First Edition of NETCOM Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of NETCOM’s quarterly newsletter, with news from around the command and the Army. This newsletter is meant to be viewed online, with active links available to transport readers to the full articles or more information resources. The publication schedule is end of March, June, October and December.

This newsletter is another way for the commanding general to communicate with the command, and give the NETCOM Team information initiatives and missions the Team is undertaking around the globe. It is also an avenue for the Team to send information for upcoming events, articles of interest and organization news.

We look forward to hearing from you. Email us by clicking HERE.

NETCOM headquarters selects top Civilians

By Gordon Van Vleet
NETCOM Public Affairs Office

FORT HUACHUCA, Arizona (March 23, 2017) – The Network Enterprise Technology Command selected the 2016 Civilian of the Year and Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Year for the headquarters during a ceremony March 23, at Greely Hall, on Fort Huachuca.

Terrance Kelly, NETCOM G-6 (Chief Information Office), was selected as the 2016 Civilian of the Year and Enrique Estrada III, NETCOM G-4 (Logistics and Engineering), was selected as the 2016 MVP.

Kelly, the NETCOM Civilian of the Month for December 2016, serves as the Information Technology Projects Lead, focusing on planning and implementing and delivering IT capabilities to the command’s Headquarters, its subordinate commands and across the enterprise.

Estrada, the Fourth Quarter (October-December) 2016 winner is a Supply Technician in the command’s Property Book Office. Estrada’s main focus is providing logistical support to the headquarters and supporting units.

Speaking of the need for a civilian workforce and the contributions made throughout history, NETCOM Commanding General, Maj. Gen. John Baker, said “We actually had Department of the Army civilians before we even had a country.” Pointing out that the Army was established a year prior to our declaration of independence and Richard Peters become our first Army civilian. “Our lineage goes back to that year when we started our teamwork between the Army’s Soldiers and the Army’s civilians.”

Speaking about how the civilians in NETCOM are a part of the team that Baker calls the “Army’s Varsity Communicators,” the general pointed out that the command’s civilian workforce covers 26 of the 31 different career fields found in the Army.

(Click to full article, click HERE.)
NETCOM, signal commands taking lead for Army migration efforts

FORT HUACHUCA, Arizona – The upcoming migration of Army systems to the Windows 10 (Secure Host Baseline-Army) operating system is a huge undertaking. That is what the Army’s Chief Information Office/G-6 wants the more-than one million Army network users to understand.

The Army’s Chief Information Office/G-6 is providing oversight for the effort, and Army Cyber Command/Second Army is setting the tasks disseminating orders; but the hands-on work preparing the “battlefield” belongs to teams from the Network Enterprise Technology Command, 2d Regional Cyber Center and regional and local Network Enterprise Centers.

The amount of work to be done to properly configure equipment around the country is not an automatic process; it takes feet on the ground, reconfiguring physical hardware and time.

Already, hundreds of systems in Europe and the Pacific Theaters are running Windows 10 as part of the testing and evaluation phase, which will soon end. The current schedule has the migration starting early next year, and it’s not going to happen immediately; it will be a phased transition, depending on location and readiness of the installation’s local area network.

The implementation of Windows 10 across the Army is critical to the security of the networks, and will ultimately reduce network operating costs.

The Army’s current goal is to have at least 90 percent of the Army’s systems migrated to Windows 10 not later than January 31, 2018.

Stay tuned to your local NECs for updates and times. For more information on the migration efforts, available training and what end users need to know before their systems get migrated check out the Army’s CIO/G-6 Windows 10 Transition website.

Upcoming Calendar Events

April
Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
Month of the Military Child
6 April - WWI Centennial begins
9 April - Special Forces Birthday
12 April - Aviation Birthday
18 April - Income taxes due
24-28 - 1st Signal Brigade Signal Week
28 - Kuwait Signal Ball

May
National Asian-Pacific Heritage Month
15-19 - NETCOM Best Warrior Competition
17 - Signal Cove of Remembrance Ceremony
29 - Memorial Day

June
National Safety Month
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month
20 - 335th Signal Command (Theater)(Provisional) Change of Command
28 - 516th Signal Brigade Change of Command
30 - 1st Signal Brigade Change of Command

July
4 - Independence Day
24-28 - NETCOM Signal Week
28 - Fort Huachuca Signal Ball
Groundbreaking marks ‘leap forward’ for Army cyberspace operations

FORT GORDON, Ga. – The Army took a major step toward the future when Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning joined Army Cyber Command and Second Army commander Lt. Gen. Paul M. Nakasone and other dignitaries Tuesday to break ground on the construction of a new Army Cyber Command Complex here.

