

# *The Lion's Roar*

*The Official Magazine of the 35th Signal Brigade*



*Fort Gordon, Ga.*

*"Utmost of Our Ability"*

*1st Quarter FY '13*

# THE LION'S ROAR



## **Brigade Commander**

Col. Thomas A. Pugh

## **Brigade Command Sergeant Major**

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel J. Ramos

## **Brigade Public Affairs OIC**

Capt. Devon O. Thomas

## **Brigade Public Affairs NCOIC**

Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

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Comments and submissions should be sent to Sgt. Dianne M. Carter at (706) 791-9316 (email: [dianne.m.carter.mil@mail.mil](mailto:dianne.m.carter.mil@mail.mil)). Photos, unless otherwise credited, are the property of the U.S. Army. **The Lion's Roar** has the right to edit all submissions.

## **Cover Photo:** Photo by Spc. Rich, 51st ESB

Major Rospendowski and Capt. Matthews run along a route during 51st Signal BN's Mercury Challenge II event on November 19, 2012.

"Utmost of Our Ability"





Lt. Col. Calondra L. Fortson, battalion commander and Command Sgt. Major Andy Frye, of 67th Signal Battalion, case the battalion colors in preparation for the upcoming deployment Dec. 20, 2012 at Alexander Hall, Fort Gordon, Ga.

## The 67th Signal Battalion Prepares For Deployment

*Story and photos by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade*

During the Christmas holiday season, most families are busy buying gifts, last minute preparations for family gatherings or planning trips out of town to visit relatives.

This holiday season, Soldiers and families of the 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, are busy cherishing their last few days together and making last minute preparations for their upcoming deployment.

For the past few weeks Soldiers in the battalion have been on block leave to spend quality time with their families and mentally prepare for their mission. The time off gives the Soldiers a chance to relax and celebrate the holidays with their families.

First Sgt. Todd R. Daniel, of C Co., explained that block leave presented a few challenges for the company. They did their block leave in rotation and this was a learning experience that allowed them to plan out how they will rotate teams and shifts during deployment.

For the Soldier that have deployed, this is just another deployment but for some of the Soldier this is something they have never experienced. Training has prepared them for their Soldier duties but they wonder what to expect on a day to day basis.

Daniel said most of the Soldiers that haven't deployed worry about the conditions of where they will stay and if their nine month deployment could get extended.

"I am not worried about the deployment. I have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. This will be my third deployment, so I know what to expect," said Sgt. Thomas E. Powers, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 67th ESB.

Powers stated that he receives a lot of support from his family during deployments. Both his parents are prior military and understand the demands of his job. His wife, Michelle, keeps him up-to-date with the milestones his three young children make in his absence. His sister, Glenna, and her children Skype with him as often as possible, so he can keep up with

their achievements. All his family plans to send lots of pictures, letters and care packages.

"I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the most valuable player of our team—our family members. Deployments are as much a hardship on the family members as it is on our Soldiers. We acknowledge that they are our rocks, our resilient partners that enable us to accomplish the mission as ambassadors of this great nation—the United States of America. During our absence, we thank our families in advance for their sacrifices and steadfast support," said Lt. Col. Calondra L. Fortson, battalion commander, 67th ESB.

Some familiar questions many spouses have often asked are "how to support their Soldiers and make the time go by faster?" The answers to most questions can be found through their Military Resources. The 67th ESB Family Readiness Group can be contacted through Mr. David Fortson at [FRA.67ESB@gmail.com](mailto:FRA.67ESB@gmail.com). The Army Community Service is the heart of every military installation and hosts a wide variety of support and volunteer services for families and can be reached at (706) 791-3579.



Soldiers and Airmen load equipment into the back of a C-17, Dec 31, 2012. The 67th ESB equipment is being transported to different locations throughout the Middle East.



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# From the Commander

Happy New Year! 2012 was another year of excellence for THE Lion Brigade. Whether supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Exercise Vibrant Response, multiple XVIII Airborne Corps' Joint Operational Assessment Exercises (JOAX), or conducting dozens of training exercises in the continental United States, Soldiers of the Brigade proved time and time again that we are the Army's premier communicators.

Although 2012 ended with a much needed holiday period, the majority of our Soldiers on Ft Gordon were focused on the deployment of most of the 67th Signal Battalion and a platoon from C/63rd Signal Battalion. They join the Soldiers of the 518th Signal Company currently deployed in support of OEF. As we move into 2013, please keep these Lion Brigade Soldiers and their families in your thoughts.

Toward the end of 2012, our communications support training missions increased significantly. This was most noticeable at Ft Bragg and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, where the 50th and 51st Signal Battalions provided outstanding communications support to multiple organizations. Of particular note, 50th Signal Battalion supported the XVIII Airborne Corps JOAX, and 51st Signal Battalion sent B Company to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA to support 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

In November, the Soldiers of the 63rd welcomed a new Battalion Commander, LTC Michael Martel and his wife Moi. The Battalion bid farewell to LTC Keith and Stephanie Garwold. The Battalion main-

tained constant contact with 518th Signal Company and began to deploy a platoon from C Company in December.

The 67th Signal Battalion completed a culminating training event in October that not only validated systems, but also ensured that leaders at all levels were able to handle a variety of possible issues in a deployed environment. As mentioned, the Battalion began its deployment to support OEF in December.

As with 2012, our primary objective for 2013 is to sustain the most capable Signal brigade in the Army. We will accomplish this by continuing to focus on our three Lines of Effort:

**People**—Resilient Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members who are aggressive and adaptive professionals, physically fit, experts in their field, masters of the fundamentals and prepared for the competition of their lives as part of a team.

**Teams**—Expeditionary by culture: trained, ready and well-led, with well maintained equipment, prepared to deploy anywhere in the world and achieve mission success on arrival.

**Community**—A strong combat multiplier created by support and involvement in FRGs, installation programs, the local community, the XVIII Airborne Corps and the Signal Regiment.

Most of you have already made your New Year's Resolutions, but I encourage each of you to resolve to strengthen your Physical, Emotional, Social, Family and Spiritual resilience. This will make us stronger as individuals, and will help us meet, and overcome, personal challenges. It will make us stronger as a team and will enable us to exceed mission expectations. It will also make us stronger as a community and will ensure support structures are in place to support our Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members as we rise to overcome any challenge that awaits us in 2013. By focusing on our People, our Teams and our Community, we will continue THE Lion Brigade's proud tradition of excellence. Thank you for all your sacrifices in Service to our Country.

Utmost of Our Ability!

THE Lion Brigade!  
L6



Photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

Col. Thomas A. Pugh, 35th Signal Brigade Commander, shakes hands and welcomes participants of the August in Army Boots program at the Bicenntenial Chapel Oct. 23, 2012, Fort Gordon, Ga.



# Backbone of the Army



Greetings "Lion Brigade!" From October to the eve of the New Year, Lion Brigade Soldiers continued to dominate. 50th ESB participated in the XVIII Airborne Corps JOAX, and is still ready to deploy for any severe weather mission. 51st ESB, which completed NTC 13-01 by providing support to 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (LI) in October, supported the 62nd Medical Brigade exercise in October and November and the 593 Sustainment Brigade in December. 63rd ESB and 67th ESB provided communication support to the Fort Gordon Network Enterprise Center and provided cable support to the 7th Signal Command.

HHC and B 63rd ESB are ready to deploy at a moment's notice for the Command and Control CBRN Consequence Response Element-Alpha (C2CRE-A) mission. As the 518th TIN Company remains

deployed in support OEF; C Company 63rd ESB deployed to Southwest Asia to support OEF in December. 67th ESB conducted a CTE in October and began their deployment in December to support operations in Southwest Asia and Afghanistan. I am confident that these soldiers have the ability and the know-how to accomplish any mission given to them.

In October, 63rd ESB hosted Augusta in Army Boots. Eight civilian leaders from the Fort Gordon community received Army training for a day. After the training, the participants stated they gained more respect for the daily sacrifices our Soldiers incur in a deployed and garrison environment; furthermore, the Brigade has continued to support the community with events such as the Veterans Day program at Harlem Middle School and the Habitat for Humanity project aided by the Soldiers of

the 50th Signal Battalion.

In the first quarter, the Brigade conducted the NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Board. SGT Nicholas Moore was selected as the NCO of the Quarter and SPC Richard Ayers was the Soldier of the Quarter. These 63rd ESB Soldiers represented themselves extremely well and should be proud of their accomplishments. Congratulations again on your hard work ethic and dedication to maximize your opportunities as a Soldier and NCO. All Soldiers and NCOs should strive to reach their potential in the Army profession.

As I close, I want to focus on the Standards and Discipline of Army Profession, which sustains and strengthens the Nation's trust and confidence in America's Army. Army professionals must exercise stewardship of the Army Profession, recognizing that maintenance, supply, training management, personnel and property accountability, coaching, counseling, and mentoring are essential to sustaining and developing the disciplined practice of our duty. Standards are describable, measurable, meaningful, and achievable. Discipline is to be demonstrated by performing the right actions and taking ownership and accountability for results.

I am extremely proud of multitude of the accomplishments of this Brigade. I am and honored to serve as your Brigade Command Sergeant Major. Thank you for all you do..... "We MUST Coach, Teach and Mentor!"

Lion 7



Photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

Command Sgt. Maj., Angel J. Ramos, the 35th Signal Brigade Senior NCO, speaks to students at Harlem Middle School.

# Soldier of the Quarter



Spc. Richard Ayers,  
63rd ESB



When talking about the quality of life there are a few things that come to mind. I believe that it is an integral part

of a well oiled, fully mission capable unit. That is why if I was sergeant major of the Army the three things that I would do to improve the quality of life would be to increase the amount of amenities that are on post, improve the housing and barracks, and to have more events geared towards families. Doing

these things, I feel, would directly influence the morale and cohesiveness of the units under my command.

Amenities on post and the general outward appearance of a post is the first thing that people look as when they first get to a new duty station. It is something that can leave a lasting impression and sometimes ultimately determine whether or not the Soldiers and their families will enjoy or dislike the time that is spent on the post. If the Soldiers and their family enjoy it then it can pour over to how the Soldier works and how willing they may be to re-enlist to stay. It also doesn't hurt that Soldier could get everything that they need on post and be able to save money versus going

off post.

Housing and barracks are another thing that come to mind. Mainly focusing on the barracks since the housing has recently switched over to private contracting and is already in the process of being renovated. The barracks on the other hand can sometimes become a cause for concern. Soldiers want something they can be proud of and call their own. If the Soldier is ashamed to show somebody where they live, sometimes that can pose a problem. As sergeant major of the Army, I would make it a point to try and improve some of the barracks. I know from personal experience that a happy Soldier is a productive Soldier and a productive Soldier will do great things for

a company, battalion or even brigade and core level. Just something as simple as trying to spruce up the outside or adding kitchenettes to the rooms would speak tons to the Soldiers.

The final thing that I would focus on would be to have more events catered to the families. The more that we can get families involved into the military lifestyle the better and easier things will be. It will allow for more close knit community as well as allowing more Soldiers' spouses to meet and become friends to give the spouses a sense of belonging as well. The more family oriented we can be, from a Soldier and a domestic point of view, the better.



Sgt. Nicholas  
Moore, 63rd ESB



Sexual harassment and sexual assault are very serious problems that stem from many smaller issues. A

BDE CSM must look at assault/harassment as the end results of a problem process. Just as you don't treat a runny nose instead of a cold, we must think the same way. To address these issues requires a approach taught at all levels of the services. Teaching and education are the beginning. What must be taught is first to always think of people the same, we cannot dehumanize people. Harassment is at its

essence taking away from others identity. If we can make all personnel realize this then we can begin to prevent future attacks.

Another way this education helps is by identifying trouble behavior in others. If Soldiers and especially leaders recognize harassment early on it can be confronted and eliminated from habits. Education is the beginning of the solution but it requires individual engagement and action as well.

Every assault is on some level a failure of individuals. The assaulter may have failed to control themselves, and often bystanders failed to pay attention. Most assaults had signals that should have been identified early on. A battle buddy could have spoken out or acted early on to save two

people. While a victim is never at fault in a crime, we also all have a personal responsibility to look out for ourselves and protect ourselves when we can. Beyond individual action, these crimes can be avoided with good command policies.

As an organizational leader this problem requires more than education and responsibility; it also needs alternatives. We have to ensure that soldiers have activities that are productive and safe. In this stressful occupation we all need outlets for our stress, encouraging coping strategies that do this is essential. We need more competitive events and group volunteer activities. Better gym facilities that are capable of other competitions could help tremendously, for example hand ball, racquet ball, and even table tennis. Having organizational

volunteer activities and clubs can help. We cannot expect all Soldiers to figure these out on their own. We must give them options and positive encouragement. I know of a 1SG in 551 that takes his Soldiers out on excursions every weekend, it shows true caring and support.

Harassment and assault are serious issues that have to be stopped. The current education we do alot, but much is still left to do. Responsibility of all individuals can go far to stop the situations that these crimes occur in. Last we need alternatives or stress vents to remove the motivation from these would be criminals. As a BDE CSM I feel this would be the only way to remove these crimes from our Army.

# NCO of the Quarter



# Brigade Dining In

*Story and photo by Capt. Devon O. Thomas  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade*

Continuing Army traditions and leader development, the 35th Signal Brigade hosted a dining in and a leadership professional development session for brigade leaders Nov. 8 at the Gordon Club.

Retired Maj. Gen. James D. Bryan, a former commander of the brigade led professional development session during the day and was the guest speaker of the dining in the evening. Bryan also led the Army Task Force to redesign, reorganize, and re-equip the Army Signal Regiment to support the new expeditionary modular combat brigade concept, and is considered a pioneer of army cyber defense.

The Department of

Defense and the nation have realized the importance of cyber defense and Bryan's contributions played an integral part, said Col. Thomas A. Pugh, 35th Signal Brigade commander.

In addition to Pugh, Ramos, and the command teams from Forts Gordon, Bragg, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord attended both events. Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald S. Pflieger, the U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon, and Signal Corps regimental command sergeant major, was also a distinguished guest.

