

THE LION'S

FORT GORDON, GA



EDITION 2: FY14

ROAR

"UTMOST OF OUR ABILITY"



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new gas masks

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in Space Needle

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518th TIN CO READY
FOR DEPLOYMENT

35TH SIGNAL BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Greetings from the 35th Signal Brigade public affairs team! We would like to start by thanking our predecessor, Capt. Devon Thomas, for his wonderful service to the Lion Brigade. He left us with big shoes to fill and we aspire to continue the standard of excellence that he set. We wish him and his family the best of luck at Fort Bragg. Now, we would like to introduce ourselves:

Capt. Lindsay D. Roman serves as the brigade public affairs officer. She arrived to the brigade Jan. 3 and is originally from Madera Ranchos, Calif. She was commissioned as a signal officer. She recently graduated from the Public Affairs Qualification Course and this is her first assignment as a public affairs officer. Roman holds a Bachelors of Art Degree in Graphic Design and a minor in Military History from California State University. She is prior enlisted and served as a 25M Multimedia Illustrator.

Sgt. Ashley M. Armstrong also arrived to the brigade in January and she serves as the public affairs noncommissioned officer. She is originally from Cottage Grove, Ore. and has served 6 years as a print journalist. Armstrong has an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Chaminade University of Honolulu and is currently working on a Bachelors of Art Degree in Journalism.

Both of us are very passionate about what we do and we hold each other and ourselves to a very high standard of performance. We are very pleased about being apart of the Lion Brigade and we look forward to giving all of our readers the most high quality products possible. We encourage your submissions and your feedback and look forward to serving with you.

From the top



Greetings Lion Brigade,

It has been my honor and pleasure over the past 10 months to continue to lead this great brigade. As I have spent time reflecting on our force, I offer some observations for consideration.

While remaining committed to the current fight, we are also building the bench for the future. Incorporating lessons learned from more than 12 years of conflict into our doctrine, training, education, force structure, and modernization plans has become paramount to our continued success. At the same time we must continue studying the future of conflict, modernizing the force and investing in leader development so this Brigade will

continue to ensure the ability of our Forces to engineer, install, operate, maintain, and defend our portion of the LandWarNet.

As we move forward across the remainder of this year, we will increase our opportunities to train in an Expeditionary manner whereby we increase the frequency with which we train as teams. This is only possible through responsible, accountable, and empowered Junior Officer and NCO leadership. Personnel readiness, equipment readiness, and supply readiness directly feed training readiness; therefore, to increase our expeditionary posture I look forward to bottom-up input from our teams.

We are inextricably linked together by networks in almost every aspect of our lives so we must always stay ready and resilient. It is our leaders' responsibility for unit readiness and building Soldier resilience. They know their Soldiers, are involved in their lives, and build cohesive teams built on trust and mutual respect. Through involved leadership, education, and respect for each other, we can overcome any challenges our Army may face.

With special thanks to our volunteers and our lion families for their continuous support, we have the ability to exceed every expectation in the years ahead. This is exactly why it is critical to build the bench; the bench of future leaders that will one day take on the challenges ahead and lead our Army to greater heights.

Thank you for your service!

L6



Lion Brigade,

The first quarter has already flown by and we have gone through a great deal of changes within our ranks. Yet, we still remain on top and my goal is to continue to stay there. We are a highly trained and proficient team. By creating a positive climate and an environment of trust and respect in which every person can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Furthermore, the Army is a profession. Where military expertise, honorable service, esprit de corps, and stewardship are built on a foundation of trust strengthens the force through periods of transition, reinforcing our identity, and provides the critical foundation for the Army of 2020.

Another way for us to keep our force strong is by safety. With summertime approaching quickly and the return of warmer temperatures brings the opportunity for adventure, exploration, and being closer to nature. So it is our job to lead the way on safety. So far we have set the bar on exceeding safety standards. Continue to be mindful of what you do. It only takes one bad decision to change your life forever.

