where leaders rehearsed with the proposed new practices and procedures and gained a

better understanding how to implement these ideas and processes into their organizations.

Raymond Brown, RHN station manager, said the goal is to “refine processes in order to better serve our customers.”

Also in attendance at the conference were Col. Timothy Norton, 5th Signal Command (Theater) G-3; Col. Ed Buck Jr., 2nd Signal Brigade commander; and Lt. Col. Christopher Keeshan, 102nd Signal Battalion commander.

Norton said the conference opened up a good dialogue between the two entities and provided a common operating picture of the network.

“It will better synchronize support to and allow for the rapid integration of regional allocated forces into the theater,” Norton said. “Walking away, it was easy to see that we have great team supporting Europe and that we are paving the way for Army doctrine.” 🇪🇺



One Team, **One Network**, One Mission

(Photo by William B. King)

Tomorrow's technology on display today

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (July 29, 2016) -- Some of the future technology for our Soldiers and workforce was on display at the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Tech Expo July 28-29 at the Clay Kaserne Fitness Center.

The expo featured more than 50 vendors displaying some of the latest in technology hardware, software and services.

Col. Tim Norton, the 5th Signal Command (Theater) G-3, opened the ceremony Thursday by

welcoming a large and diverse group of vendors and attendees, including several Soldiers from the Bundeswehr CIS Command.

"It shows the importance of industry and military teaming to find solutions for the environment in which we operate," Norton said.

The Tech Expo was organized by National Conference Services, Inc. For more information visit their website at www.ncsi.com.

(Photos by William B. King)



The 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion completed a six-month reset this past summer aimed to upgrade equipment and training necessary to provide enhanced communications and network support to customers across Europe.

Instructors from CECOM at Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Gordon, Georgia taught classes for 2-3 weeks for JNN, CPN and STT operators.

According to instructors, the training was 20 percent classroom instruction, and 80 percent hands-on.

(Photo by William B. King)



"The new equipment allows us to provide more reliable, faster communications, with more redundancy."

Sgt. Lucas Werner
JNN Team Chief
Alpha Company, 44th ESB

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)



TECHNOLOGY

EQUIPMENT



Above: Lt. Col. Roberto Santiago, director of operations at the Lt. Robert E. Gray Regional Cyber Center Europe, briefs a delegation of U.S. and German dignitaries during a tour of the RCC July 7, 2016 in Wiesbaden. (Photo by William B. King)

Below: U.S. signal leaders from 5th Signal Command (Theater), 2nd Signal Brigade and the U.S. Army Europe G-6 and German signal leaders from the Bundeswehr CIS Command gather for an Interoperability Working Group meeting June 28, 2016 at the 5th Signal Command (Theater) headquarters building on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden. (Photo by William B. King)



One Team, *One Network*, One Mission



102nd Signal Battalion named NETCOM 2015 NEC of the Year

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (April 5, 2016) -- The 102nd Signal Battalion Network Enterprise Center (NEC) was recently named the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) NEC of the Year for 2015. This is the fourth year in a row that the unit has won the award, carrying on what has become a winning tradition of excellence in network service and customer support.

Maj. Gen. John B. Morrison Jr., commander of NETCOM, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephfon Watson, NETCOM senior enlisted advisor, presented the award to the 102nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade at an Orange Call event March 21, 2016 at the Community Activity Center on Clay Kaserne.

The NEC award program recognizes a signal command NEC that is responsive to enterprise building efforts; supports enterprise solutions; has shown the most innovative solutions to resource shortfalls; and is cohesive in team building, morale and structured approaches to employee relations, to include contributions towards selected enterprise initiatives.

James Ellersick, 102nd Signal Battalion regional director, said unit cohesion helped create a special bond between Soldiers and Civilians during the past several years and allowed them to better overcome obstacles and support warfighters.

“We also have an elite team of leaders at each level of the battalion, company and NECs that navigates us through the tough times, but also provide mentorship for the future up and coming leaders in the organization,” Ellersick said.

The 102nd Signal Battalion’s award entry included the accomplishments of the NECs in Wiesbaden, Baumholder, Kaiserslautern, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Ansbach, and the 181st Signal Company’s Enterprise Satellite Gateway and Theater COMSEC Management Office, and the combined effort of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and battalion staff.