In the leadership development session, Bryan encouraged the brigade's senior officers and NCOs to write down their leadership philoso-

phy. According to Bryan, good leaders understand that taking care of Soldiers is the most important part of the mission, and great leaders are "gentle giants" who have the vision to look ahead and backwards plan.

"Leadership is a sacred honor and opportunity," said Bryan.

As the dining in guest speaker, Bryan talked about the importance of the dining in tradition, leaders' commitment to their Soldiers and the personal commitment each Soldier has to the Army team and one another.

"Think of all of the Soldiers who have gone before, and who are here now," said Bryan. "Fifty years from now, the next generation of Soldiers

will attend a future 35th Signal Brigade dining in, and they will be talking about your accomplishments."

"The Burmese lion [the brigade unit insignia] is a perfect symbol for the brigade—it will never fail," said Bryan. "There will never be one unit, not one company, or one platoon that will never fail a mission."

Bryan is the president and chief executive officer of Bryan Business Management and Technology, which provides advice and assistance in the areas of business leadership, management and business development for the federal government.



Retired Maj. Gen. James D. Bryan, a former commander of 35th Signal Brigade, now a business leader within the federal government, speaks to the audience during the dining-in Nov. 8 at the Gordon Club.

# Veteran's Day at Harlem Middle School

## Command Sgt. Major Inspires Students

*Story by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade*

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel J. Ramos, the 35th Signal Brigade Senior NCO, was a guest speaker for the Harlem Middle School Veteran's Day program held Nov. 7, 2012 at Harlem, Ga.

The Harlem Middle School's Veteran's Day program was held to show appreciation for veterans and connect students with the Soldiers currently serving in the Central Savannah River Area community.

"I am Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Ramos and I am proud to be on the front lines for America," said Ramos. "I want to thank all the veterans in the audience for leaving the path for people like myself and my Soldiers to follow in your footsteps."

Ramos began by challenging the student body to a contest to see if they could yell "Hooah" louder than his two platoon size elements of Soldiers. On the first try, the Soldier shook the walls with a thunderous "Hooah". Once the students heard the Soldiers, they came back in full force with a "Hooah" that would make any Soldier proud.

Ramos told the students that he lost his father early in life and how his mother raised nine children alone, in the poorer section of town. Then he explained that his mother, with little formal education, instilled the values and discipline that allowed him and his siblings to succeed in life.

"I look at each and every one of



Photos by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel J. Ramos, the 35th Signal Brigade Senior NCO, speaks to students at Harlem Middle School.

you and see our future leaders; some of you will join the military and some will go on to universities. All of you have the ability to become anything you want, as long as you put your mind and effort in the right place," said Ramos.

The two platoon size elements of Soldiers, assigned to the 63th Signal Battalion, gave a demonstration of drill and ceremony to the students to show students how important discipline is and what can be achieved from it.

It is important for our Soldiers to

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel J. Ramos, of the 35th Signal Brigade, speaks to Milton C. Keene, commander of the VFW chapter 6445, and another local veteran at Harlem Middle School. This was part of the Harlem Middle School Veterans Day Program held Nov. 7, 2012, at Harlem, Ga.



set the example that it doesn't matter what your background is; you can become anything you dream of. Children look up to us as their mentors, said Sgt. 1st Class Tammy L. Boyd, a platoon sergeant with C Co., 63rd ESB.

At the end of the school's Veteran's Day program, students lined up with a new found glimmer in their eyes and gave each Soldier an American flag, along with many smiles as bright as the sun.

Being a veteran myself, I am heavily involved in all the veteran's programs in the area. I received the call from the school for help with the flags and I immediately agreed to provide the 600 flags for the school, said Milton C. Keene, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 6445, located in Harlem Ga. I have a granddaughter that attends the school, and my daughter attended this school before her, so it is important to help this community.

"It was amazing to have the Soldiers out here. They were so professional and articulate. They were great role models for our students. We try to teach them to give back and this was the ultimate way for them to do that," said Carla F. Shelton, principal of Harlem Middle School.



# Culinary Arts Workshop

## Food Service Contractors Work Side-by-Side with Army Food Specialists

*Story by Capt. Devon O. Thomas and  
Sgt. 1st Class David G. Hall  
35th Signal Brigade*

The 35th Signal Brigade food service specialists and Fort Gordon food service contractors attended the Hulsey & Blackstone Culinary Arts Workshop from Nov. 13 to Nov. 21 at dining facilities throughout Fort Gordon, Ga.

This year's workshop is the first where Fort Gordon food service contractors learned culinary techniques side by side with food service specialists of the 35th Signal Brigade.

The collaboration has benefited the Soldiers and Contractors, and will also benefit Fort Gordon Soldiers, civilians and Families who attend the Dining Facilities during this time honored tradition, said Sgt. 1st Class David G. Hall, the 35th Signal Brigade chief food operations sergeant. The long hours and arduous work the food service contractors and

Soldiers put in to prepare and display the items will certainly provide a home away from home atmosphere.

According to Thomas O. McMillion, the assistant project manager of Hulsey and Blackstone, the Hulsey & Blackstone Culinary Arts Workshop has been a vital project for the Army Thanksgiving meals on Fort Gordon for four years. The program ensures



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David G. Hall, 35th Signal Brigade

Sgt. Gabriel Earle, a food service sergeant with the 35th Signal Brigade, demonstrates how to prepare garnishments to Spc. Angel Richard, a 35th Signal Brigade food service specialist, while Maj. Gen. LaWarren V. Patterson, the Commanding General of the Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon, and Ronald S. Pflieger, the SIGCoE command sergeant major, watch during the Hulsey and Blackstone Culinary Workshop Nov. 20, 2012.



Valerie Mott, a Food Service Contractor who works at Dining Facility 4, teaches Spc. Robert Yarbrough, a Food Service Specialist with the 35th Signal Brigade, how to prepare a decorative turkey during the Hulsey & Blackstone Culinary Arts Workshop Nov. 20, 2012. The program ensured that food service contractors were trained on advance culinary arts techniques, which allowed Fort Gordon dining facilities to have food displays to showcase for the Thanksgiving holiday.

that food service contractors are trained on advanced culinary arts techniques and ensures that each perspective dining facility has immaculate food displays to showcase during the holiday.

"I am proud of the work and accomplishment of all involved and I believe that this will certainly go down in history as one of the best Thanksgiving meals for the Fort Gordon community," said McMillion.

Maj. Gen. LaWarren V. Patterson, the Commanding General, U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon, and Ronald S. Pflieger,

the SIGCoE Command Sergeant Major, attended the workshop on Nov. 20, and told all of the civilian food service contractors and Soldiers how appreciative they were for their dedication and commitment. They presented

Coins of Excellence to the 35th Signal Brigade food service specialists.

"These 10 days were instrumental in my food service development. I've learned

a great deal and I'm proud of what we have accomplished," said Pfc. Javohn A. Pinson, a food service specialist for the brigade.

*"I am proud of the work and accomplishment of all involved and I believe that this will certainly go down in history as one of the best Thanksgiving meals for the Fort Gordon community," said McMillion.*



# HHC Welcomes New First Sergeant

*Story by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade*

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 35th Signal Brigade held an Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony Nov. 6, 2012 at the Bicentennial Chapel, Fort Gordon, Ga.

The ceremony was held to welcome the incoming 1st Sgt. Gary F. Smith, and to bid farewell to the outgoing 1st Sgt. Roberto A. Berry.

“1st Sgt. Smith, we are glad to have you and your family on board. I know this move was hard for you because you wanted to stay in a line company. We need the best and the brightest leading our troops

and you’re it,” said Command Sgt. Major Angel J. Ramos as he welcomed the new first sergeant.

After the ceremony, Berry spoke to his troops one last time. He said the time has come to say goodbye to a great organization. He thanked Col. Thomas A. Pugh for his leadership and the opportunity to lead. He attributed his success as a professional NCO to his Soldiers.

Then Smith walked to the podium and spoke to his Soldiers for the first time. He thanked his family for their support. “To the men and women of [HHC] you are

the heartbeat of the brigade,” Smith said. He stated that his motto is ‘Mission First, Soldier Always’, which means that Soldiers can expect full support while they work to accomplish the mission on a daily basis.

Berry will move forward in his career and assume position as the new first sergeant at the Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Fort Gordon, Ga.

“1st Sgt. Berry has done a great job here and I know you will be missed. The NCO Academy is getting a great noncommissioned officer, said Ramos.



1st Sgt. Roberto A. Berry speaks to the troop one last time.

1st Sgt. Gary F. Smith's wife receives flowers to welcome her as a new member of the Lion Brigade family.





# Soldiers Lend Helping Hand

Story by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade

ABERDEEN, N.C.--“It is a beautiful day to work outside,” someone shouts through the pinging of hammers hitting nails and the whining, grinding sounds of the circular saw as it cuts through the wood.

The saw and hammers are being used by nineteen Soldiers assigned to the 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, who volunteered Oct 16, 2012 in Aberdeen, N.C., to construct and raise the walls of a house being built for the Habitat for Humanity Project.

“One day Lt. Col. Chris O’Connor, along with his wife and son, came out to volunteer for a day,” said Judie Wiggins, a volunteer coordinator for Habitat for Humanity. “He informed us he was the commander for 50th ESB and thought his Soldiers would like to do some volunteer work.”

“A perfect way for us to give back to the community,” said Lt. Col. Chris O’Connor, commander of 50th ESB. “The great thing about habitat for humanity is that you are building homes with the people who are going to live there and you can see it in their eyes. The pride and gratification they feel is tremendous.

This is the third time Soldiers from the 50th ESB have volunteered with our organization. Today they are helping us to build house 208 for the Thomas family. The house will be a five bedroom and two bath home designed to meet the specific needs of the Thomas family, said Wiggins.

“I don’t get many chances to do carpentry,” said 1st Lt. Jared C. Long, 1st platoon leader for B Co., “I enjoy coming out here and having a chance to do some carpentry work with the troops.”

Wiggins explained The Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills is currently working on building a subdivision of 22 homes to provide an opportunity for homeownership to families who can’t afford a conventional bank loan for a home and who have a need for adequate affordable shelter. So far, they have built 210 homes in the Sandhills area and only had to do foreclosures on four homes; the foreclosures were completely refurbished and resold.



Spc. Christopher S. Leigh, 25 Q assigned to B Co., and Spc. Rudy L. Frias, a 25 Q assigned to C Co. 50th ESB, nail the framework of an inner wall together. This is part of a volunteer effort of nineteen Soldiers of the 50th ESB to construct and raise the walls of the future Thomas family home in Aberdeen, N.C., Oct. 16, 2012.

For a family to qualify for a home they must have a need for affordable, safe housing, and six good faith hours of hard work to prove they can physically help in the construction of their home. Then they are obligated to complete 15 hours of Homebuyer Education Workshops, have the ability to pay for the habitat home, and a willingness to partner with habitat for

humanity and the community, said Wiggins

“I like to volunteer because it is good for the community and is good citizenship,” said Markia Childers, fiancée to Sgt. Daniel Lewis. “I can imagine the feeling of the family walking into the new home for the first time and how their eyes would light up with joy.”

The new homeowners are also required to contribute 300 sweat equity hours per each adult family member and 60 sweat equity hours for each teen in the building of their own home.

“I love it when Soldiers come out. They are younger, physically fit, and get things done faster than most,” said Dan Aaron, a retired Colonel, now works as a crew chief on site and a board of directors member for Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills.

For more information on how to volunteer or apply for a home please call 910-295-1934 or view the website at <http://www.sandhillshabitat.org>.



Soldiers assigned to 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) construct the inner walls of the house. This is part of a volunteer effort of nineteen Soldiers of the 50th ESB to construct and raise the walls of the future Thomas family home in Aberdeen, N.C., Oct. 16, 2012.

# A Glimpse into the Life of a Soldier

## The Meaning of the Military Family

*1st Lt. Brian J. Martin*  
HHC, 50th ESB

The legendary General George S. Patton once spoke glowingly of war, saying: "It brings out all that is best; it removes all that is base." Patton, who fought in three wars and boasted the proud lineage of a Confederate Colonel for his grandfather, represents what many think of when they hear the word Soldier. Yet, most who serve are not bred to fight, like Patton. Those who answer the call for their country are often extraordinarily common. They are fathers and mothers; tradesmen and farmers; students and doctors. Some are polished. Others are entirely unrefined and immature. But I would count even the least of these as the greatest our country has to offer.

When I first enlisted in the Army with goals of earning college benefits and saving money, I anticipated little in common with other Soldiers, whom I expected to be the gung-ho heirs to Audie Murphy. I

would quickly find, though, that the military is more Stripes than Rambo: filled with aimless kids, pranksters, and barracks lawyers. While some had the same goals I did, many had no goals at all, except to make their beds real neat and stand up straight (to paraphrase Forrest Gump). Certainly, none of us resembled General Patton.

Military service, though, even in the course of a few small years, has the tendency to alter your outlook on life. Where once you viewed a man as completely alien to you—set apart by differences of culture and belief—you come to think of him as family. Of course, "family" is a term easily sentimentalized; but those who serve together are indeed bonded in a special way. This is not to say they get along at all times. After all, many families are dysfunctional. Still, family is family. What has amazed me most in my time in the Army is how quickly differences shrink away in suffering. It is easy to argue over pettiness when you live

leisurely. But listen to the men freezing together in a guard tower, sweating in a hostile desert, or trying to keep sane on the long hours of deployment. Their differences in those moments are but a memory; all that matters is what unites them. And time and time again, they carry each other through.

In the end, perhaps Patton was right. War can bring out the best in us, and not just for those rare heroes of legend. War brings out America's best by challenging ordinary, common men and women to step forward and answer the call, often without any knowledge of what that choice entails. No books will be written about these few; and their names will not appear in the footnotes of history. Even so, the one half of one percent that chooses the path of military service makes sacrifices and endures hardships above and beyond what the average citizen can imagine. They are, without question, the greatest among us; and I will forever be proud to call them my family.