THE LION'S ROAR | EDITION 2: FY14

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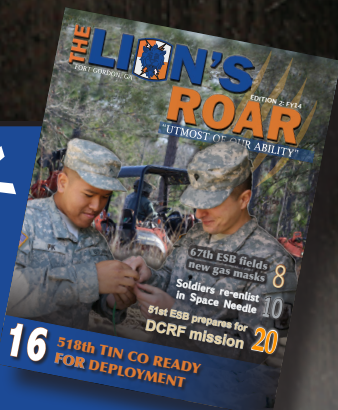
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ON THE COVER

Soldiers of the 518th Tactical Network and Installation Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), did during a culminating training exercise here March 18-20 in preparation for future deployments.



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35TH SIGNAL BRIGADE



"UTMOST OF OUR ABILITY"

Lt. Col. Christopher O'Connor, left, outgoing commander of the 50th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, Col. Robert Edmonson II, middle, brigade commander, 35th Signal Brigade, and Lt. Col. William McDowell incoming commander of the 50th ESB stand at attention during a change of command ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C., March 28. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Allan Hunte, 50th Signal Battalion)



50TH ESB CHANGE OF COMMAND

*Story by Spc. Christopher Helmig
50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)*

FORT BRAGG, N.C.— Accompanied by the tools of the signal Soldier's trade and the music of the 82nd Airborne Division Band, the Soldiers of the 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) watched as outgoing battalion commander Lt. Col. Christopher O'Connor relinquished command to Lt. Col. William McDowell in a change of command ceremony held here on the morning of March 28.

With the temperamental North Carolina weather giving a moment of respite from the cold and rain, O'Connor passed the battalion colors, and the responsibility for the unit, to McDowell, who accepted the charge. McDowell welcomed the challenge to uphold the reputation of a unit that provides direct communication support for many units on Fort Bragg, including the XVIII Airborne Corps and 82nd Abn. Div.

The ceremony was marked by the use of the semaphore flag signaling system in order to relay silent commands to those on the field. In use since the French Revolution in 1792, the semaphore has been a time honored

symbol of the Signal Corps since 1868. The semaphore signals were conducted by Sgt. Mark Hammers Alpha Company, and Sgt. 1st Class Tony Linker, of Charlie Company.

***"I'M GOING TO MISS
COMING INTO WORK EVERY
MORNING ENERGIZED
BY THE MOTIVATION OF
THE COMMUNICATORS
STANDING BEFORE YOU."***

--LT. COL. O'CONNOR

During the ceremony, Col. Robert Edmonson II, brigade commander of the 35th Signal Brigade, recognized the exceptional leadership O'Connor provided during his two years as battalion commander and praised him for delivering outstanding results during his command.

"Faced with shrinking budgets, proposed troop cuts, and realigned priorities, the 50th ESB remained, all the

while, prepared to deploy anywhere," said Edmonson.

"The Army got it right. I can think of no better officer than you to assume command of the 50th Signal Battalion. Trust in your experiences, judgment and temperament," Edmonson said to McDowell during the ceremony.

Taking his turn addressing the Soldiers and guests, O'Connor expressed his pride for the battalion, and thanked the families of the Soldiers for supporting them during a time of economic uncertainty and government shutdowns.

"I'm really going to miss this. I'm going to miss coming into work every morning energized by the motivation of the communicators standing before you", expressed O'Connor, reminiscing about the times he had spent getting to know the Soldiers who were a part of what he called the "5-o family". With a promise that "so long as the Army needs communications, the 5-o will be there", O'Connor signed off for the last time as battalion commander.

After stepping to the podium,



Col. Robert Edmonson II, left, brigade commander, 35th Signal Brigade grabs the 50th Signal Battalion colors and the responsibility it signifies from Lt. Col. Christopher O'Connor, right, outgoing commander of the 50th Sig. Bn., 35th Sig. Brig., to pass it to Lt. Col. William McDowell, back right, incoming commander of the 50th ESB during a change of command ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C., March 28. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Allan Hunte, 50th Signal Battalion)

McDowell commended O'Connor for handing over an outstanding unit, and remembered when he stood in the very spot and took command of Delta Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) less than two months after September 11th, 2001.

"To the Soldiers of the 50th ESB, you look great out there today. I look forward to the challenges in the coming months and continuing to build on the excellent reputation that you have worked so hard to build and maintain," McDowell said to the crowd.