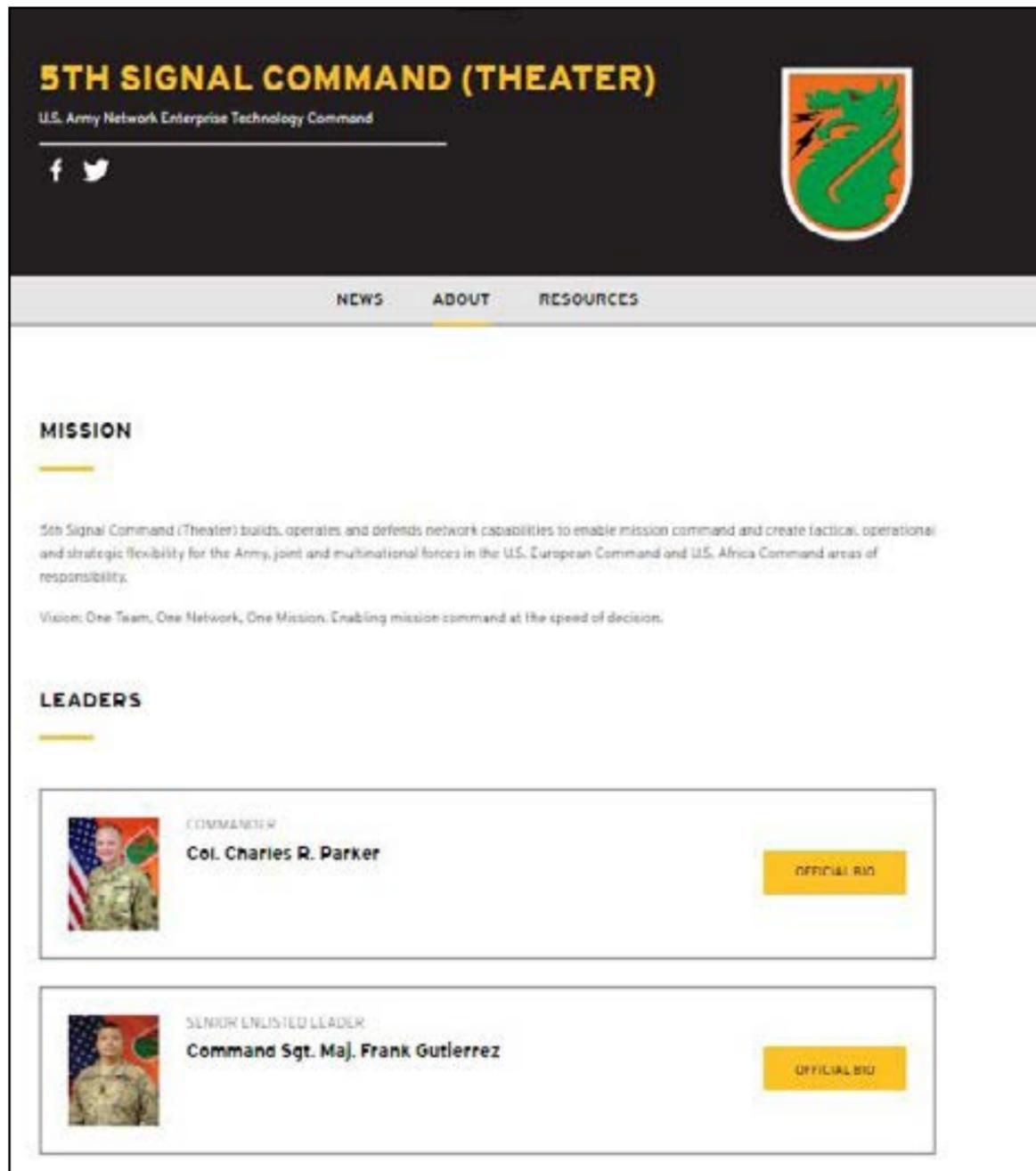
One of the biggest battalion initiatives that happened in 2015 was the consolidation and reorganization of services for Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Ansbach under the new Regional NEC Bavaria. Tom Sobey, director of the Regional NEC Bavaria, said regionalization allows them to better organize to take advantage of technological advances while still maintaining the touch labor and direct customer interaction required to efficiently provide services.



“Regionalization meets NETCOM’s vision by striking a happy medium between fully centralized support and fully local support,” Sobey said. “In this time of reduced resources, regionalized support is the best way to keep mission customer requirements first-and-foremost while still providing services in a cost-effective manner.”

As for the possibility of winning a fifth straight NETCOM NEC of the Year award, Ellersick said the unit is working hard to improve service and complete several network modification and infrastructure upgrades before the end of the year.

“We always pursue excellence in everything we do and this year is no exception,” Ellersick said. 



www.5sigcmd.army.mil

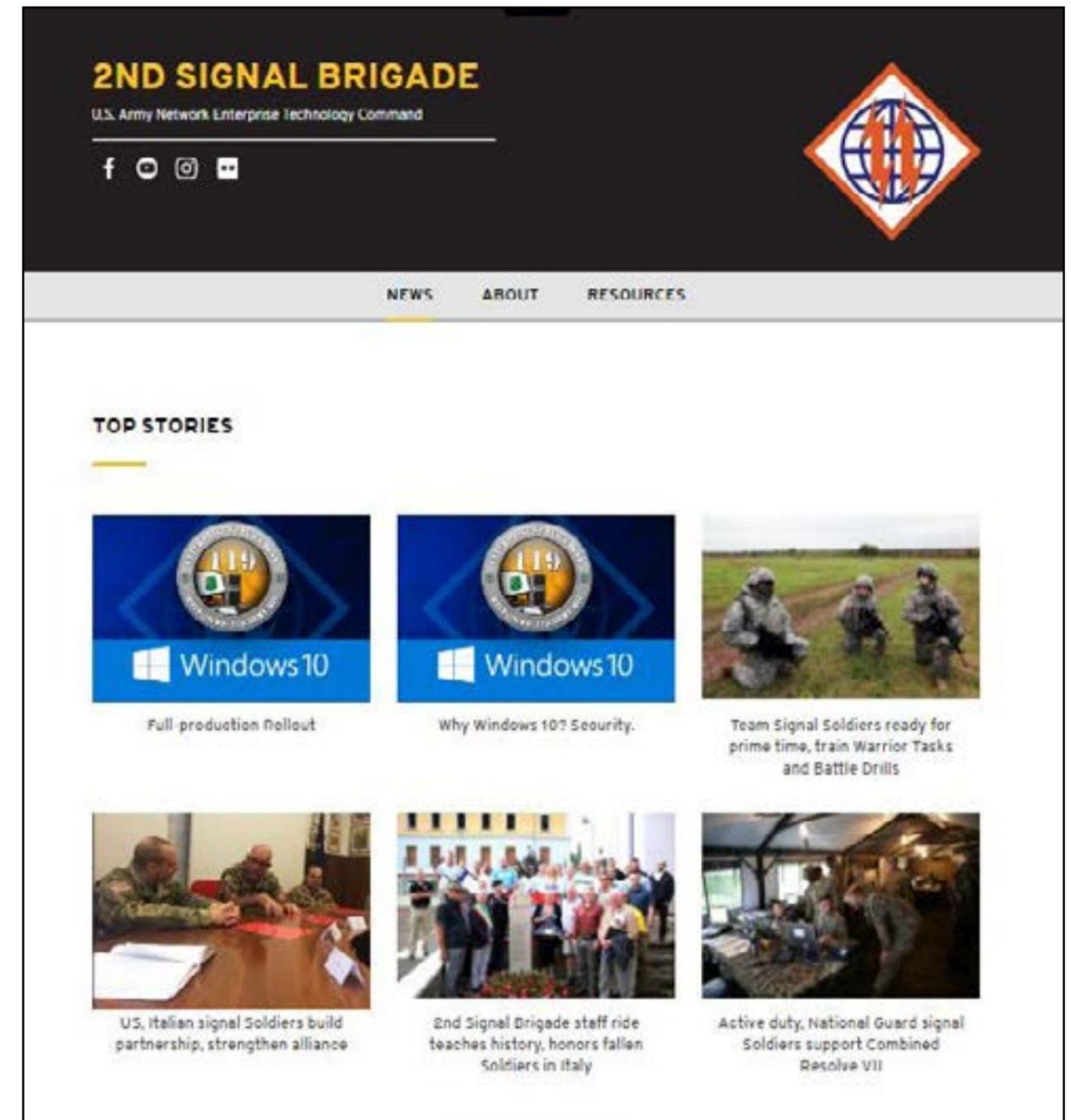
5th Signal Command (Theater) and 2nd Signal Brigade launched rebooted websites on Aug. 15. The new look aligns with the new army.mil style unveiled earlier this year. Check us out online and add us to your favorites.