## Low-Density Training

*Story by 1st Lt. Dana N. White*  
HHC, 50th ESB

The HHC Hellraisers have been focusing heavily on meeting the Commander's Intent on Low-Density Training during Sergeant's Time Training. The Electrical Maintenance Shop (EMS) trained 10 Soldiers on Troubleshooting Signal Systems. The training lasted 28 hours, and was conducted by two civilians, Mr. Paul Martin and Mr. Fred Fisher, of CECOM (Communications Electronics Command). One sustain on noted on the After Action Review was the in-depth explanations, which helped the Soldiers learn signal flow from system to system. One improve on the training was "more time". Since all Soldiers in the EMS Shop are not familiar with all types of signal equipment, they recommended an introductory course on the types of signal equipment frequently utilized in the Battalion.

Human Resources (S-1) conducted training on writing a counseling statement. The instructor was SPC Borrero. There were nine Soldiers present during this training. SPC Borrero had the Soldiers write their own counseling as practice, and then critiqued the

counseling and offered recommendations to strengthen their writing skills. One sustain in the training was the level of knowledge of the instructor, while one improve was "more hands-on training." The Soldiers would like to be given time to correct their mistakes and re-submit.

The Motorpool's Low Density Training focused on the components of the HMMWV. The instructors were the NCOs of the Motorpool section. They trained 36 Soldiers for 3 hours, and despite the training being short, it was very focused and actually helped improve HHC Readiness, with two vehicles getting repaired. One sustain for the training was that it was entirely hands-on, and one improve was that it was too short. The Motorpool NCO's have noted these comments and will make the low-density training longer and more in-depth next time.

Low-density training ensures that all non-signal MOS Soldiers remain proficient in their skill set. The Soldiers were motivated and enthusiastic about the training, and provided valuable feedback in the AAR. Low-density training is a tool that sustains proper readiness for the company and the battalion.



# Bravo Prepares for Sandy and gets Struck!

*Story and Photos by Sgt. Robert Duttry  
2nd Plt., B Co., 50th ESB*

During October, 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) trained at an astonishing rate by completing three different field exercises.

The 50th Signal Battalion's validation on 2nd platoon's severe weather mission package was the first of the three exercises. During the Battalion alert, the platoon was marshaled, and embarked on a 100 mile tactical convoy; better known as the BMO 500. Once on site, the platoon validated six different systems on four different network configurations in less than 27 hours. This included a full internal network validation with data and voice being transmitted over Line of Site radios between the JNN and CPN teams. The platoon successfully accomplished the mission by completing all three phases and all frago's the Battalion could throw at them.

The following week JNN 5713 and CPN's 57132 and 57133 successfully conquered the 35th Signal Brigade's Operation Lightning Strike. Upon receiving a 0600 Operations Order the teams diligently worked through the Unit Loading Area Control Center process, and made the 0800 roll out to the training area. Once on site, all the soldiers went directly to completing the task at hand. The JNN and both CPN's achieved NIPR and SIPR voice and data.



JNN Section waiting for further orders during DTAC.



The LOS team sets up a 15m mast.

Immediately after they pushed LOS services from the HCLOS V3 to both HCLOS V1's. Then CPN's dropped STT links and maintained services from the JNN via LOS. Once this was successful, all teams dropped STT services and remained a valid LOS network. These hardworking teams successfully completed every task placed upon them by Brigade OC's and were even home for dinner.

Within a day of completing the Lightning Strike this platoon was called upon again to support The 82nd Airborne Division DTAC (Division Tactical Command Post) operations. Their mission is to supply the Division Headquarters with tactical communications in the form of unclassified and secret voice and data while the HQ's conduct airborne operations. This task was solely given to the JNN section. Once the JNN team hit the ground they immediately began their operation. The JNN sec-

tion's mission was to have all assemblages up and provide the DTAC with communications. The section's self-imposed objective was to have 100% communications within an hour.

Communications were up along with two DRASH tents, fiber optic cabling was laid, and a 10k generator and all other electronic equipment were appropriately grounded in approximately 90 minutes. The time line was not fully met, but the mission was a success. The JNN section did beat their personal record of setup, and continue to strive to achieve full communications in under an hour.

All in all, this highly trained group of NCO's and Soldiers are ready to assume and accomplish any mission this great nation asks of them.

# Off Duty Resiliency

*Story by Major Mike Donahue  
HHC, 50th ESB*

When people ask me the question 'why do you like to run?' I normally give them many different answers. Some of them range from the benefits gained with living a healthy lifestyle; the challenges associated with the terrain and weather conditions during a trail run; the physical and mental conditioning that it requires to accomplish a fast 5k or slow 50k; or it could simply be a way in which to socialize with friends or to relieve stress. People are surprised when I tell them that I have only been running since August 2008. The decision to begin running outside of Army PT was made when my 12 year old son showed an interest in trying out for the cross country team at his middle school. At that point we decided to register for a local 5k race and the adventure began.

Being in the Army we always run for physical training for motivational reasons or in order to train; whether it's a 2 mile fitness test or a 4 mile validation run. As we all strive to increase our stamina

and strength and to seek self improvement with our APFT's there are mental obstacles that you must overcome no matter how hard or what distance you are running. It wasn't until I ran that 5k with my son that the motivation and the desire to run outside of the Army kicked in.

After we completed that race together, I said that I wanted to try to run a 10k race (6.2 miles) and then eventually a half-marathon (13.1 miles) which occurred just a few short months later. After the completion of the 13.1 miler, the next big mental and physical barrier was to jump up to a full marathon (26.2 miles). The desire to continue to pursue longer and longer runs was tied into the question that I kept asking myself; "what am I capable of accomplishing physically and mentally and where is my breaking point?" Since I never had the opportunity to attend any of the high speed Army courses such as Ranger School or the 'School For Advanced Suffering', I always wondered what it would take for my mind and body to say enough is enough. In Nov 2009, I finished my first marathon and was



Holiday Lake 50k+ (mile 19 of 34)

introduced to Ultra-Marathons; which is any distance greater than the traditional 26.2 miles but is normally associated with a 50k, 100k, or 100 mile run. In Feb 2010, after I was immersed into the running community in Lynchburg, Virginia during an ROTC assignment, I completed the Holiday Lake 50K. Upon completion, I still wondered though; what is the mind and body capable of?

## Running for the Local Wounded Warriors

Knowing that I wasn't beat up to badly physically or mentally from that event, I wanted to know what else I could do for the challenge; not only for myself but more so for the community. I heard about a 24-hour endurance race in South Carolina so figured instead of suffering for nothing I would try to raise some money for the Wounded Warriors and their families that live in and around the Central Savannah River

Area. I chose to assist the Augusta Warrior Project because of their reputation of being the community leader in supporting warriors, veterans, and their families. That organization was vital in helping bring the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivor (TAPS) program to Fort Gordon and continues to organize and promote a community-based Wounded Warrior center of excellence, bringing together a team of dedicated government and community leaders to collaborate, share knowledge and initiatives, and develop best practices to maximize resources and world class support for our Wounded Warriors, veterans and their families.

When I asked Mr Jim Lorraine, the Executive Director for the Augusta Warrior Project, about what we as a community could do for our Warriors, he stated simply "by spreading the word about our program". His program seeks ways to collaborate and cooperate with current Wounded Warrior programs and



Trail Running in South Carolina in preparation for the 24 Hour Endurance race.



explore new medical, housing, transportation, vocational training and family support roles for the Augusta area, ensuring that they provide the gold standard of care to help the nation heal those returning from war.

In the weeks prior to the 24-hour endurance race, I took donations from over 80 Soldiers and leaders within the 35th Signal Brigade totaling over \$1,300. Many of the Soldiers were willing to donate money per mile that I ran and others were just willing to contribute what they could for our community. The thought that I knew would cross my mind throughout the race was “how long can I do this for”. I expected, based on my previous long run, to do at least a 50k (31.1 miles) and was even more motivated to excel because this event was a great opportunity to raise money and awareness for a local organization. I kept in mind that every mile, no matter how monotonous and agonizing it would become, would mean more of a donation for our Warriors.

We started the 24 hour race at 4:00 in the afternoon and the temp was a balmy 94 degrees with 85% humidity. There were a number of thoughts that flashed through my mind at this point such as: “Am I going to let my supporters down”; “I am going to make it because of the



The never-ending staircase on the Promise Land 50k

temperature”; and “how long can I go”! The answer was simple when I reflected over on our local Wounded Warriors and their families. After 11:00 hours of running there was an incredible amount of emotion that seemed to hit me as I hit the 50 mile point. I began to contemplate how much of our physical fitness was more mentally challenging than physically challenging.

### My Toughest Challenge

In Feb 2012, I committed to running the Lynchburg Ultra Series and the Eco-X Sports Beast Series. These annual series of 4 or 6 Ultra-Marathons test even the toughest runners’ endurance, grit, and sanity. Each race transverse through some of the most beautiful and rugged country the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains have to offer. I was able to complete the Lynchburg Ultra Series consisting of 4 runs in 31.51 hours; 150.25 miles, and spanning over 26,760 feet of elevation gain. My failure hit during race # 5 and unfortunately, just after a mere 6 hours into the 38 hour cut-off, I had to quit the Grindstone 100 mile trail run.

Physical and mental challenges occur in many things that we do each and every day in the Army whether it’s being deployed overseas and separated from our loved ones, training to deploy on our respective installations, or if it’s just physical training at oh-dark-thirty in sweltering heat or in the bone chilling cold. We have all said at one point, most likely in a joking manner, that “it can always be worse” or “hey, at least this isn’t as bad as...”. I have viewed my running endeavors in a similar manner and when I am conducting Army training or a real-world deployment, I’ll reflect back to a certain race where I may have been pure exhausted, over-heated, borderline



hypothermic or on my hands and knees puking my guts out and I will tell myself “this isn’t nearly as bad as the time that I did...”. When I reminisce on those moments and tell myself that it can always be worse and there is always more room to struggle and suffer, I tend to see my success rate, and more importantly, my morale increase. But how can we apply our lessons learned into our personal lives?

### Linking Off-Duty Resilience to Readiness

How does this help me as a Soldier, leader, husband, and father? While running for the past 4 years I pondered on when I was going to meet failure. Failure is something that is difficult for us to comprehend and accept and if we do not train our bodies and minds, it will inevitably occur. What knocks us down will only make us stronger and we need to ensure that we will not use a onetime

failure as an excuse or even a limitation for what we what can potentially be achieved. We owe it to ourselves, our Soldiers, leaders, and loved ones to be resilient.

Sir Winston Churchill stated that “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” We all fail at things in life but what is that driving force that motivates us to re-arm, re-group, and re-engage? Like all good Soldiers, we take our mental or physical lessons learned from our training events and apply them to the next training or real world mission either individually or collectively. Our Soldiers are the most critical weapon system on the battlefield and those of us that don’t learn from our mistakes and failures will only hurt the team. Soldiers want to be a member of a winning team, to be challenged and motivated, to learn and grow, and they deserve leaders that lead from the front in everything that they do.



My first failure - The terrain profile depicting 23,200 feet gain over the Grindstone 100 mile course which is part of the Eco-X Sports Beast Series.

# Bravo Company Learns Combatives Level 1

*Story and photos by 1st Lt. Jared Long  
1st Platoon Leader, B Co., 50 ESB*

Bravo Company, 50th ESB brought the smoke once again this past September with a freshly revamped Combatives Level 1 course. The course was instructed by Combatives Level 4 Instructor Sgt. 1st Class Jay Hartman. He and his assistant instructors put 22 Soldiers of Bravo through the paces during two separate one week iterations of the course in September of 2012. Throughout the course, Soldiers learn to be the instructors for others. They learned the basic positions, moves, and tactical skills that every Soldier should know and how to teach them to their peers, leaders, and subordinates.

The physically rigorous course began with a warm-up each day that by itself could be a complete workout. One Soldier from 1st Platoon, Spc. Robert McLean said, “I think it’s a great full body workout because it works all of your muscles and you even get to work together on some exercises like buddy drags to build team cohesion.” The nature of close quarters combatives requires that Soldiers learn to fight through the pain and fatigue of what could potentially be a fight for their life in a real combat situation. The basic skills they learned taught them to achieve and maintain dominance over their opponent through body positions and submission techniques. The first several days of the course included step by step instructions from subject matter experts like Sgt. 1st Class Hartman and his assistant instructors. The students execute these techniques over and over again until muscle memory takes over and they can perform the moves while still being able to teach as they go through the motions.

The second part of the course focused on the actual tactical skills necessary for Soldiers to subdue opponents and hostile personnel with non-lethal force. The students went through a gauntlet of drills to prepare them for the final skills tests at the end of the week. The tests included simulated close quarters environments where the students were presented with both hostile and non-hostile personnel. In order to pass the course and receive their certifica-



Sgt. 1st Class Jay Hartman instructs Spc. Orientae Miller, a 25L from 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, on the proper way to subdue an aggressor. Photo by Spc. Christopher Leigh.

tions the students had to make on-the-fly decisions about who was hostile, who was not, and how to best subdue the hostile opponent while maintaining situational awareness. Staff Sgt. Michael Radley of 1st Platoon said he “learned a lot from the tactical combatives simulations where I was forced to make split-second decisions about taking down somebody not knowing who was the ‘good guy’ or the ‘bad guy’.” This kind of simulation is the cornerstone of the training and prepared the students for more real-world scenarios.

Soldiers who sweat and bleed together will always work together better than those who have not shared hardship. The Soldiers of Bravo Company received outstanding training that not only increased their physical and technical combatives skills, but it drastically improved unit morale and cohesion. Spc. Orientae Miller from 1st Platoon stated “I had a lot of fun but still learned plenty of new skills that I will definitely use in the future.” Now that these Soldiers are certified, they will be sought out to teach their fellow teammates and continue to set the company and battalion up for success.



The graduating Combatives class and Instructors after completing the course.