McDowell first set foot on Fort Bragg soil upon his completion of the Infantry Officer Basic Course. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, where he served as a rifle platoon leader. After transitioning to the Signal Corps in 1998, McDowell got his first taste the 35th Sig. Brig., serving as platoon leader and company executive officer in Delta Company, 327th

Signal Battalion. McDowell comes to the unit after being assigned to the Joint Communications Support Element at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., as director of operations.

A unit whose history dates back to the early 1900s, the 50th ESB has played an important role in several major military operations in the past century. Beginning as Company H, a telegraph company during the Philippine insurrection, the battalion continues to provide exceptional communications ranging from line-of-sight antenna transmission to satellite communications and everything in between. Most recently, the battalion deployed to Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn.

With one more chapter in the long history finished, another can begin. The 50th ESB Soldiers, led by McDowell, will continue with a goal to achieve new successes and set the standard for years to come.



Sgt. 1st Class Tony Linker, of Charlie Company, relays commands to troops on the field via semaphore signals during the 50th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, change of command ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C. March 28. During the ceremony Lt. Col. Christopher O'Connor relinquished command of the 50th ESB to Lt. Col. William McDowell. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Allan Hunte, 50th Signal Battalion)



Lt. Col. William McDowell, new battalion commander of 50th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, stands with his wife Angelique during a reception following a change of command ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C. March 28.

67TH ESB FIELD TESTS NEW MASKS

*Story and photos by Sgt. Ashley M. Armstrong
35th Signal Brigade Public Affairs*

FORT GORDON, Ga.— A shout of “Gas! Gas! Gas!” signals the unsuspecting Soldiers to instinctively reach for their protective masks, but it was no ordinary training scenario for the Soldiers of 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, as the training’s purpose was to field-test the Soldier’s newly issued M50 Joint Service General Purpose Masks.

“The good thing about it is it protects your face and airways better, it’s easier to maintain, it gives you better sight vision because the sight is all the way across the face now. You have two filters instead of one so you don’t have to hold your breath to change the filters and you can change them out one at a time,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dawnmarie L. White, native of Round Lake, Ill., and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear noncommissioned officer for 35th Sig. Brig.

The Soldiers of the 67th ESB brought their new masks to a training site on Fort Gordon, Ga., April 23-25, to get a better understanding of how it operates and to build their confidence in the equipment by testing it in a real chemical environment.

Sgt. Samuel S. Hart, training noncommissioned officer in charge and native of Lakewood, Colo., of Charlie Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), wears his new M50 protective while field testing it at a training site on Fort Gordon, Ga., April 24.



Spc. Christian A. Byrd, native of Gaithersburg, Md. and network systems operator with Charlie Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, Ga., learns about his newly issued M50 protective mask at a training site, Fort Gordon, Ga., April 24.

"With the M50 mask you get a lot less gas coming through," said Spc. Christian A. Byrd, a network systems operator with Charlie Company, 67th ESB, 35th Sig. Brig., and native of Gaithersburg, Md. "It's easier to get the canister in than the old one. On the old ones you had to spin the canister out then place your hand over it to keep track of where the canister went back in. The new one just has three little holes to spin it back in place—it's a lot quicker."

The M50 is on its way to becoming the universal CBRN protective mask across the U.S. military. The M50/M51 JSGPM masks have been fielded as replacements for the M40 series masks and MCU-2/P in the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.

"They've been out for a while, but we just so happened to get them filtered down," said White about the M50 series protective masks. "Now we have to get the Soldiers not only validated, but certified on them and part of that is knowing how to (perform preventive maintenance checks and services) and going through the chamber to make sure they fit properly."

During the fielding of the mask, 67th ESB Soldiers went through instructional stations to learn about the components, functions and maintenance. They then entered a chamber filled with CS gas, a riot control agent causing tearing and mucosal irritation, where they performed various movements to ensure a proper seal and changed out their canisters.

The 67th ESB is the first in the brigade and one of few Army-wide units to have received the new piece of equipment that is intended to replace the M40 series protective mask, which has been around since the 1990s.



Spc. Brittany M. White, native of Atlanta, Ga. And chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear specialist with Charlie Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, explains how to change out the canisters of the M50 Joint Service General Purpose Mask, at a training site on Fort Gordon, Ga., April 24.