The ceremony marked the start of an estimated two-and-a-half-year project that will draw together the Army’s cyber operations, capability development, training and education in one location - the Army Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon.

During the event, Fanning and Nakasone donned hard hats and manned shovels for the first turning of earth on the project site. They were joined by other Army leaders and senior representatives of ARCYBER’s partners in the venture: Army Cyber Command Sgt. Maj. William G. Bruns; Maj. Gen. John B. Morrison Jr., commanding general of the Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon; Hardie Davis Jr., mayor of Augusta, Georgia; Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, the Army’s chief of Engineers and commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, and; John Garlington, president of B.L. Harbert International, the contractor for the facility.

Morrison welcomed the more than 100 leaders and guests who attended the ceremony and lauded the project as a landmark for the Army, ARCYBER, the Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon, and their many military, civic, industry and academic partners.

“Today’s ARCYBER facility groundbreaking ceremony is a culmination of more than five years of hard work to integrate the planning, design and development of an operational headquarters,” Morrison said. “[The complex] will not only enhance the Army’s capabilities for cyberspace operations, but also enhance the partnerships with academia, industry, and the local Central Savannah River Area communities.”

In his own remarks at the ceremony, Fanning said that building the Army’s cyberspace capabilities will prove critical to maintaining the Army’s readiness and ensuring dominance on the battlefields of today and tomorrow.

“Cyberspace can be considered the ultimate high ground, which means that in modern conflicts, ceding cyberspace invites defeat,” Fanning said.

“So what we’re building here won’t be your typical government facility,” he continued. “It will be the U.S. Army’s premier warfighting platform for cyberspace operations. It is the weapon system that will ensure our cyber warriors go into battle with the tools they need, and that all our Soldiers can operate in a more secure environment.”

The construction of the complex, Fanning assured his audience, will demonstrate to the American people that the Army is committed to extending its warfighting capabilities into cyberspace.

(Link to the full article, click HERE)
Taking time out for tower training

SUWON, South Korea –
Soldiers with Headquarters and
Headquarters Detachment, 41st
Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade,
conducted tower maintenance
March 15, at Madison Site, near
Suwon, South Korea.
A team of six scaled 150 ft. to
tighten bolts holding up a radome
cover and conduct additional tower
maintenance training with key
leaders and Soldiers new to Korea.
Routine maintenance
on the towers ensures open
communication continues
throughout the peninsula.

509th marks end of era as voice services upgrade

Story and photo by
Capt. H. Hannon
509th Signal Battalion

LONGARE, Italy – Soldiers,
civilians and local nationals
gathered to witness an end of an era
as 509th Signal Battalion hosted the
decommissioning of the Longare
Electronic World Switch Digital, or
EWSD, end office telephone switch.
The event followed a highly
successful initiative to upgrade
legacy voice services on the site to
Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)
technology.
The legacy EWSD telephone
switch was part of the larger
Defense Switched Network (DSN),
providing U.S. government
dialing services worldwide and
a cornerstone of the U.S. Army’s
ability to communicate over
the past 12 years. Evolution in
communications technology in
recent years has rendered the
switch obsolete.
The 509th, whose mandate is to
provide communications support
“South of the Alps” to U.S. forces
across Italy, the Balkans, the Black
Sea region and Africa, has been
working to field next-generation
VoIP services across Southern
Europe. The decommissioning of
the Longare EWSD is the beginning
of the implementation of the new
system.

(Link to full article, click HERE)

Lt. Col. Brent O. Skinner, 509th Signal
Battalion commander, addresses
those present about the importance
of the EWSD decommissioning and
the transition to VoIP services.

Be a Part of NETCOM’s Voice...
Army
www.army.mil/NETCOM
Facebook
www.facebook.com/usarmynetcom
YouTube
www.youtube.com/NETCOM9THSCA
Flickr
www.flickr.com/usarmynetcom
Col. Mark Baxter, former NETCOM Chief of Staff, receives congratulations from Maj. Gen. John Morrison Jr., commanding general of the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon (Georgia), after presentation of the Legion of Merit during Baxter’s retirement ceremony.

“`They are the consummate Army couple,” Morrison said. “Whether it was at the 21st Signal Brigade, here at NETCOM or out in the community, they are always together.”