# 50th Signal Receives Environmental Compliance Award

*Story by 1st Lt. John P. Elco  
HHC, 50th ESB*

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the Fort Bragg Garrison Command's Sustainability Management Council conducted their 3rd Quarter 2012 meeting and requested the presence of the 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary). Foremost on the meeting's agenda was the recognition of units with an exemplary performance on their annual environmental inspection, conducted by the Fort Bragg Compliance Assessment and Training (CAT)

Team. The Team inspected a total 165 organizations on Fort Bragg, and the 50th Signal Battalion was one of only two organizations selected to receive the Environmental Compliance Award. Maj. Michael Donahue, the BN Executive Officer; 1st Lt. John Elco, the Battalion Maintenance Officer; and CW3 Maxwell Takyi, the Maintenance Technician, all attended the Council Meeting and accepted the award from the Fort Bragg Garrison Commander, Colonel Jeffrey M. Sanborn.

The CAT Team inspection is verification that Environ-



Colonel Jeffery Sanborn, the Fort Bragg Garrison Commander, awards Major Donahue, 1st Lt. Elco and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Takyi receives the Environmental Compliance Award.

mental Compliance Standards and Regulations are enforced by the inspected organization, with a special emphasis on Motor Pool and Arms Room Operations. Although the Battalion Representatives (especially

CW3 Takyi and Master Sgt. Byrd) assist with courtesy pre-inspections and the coordination of a CAT Team inspection, it is the Company Representatives that have shouldered the burden and have made the 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) into one of the two organizations selected by Garrison Command as examples for the rest of Fort Bragg to follow.

Those Company Environmental Compliance Representatives are Staff Sgt. Daniels and Sgt. Derossett of HHC; Sgt. Werner and Spc. Gray of Alpha Company; Sgt. Jones and Sgt. Bradshaw of B Company; and Sgt. Stone and Spc. Helmig of C Company. Company Executive Officers were also involved in the preparation and CAT Team inspection and they are 2nd Lt. Romine for HHC, 1st Lt. Fenton for A Company, 1st Lt. Glass for B Company and 1st Lt. Nimmo for C Company.



1st Lt. Elco and CW3 Takyi pose with the Environmental Compliance Award.

# Mercury Challenge II

*Story and Photos by Capt. Nicholas Matthews  
51st ESB*

On 19 November 2012, 28 officers from the 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) participated in a day-long Officer Professional Development Event. This event, unlike others, did not take place in a classroom and focus on one topic for all to discuss, but rather broke the mold. This OPD placed officers in an uncomfortable environment and challenged them with a variety of technical and tactical tasks all while under physical stress.

The 51st SIG BN (E) officers linked up at 0600 at the battalion headquarters on a record-breaking rainfall and windy day at Joint Base Lewis McChord prepared to take on the 10 mile Mercury Challenge II. The commander wanted an event to test the mental and physical toughness of officers in the battalion while expanding their Soldier skills.

As Lt. Col. Lamy would say, "The Purpose of Mercury Challenge is to get out of the office, have fun, push through the suck, and learn more about yourself and your fellow officers."

Each company provided a team of four, while warrant officers and staff formed additional teams. All teams began at the same start point, uniform consisting of ACUs, 35lbs ruck sack and weapon. Each team moved to a series of points as fast as possible, competitively and complete several tasks. The first task required the teams to load and operate a SINCGARS, ASIP radios requesting information for the next task. After receiving the necessary information, the teams continued movement to a qualification range and conducted a scored 25-meter M4 qualification stress fire.

First, to arrive was team "WO" (Warrant Officers). As each team arrived they received the range and safety brief and then quickly moved to the firing line to see the large, deep puddles at each point. Each participant executed the standard 40 round qualification and once each team member was complete, they moved back to their gear and moved on to the next event. First out was team "WO" followed by A CO (Team Apache), C CO (Team Cobra), and Team Panther +1 (S3 Team and XO).

The third event was 2 miles from the range and with all teams relatively close, movement from one point to the next became increasingly important. As the teams moved into event 3, Team WO maintained the lead with Team Panther coming in second. The task, conduct a 35ft Aussie rappel was daunting for some requiring teams to take penalties as they opted



to repel normally. Moving another two miles to the confidence course, the competition between Team Apache and Team Cobra intensified. As each team arrived, they dropped their gear, received the range and safety brief and then conducted the confidence course as the rain continued to fall. Teams were beginning to tire with each obstacle but Team WO remained in the lead with Team Panther closing in. What the teams did not know was the score from



1st Lt. Hendel and 1st Lt. Turchany establish defensive position during force of force training as executed using a paintball. Photo taken by Spc. Rich 51st Signal BN (E).



Capt. Matthews , the Alpha Company Commander, executes Aussie rappel. Photo taken by Spc. Rich 51st SIG BN (E).



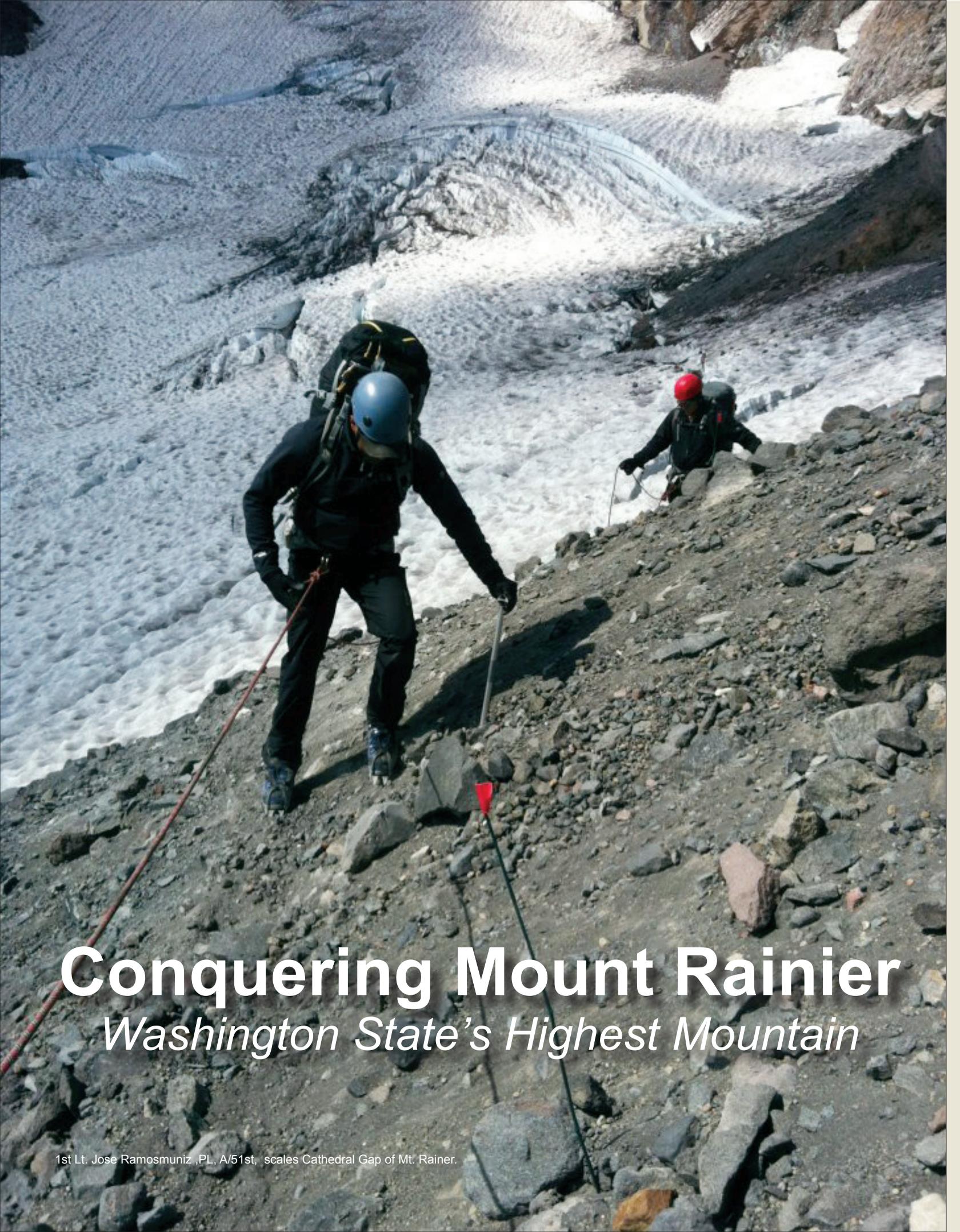
Capt. Perez, 1st Lt. Manuel, 1st Lt. Ramos and 2nd Lt. Montelongo receive Aussie seat instructions from 1st Sgt. Demick at the Aussie rappel lane.

the previous events pushing C CO to the top based on their high marksmanship scores and repel operations.

After completing the confidence course, each team maneuvered the last 2 miles to the post paintball range. Coming in first was Team WO with Team Panther one minute behind. Shortly thereafter, the paintball competition kicked off with the final two (Team Cobra and Team Panther) battling it out. Team Cobra pulled

it out taking out the Battalion XO, Battalion S3, and S3 Operations Officers. Once completing the paintball, everyone returned to the battalion area for a barbeque and announcement of the winner. Each team performed exceptionally and overcame each challenge but Team Cobra rose to the top taking first place for Mercury Challenge II.





# Conquering Mount Rainier

*Washington State's Highest Mountain*

1st Lt. Jose Ramosmuniz, PL, A/51st, scales Cathedral Gap of Mt. Rainier.



Camp Site located at High Camp with a view of the Cascade Mountains.



Photo by the Guide

Capt. Jonathan Perez, commander, 1st Lt. Jose Ramosmuniz, Platoon Leader, and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Searle, Platoon Sgt., reach the Summit of Mt. Rainier and proudly display their guidon.

**Story by 1st Lt. Jose Ramos**  
*Platoon Leader, A Co., 51st ESB*

The leadership of A Co, 51st SB (E) never backs down from a challenge. Therefore, when someone suggested climbing Mount Rainier, Washington State's highest mountain and the most glaciated peak in the continental U.S., Apache leaders Capt. Jonathan Perez (Commander), 1st Lt. Jose Ramos (Platoon Leader) and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Searle (Platoon Sergeant) jumped at the chance. The arrangements for the climb started during their deployment in Afghanistan, which the Company, augmented by some Air Force and Army

personnel, relieved the 44th ESB as part of the drawdown of Forces in Theater.

Redeploying a Company without the immediate assistance of a staff proved to be a strenuous process, which left little to no time to train on specific mountain climbing skills, so we relied heavily on our usual military physical training along with Cross-Fit and weightlifting to prepare for the task which we committed to. We departed Seattle at dawn on September 13 anxious to face this new challenge. As we started our ascent, we quickly discovered that the three-

day ordeal would not be an easy feat, but we continued to push on, gaining altitude with each step in both daylight and darkness, on rocks and snow. After spending the first night on Camp Muir, roughly 10,000 feet above sea level and a five hour trek, we took some classes on basic mountaineering and emergency procedures should the need arise during our summit attempt. Immediately after, we ascended an additional 1,000 feet in hopes to acclimate to higher elevations and improve our breathing. We spent our last night at "High Camp" located on the Ingraham glacier before attempting our summit and then the arduous journey back down this majestic beast.

Summit day started at 0100 with a quick breakfast and a final gear check. We spent over 6 hours overcoming multiple hurdles to include glaciers, crevices, and rock walls all before reaching the crater rim. Once there, the sight and sense of accomplishment was priceless. Just as the sun was cresting over the horizon, we took pictures with the company guide-on and with fellow climbers as we towered over every landmark in the state enjoying the view of a year's worth of planning. Conquering this massive and dangerous volcano goes down in the books for Alpha Company Leaders.

Death Before Dishonor!



Camp Site located at High Camp.

Photos by Capt. Jonathan Perez

# Terrain Walk

Story by Spc. Christian McDuffie  
C Co., 51st ESB

On 26 September 2012, all Soldiers stationed on Joint Base Lewis-McChord participated in a terrain walk. This event allowed Soldiers to familiarize themselves with many of the often-overlooked services on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Soldiers went from one side of the post across to the other, visiting civilian agencies from areas such as the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) program, Child and Family Assistance Center (CAFAC), and Army Community Service program (ACS), to learn about the opportunities these groups offer. Additionally, Soldiers made stops to see other military personnel, to include the Chaplain, JAG, and Soldiers of Madigan Army Hospital. All of this was in support of a week-long stand-down in which all other activities were put to the side in order to focus on a growing problem in the Army: suicide.

Suicide has been an issue of growing concern in the Army and this year the casualties it's caused have been at an all-time high. The loss of a Soldier is already a staggering blow to the morale of a



Soldiers from C Co. 51st Signal Battalion (E) receive a brief from the CRC representatives.

unit and its ability to fight, let alone due to that Soldier taking their own life. This year over 200 Soldiers have been lost to suicide. Suicide is a dangerous enemy that requires constant vigilance and all Soldiers to be on guard to protect each other.

In a written statement, Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army stated, "Suicide is the toughest enemy I have faced in my 37 years in the Army." Suicide is an enemy and must be combatted as such. This is the reason for the terrain walk and safety stand-down. The week's events were not oriented solely at pointing the finger at suicide and trying to prevent it, but taking the aggressive standpoint as

Soldiers are taught from Basic Combat Training onwards: take the fight to the enemy. This week, the Soldiers of Charlie Company, and across JBLM, were armed and with something infinitely more useful than cards or acronyms: knowledge. Agencies informed the Soldiers of the numerous opportunities the Army offers, from dealing with

family issues to seeking help for mental issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress, financial management, to transitioning from the Army to a civilian life.

Instead of focusing on the negative, the theme was much more positive and uplifting: the bond between Soldiers and the community around them and the resources available for recreation and self-aid. At the end of the terrain walk, there weren't tired faces,

wary from lectures read verbatim from Power Point

slide shows written by people hundreds of miles away. This time it was more personal, just like this war on suicide. JBLM Soldiers, Charlie Company Soldiers, all traveling together, bettering themselves as individuals and as a whole. Charlie Company Soldiers were involved, answering questions and asking plenty of their own to increase their wealth of knowledge and take it back to their units and to their families. Together we are stronger, as a squad, a platoon, a company, a battalion, as a brigade and as a team. This is definitely the most effective tactic I have seen so far. Suicide is characterized by dissonance between an individual and those around them, which causes them to distance themselves. This week, we have come closer to closing that gap. We all wear the same flag. Our chests all read U.S. Army over our hearts. We are all a member of one team and it is as this one team that we will win this fight.