Lt. Gen. Robert E. Gray
Regional Cyber Center - Europe

www.5sigcmd.army.mil/Units/RCC

Europe Enterprise Service Desk - 119

www.5sigcmd.army.mil/Units/119
www.119.army.mil (CAC required)



www.2sigbde.army.mil

39th Signal Battalion

www.2sigbde.army.mil/Units/39TH

44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

www.2sigbde.army.mil/Units/44TH

52nd Signal Battalion

www.2sigbde.army.mil/Units/52ND

102nd Signal Battalion

www.2sigbde.army.mil/Units/102ND

509th Signal Battalion

www.2sigbde.army.mil/Units/509TH

6981st Civilian Support Group

www.2sigbde.army.mil/Units/6981ST



Testing your METL

Assessing Readiness within a Network Enterprise Center

By Capt. Christopher Epstein, 509th Signal Battalion

“Our No. 1 task is readiness. It’s readiness now, because we have no earthly idea what will happen a month or two from now,” said Gen. Mark A. Milley after he was sworn in as the 39th Army Chief of Staff. Training and readiness assessments are available to Army units through the Army Training Network, which is a great tool for any Soldier who wants to create and assess training straight from Army doctrine. However, Army doctrine does not perfectly fit every unit or mission, which became evident after evaluating how we were assessing training within our strategic signal battalion. The problem we came across was that the standardized Training and Evaluation Outlines used to assess our Soldier training proficiency and readiness was not aligned with a strategic signal battalion that functions as a NEC and has its Soldiers embedded into NEC Divisions.

The “Small but Mighty” 509th Signal Battalion consists of Soldiers, DA Civilians, Contractors and Local Nationals at 23 sites in eight countries. This team of professionals build, operate and secure DoDIN operations and deliver C4IM services throughout Italy, the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Africa and the

Mediterranean in order to enable readiness and speed of operations for the Warfighter. Over the past year, our battalion S-3 section and division chiefs have used T&EOs to assess our Soldiers every quarter. After every quarterly Unit Readiness Brief, we would always circle back around to ask ourselves “Do we have the tools necessary to assess a NEC centric organization?” We found that the Headquarters Department of the Army Mission Essential Task List for a *Theater Operational Base (Strategic) Signal Brigade* did not provide enough Key Collective Tasks or performance measures for services provided in a NEC. Without accurate assessment tools, we were only able to make qualitative assessments of our training proficiency without quantitative assessments to back them up. Lt. Col. Brent Skinner, the commander of the 509th Signal Battalion, has been supportive of our endeavor from the beginning. “We need to provide a larger set of performance measures where our Soldiers can be developed to ensure readiness. There are other NEC based signal battalions in the Army, and I think this can have a strategic impact across the signal community,” Skinner said.

continued

We started creating a task structure tailored to our strategic infrastructure and service delivery mission sets, which will enable the development and assessment of our Soldiers consistent with their assigned duties. Alternatively, as our Network and Switch Division Chief, Mr. Todd Hunt stated, “We need to develop Soldier readiness in the context of a NEC.” We decided it was time to create KCTs for the services that our Soldiers are performing for the community. The Army Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Management service catalog is the document that outlines what services are delivered at the NEC and

proved to be an excellent source document when we created collective tasks for a NEC. However, the C4IM catalog alone did not give us all the information we needed to create KCTs. TRADOC Pamphlet 350-70-1 “Training Development in Support of the Operational Domain” outlines the scope, policies and design elements of training products for the Army. 350-70-1 is your *Elements of Style* for capturing, developing and producing tasks at all levels. The responsibility for creating all associated documents to assess one KCT is daunting, but when broken down between two or three subject matter experts the task is achievable, which is how we did it.

“We need to provide a larger set of performance measures where our Soldiers can be developed to ensure readiness.”