Sgt. Maj. Adam Tweedel, operations sergeant major of 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, blocks the canisters on his new M50 protective mask to ensure he has a proper seal before entering a gas chamber at a training site on Fort Gordon, Ga., April 24.

"You have to trust your equipment," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wallace of Albany, Ga., CBRN noncommissioned officer for 67th ESB and the lead instructor for the training and fielding. "It's important to focus on CBRN training because it's a real threat and it can kill you."

According to a new materiel introductory briefing by the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense the M50 kit includes less breathing resistance and is more compact, lightweight and comfortable.

"You have more of a cap-type head harness on the M50 which will fit your head a lot better," said Wallace who also remarked on the mask's improved durability and easy disassembly compared to the M40. "On the M50 you have locking devices that locks your straps into place so you don't have to keep pulling them to tighten them up."

For the 67th ESB Soldiers the M50 will now replace the M40 series mask for protection against chemical and biological hazards as they become a part of a step toward keeping America's service members safer and more effective in combat.



SOLDIERS RE-ENLIST IN SPACE NEEDLE

*Story by 2nd Lt. Brian Peguillan
51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)*

SEATTLE, Wash.—More than 500 ft. above the city on an unusually sunny day, seven Soldiers from Bravo Company, "Badgers," 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), along with other Soldiers from the battalion swore the reenlistment oath, reaffirming their commitment and desire to support and defend the Constitution of the United States during a re-enlistment ceremony in the historic Seattle Space Needle, Feb. 28. The Soldiers, of all ranks, ages and backgrounds, were united by a common goal and purpose; continue to represent the less than half of American population willing to make the sacrifice and answer the call to arms.

The oath was administered by 1st Lt. Fang Liu, the former platoon leader of 1st platoon and 1st Lt. Justo Caraballo, the company executive officer.

"It was a powerful moment. The whole experience was dizzying,"

Spc. Leslie L. Flores, Command Post Node operator, 1st platoon, Bravo Company, 51st ESB. "Seeing everyone who came to support us taking this step in our career was humbling."

The ceremony was attended by friends and family in addition to the members of the Soldiers' chain of command. Following the ceremony, the family members of the servicemen and women were presented with Certificates of Appreciation, recognizing the sacrifices that they make, such as being away from their husbands, wives, fathers, or mothers for such long periods of time and sometimes having to take on extra roles in their absence. The families were thanked



not only for the support they have shown, but also to the Battalion throughout the years as well.

The battalion's re-enlistment comes at a time when retention is far more challenging and offers significantly less incentives as a result of a reduction in force. The retention program could see even more change after Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced the intent to reduce the U.S. Army from its approximate current size of 522,000 Soldiers to a size of about 440,000 to 450,000 by 2019.

"...there's only going to be a certain amount of people that can stay in that we're going to be able to retain," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler in an interview with the Army Times. "And so, it's your duty that if you want to stay in the Army, that you've got to make sure that you understand where you are. Those things that we generally look at for promotion are the same things that we're going to look at for retention."

The decision to reenlist isn't always an easy one. It is a decision that requires a powerful commitment from both the Soldiers and their families. The Soldiers who raised their right hand to further commitment represent some of the best and most dedicated Soldiers in the Army and their reaffirmation inspired great pride from the 51st ESB.

WANT TO STAY ARMY STRONG?

*By Sgt. 1st Class Deatra Wilkes
Brigade Career Counselor*

Good Day Lion Brigade, Soldiers join the Army for numerous reasons: school, travel, adventure, discipline, etc. Some get their dream assignment during their first reenlistment and others on their second. Some never get their dream assignment because they choose to separate before visiting their Retention Office for assistance and guidance.

Visiting your Retention Office and sitting down with your Career Counselor could make all the difference in the next three to four years of a Soldier's career and their family lives. One of the roles of a Career Counselor is to alleviate the stress a Soldier may have on choosing which great opportunity the Army has to offer. Whether it's...