Capt. Rohn, commander of Charlie Company 51st Signal Battalion (E), and 1st Sgt. Shriver discuss the information provided by the Army Community Services Financial Readiness section.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Shoffner gives Soldiers a brief about the Family Life Center and Chaplain services.



# NTC Rotation 13-01

*Story by 2nd Lt. Victor Turchany  
Platoon Leader, B Co., 51st ESB*

Bravo Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) deployed to Fort Irwin, California in support of National Training Center Rotation 13-01. This rotation was the second largest rotation executed at NTC requiring extensive communication support above what 1/10 BCT could organically provide. A significant challenge for the Swampdogs as they would deploy, as 12 separate teams across the NTC area of operations supporting 62 Security Force Assistance Teams but one they were eager to take.

Upon their arrival, Bravo Company began validating their communications equipment prior to executing the standard MILES induction. Based on the extensive training the Soldiers received at home station and the additional configuration of their equipment, Bravo Company was able to complete the 1/10 BCT NTC sponsored SWITCHEX in just a matter of days. Once complete with their own equipment, the Swampdogs assisted the remaining elements



Bravo Co. STTs are the first to be set-up and validated during RSOI.

with their equipment troubleshooting and providing technical expertise in installation operations.

The company sliced off to its supporting elements and relied heavily on their previous training as they deployed separately from their company headquarters in multiple convoys. As expected, all of our teams executed flawlessly as professionals and brought adulation to the unit.

The convoys to separate locations went off without a hitch, and the Soldiers instantly began setting up their equipment and establishing communications. Their

continuous efforts during the SWITCHEX paid dividends as they seamlessly installed the network. Once communications were established, they transitioned becoming an integral part of daily operations leading to the Soldiers receiving tactical training that compliments their technical knowledge. The Swampdogs executed tactical ground convoys, perimeter defense operations, MEDEVAC operations, casualty evacuations, medical reaction tasks such as administering first aid, all in the simulated deployed environment. The scenario based training provided invaluable realistic training for the Swampdogs which they performed admirably.

The communication mission was a complete success. The proper preparation by the Bravo Company Soldiers and their strong desire to excel were the cornerstones of this success as exhibited in the numerous Certificates of Achievement and coins received from supporting units. The Warfighters continuously went out of their way to let both the Battalion and Company Commanders know how thankful they were for the Swampdogs dedicated customer service that allowed them to command and control their elements. Their efforts played a critical role in the overall success of the entire NTC rotation. We are all proud of the job that our Soldiers did and we thank you for your continued support. Move aside and let the Swampdogs through!



2nd PLT, SGT Basgall (Right) teaches and mentors SPC Domme (Left) as they establish comms with their STT on FOB Spin Buldak.

# Army Warrior Task Training

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class John Stockton  
A Co., 51st ESB*

The Alpha Company Apaches of 51st Expeditionary Signal Battalion continued their RESET phase of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) this past quarter with individual task training, both technical and tactical. While the bulk of the Soldiers assigned to communication assemblages received their new equipment training on their upgraded Command Post Nodes and Joint Network Nodes, the low-density personnel and select 25Qs conducted Army Warrior Task (AWT) training.

The company maximized their personnel by selecting outgoing NCOs who were due to PCS and did not require the NET classes to conduct round robin style refresher train-

ing on the basic Soldier tasks of Shoot, Move and Communicate. The commander, Capt. Perez, identified the battle drills related to Chemical/Biological attack and First Aid for the subject matter experts to train. Spc. Herrera, the company’s CBRN specialist, taught identification of CBRN markers and masking procedures while Sgt. Moore a prior service Navy Corpsman taught Life Saving Steps and Evaluate a Casualty. The Soldiers trained on the move and communicate portions simultaneously as they learned all of the individual tasks that support moving as a fire team dismounted, navigation, react to contact, calling up SITREP/SPOT reports, and visual signaling within the squad or team. In all,



Sgt. Bisogna gives a block of instruction on Land Navigation to Soldiers of A/51st during an Army Warrior Task round robin.

the Soldiers trained on over 20 individual tasks, but most importantly, it gave the opportunity for the Soldiers and NCOs to get out in the wood line and focus on tactics. The advantage of these tasks trained together encourages Soldiers to think about how the simple mission of moving from one point to the next requires numerous individual skills, which are perishable.

The importance of these refreshers proved to be valuable to the Soldiers, especially after returning from a deployment. Soldiers are often times given the block of instruction without having the frame of reference to understand the information, which was not the case on a bright sunny day here at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.



Spc. Herrera (A/51st) demonstrates how to properly don and clear your protective mask during an CBRNE block of instruction.



A Soldier from A/51st identifies a terrain feature during the Land Navigation block of instruction during an Army Warrior Task round robin.



A training aid is visible in the distance for a SITREP practical exercise during an Army Warrior Task round robin.



# Strong Bonds Retreat



*Story and photos by Chaplain, Capt. Hyuntae Kim  
Unit Ministry team, 51st ESB*

WELCHES, ORE--51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, based in a Joint Base Lewis-McChord hosted Strong Bonds training from October 27, 2012 to October 29, 2012 at the Resort at the Mountain, Ore., for approximately 40 Families to strengthen resilience and coping skills.

The goal of the Strong Bonds Program is to equip Families with the skills to improve their relationships and to obtain symmetry with family and their military career.

Chaplain (Capt.) Hyuntae Kim, assisted by Pfc. Ludlow and Spc. Davis of the battalion unit ministry team, led the event. Spc. Davis kicked off the event with an icebreaker, which allowed the couples to become comfortable with the environment as they transitioned into the training. The focus of the training centered on increasing communication skills in order to develop stronger relationships through the discussion of the differences between men and women. The video "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage," reinforced the differences and introduced tools or approaches to communicating better with your partner. The responses to the video were very positive.

"The most helpful portion of the training was the video and discussion time," a participant said.

Chaplain Kim augmented the training by providing advice, additional skills and spiritual guidance for making a better marriage and family life. Families were given time to discuss and share their



Chaplain Kim talks about relationships and building stronger bonds in a marriage.

knowledge and experiences to include coping skills, and solutions they used to solve problems.

This discussion time complimented the instruction allowing families to share their own, real life experiences as stated by one family member, "The talk time we had with groups was helpful in helping me appreciate my relationship more."

After the training, families took advantage of family time on Sunday afternoon to work together using the new tools or skills learned over the previous two days.

"Everything was very helpful. All of the training was right on. I would really like to apply the advice in our daily lives," said one participant.

The resort, located in the Western Highlands of Mt. Hood, the highest mountain in Oregon allowed families time together to enjoy the sites, relaxing, shopping, or taking advantage of the onsite spa, golf course, or available hiking and mountain climbing. The lodge provided a breadth of choices and balanced the instruction perfectly. Child Care provided by Kids on Site proved invaluable for approximately 50 children, allowing couples to focus on the training and spend one on one time together if they desired.

"The child care offered throughout the retreat absolutely supported me and my spouse to reconnect," one participant said.



Sgt. 1st. Class Bradley

# 51st ESB Battalion Ride

*Story by Staff Sgt. Dennis McVey  
BN motorcycle mentor, 51st ESB*

The 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) Motorcycle Mentorship Program was established in April 2011. The purpose of this program is to help Soldiers who own motorcycles gain more experience and build confidence in their riding abilities.

On 14 September 2012, 51st ESB had 10 motorcycle riders participate in their second annual Battalion Ride. Before the ride began, Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Montoya addressed all riders and explained the purpose of the mentorship program to ensure they understood its importance. Prior to roll out, Command Sgt. Maj. Montoya briefed all riders on the route and sequence of events for the day. Staff Sgt. McVey, the BN motorcycle mentor, ensured that



Photos by Cpl. Michael Warren

Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Montoya (25X), briefing motorcycle riders from 51st Signal Battalion on the importance of safety.



Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Montoya 25X, Spc. Raymond Valenciagould, 25Q, Staff Sgt. Jimmy Solano, 25B, Staff Sgt. James Mueller, 25Q, SSG Raymond Valleau 25S, Sgt. 1st Class, Jonathan Hegyi, 25W, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ewerds, 25Q, and husband, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Bradley, 25W, and Staff Sgt. Dennis McVey, 25L, leave the battalion area for the 51st Signal Battalion Motorcycle Ride.

all riders understood motorcycle safety measures which included: pre-ride inspections, overview of proper personal protective equipment and safe riding techniques.

After ensuring all riders were well prepared for the ride. Command Sgt. Maj. Montoya led the motorcycle group out of the 51st ESB parking lot on a 90-mile route that went through Yelm and passed through Tumwater. The riders then went to lunch at the RAM in Lacey. SSG McVey pulled rear security for the group to ensure that all riders maintained a comfortable pace and to make sure that no rider was left behind. During the ride, mentors ensured that all riders

understood the different riding procedures between group and individual riding.

After making it to the RAM for lunch Command Sgt. Maj. Montoya spoke to all the riders and their family members to build motivation and esprit de corps between all the riders.

The Battalion Ride was an outstanding morale booster for all the riders and their family members. The next ride will be in late October for Bravo Company riders and all other riders that would like to participate. For more information contact Staff Sgt. McVey, the BN Motorcycle Mentor at [dennis.j.mcvey.mil@mail.mil](mailto:dennis.j.mcvey.mil@mail.mil).



# Charlie Company's Combat Lifesavers

Story by 2nd Lt. Paul E. Baker  
C Co., 51st ESB

On 30 October 2012, Charlie Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) sent 28 Soldiers to a four-day Combat Lifesaver (CLS) course offered by 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (BfSB) medics. The instructors design the course specifically for non-medical Soldiers to train on lifesaving procedures. According to the course student guide, the combat lifesaver is a "bridge between the self-aid/buddy-aid (first aid) training given to all Soldiers during basic training and the medical training given to the combat medic." The 201st BfSB organized the class in accordance with Army Medicine (AMEDD) standards. Daily classes occurred from 0900 to 1530 and were broken up between PowerPoint slides and hands-on instruction. The culmination of the training was

a 40-question test and practical exercise.

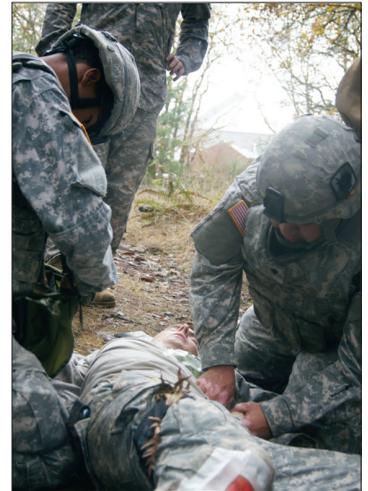
For the practical exercise, the course instructor organized a squad lane. As the squad advanced on the lane, they encountered enemy fire and sustained multiple casualties. After fixing the enemy, the Soldiers assigned the role of CLS addressed each casualty's injury in order precedence. In order to simulate combat stress, the instructors utilized rubber weapons and fake injuries, and required the squad to pull all casualties up a hill on a SKED litter.

Soldiers from the class sounded off, stating that the practical exercise was the best portion of the training. "This is all new," Spc. Neekol Payne said. "In my last CLS class [2 years ago], they only taught PowerPoint slides, gave a NPA (Nasopharyngeal Airway), and stuck you with an IV. This training is a lot better, a lot

harder. It's no joke."

Of the 40 total Soldiers in the class, eight received perfect scores on the written test and on the practical exercise. All eight Soldiers are assigned to Charlie Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary). Spc. Christian McDuffie thought "the instructors challenged us to think outside the box. You can't always go with conventional methods in order to save lives. You have to go with what happens in that moment. It's definitely a class in critical thinking."

After attending the course, the 28 Soldiers from Charlie Company are CLS certified for one full year. After one year, the certification is no longer valid and they are required to recertify. However, if leaders plan appropriately, they can schedule a one-day re-certification class that will enable the active CLS certifications to remain active for another year.



Photos by Spc. Christian McDuffie

Spc. Kendrick Davis (right) secures a pressure bandage from his CLS bag while Spc. Jesus Ortiz applies digital pressure to the Spc. Donnelly's wound.

Approximately 15 to 18 percent of deaths due to ground combat are from injuries that a CLS is trained to take care of. Of these preventable deaths, approximately 9 percent are from a single bleeding wound on the casualty's extremity, a wound treatable with a tourniquet from the Soldier's improved first aid kit (IFAK).

The 201st BfSB medical operation's NCOIC believes that units should strive to have a minimum of 50 percent of Soldiers to be CLS certified. With this, many combat lifesavers, all Soldiers can help to bring the 15 to 18 percent of deaths down to zero.

Again, Spc. McDuffie chimed in, "I felt the importance of CLS skills, fitness, marksmanship, and everything that we do in the Army. It all comes into play. That's why it's important to train everything."



Pfc. Roy Collins treats Spc. Donnelly's arterial wound. The water bottle (right) is simulating the arterial bleed, which can lead to death within five minutes.

# Change of Command Ceremony

## A Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

Story by 1st Lt. Anthony C. Manuel  
A Co., 51st ESB

On October 29, 2012, Capt. Nicholas E. Matthews, incoming Commander, took his first step towards command by beginning his change of command inventories. After several weeks of long hours staring at hand receipts and verifying equipment, inventories finally came to a halt and preparation for the Change of Command



Spc. Lamb presenting flowers to outgoing spouse Marlyne Perez, Capt. Perez's wife.

ceremony began.