- Lt. Col. Skinner



Step #1: Establish at what level you want to assess training.

Review the current doctrine and tasks related to your job as outlined in ATN. Make sure you research to ensure no one else has created tasks that are similar to the ones you are looking to create. In 350-70-1, Chapter 5, Figure 5-1 TRADOC provides you “New collective task creation guidelines.” If you cannot justify creating a new task based on TRADOC’s guidelines, then continue to drive on with your current KCTs. If you can justify creating new KCTs to assess your unit’s mission and training needs then, you should start the creation process.

Step #2: This step is where you will need an SME to lay out what collective tasks are not being assessed.

The SME should provide your training section a list of unit’s collective tasks that are unique, not part of existing doctrine and have performance measures available. The training section will be able to receive, group and number the tasks based on guidance found in Chapter 5, Figure 5-2. If you are adding one collective task, you should be able to find a task group in your current set of METs to nest it under. However, in an extreme case like ours, we created, a new MET based off a KCT, so new task groups and KCTs had to be created to bolster our ability to assess the new MET.

Step #3: Adding performance measures is foundation of an objective assessment.

It is nice to see new collective tasks and have them aligned with currently published doctrine. However, it is imperative that you establish conditions, standards and performance steps. I feel that this is the most labor-intensive step, yet it is the most important. You must articulate clearly, in your objectives and standards, what must be done to ensure that the unit is trained to the task. This will require multiple considerations and revisions by a review panel. This is the most important step, and it will take dedication to get it right.

So what does it all mean? This process takes a lot of work and you will need multiple SMEs to create, review and war game your newly created tasks. Once complete you will have clearly defined and measurable tasks that you will evaluate your unit against in order to provide an accurate and objective assessment of readiness now. 🇺🇸

About the Author

Capt. Christopher Epstein is currently assigned as the Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 509th Signal Battalion in Vicenza, Italy. His previous assignments include Assistant S-3 for the 509th Signal Battalion; Signal Adviser to the 3rd Brigade, 203rd Corps Afghan National Army; and Squadron S-6 for 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division. He has a bachelor’s degree in communications from California State University Fullerton and is a graduate of the Air Assault School and the Mountain Warfare School (summer). (Photos courtesy of the author)

509th Signal Battalion

Mission: Build, Operate, and Secure DoDin operations and deliver C4IM services throughout Italy, the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean in order to enable readiness and speed of operations for the Warfighter.

Vision: “The Mighty 509th.” A winning team comprised of trusted professionals committed to high-quality customer service which provides reliable, resilient, and ready communications to enable mission command capabilities for the Warfighter.



Acronyms

ATN - Army Training Network
C4IM - Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Management
DoDIN - Department of Defense Information Networks
KCT - Key Collective Task
METL - Mission Essential Task List
NEC - Network Enterprise Center
NSD - Network Switch Division
SME - Subject Matter Expert
T&EOs - Training and Evaluation Outlines
TRADOC - U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command
URB - Unit Readiness Brief

“Fight tonight”

Signal Soldiers exercise deployment readiness, expeditionary capabilities

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (April 25, 2016) -- Signal Soldiers from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducted sling load and air operations training as part of 2nd Signal Brigade's Operation Forged Lightning deployment readiness exercise March 22-23, 2016 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

The training enhanced expeditionary capabilities by providing the unit an opportunity to facilitate a DRE III “shock event”: alert, assembly, prep for deployment, deploy, execute training mission and redeploy the unit on short or no notice.

Lt. Col. Pete Wilson, commander of the 44th ESB, said the training enhanced readiness by exercising the “E” in expeditionary and demonstrated how the unit can provide a dynamic presence and tactical signal capability on the battlefield.

“It (the sling load training) allows us to test ways that we may be called upon in the future to get to a certain location. This, along with airlift and rail, are ways in which we make sure we're expeditionary and we can get to the right place and support the warfighter with communications,” Wilson said.

The unit moved a Command Post Node (CPN) team from one location to another by sling loading two Humvees, a generator and a Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) in single, dual and tandem load configurations underneath two CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. After the equipment had been moved Soldiers on the ground set everything up, established a network connection and conducted tactical signal operations, validating their training readiness and equipment capabilities.

continued

Sgt. Maj. Eliseo Torres, 44th ESB S-3 sergeant major, said the training exercised the unit's ability to provide communications support across the European theater of operations.

"This lets us know what our capabilities are right now as far as being able to conduct sling load operations, and then what we're going to look for in the future so we can continue on with the expeditionary mindset and be able to utilize our tactical assets anywhere, any time," Torres said.

The training also empowered junior leaders by enhancing the job skills and confidence of the CPN team members to conduct sling load operations in a potentially isolated and hostile environment.

Pfc. Kylee Rollins, a CPN operator in Bravo Company, 44th ESB, was the "hookup man" for the Humvee and generator tandem load. She said the sling load teams conducted several days of hands-on training in the unit motorpool bay using a crane and validating link counts and weight loading.

"We had people who have been to Air Assault School and were qualified help us figure out how to tape up the lights, reflectors and windshields and to brace everything for when it lands," Rollins said.

The sling load and air operations training was conducted as part of 2nd Signal Brigade's Operation Forged Lightning, a quarterly exercise focused on personnel readiness, deployment readiness, operating in degraded communications, and other mission essential tasks.

"The DRE III utilizing rotary wing aircraft is a great way to test our readiness and gain proficiency in a very perishable skill-set. Our Soldiers are always ready to provide communications, but now we're readily deployable by any means to include rotary wing, line-haul and rail," said Col. Ed Buck Jr., commander of 2nd Signal Brigade. 