- a. Regular Army for a minimum 2-year reenlistment – Soldier maybe processing for a Security Clearance, Application MOS, which can sometimes take months to complete or unsure of what option he/she wants to take.
- b. Stabilization at Current Duty Station with Education Incentive for a minimum 3-year reenlistment (guarantees up to 12-months stabilization) – Soldier is working on civilian education for promotion points, to complete course with labs or to complete college degree.
- c. Reclassification – Soldier wants to change his/her job, and add Air Assault, Airborne or an additional skill identifier (ASI) applicable to their MOS.
- d. Overseas Option must reenlist for minimum three years (short tour) or four years (long tour) – Soldier gets to travel and learn new cultures in a different country or region.
- e. Stateside Station of Choice for minimum 3-year reenlistment – Maybe the Soldier wants to be closer to family, and there is an assignment within the Army's footprint.

Fiscal Year 14 Retention Mission and Policies came

in with a bang. There are restrictions on how long a Soldier can reenlist for and which options they can choose from. As the Army prepares for major changes that lie ahead with units deactivating and relocating, the Army is also preparing for personnel changes as well. With the Army downsizing, the days of Soldiers getting all five reenlistment options and bonuses are fading fast. However, there are still great opportunities to choose from, and timing is everything.

So if you are in your reenlistment window (ETS date now thru Sept. 30, 2015), and you are in the market for making the Army your career choice, then stop on by your servicing Career Counselors office and let us see what the Army has for You, Your Future and Your Family.

“Retention Signing Off - Lion Brigade”

Your Servicing Career Counselors

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Welcome Home Alpha Gators We've Missed You!

A Co 67th ESB returns

*Story courtesy of 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)
Photos by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman
35th Signal Brigade Public Affairs*

FORT GORDON, Ga.—Family members of the Alpha Gators lined the bleachers of Gym 3 on the evening of Dec. The announcement came that the Soldiers were on their way, and the conversation dimmed to hush whispering. Spouses and children could feel the anticipation building as they waited for their loved ones to burst through the doors of the gym as they set foot on American soil for the first time in almost seven months. Finally, the moment came, and the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, entered the gym in perfect formation, exemplifying the standard of excellence that the Gators became known for in Afghanistan.

The Soldiers scanned the audience for their loved ones as they waited for the short, but significant redeployment ceremony to be completed. They met the gaze of their spouses and felt for the first time that they really were back home. After Lt. Col. Calondra L. Fortson announced, “dismissed”, the Gators broke free from the formation and ran towards their family members with beaming smiles and tears at the corners of their eyes.

They were finally home. Redeployment means more than just reunion with family members, though. There was still work to be done. The Gators spent the next week doing reintegration training to help them cope with the stresses of assimilating back into a normal life after living in anything but normal conditions for half of a year. The period of time after a Soldier gets back from a deployment is often more stressful than the deployment itself, and it is important to train the Soldiers and give them realistic expectations for what lies ahead before they are allowed to begin their block leave. Mitigating the risk of suicides, alcohol and drug related incidents, or domestic abuse is of the utmost importance for the leadership in Alpha Company.

After the reintegration training is complete, the Soldiers



begin their block leave. By pure coincidence, their block lives timed up perfectly with the holiday season, and the Soldiers were able to spend the holidays with their families. For some, block leave was not long enough, but for all, it was a relief to be home from the war. Another chapter has been concluded in everyone's lives, and it was not one they would soon forget.

Gators hit the ground running



Story and photos courtesy of 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

FORT GORDON, Ga.—Gators returned to work for the 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), Jan. 6, after spending time with their families following their return from Afghanistan. Along with the New Year came a reorganization of teams and platoons, since many new Soldiers had joined the company. Led by 1st Sgt. Chandra S. Davis, the senior noncommissioned officers reorganized their platoons, selecting many new team chiefs along the way. For the new team chiefs, this will be a valuable opportunity for them to take charge in a garrison environment; building on the leadership skills and initiative they displayed while the company was deployed to Afghanistan.

In just the first two weeks back to work, the new team chiefs and section sergeants have conducted physical readiness training for the company, counseled their new Soldiers with the expectations and intent of the team, and trained the new Soldiers on preventative maintenance checks and services (PMCS). The platoon sergeants met with their noncommissioned officers to put out their own expectations and set up timelines for training.

In the coming weeks, training the force was the number one priority for the Alpha Gators. Training up the new Soldiers as well as getting the new leaders comfortable with being in charge of their own signal sites, some of them for the first time, will be of paramount importance as validations and missions loom around the corner. The Gators have been adapting to the changes in the company as well as striving to maintain their track record of being one of the most resilient Signal companies on Fort Gordon. There is no doubt that they will conquer all challenges in the coming days.