On the morning of November 30, 2012, Capt. Jonathan Q. Perez, outgoing Commander, stepped foot in his office one last time and began packing his personal belongings as he reminisced through two years worth of memories as Commander of the Apaches. Prior to PT formation, the Apaches donned their new Apache shirts and followed through with the traditional warm up exercises. The battle tested Apache 6 led one final charge with the sound of familiar cadence and battle cries of the Soldiers of A Co.

On a rare sunny Washington morning at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, A Co 51st SB(E) held a Change of Command Ceremony November 30, 2012. The company conducted the ceremony to welcome the new incoming commander, Capt. Matthews, and bid farewell to the outgoing commander, Capt. Perez. Presiding

over the ceremony was Lt. Col. David R. Lamy, Commander of 51st SB(E), and in special attendance was Col. Thomas A. Pugh, Commander of 35TH SIG BDE.

During this time honored ceremony, Lt. Col. Lamy spoke to the audience about the type of leader Capt. Perez was and commended him on his exceptional leadership these past two years and was eager to see Capt. Matthews in his new role as Commander.

Capt. Perez walked to the podium to speak to his Company one last time and expressed his thanks to the Apaches and hoped he had given something to everyone to take away from his short time as Commander.

After taking command of A Co, Capt. Matthews spoke to his Company for the first time and humbly conveyed his willingness to serve all the soldiers and family members of the mighty Apache tribe and con-



Lt. Col. Lamy, Commander of 51st ESB, bestowing the guide on to Capt. Matthews, incoming Commander.

tinue its storied legacy of being the best in the Lion Brigade and officially signed in as Apache 6. Death before dishonor!



Photos by Private 1st Class Ludlow, Chaplain's Assistant

A Co 51st SB(E) formed up in preparation for the Change of Command ceremony.



Colonel Thomas A. Pugh, the 35th Signal Brigade Commander, passes the Battalion Colors of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion to Lt. Col. Michael P. Martel, the new 63rd ESB Commander, as the outgoing Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Keith A. Garwold (far left), looks on during the 63rd ESB Change of Command Ceremony on Barton Field on November 2, 2012.

# The 63rd Signal Battalion Welcomes New Commander

*Story by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade*

The 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, held a Change of Command Ceremony November 2, 2012 at Barton Field.

The ceremony was to welcome in the new incoming battalion commander, Lt. Col. Michael P. Martel, and to say farewell to the outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Keith A. Garwold.

During this time honored ceremony Col. Thomas A. Pugh, commander of 35th Sig. Bde., spoke to the audience about the type of leader Lt. Col. Garwold showed during his two years in command of 63rd ESB.

“Lt. Col. Garwold drilled and exercised his companies to technical and tactical excellence and then individually deployed each one,” said Pugh. “Keith Garwold is a quiet, but affective leader, who cares about

his Soldiers and their Families. I believe this trait to be his real key to success.”

Garwold commanded the 63rd through deployments and redeployments of A, B and C Companies, all at different times in his 2 years as commander. He also most recently prepared, certified and deployed the 518th Signal Company to Afghanistan.

Garwold walked to the podium to speak to his battalion one last time. “The 63rd has completed its missions, learned and grew. Despite the operational tempo, the battalion put dozens of its Soldiers’ names on the commandant lists, honor graduate status at the NCOES schools and led the Lion Brigade both years in retention.”

After taking command of 63rd ESB, Martel spoke to his battalion for the first time. “63rd, I am honored to stand

before you as your commander. Serving you and this battalion is a responsibility I take very seriously. I promise I will give you my best every day and I ask the same from you.”

Martel’s most recent assignment was the S6 for the 75th Ranger Regiment, where he deployed five times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom as a Joint Special Operations Task Force J6.

“Today, the 63rd ESB stands ready to add another line to its extremely impressive lineage,” said Col. Pugh. “It will do so with Lt. Col. Martel at the helm.”



# Jimmie Dyess Days

*Story and photos by Capt. Devon O. Thomas  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade*

A Company, and B Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, supported Jimmy Dyess Days Oct. 5 to 7 at Barton Field by providing communication support and educating hundreds of Boy Scouts from Georgia and South Carolina about tactical communication systems.

Boy Scouts were shown how 35th SIG BDE units support brigade combat teams and corps level assets.

Gene Fisher is

active in the Boy Scouts and a physician at the Medical College of Georgia, who appreciated the communication displays of the unit and respected how disciplined and professional 63rd ESB personnel were briefing the Boy Scouts.

“I have been really impressed with the genuine care they provide these Boy Scouts,” Fisher said. “I think it is a great example for the youth, and I think it shows how great Soldiers are.”



Spc. Winton C. Gilmore, an information technology specialist from A Co., 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), briefs Boy Scouts on the satellite transportable terminal on Oct. 6, 2012, during Jimmie Dyess Days on Barton Field. Units from 63rd ESB briefed hundreds of Boy Scouts a day during the event.

The A Co., 63rd ESB command post node

team of Sgt. Marius E. Yinh, a cable systems installer-maintainer, and Spc. Winton C. Gilmore, an information technology specialist, showed Boy Scouts and volunteers how the satellite transportable terminal functioned and demonstrated how CPN phones worked by calling another CPN located on Barton Field.

There were some kids who were really into the technical aspects of our equipment and asked a lot of questions, said Yihn. Soldiers from B Co., 63rd ESB encountered over 300 people on Saturday alone.

“Meeting and greeting people during this event has been a good experience,” said Pfc. Alec C. Heathcock,

an information technology specialist from B Co., who described capabilities of the Joint Network Node, with Spc. Cody A. Turney, a microwave systems operator-maintainer.

“Helping out the kids makes you feel good about yourself,” Turney said. Spc. Denys C. Uwitonze, an information technology specialist from B Co., 63rd ESB, demonstrated how SINGCARS radios worked in a Humvee. “One Boy Scout has been in the Humvee for hours, asking how SINGCARS and how Army communications work in general,” said Uwitonze. He wants to be a Special Forces communication sergeant when he grows up.”



Sgt. Marius E. Yinh, a cable systems installer-maintainer from A Co., 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, explains to Boy Scouts how a Command Post Node phone reaches to other subscribers during Jimmie Dyess Days on Barton Field on Oct. 6. 63rd ESB personnel provided communication displays and support to the event.





Spc. Adrian A. De La Rosa, a satellite communications operator, shares a laugh with Kristy Grabczynski, an Evans Ga., native, as her two sons Matt and Joe look at the Satellite Transportable Terminal at the 27 annual Ruth Patrick Science Education Enrichment Day at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus on Oct. 13.

# Ruth Patrick Science Education Enrichment Day

*Story and photo by Capt. Devon O. Thomas  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade*

Fort Gordon service members have long made an active and positive contribution in the Central Savannah River Area, and 35th Signal Brigade Soldiers continued that tradition during a recent community outing.

Soldiers from the brigade’s 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) participated in the 27th annual Ruth Patrick Science Education Enrichment Day at the University of South Carolina Aiken Campus Oct. 13. More than 3,300 people were at the event.

“SEED serves to connect and inspire the citizens of the CSRA, especially our youth, with the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and the joy of discovery,” said John Hutch-

ens, the director of special programs for the Ruth Patrick Science Center.

The Satellite Transportable Terminal display was among other activities that demonstrated science, technology and engineering innovations from corporations, museums, national labs and educators.

According to Spc. Adrian A. De La Rosa, a satellite communications operator assigned to A Co., 63 ESB, adults many asked questions on the capabilities of the equipment and what personnel do in the military in general.

De La Rosa explained how the STT provides phone and Internet communications on the battlefield in minutes.

“Many high school, junior high and middle school students ask general questions of what we do on a day-to-day

basis,” said De La Rosa.

Kristy Grabczynski, a mother of four and an Evans Ga., native, brought her sons Joe, 9, and Matt, 7, to the event.

“I am always amazed with the technology that is involved,” Grabczynski said. “To be able to explain how it works in the field... it’s impressive on the youth today.”

Other members of the community were impressed by the technological advancement of the 35th SIG BDE equipment.

“I appreciate the insight of how the military uses communication systems to support the frontlines,” said Andrew Hendrix, the director of admissions for USC Aiken. “As someone who has never served in the military, I have respect for the actions and sacrifices of our service members.”



# Jingle Jamming!

Story and photos by Capt. Rosenecker  
63rd ESB

Santa Claus shaking hands with the Grinch, mommy kissing Santa Claus, running Christmas tree's, even a "Wicked Ice Queen of the North" were all sights to see at this years' annual 10k Jingle Jam. Soldiers of 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion participated in the 6.2 mile fun run located at Evans Towne Park in Evans,

GA on December 1st 2012.

Getting out and supporting the local community is imperative to sustaining a good rapport with the community. Runners from 63rd Signal Battalion enjoyed their time at this event and will continue to support their communities in the future.

Hosted by volunteers



Capt. Rosenecker crossing over the Jingle Jam starting line.



Santa Claus and the Grinch bring the Holiday Spirit during the pre-race festivities.

from the Central Savannah River Area, this years' Jingle Jam provided 6.2 miles of cheer filled roads for participants to run or walk down. This festive run took place around the Evans Towne Center Park and the route meandered through the residential neighborhoods that surround the park.

Runners, with jingle bells around their wrists and ankles, made their way to the starting line where all was merry and all were jolly. As the crack of the starting gun was shot – the sound of 505 runners and walkers pushed across the starting line in a wave of holiday fun. Throughout the course, runners were cheered on with holiday music and carolers aiming at maintaining this festive

theme. There were volunteers everywhere during this race offering water and assistance to the participants while spreading holiday cheer in support of the SafeHomes Domestic Violence Intervention.

This year's turnout was quite successful, raising over \$30,000. The SafeHomes provides a multitude of services to all victims of domestic violence. Some of these services include: 24-hour crisis line, free confidential shelter, and emotional support. SafeHomes is committed to ending domestic violence and willing to provide support to those in need. This years' first place winner was Justin Weegar whose mother unfortunately was a victim of domestic violence when he was only 13 years old.

# Battalion S-1 of the Quarter

*Story by 1st Lt. Brian Wharton  
S1, 63rd ESB*

The Brigade S-1 has recently developed a friendly competition between the 35th Signal Brigades four battalions that focuses on the overall improvement of customer service. The competition focuses on five separate areas, each representing an aspect of a Soldiers career within the battalions. Percentages are tallied from specific areas such as current life insurance and emergency contact information, good conduct medals, flags over 180 days, unslotted Soldiers, and late evaluations. At the end of each month, the Brigade S-1 pulls each battalions numbers and at the end of each quarter, a winner is announced.

The ceremony itself was held in the brigade conference room and was presided over by COL Pugh and CSM Ramos.

The results of the competition were kept secret until the day of the presentation. An hour before the ceremony the 63D Signal Battalion S-1, 1LT Wharton, answered a call from brigade that his shop had anticipated for three months. The call simply said "Bring your Command Team..."

For 4th quarter, FY12, the champion of this competition was the 63D Signal Battalion. With a combined average of over 98%, the 63D S-1 proved itself to be one of the most proficient human resources sections in the brigade. When describing the win, MAJ Eder, the then Battalion Executive Officer said "The 63D ESB S-1 shop has continued to refine its operations, providing first rate customer service to the entire Battalion. It is only fitting that

they are recognized as the best S-1 shop in the Brigade. I have no doubt that all the Soldiers in the S-1 shop will continue to strive for excellence and continue to win the quarterly competitions."

Each member of the 63D S-1 staff was presented a certificate of achievement, worth 5 promotion points, by the Brigade commander and Command Sergeant Major. Furthermore, each member was presented a 63D Signal Battalion coin of excellence by the Battalion Commander and Battalion CSM. The aspect of this ceremony that stuck with each Soldier was the recognition each received by the chain of command for their daily outstanding contributions. "This is a pretty awesome day" said SPC Witherspoon, awards clerk for the 63D S-1.



Pictured left to Right:  
Sgt. 1st Class Stephane Lapeine, Sgt. Tia Jefferson, Spc. Alexis Johnston, Spc. Chauncey Witherspoon, Sgt. Lizzette Reyes, Pfc. Lyniesha Saintil, Spc. Brandi Suarez, 1st Lt. Brian Wharton, \*Not Pictured- Megan Kennington



# Augusta in Army Boots

## Walk in a Soldier's Shoes




Story by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade

In the early hours of the morning, soldiers and civilians walked through the doors of the Bicentennial Chapel conference room in groups of twos and threes. Within minutes the conference room was full of conversation, rising and falling like the waves of the ocean.

Everyone lined up for a hot breakfast, then took their place at the tables to eat and listen to 1st Lt. Walter Reall give a safety brief and explain the events to come.

The eight civilians and their military sponsors are here to participate in Fort Gordon's Augusta in Army Boots program sponsored by 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) and 35th Signal Brigade from Oct. 24-25.

The Augusta in Army Boots program gives civilians, leaders within their own community, a chance to wear the Army uniform and experience a day in the life of a soldier in an up close and personal way.

In turn, these leaders become ambassadors for the Army in the Central Savannah River Area by sharing their experiences with family, friends, and co-workers. This gives the community a better understanding of the achievements and difficulties soldiers face on a daily basis.

“Our soldiers get a greater understanding of the people they live around and it is a mutual advantage because the leaders in the CSRA get a

better understanding of the Fort Gordon community. It enriches the community as a whole,” said Lt. Col. Keith A. Garwold, commander of the 63rd ESB.

The first day began with training in Combat Life Saver skills provided by soldiers from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Medical Center that ranged from clearing an airway to treating an open chest wound.

Next was on to the floor mats for a couple of rounds with a certified Combatives Instructor. The instructor gave everyone a chance to practice basic guard positions, and then they were taught how

to put an enemy in a choke hold. The final lesson was how to do a proper arm bar hold that would have any opponent tapping out in seconds.

“This program was very intense; you have to be in check mentally, physically, and have a plan. It was not what I expected, it was more. I think it gave me a little insight into what my own son, an airborne ranger, has gone through,” said Rachael Grant, a corporate manager with Verizon Wireless.

The afternoon was full of instruction on basic rifleman skills; high and low crawl, react to direct and indirect fire, and how to clear a room. These skills were later used when the participants were put to the test with a weapons cache scenario. This type of training scenario involved searching a whole village of civilians for a weapons cache, with the possibility of engaging with enemy

in the area.