Previous page: A Soldier from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade waits to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade during sling load and air operations training March 22, 2016 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. (Photo by William B. King)

Soldiers from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade attach a Satellite Transportable Terminal to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade during sling load and air operations training March 22, 2016 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. (Photo by William B. King)



US signal Soldiers traverse three countries to support UK Allies during exercise Stoney Run

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (May 30, 2016) -- U.S. Army signal Soldiers from 2nd Signal Brigade departed their garrison in Grafenwoehr early Wednesday morning on a 1,456 kilometer (905 mile) convoy across three countries to provide communications and network support to their U.K. Allies during exercise Stoney Run in Bramcote, England.

Operating on only 72-hour notice, the convoy from Bravo Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade traveled across Germany, Belgium and England, including a ferry crossing of the English Channel, to the Stoney Run training site at the 30th Signal Regiment headquarters in Bramcote.

Stoney Run is an annual U.S.-U.K. signal exercise designed to test and validate communications and network capabilities, and enhance interoperability and partner capacity between the two NATO Allies. A key objective of Stoney Run 16 is to exercise the 44th ESB's deployment readiness processes, including the ability to alert, assemble, prepare for deployment, deploy, execute training mission and redeploy the unit on short or no notice.

2nd Lt. Cye Heatherly, a platoon leader in Bravo Company, 44th ESB and the convoy commander, said while his Soldiers are always prepared to deploy the network anytime, anywhere, the Stoney Run exercise allows them to put their training into practice.

"On Monday (May 23) morning we received our 72-hour notice in which we were notified we would support our partner unit in the U.K. and that we had to assemble our teams and prep our vehicles and equipment to deploy," Heatherly said. "This exercise provides us the opportunity to execute the training we've had to deploy and provide support to our Allies on very short notice."

Before the platoon departed Grafenwoehr, Heatherly said they assembled their teams, inspected bags and load plans, conducted rehearsals and vehicle recovery drills, and practiced merging in and out of traffic on the autobahn. Sgt. 1st Class Amy Larsen, the platoon sergeant, said some of the biggest challenges on their journey included vehicle maintenance and driving on the left side of the road in England.

Spc. Joseph Yeoman, a line-of-sight system operator, said while he has never traveled so far in a Humvee before, to do so now instills

confidence in his equipment and the unit's ability to rapidly deploy.

"It's about readiness and having that knowledge that you've done it before and can do it again," Yeoman said.

The 44th ESB Soldiers will provide logistical support to the 250th Gurkha Signal Squadron during exercise Stoney Run through June 13, 2016. The unit's two Secure Internet Protocol Router/Non-secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR/NIPR) Access Point satellite terminals, or SNAPS, and two line-of-sight systems will allow U.S. and U.K. systems to pass voice and data across a shared network and enhance communications and network interoperability between the Allies. 

#StoneyRun

72 hour notice
3 countries
1,456 kilometers

A convoy from Bravo Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, travels on the autobahn May 27, 2016 near Nohfelden, Germany during a 1,456 Kilometer (905 mile) convoy from Grafenwoehr to Bramcote, England to provide communications and network support to U.K. Allies in exercise Stoney Run. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)

US Army signal Soldiers build interoperability, relationships with UK Allies

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

COVENTRY, England (June 1, 2016) -- U.S. and British Army signal Soldiers conducted cross training on each other's signal systems during exercise Stoney Run in Bramcote, England, further enhancing communications and network interoperability, and working relationships between the two NATO Allies.

Soldiers from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, set up two Secure Internet Protocol Router/ Non-secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR/NIPR) Access Point satellite terminals, or SNAPS, and two line-of-sight systems Wednesday at the 30th Signal Regiment's Training Area Windbreak in Bramcote. The Soldiers then explained the function and capabilities of each system and how they work

together to build a secure, mobile and robust network to support the U.S. and its Allies anytime, anywhere.

Tuesday the U.S. Soldiers received similar training on British HF, satellite and line-of-sight signal systems from their partner unit, the 250th Gurkha Signal Squadron.

The two cross training events were part of Stoney Run, an annual U.S.-U.K. signal exercise designed to test and validate communications and network capabilities, and enhance interoperability and partner capacity between the two NATO Allies.

While the main part of Stoney Run is taking place in Grafenwoehr, Germany, this year

marks the first time the 44th ESB has sent signal assets to train and support the exercise from the U.K. A convoy from the unit arrived in England Sunday after traveling 1,456 kilometers (905 miles) across three countries on 72-hour notice.

Pfc. Jordan Johnson, a SNAP operator in Bravo Company, 44th ESB, said working closely with the British during the exercise helps build familiarity between systems and Allies, and increases deployment preparation and readiness on both sides.

"I've learned a lot more knowledge than I would just reading from a book. When you're actually working with people and you're getting to be more hands on, I think that greatly enhances the overall knowledge of our Army," Johnson said.

#StoneyRun

One Team, One Network, *One Mission*



 MAJ Walton



 2LT Heatherly

Maj. John Walton, commander of the 250th Gurkha Signal Squadron, said the Stoney Run exercise allows his Soldiers to understand how different pieces of equipment work together and how U.S. Army signal teams are structured, which has benefits for future exercises or operational deployments.

"The main reason for the exercise is to build interoperability, which is one of the British Army's key objectives with our American Allies from an equipment perspective, but also from a social perspective," Walton said.

The Allies will build relationships through a social gathering, teambuilding events such as basketball and joint physical training, and cultural awareness and education visits to major cities and sites such as London, York and Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon.