Morrison recalled a number of events that emphasized the Baxter’s passion for taking care of Soldiers, even if they had to travel hundreds of miles to do so. “It was all about service to their Nation, to the Army, but never to themselves,” Morrison said.

In appreciation for supporting her husband and the Army throughout the years, Carol Baxter was presented the Commander’s Award for Public Service and the Mary Walker Award. Baxter was presented the Legion of Merit for his many years of service and dedication to duty, culminating with his assignment as the NETCOM chief of staff.

“When I signed up for the Army, I thought I was leaving home,” Baxter said. “I was wrong. I was coming home.”

Baxter summed up his career, which included 19 moves, 44 countries, about five years of training, and more than 10 of his years of service in joint and coalition assignments. He said he appreciated the people he worked with and for, and would miss them most of all.

Baxter also personally thanked Morrison for taking the time out of his schedule, and finished by thanking his wife and two sons for their support.

“It’s been 30 exciting and fun years,” Baxter said.
Total Army Cyber Summit
What is it?
The Total Army Cyber Summit is a periodic event hosted by U.S. Army Cyber Command designed to increase the Army’s cyber readiness by developing trained and ready U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard cyber forces and how the Army will integrate its Reserve component cyber teams into Department of Defense’s joint cyber mission force.

To read more about this, click the link [HERE](#).

The Army’s Cyberspace Advantage
What is it?
The Army’s Cyberspace advantage is established by aggressively defending the Army networks, data and weapons systems, delivering effects against global adversaries in and through cyberspace, as well as developing and integrating cyberspace, electronic warfare and information operations capabilities.

To read more about this, click the link [HERE](#).

Operationalizing Cyberspace
What is it?
The Army is in the process of operationalizing cyberspace to enable maneuver commanders to fight and win in the information environment in the same manner as in the ground, air, sea and space domains.

This effort supports the recognition of cyberspace as a critical warfighting domain and the need to conduct operations to safeguard key cyber terrain, including the Army’s portion of the Department of Defense Information Network.

To read more about this, click the link [HERE](#).

2nd Signal Brigade units win NETCOM NEC of the Year awards
By William King
5th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs Office

WIESBADEN, Germany – Two 2nd Signal Brigade units were recently named the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command 2016 Network Enterprise Center of the Year in their respective categories, recognizing the highest standards for customer service and communications excellence across the command.

The 509th Signal Battalion in Vicenza, Italy won the NETCOM NEC of the Year award for the medium category, and the 102nd Signal Battalion in Wiesbaden won for the large category, the unit’s fifth consecutive award.

There are 132 NECs in NETCOM each evaluated for responsiveness in supporting enterprise establishment efforts, supported enterprise solutions, innovative demonstrated in solutions to resource shortfalls and other specified criteria.


“This speaks volumes as to your work and professionalism. I am enormously proud of the standard that you’re setting and the contributions that you’re making,” Baker said.

(Link to full article, click [HERE](#).)
Sgt. 1st Class Jason Pickett, 56th Signal Battalion Career Counselor, competed in the 2017 Secretary of the Army Career Counselor of the Year competition at the Pentagon in March 2017. Pickett was recognized as the Active Component Runner Up of the CCOY Competition. Pickett represented the NETCOM Team with distinction and professionalism. Pickett won the FY17 NETCOM Career Counselor of the Year and represented the command at the Department of the Army level.

Spc. Anne Nicole Yapcengco of Headquarters Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, was selected out of more than 20 soldiers to compete with the Hawaii Culinary Arts Team at Fort Lee, Virginia, for the Army Culinary Arts Competition. During the seven-day competition, Yapcengco and her team won the silver medal for Student Skills Team and won Student Skills Team of the Year. She was also the gold medal runner up for Student Chef of the Year and her team won Installation of the Year for the third year in a row. They will now be eligible to compete in July at the American Culinary Federation Nationals Competition in Orlando, Florida, for a chance to represent the United States at the World Championship for Culinary Arts in Switzerland. Yapcengco won a $1500 scholarship to Stratford University in addition to her other accolades. For the full article on this year’s culinary arts competition, click HERE.

Army Reserve Soldiers from the 335th Signal Command (Theater), were in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, competing in the command’s 2017 Best Warrior Competition, during the week of March 27. Above, Staff Sgt. Erik Guzman, information technology staff noncommissioned officer assigned to the 820th Signal Company, 98th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, plots points on a map March 27, at a land navigation course. Right, Spc. Julian Ditona, a multi-channel transmission systems operator/maintainer, assigned to the 98th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, shoots an azimuth during a land navigation course challenge.