Steven Scott, the chief operating officer at Georgia Health Sciences Medical Center, said, “Personally, I thought it was incredible and very life changing for me in terms of understanding what soldiers must go through to prepare mentally and physically, in order to maintain safety and achieve their target.”

The weapons cache scenario also pointed out how important leadership is in the field and knowing who to look for, in a cloudy, sightless situation, said Scott.



The eight civilians and their military sponsors pose for a group shot after completing the 26-hour program.

The eight civilians pose for a group photo before the Augusta in Army Boots program begins.





# Veteran's Day at Bel Air Elementary School

*Story by Capt. Devon O. Thomas  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade*

Four hundred elementary students waving American Flags, while teachers, wearing red, white and blue, listen to the soundtrack of patriotic music in the air.

Soldiers from 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) participated in the Bel Air Elementary School Veteran's Day program on Nov. 12 in Evans Ga.

Sgt. Mario D. Ferrario, a multichannel transmissions operator from Alpha Company, 67th ESB delivered the special message. Ferrario thanked all service members past and present by asking them to come up to the stage and thanked them for their service.

"Seeing everybody's face and everyone being there touched my heart," said Ferrario. "My grandfather served

in the Vietnam War and the Korean War, and to see everyone support that... it got me choked up."

After the special mes-

sage, Soldiers from 67th ESB displayed their Humvee, which was toured by all grades in the school. The Soldiers also showed personnel facing movements and did pushup and sit up exercises with the students.

"We hope that this program today has been an appropriate tribute to those veterans here, and those who have made the supreme sacrifice. We also hope this is a powerful lesson to the students here today to enjoy those freedoms because of so many have gone before them and made those sacrifices," said Principal Wandy Golosky of Bel Air Elementary School.

Spc. David J. Orosco, a multichannel transmissions operator/maintainer with Alpha Company, said the children had a good time during the physical

training demonstration.

*"I think this is a good way to help out the kids and being a great help to the community," said Orosco.*

We showed students controls on the Humvee and let them sit in the back and take pictures. The kids had fun honking the horn and pretending to drive the Humvee, said Spc. David B. Looper, a multichannel transmission operator with Charlie Company.



Photos by Capt. Devon O. Thomas

A student from Bel Air Elementary School salutes Spc. Kennedy F. Rice from Alpha Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), as Spc. David J. Orosco from A Co., 67th ESB looks on.



Sgt. Mario D. Ferrario of Alpha Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), teaches Bel Air Elementary School Students how to do the sit up exercise in Army cadence. Sgt. Ferrario was the special guest speaker at the Elementary School.

# The 67th Prepares for Deployment

## Keeping Soldier's Skills Sharp

Story by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter  
Public Affairs, 35th Signal Brigade

The 67th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade conducted a Culminating Training Exercise with the 35th Signal Brigade Headquarters Oct. 15-19, 2012 at Fort Gordon, Ga.

The CTE is the last major training exercise a unit does before deployment to evaluate the total battalion mission readiness.

"We had a five day exercise to prepare us for our upcoming deployment to make sure we're trained in our soldier skills and communication skills, so individual teams and their staff are prepared to do the mission. When I say soldier skills, we're not only communicators, we are soldiers first. So we've had different scenario injects that we have been involved with throughout the week to make sure our leaders are adaptive. Most of those scenarios are realistic to what we may or may not see, at least they've seen it once and had some familiarity with it and have the necessary staff battle drills to execute the mission successfully," said Lt. Col. Calondra Fortson, commander, 67th ESB.

This type of exercise requires the 67th ESB to take its five basic types of signal equipment out to a field site to be tested for deployment. The teams set up their Joint Network Nodes, Single Shelter Switches, Tactical Troposcatter communication systems, also refer to as a TROPO, Command



Soldiers, assigned to the 67th ESB, set-up their field office during the CTE.



Photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter

Sgt. Fredrick Kaneck, a 25S and team chief, and Spc. Justina Lopez, a 25Q, assigned to C Company, 67th ESB, conduct diagnostics of a Phoenix satellite antenna Oct. 18, at a training area on Fort Gordon, Ga. This was part of 67th Signal Battalion's Culminating Training Exercise with the 35th Signal Brigade Headquarters Oct. 15-19, 2012 at Camden, S.C., Winnsboro, S.C., and Fort Gordon Ga.

Post Nodes, and the Phoenix satellite antenna equipment to be validated for mission readiness. This involves team building and accessing their ability to provide communication support services in a tactical environment.

Sgt. Fredrick Kaneck, a satellite communication systems operator maintainer and a team chief for C Company, said "My team operates the Phoenix, a self-contained satellite antenna hooked to a SSS, which provides four ways of communication anytime, anywhere around the world."

The CTE also included strategic mission training for B. Company. We replicated scenarios for our Soldiers that will do Technical Control Mission during their deployment. We have five Technical Control Facilities set up for each type of mission, said 1st Sgt. John Bond, B Company.

This week we have been focusing on training as we would fight down range. Each TCF will be unique to each set of

customer, said Capt. Thomas Cayia, commander, B Company.

Spc. Ryan Tucker, a 25 B, an information technology specialist, assigned to B Company, said, "I was completing online training for help desk operations to learn how to trouble shoot switches, routers, write trouble tickets and provide remedies."

This week we have been focusing on training as we would fight down range. Each TCF will be unique to each set of customer, said Capt. Thomas Cayia, commander, B Company.

During this exercise the Observer Controllers also threw in everyday life situations that Soldiers deal with during deployments like emergency leave, sexual harassment, suicides, and mental issues to ensure the staff is trained to handle these situations appropriately, said Command Sgt. Maj. Andy G. Frye.



# FRG helps Military Families 'Wrap Up' Holiday Shopping

*Story by Spc. Maran Mascaro Hancock  
HHC, 67th ESB*

Scissors snipped rapidly through brightly colored paper, as the worker carefully measured a box. With a few speedy movements and just a bit of tape, the worker folded the wrapping precisely, covering the present. With the final flourish of a bow, the gift was ready for a recipient, come Christmas morning.

It could be a scene straight from Santa's workshop, but in this case, the holiday picture was seen at the Fort Gordon PX, where the Family Readiness Group for HHC, 67th ESB provided gift wrapping services during the holiday season.

Spearheaded by the efforts of HHC 67th ESB FRG Leader, Jamie Rozell, both Soldiers and family members contributed their time and effort during four different outings, which began in November. Volunteers gathered and were ready to wrap, for

two time blocks at the PX, and the other two were held at the PXtra.

In what has become something of a holiday tradition at Fort Gordon, community volunteer groups are invited to participate in the annual program by wrapping gifts for holiday shoppers, which can be an invaluable time saver during a season that can be hectic. In exchange, shoppers can leave donations for the service. The workspace, tables, and wrapping supplies were made available by the Exchange.

"In order to make the holidays a little easier, the Exchange partners with local groups to ensure gifts can be wrapped up before they even leave the store," Sheila Miller, Main Store Manager, said in a November AAFES press release to the Fort Gordon Signal. "Beyond offering a one-stop solution for busy military shoppers, this effort also helps raise money for local military support initiatives."



Photos by 1st Lt. Paul Rozell.  
Pvt. Vickers and Pfc. Janssen wrapping gifts at the PX.

The 67th HHC FRG will use the money raised through participation in the gift wrapping program to fund upcoming events.



# Turkey Bowl 2012



*Story by C Co., 67th ESB*

It's been an extremely busy past couple of months for the Charlie Company "Cobras." Charlie Company will soon be heading down range and there has been a lot of prep work on vehicles, systems, and personal gear that needed to be completed in order to deploy. The Cobras have worked early mornings and late nights washing and prepping vehicles, completing inventories, load plans, and inspections of all of the equipment that is going forward. The work, despite the short time given, was a model of professionalism. All of the hard work was rewarded though as the Soldiers are currently on

block leave, enjoying time with both friends and family. Despite the long hours, don't think it is all work and no play in Charlie Company. On November 16th, The Cobras participated in the 67th ESB's Turkey Bowl, an annual football game where Officers and NCOs of the 67th ESB compete for bragging rights. After a year of anticipation and one well played game, the final score was 35 to 36, revealing the officers as this year's winners.

In spirit of the Christmas Holiday, Charlie Company Soldiers and FRG members wrapped presents at the Fort Gordon Post Exchange in order to raise money for future FRG events. The Soldiers and FRG



LEFT: NCO team

RIGHT: Officer team

members spent a combined 20 hours wrapping presents and raised a little over \$400. The money from the fundraiser will be used for the upcoming Charlie Company Christmas party as well as various activities for the

families of the Soldiers while they are deployed.

From all of the Soldiers and family members of the Charlie Company Cobras, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

# Pre-Deployment Block Leave

Story by Spc. Andrea Pierce  
C Co., 67th ESB

Soldiers of the 67th Expeditionary Signal Battalion have submitted their leave packets, packed their bags and said "goodbye" to the motor pool and companies for a well-deserved two week break. Private 1st Class Cory Williams, assigned to C. Co., says, "Holidays are a great time of year. It's a great time for block leave." During November 19, 2012 until December 16, 2012, block leave has been split into two separate groups. While the first group vacationed, the Soldiers of the 67th ESB continued to prepare their units for the upcoming deployment. Tricones were packed, sealed, and shipped. All of the Orders and Soldier Readiness Packets were finalized.

While the second group was enjoying their time away, the remaining Soldiers continued to

finish their mandatory training and last minute missions to ease into the last couple of weeks they have state side.

During this time Soldiers have all celebrated Thanksgiving. Recently married Pvt. Alexander Bishop, assigned to B Co., 67th ESB, spent Thanksgiving with his wife and brother-in-law. This year his family slaughtered and baked their very own thirty pound turkey.

Bishop said, "It was just nice spending time with my new wife and Family."

Sergeant Austin Draper, a self proclaimed football fanatic, talked about the best game he saw while on leave. The first Thursday night of leave he went to Buffalo Wild Wings with fellow noncommissioned officers to watch the Falcons play the Saints.

"It was the rematch of the

season. It was a statement game. We needed to win and we won. I'm also looking forward to watching the Falcons beat the Giants."

Staff Sgt. Terence Davis spent time with his wife, Thresha, and their two children in Connecticut.

"It was an overdue family gathering. It was the first time the whole family has been able to get together," said Davis.

Davis's wife is a Staff Sgt. in the Air Force, and she is stationed at a base four hours away. The distance makes it difficult for them to spend time together as often as they would like.

Davis explained, "Being able to get away from work and be with my family was the best part of leave. My situation is different, and I don't get to see my family every day."

With the deployment days away, Sgt 1st Class David Nile, assigned to B Co., 67th ESB, was asked if he felt the allotted time for block leave was enough, he replied, "Any type of leave is a good chance to spend with your

family and recuperate. However, leave never seems like long enough."

Capt. Thomas Cayia, assigned to B Co., commander of 67th ESB, said, "Leave is a great opportunity to recharge the batteries. It also provides good resilience to have some time away. My favorite part of leave was getting to show off my pregnant wife to my family members."

Going home is not always an option for Soldiers. Sgt Charles Bryant is a geographical bachelor who chose to stay in the local Augusta area during his time off.

"For Thanksgiving I went to a church function with a best friend. I got to meet new people, enjoy the potluck meal, and focus on my blessings. I am thankful for family and good friends."

Whether Soldiers are visiting family, following the football season or just enjoying time at home, leave is a time to relax, rejuvenate and mentally prepare for upcoming missions for our Army.

## Lightning Force Shooting Range

Story and photo by Spc. Kennedy F. Rice II  
A Co., 67th ESB

The 67th Signal Battalion (Exhibitionary) participated in an M16 shooting range qualification day at Range 11 on Fort Gordon, Georgia December 11th, 2012.

Alpha Company ran the qualification range for the rest of the 67th ESB.

A blanket of clouds covered the sky as Alpha Company occupied the range. After setting up the Combat Lifesaver truck and the ammo point, the firing orders began to file in. The red flag was raised and the range was hot.

For many of the Lion Brigade soldiers, this range would be the last chance for them to zero and qualify with their weapon before leaving for deployment.

"I am only here to zero my weapon because I was assigned a new one" said Spc. Eric Gillette, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company 67th soldier and driver for the battalion commander. Spc. Gillette, of course, is referring to the new M16 he was assigned when he was moved from Alpha Company to HHC as part of one of the many personnel shifts for the deployment.

The qualification range and the personnel shifts are just two of the many measures taken to prepare the unit to deploy, a process that also includes field training to develop and reinforce tactical and technical skills, daily physical fitness conditioning, roll-over training, and the completion of soldier readiness processing packets to ensure the soldiers are mentally

and medically capable.

As the red flag is lowered to signal the end of the qualification day, Alpha Company soldiers police the brass, pack the gear and weapons and prepare to close shop. With the success of the Alpha Company led shooting range, the 67th ESB is one step closer to being ready to deploy and accomplish the mission.



1st Lt. Adam M. Wheeler, Executive Officer for C Co., takes aim at his targets, while in the kneeling position.



Story by Master Sgt. Shelia J. Obleton  
Career Counselor, 35th Signal Brigade

**EXTRA, EXTRA, read all about it!!!**  
*Have you heard what's new with the Post 9/11 GI Bill?*

The Post 9/11 GI Bill allows service members (officer, enlisted, active duty, and Selected Reserve) to transfer unused education benefits to their dependents. This program permits servicemembers to share their education benefits with their immediate family members, a long requested item among military family readiness and advocacy groups.

# RETENTION BEAT THE DRAW DOWN



**What's new?**

After 1 August 2013 ALL Soldiers will incur a 4 year additional service obligation.

This additional service obligation must be completed in the same component. The total service is active service and participating Selective Reserve Service. The Soldier's service obligation starts on the date the Soldier is first eligible and elects to transfer their benefits.

It is important to take advantage of the Post 9/11 GI Bill now instead of waiting, if you qualify.