"You're able to build bonds that

reach out further than the Army, so if you ever needed people that you could depend on in this country, you would have people you could go to," Johnson said of working with the British.

2nd Lt. Cye Heatherly, a platoon leader in Bravo Company, 44th ESB, said the benefits of Stoney Run extend far beyond the technical elements of the exercise.

"Our goal is to strengthen our partnership with our British Allies and to build relationships, interoperability and a Strong Europe," Heatherly said.

The 44th ESB Soldiers will provide logistical support to the 250th Gurkha Signal Squadron during exercise Stoney Run through June 13, 2016. The unit's two SNAPS and two line-of-sight systems will allow U.S. and British systems to pass voice and data across a shared network and communicate between units in the U.K. and Germany. 

Left: A Soldier from the British Army's 250th Gurkha Signal Squadron, 30th Signal Regiment, talks on an HF radio at a cross training event with U.S. Army Soldiers from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, June 1, 2016 during exercise Stoney Run in Bramcote, England. (Photo by William B. King)

Below: Pfc. Jordan Johnson of the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, explains the function and capabilities of a Secure Internet Protocol Router/ Non-secure Internet Protocol Router (SIPR/NIPR) Access Point satellite terminal, or SNAP system, to Soldiers from the British Army's 250th Gurkha Signal Squadron, 30th Signal Regiment, at a cross training event, June 1, 2016 during exercise Stoney Run in Bramcote, England. (Photo by William B. King)



Army Europe builds communication, partnership in Poland

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WARSAW, Poland (June 8, 2016) -- Soldiers and Civilians from Team Signal -- 5th Signal Command (Theater), 2nd Signal Brigade and the U.S. Army Europe G-6 -- have integrated more than 60 tactical systems in 17 locations into a federated network to provide communications support to U.S., Allied and partner nations during Exercise Anakonda 2016 taking place June 6-17 throughout Poland.

A Polish led, joint multinational exercise, Anakonda will test the ability, readiness and interoperability of the Polish Armed Forces with Allies and partners, while conducting a joint defensive operation on a large scale. According to exercise organizers, there are more than 30,000 participants from 24 partner and Allied countries taking part in Anakonda 2016.

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal

Command (Theater) and the U.S. Army Europe, or USAREUR, chief information officer/G-6, said the communications goals for the exercise are to accomplish interoperability and establish secure voice and data down to the lowest level possible.

“This is historic what we’re doing here. It’s about our partnership, it’s about our allies.”

- Col. Hall

Maj. Ken Donnolly, USAREUR G-6 chief of operations, said Soldiers have been working since mid-May to deploy, set up and integrate U.S. Army communications systems with the Polish systems and network.

“There’s a challenge there federating those two systems (U.S. and Polish) together so that we can talk, but we’re getting through it and we’ll be successful with it,” Donnolly said.

In addition to achieving the communications and technical goals of the exercise, Hall said it’s important to build trust and relationships with our Polish Allies.

“This is important for relationships and for enabling the Alliance. Relationships are built over time, and this exercise is just another step in the improving of our relationships and enabling the Alliance,” Hall said.

During a visit to the new Polish Network Operations Center June 6 in Bialobrzegi, Hall presented commander’s coins to two members of the U.S. Army signal contingent working there to provide network support for the exercise, including Spc. David Knight of the 52nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade. Knight said working side-by-side with the Polish signal Soldiers has given him a better understanding of their culture, systems and troubleshooting procedures.

“Our Polish Allies have been easy to work with and

very helpful, and I’m glad for the opportunity to be here,” Knight said.

Donnolly agreed that working closely with the Poles has helped build trust and understanding.

“The trust is building because we’re spending day and night together, working hard and solving problems together, and sharing information,” Donnolly said.

Col. Paul Frendenburgh, a division chief in the office of the U.S. Army Chief Information Officer/G-6, was in Poland June 6 for the opening ceremony of the exercise. He also visited the Network Operations Center and observed U.S. and Polish signal Soldiers working together in the exercise.

“The level of integration and cooperation that I’ve seen here is unprecedented. I really applaud the strengthening of the Alliance here,” Frendenburgh said.

Still to come in Anakonda are live fire, river crossing, mass casualty evacuation, cyber and electronic warfare exercises.

“This is historic what we’re doing here. It’s about our partnership, it’s about our Allies,” Hall said. 🇺🇸🇵🇱



Above: A Polish CIS officer briefs U.S. Army signal officers about the role and capabilities of the new Network Operations Center June 6, 2016 in Bialobrzegi, Poland. (Photo by William B. King)

Opposite page: U.S. Army Col. Matthew Holt, U.S. Army Europe deputy G6, and Polish Army CIS staff members receive a daily network systems update briefing during Exercise Anakonda 16, June 8, 2016 at the National Defense University in Warsaw, Poland. (Photo illustration by William B. King)



GENESIX



Opposite page: U.S. Army Soldiers from 2nd Signal Brigade and Belgian Soldiers from the 6th CIS Group work to pass voice and data through a U.S. Satellite Transportable Terminal during exercise GENESIX June 27, 2016 near Saint Hubert, Belgium. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)

Right: U.S. Army Soldiers from 2nd Signal Brigade and Belgian Soldiers from the 6th CIS Group work to pass voice and data through each other's satellite equipment during exercise GENESIX June 28, 2016 near Saint Hubert, Belgium. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline)

Below: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Eric J. Van Den Bosh, Commander, 39th Signal Battalion and Belgian Army Lt. Col. Michel P. Flohimont, Commander, 6th CIS (Communication Information System) Group, sign a Declaration of Partnership to carry out joint training and cooperation activities to achieve better mutual understanding, increased skill and higher interoperability, Caserne Daumerie, Chièvres, Belgium, June 1, 2016. (Photo by Henri Cambier)



US, Belgian signal Soldiers build interoperability during GENESIX exercise

By Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (June 30, 2016) -- U.S. Army Soldiers from 2nd Signal Brigade worked to enhance interoperability and build relationships with signal Soldiers from the Belgian 6th CIS Group during exercise GENESIX June 27-29, 2016 in Saint Hubert, Belgium.

GENESIX is a binational U.S.-Belgian signal exercise designed to test theories about the interoperability of equipment and operating procedures in order to build partner capacity and relationships between the two NATO Allies.

The 39th Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade and the Belgian 6 CIS Group are designated partner units, signing a declaration of partnership June 1-2 to formalize the relationship. Capt. Phillip Gilchrist of the 39th Signal Battalion said, "We have been working together and exploring technical challenges surrounding interoperability with the hope of integrating military communication systems."

After receiving a briefing on the capabilities of the Belgian Army's signal equipment, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin McGill, a network technician in the 39th Signal Battalion, recognized that the Belgians worked in the same signal space as the U.S. Army.

"I thought if we operated in the same space, maybe, just, maybe, our equipment might work together. After going over a lot of technical specs, I had a reasonable theory that (the exercise) could work," McGill said.

The concept of the GENESIX exercise was for both the 39th Signal Battalion and the 6th CIS Group to use each other's satellite equipment to "plug-in" to their own hub nodes to pass voice and data signals. The 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) sent a Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) and a team of highly-trained technicians from Grafenwoehr, Germany to assist the 39th Signal Battalion with set-up and troubleshooting during the exercise.

In the end, the Belgian 6th CIS Group was able to successfully pass data and voice through the U.S. Army STT, and the 39th Signal Battalion was able to use the Belgian satellite equipment to call the 2nd Signal Brigade commander in Wiesbaden on unsecure VoIP.

"This opens a whole new way for us to work together. We are basically writing the book on how we can interchange and interoperate with our Allies and partners," McGill said. 





WRITING CONTEST

"PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE PROTECTS OUR MISSION"

ALL PERSONNEL IN 2D SIGNAL BRIGADE INCLUDING; SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS, LN'S, AND DEPENDANTS, ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN DOCUMENT REPRESENTING YOUR PERCEPTION OF "PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE PROTECTS OUR MISSION". MAY INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, POEMS, SHORT STORIES, SONGS OR ESSAYS. SUBMISSIONS DUE NLT APRIL 3, 2017.

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Winter Weather Driving Safety Tips



Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.



Anticipate reduced visibility and watch for black ice when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges, and curves.

Never run a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.



Allow enough time for travel and advise others of travel itineraries.



Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).

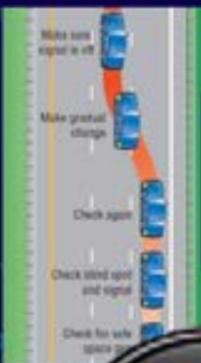
Always wear a safety belt and keep a charged cell phone handy.



Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.



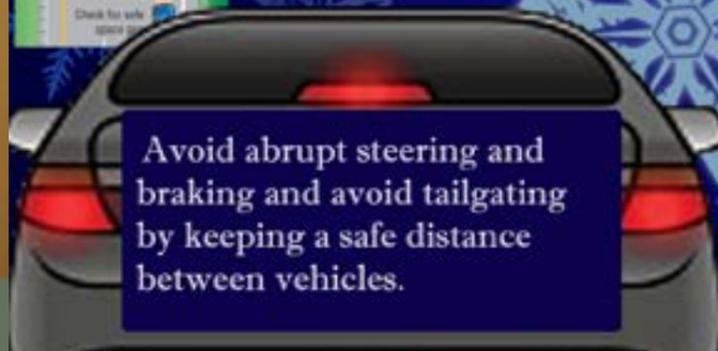
Avoid unnecessary and sudden lane changes.



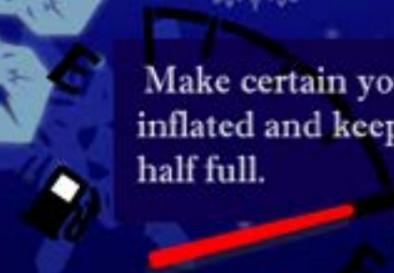
Always look and steer where you want to go.



Avoid abrupt steering and braking and avoid tailgating by keeping a safe distance between vehicles.



Make certain your tires are properly inflated and keep your gas tank at least half full.





Mark Krasnov, director of the Wiesbaden Jewish Community Center, lights a candle of remembrance during the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's Days of Remembrance observance May 5 at the Tony Bass Auditorium on Clay Kaserne. (Photo by William B. King)

Days of Remembrance: Event honors those lost during Holocaust

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany (May 12, 2016) -- "Funerals were far more common than circumcisions, bar mitzvah celebrations or weddings. To believe in the future Jewish life in Wiesbaden was then by no means uncontroversial in the community and in the rest of the Jewish world."

This is how Dr. Jacob Gutmark, a board member of the Jewish Community in Wiesbaden responsible for religion, school, culture and society initiatives, described the state of the Jewish community in Wiesbaden after World War II and the Holocaust. Gutmark, who is also a board member of the National Association of the Jewish Community and member of the Directorate of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, was the keynote speaker at the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's Days of Remembrance observance May 5 at the Tony Bass Auditorium on Clay Kaserne.

"I must say, without the decisive help of the U.S. authorities, Jewish life could not have been developed in such an impressive way until today, not in Wiesbaden or elsewhere in Germany, nor, I dare say, in Europe," Gutmark said.