Currently, depending on the total

time a Soldier has in the Army as of 1 August 2009 they may possibly have anywhere from no service remaining requirement to 1, 2, 3, or a 4 year service remaining requirement.

If you elect to wait until 1 August 2013 you will incur a 4 year service remaining requirement regardless of how much total time in the Army you have when you elect to transfer your benefits.

Go see your servicing Career Counselor today to see if you qualify to transfer your education benefits.



Story by Sgt. 1st Class Rowan H. Stevens  
HHC, 35th Signal Brigade

Hello "Lion Brigade"! This is Sgt. 1st Class Rowan H. Stevens again. I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and if you experienced some not so good moments, my hopes are that you used "Resilience" to help you cope with the holiday stress. During the 2nd Quarter, FY

# Resilience

13, we will learn how to Detect Icebergs and Identify Strengths in Self and Others. These are some of the seven skills needed to enhance Soldiers effectiveness in helping to build the competencies that contribute to resilience.

We as leaders care about the resilience of our families and friends. Every installation has Family Resilience Training set up to teach resilience that helps cope with stress.

One thing I challenge each Soldier to do on a daily basis is to "Hunt the Good Stuff". Hunting the Good Stuff is a way to look at your daily lives and focus on the positive and not the negative. Some examples of good stuff are "waking up and your child gives you a hug and tells you to have a good day". So, each day, take some time and write down three good things that happen to you and reflect

on what those things mean to you.

As a reminder, if a Soldier or family member needs assistance, we work with the following agencies and personnel to provide counseling; ACS, Chaplain, Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC), Behavioral Health, Social Work Services and Army Center for Enhanced Performance (ACEP). Resilience for family members is taught by ACS; however, if family members need assistance, the MRT will provide that assistance. They will then be referred to ACS and enrolled in classes on resilience for spouses. Each installation has an ACS MRT who can provide the classes for spouses.

"Utmost of Our Ability; We are the Lion Brigade"!



# Equal Opportunity



Story by Sgt. 1st Class Samuel T. Lagrou  
EOA, 35th Signal Brigade

Hello Lion Brigade,

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. I encourage each and every one of you to stop by and say hello. My main focus is the fair and equal treatment of all soldiers. I look forward to meeting each and everyone one of you.

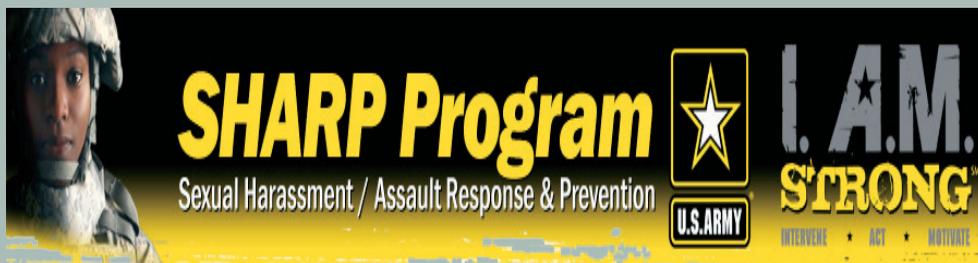
SFC Samuel T. Lagrou  
35th Signal Brigade EOA  
Bldg: 25426  
BB: 706-831-9434

As you know that army has been changing back and forth and like before here is the current policies. Below is a chart for the current topics covered by each program.

We also recognized two national observances this quarter: Hispanic Heritage Month and National American Indian Heritage Month. Every quarter, I invite you to join the Fort Gordon community in celebrating our national observances. This is a time to reflect upon our history so that we can expand our future.

In closing, I hope everyone has a great holiday season and I look forward to working with you here in the 35th Signal Brigade.

EO	SHARP	IG
Race	Sexual Harassment	Sexual Orientation
Religion	Sexual Assault	Reprisal
Color		Other Issues
National Origin		
Gender		



Three Categories of Sexual Harassment:  
Part III – Physical Contact in Sexual Harassment

In the previous articles of the Three Categories of Sexual Harassment, I talked about verbal and non-verbal sexual harassment. In those articles we discussed how comments and gestures that are sexual in nature could easily be viewed as sexual harassment. Unwanted sexually explicit jokes, profanity and comments, including terms of endearment are unacceptable. Non-verbal actions such as leering, blowing kisses, licking of the lips in a sexual manner, sending, posting or displaying pictures

in a sexual nature are unacceptable also.

Until now, the situations we have explored have been non-physical in nature. The third category of sexual harassment is physical contact. Physical contact within itself is not grounds for sexual harassment. Lets face it sometimes we are put in situations where we have no choice but to touch other people. When we go to the range, we ride on trucks where space is limited. There could be any number of situations where there are more people than available space. How do we handle these types of situations? We get everyone to the destination as safely as possible with the available resources. Physical contact becomes an issue when there is unwelcomed deliberate or repeated



Story by Sgt. 1st Class Michael T. Perkins  
HHC, 35th Signal Brigade

contact. This type of physical contact becomes sexual harassment and it is a direct violation of Army Policy; which states that sexual harassment is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Anyone that deliberately or repeatedly touches, pats, pinches or grabs



anyone without permission is guilty of sexual harassment. There have been cases where the harasser bumps the victim seemingly by accident when passing them in the hallway or in other tight places. Ok, once could have been considered an accident if there are none of the other elements of sexual harassment involved. Cornering or blocking the passage way is another way form of sexual harassment. Obstructing someone's path is not limited to tight spaces. An example is the "cat and mouse" game. Person number one is walking in a particular direction and person number two jumps out in front of them. When the first person moves out of the way, person number two jumps or positions themselves in front of person number one again. Unless you are involved in a game of basketball, football or etc., this behavior is unacceptable.

Furthermore, it doesn't matter how well you think you know someone. Kissing and providing unsolicited back or neck rubs are more examples of unacceptable physical contact that could cause you to have a sexual harassment complaint filed against

you.

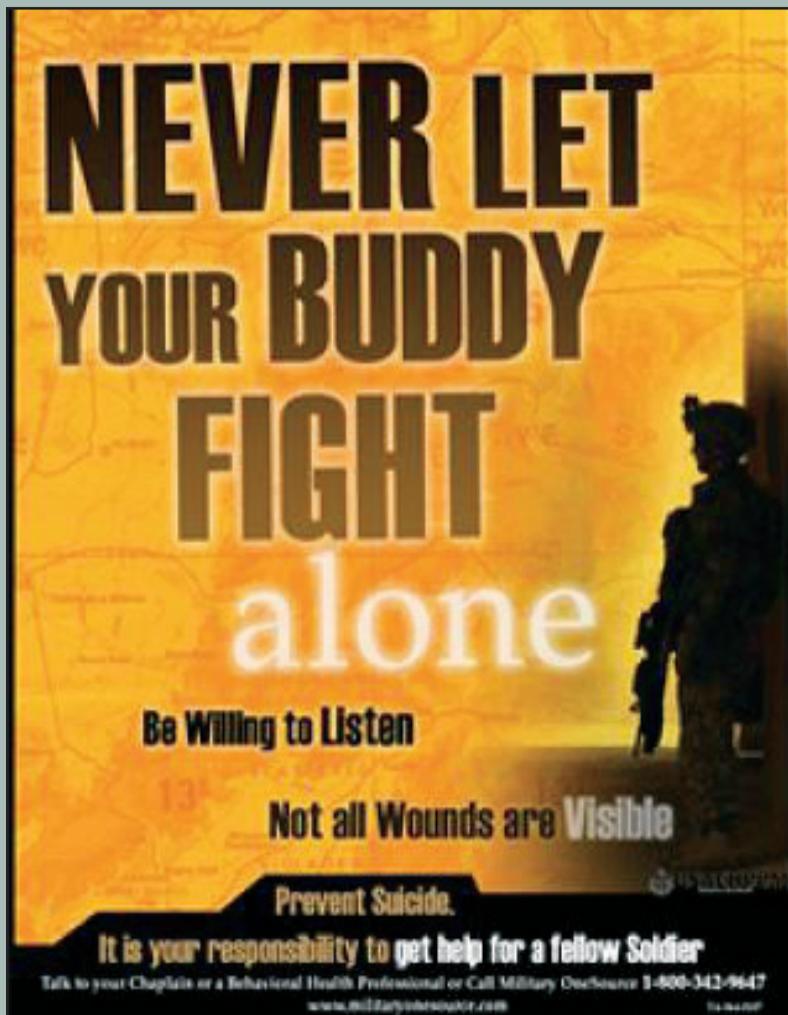
Ladies and gentlemen, sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Army Policy and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Sexual harassment can be verbal, nonverbal or physical. Any unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when submission to or rejection of this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. Any person in a supervisory or command position who uses or condones implicit or explicit sexual behavior to control, influence, or affect the career, pay, or job of a Soldier or civilian employee is engaging in sexual harassment. Similarly, any Soldier or civilian employee who makes deliberate or repeated unwelcome verbal comments, gestures, or physical contact of a sexual nature is engaging in sexual harassment. The U.S. Equal Employment Commission,

including but not limited to the following, provides this list of Sexual harassment facts:

- The victim as well as the harasser may be a woman or a man. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.
- The harasser can be the victim's supervisor or subordinate, an agent of the employer, a supervisor in another section, a co-worker, or a non-employee.
- The victim does not have to be the person harassed but could be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.
- Unlawful sexual harassment may occur without economic injury to or discharge of the victim.
- The harasser's conduct must be unwelcome.

Although it would wonderful if the victim would tell the harasser that the offensive conduct is unwelcomed and it must stop, it is not required. There are several options available to stopping sexual harassment. You have the option to confront the harasser directly or you could send a note detailing what the offensive behavior is and how it is impacting you. Requesting assistance from a friend or co-worker is also an option. They could speak on your behalf in order to get the situation resolved. Utilization of the chain of command is always an option to stop the harassing behavior. If you have tried any of these options or if you feel that the harassment is too serious for these options, you always have the right to file a formal complaint. It would be ideal to be able to go to work, do your job and not have to worry about being sexually harassed. Unfortunately, we are still working on achieving that goal. If you feel that you have been sexually harassed or you know of someone being harassed, it is your duty to intervene. Studies show that if sexual harassment goes unchecked (stopped from continuing), it could lead to sexual assault; a severe form of physical contact that becomes sexual assault. Cases of sexual harassment can be handled at the lowest level possible. The severity of the case should dictate which option you should choose to end any harassing situation. You always have the option to talk to your SHARP or EO representative. Help is only a phone call away!

35th Signal BDE Sharp Bldg 25426  
706-791-7038  
Fort Gordon SHARP Hotline: (706)  
791-6297  
DoD Safeline: 1-877-995-5247



# Chaplain's Corner



CH, Capt. Linda Murtala and Pfc. Briana Stokes, 50th Signal Battalion, Unit Ministry Team

*Story and photos Capt. Linda Murtala  
Chaplain, UMT, 50th ESB*

The last decade of war has taken a huge total on our Nation, military and Families. Family members have accepted the call to be the anchors at home while their love ones are deployed defending our great Nation. Family members wait in anguish for the return of their loved ones from deployment. Many children lose touch with their deployed parents while wait-



ing patiently for their return. The marriage bond is strained and married couples wait for a blissful reunion with their families and loved ones.

The United States Army Chaplain Corps with the support of the United States Army has developed a program which focuses on strengthening relationships for single Soldiers, married couples and Families. The program is called Strong Bonds.

Strong Bonds was established in

1997 and since its inception the program has truly helped to enhance and foster family cohesion and strengthen relationships. The core mission of the Strong Bonds program is to increase individual Soldier and Family member readiness through relationship education and skills training. Strong Bonds is conducted in an offsite retreat format in order to maximize the training effect. The retreat or "get away" provides a fun, safe, and secure environment in which to address the impact of relocations, deployments, and military lifestyle stressors.

Soldiers and their families spend a wealth of time on a weekend covering courses ranging from communication, commitment, understanding their spouses and their own love languages and personality traits. The curriculums consist of, but not limited to Laugh Your Way To A Better Marriage, Five Love Languages, and The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program are all hilarious and realistic DVDs that provide instruct on ways to enhance relationships. The Strong Bonds program is for single Soldiers and married couples and is minimal cost to the Soldier. The events are hosted at quality hotels, such



as the Sheraton, Omni and Marriot with no cost to the Soldier and range from a one or two night stay. In addition, meals and child care are provided at no cost. Travel and hotels incidentals are at the expense to the attendees.

Here are a few testimonials that illustrate how the program has helped build better and stronger relationships:

"After spending a year apart, this retreat was amazing for our marriage. We get so busy in our day to day lives that sometimes we forget the little things- such as the Love Language of our partner."

"The opportunity to be together as

a family and not worry about anything other than being together and having fun especially after a 12 month deployment... WE REALLY NEEDED IT"

"First of all, thank you for this opportunity, this was much needed and a great change of pace for both of us. The video and message was spot on for a marriage. For us, we are starting over because we almost lost our marriage; we were both selfish and just seen things differently. This will help us so much. They are great tools for any married couple to see the light and reality."

"The presentations were excellent,



very helpful DVD; break on Saturday with my wife meant so much and was a special time. Thank you very much!"

As the Chaplain and Chaplain Assistant of the 50th ESB, we have enjoyed establishing many lasting relationships with Soldiers and Families during our Strong Bonds training. Providing resources that help to build a great, resilient and strong marriage brings us great joy. Hope to see you at the next Strong Bond!





*The Lion's Roar* needs YOU! How would you like to get involved in your Brigade magazine! Get YOUR story and photos published and tell your unit's story!

## ***NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!!!***

The 35th Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office is looking for talented photographers, news and sports writers to contribute to the 35th Signal Brigade quarterly publication. If you see action happening in your unit, get involved and spread the word!

Photos and articles must be in good taste and the editor reserves the right to edit submissions as per commander's intent, Associated Press Style Guide, and Department of Defense requirements.

***"Get the message through."***

Send all submissions or inquiries to [dianne.m.carter.mil@mail.mil](mailto:dianne.m.carter.mil@mail.mil)