Congress established Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. While there are special observances marked throughout the nation and Department of Defense, the Days of Remembrance observance takes on a special meaning for Soldiers, Civilians and Family members stationed here in Germany.

Col. Todd Fish, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, said the Days of Remembrance observance is a reminder of the atrocities of the past.

"Although we continue to see those horrific actions repeat themselves as recent as the last 20 years in places like the Balkans, the Middle East, and Africa, we will -- collectively with our Strategic Partners -- continue to be vigilant in our fight against such terrible crimes against humanity. Participating in this annual event is a great honor and we will always remember," Fish said.

The Days of Remembrance observance was hosted by 2nd Signal Brigade. Col. Ed Buck Jr., commander of 2nd Signal Brigade, said remembering and learning from the Nazi party's systematic persecution of Jews and others is extremely important.

Special Commemorations / Ethnic Observances				
2017	January	February	March	April
	16 - MLK Day	African American / Black History Month	Women's History Month	-Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month -Days of Remembrance
	May	June	July	August
	Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	LGBT Pride Month		26 - Women's Equality Day
	September	October	November	December
	-Suicide Prevention Month -Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)	National Disability Employment Awareness Month	National American Indian Heritage Month	

"We also acknowledge the selfless service of countless Soldiers who were brave enough to put an end to the suffering by confronting the enemy and liberating the oppressed. It is a stark reminder of the evil humans are capable of, and how a force of good can overcome," Buck said.

The observance included an invocation sung by Rabbi Avraham Nussbaum from the Wiesbaden Synagogue, and a candle lighting by members of the local Jewish community. Six candles were lit -- one in commemoration of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust; one in commemoration of the 1.5 million children, who were murdered by the Nazis; one in commemoration of the ghetto fighters and partisans in the forests; one in honor of the small minority of non-Jewish Europeans and for the Soldiers of the U.S. Army who risked or gave their own lives to save Jews from the claws of the Nazis; one in commemoration of the survivors of the Holocaust who after the horror of the Nazi regime built up a new existence for themselves; and a final candle in honor of the State of Israel that has become the homeland for the Jewish people. Afterwards guests were invited to light their own remembrance candles.

Mark Krasnov, director of the Wiesbaden Jewish Community Center, said the main goal of the observance is not to forget, but to remember and learn from the history of what happened.

"We appreciate very much that we could be here. It shows us that the Soldiers of the country that liberated the city of Wiesbaden after the Second World War that they still care about the history and of course we're proud that we were chosen to come here and light the candles," Krasnov said.

Jewish life in Wiesbaden has sustained and grown through the turmoil of post-war Europe, the reunification of Germany and fall of the Iron Curtain, and, according to local community leaders, the future looks bright.

"Today, there is an active community life, including religious life in the synagogue, active social work and many cultural events," Gutmark said. "We, the Jewish community in Wiesbaden, would like for everybody to join us on the continuation of our common journey." 

1983: A new year, some historic goals

Preparation for war

"If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it. If we desire to secure peace, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war."
— George Washington, 1732-1799



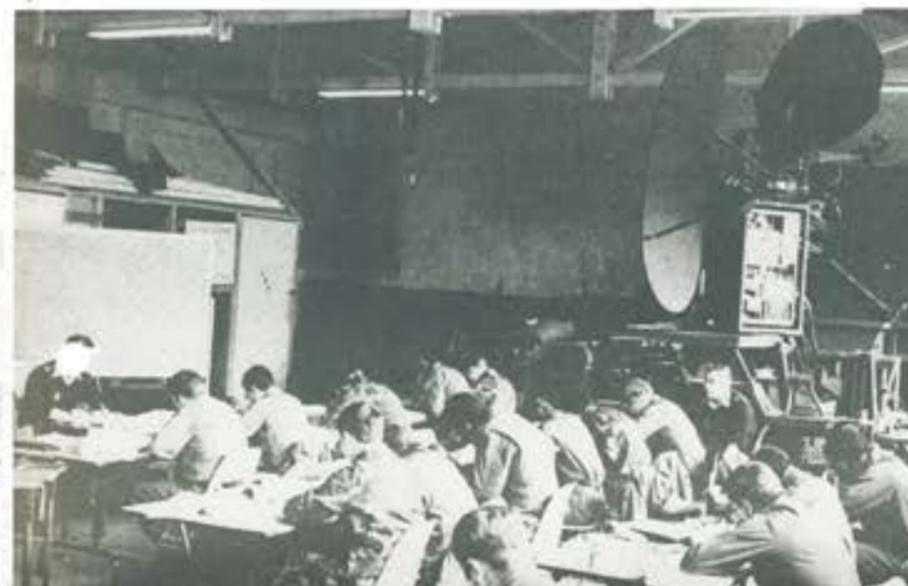
Take care of the soldier

"The soldier's heart, the soldier's spirit, the soldier's soul, are everything. Unless the soldier's soul sustains him, he cannot be relied on and will fail himself and his country in the end."
— George C. Marshall, 1880-1959



Improve training

"The Romans are sure of victory... for their exercises are battles without bloodshed, and their battles bloody exercises."
— Josephus, 37-100 A.D.



Improve maintenance

"For want of a nail the shoe is lost; for want of a shoe the horse is lost; for want of a horse the rider is lost; for want of a rider the battle is lost; for want of a battle the kingdom is lost."
— George Herbert: Outlandish Proverbs, 1640



Total Army goals

- Readiness
- Human Leadership
- Future Development
- Material Management
- Strategic Development

USACC goals

- Leadership/Morale
- Readiness Planning
- Resource Management
- Recruitment



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One MISSION



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