In the month of February, things picked up quickly for the Gators and only continued to build momentum as time went

on. The majority of the company's signal equipment and its operators continued to work diligently at the Fort Gordon Switch Park to validate the equipment. It quickly became apparent when the operators booted up their systems that there would be a lot of work to do to get all of the equipment in perfect working order.

After not being used for such a long period of time, many of the computer systems required extensive updates, and many pieces of equipment went bad and required parts to be swapped out. After weeks of identifying and resolving issues, A Company is finally starting to build itself back up to be an Expeditionary Signal Company that is ready to provide support to friendly units.

In fact, Alpha Company wasted no time to accept new challenges. The Joint Network Node section from 1st Platoon was selected to provide signal support to the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion for their annual cumulative training event at Fort Stewart. As part of the ramp up for the Fort Stewart mission in March, the JNN team participated in a field training exercise here on Fort Gordon from 3-7 February.

Pictured above, the JNN team rolled out on a cold, wet February morning to set up signal support before the 202nd even arrived on site. After working long hours the entire previous week (including the weekend) the team's efforts paid off. All of their equipment was brought online and worked flawlessly when their subscribers tested the service. Some people said it was crazy to give A Company a mission so soon after returning from a deployment with a completely new team and untested equipment, but A Company did what it always does – it adapted and overcame to get the mission done. In the coming months, there is no doubt that the Gators will continue to succeed.

Train to sustain



50th ESB provides ‘key to command’ for US, Netherlands training exercise

Story by 2nd Lt. Phelan Guan
50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

FORT BRAGG, N.C.— Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) provided crucial communication support for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division’s first Joint Operational Access Exercise of the year from Jan. 8-15.

This particular JOAX brought 3rd BCT and The Royal Netherlands Army together for Noncombatant Evacuation Operations in a scenario where the U.S. Embassy in a potentially hostile country had requested additional security support and was preparing for evacuation.

“We were nicely integrated into the American unit for this exercise,” said Sgt. Maj. Roy Egberts, Sgt. Maj. of Company A, 11th Infantry Battalion, Royal Netherlands Army. “This

exercise was a trial run for us to see if we would do this on a yearly basis.”

Three Command Post Nodes supported three different sites with three different customers. One CPN supported the U.S. Embassy site and the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Abn. Div. Tactical Air Command at Camp Mackall, N.C., another supported the Arrival/Departure Air Control Group (A/DACG) at Holland Drop Zone, and the last supported an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle platoon from Bravo Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. Each CPN team seamlessly provided non-secure and secure voice and data services to customers hours ahead of schedule.

One of the cornerstones for mission success was a thorough Communications Exercise. The network design had the Satellite Transportable Terminals shooting to the Camp




"This exercise was a trial run for us to see if we would do this on a yearly basis."

Roberts, Calif., Regional Hub Node and then tunneling back into the Fort Bragg domain. This complex design's intent was to keep 3rd BCT's services available in the field, which took a few days and help from the 3rd BCT's automations shop to troubleshoot.

In the end, the hard work from the Soldiers of 1st Platoon, B Co. 50th Sig. Bn. paid off, and earned them high praises for their expertise and professionalism from 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. The Soldiers were highly motivated and enthusiastic about supporting a large-scale exercise that allowed them to see how they fit into the big Army picture, such as seeing how an A/DACG operates and why it was important. Through this mission, it was clear that the dedication and knowledge is living proof of the 50th Sig. Bn.'s motto— "Key to Command!"





518th TIN ready for the fight

*Story by Capt. Devon Thomas
Photos by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman
35th Signal Brigade Public Affairs*



"Throughout this exercise Soldiers learned crucial skills that they may not remember verbatim, but in combat, the skills will come back to them."

-- CW4 Crews

FORT GORDON, Ga.—World class communication training as a means to support the warfighter is what it's all about for Soldiers of the 35th Signal Brigade and that's just what members of the 518th Tactical Network and Installation Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), did during a culminating training exercise here March 18-20 in preparation for future deployments.



A culminating training exercise is the final certification event that a unit is required to execute before it deploys on a real-world mission. Soldiers train at the installation's simulated Forward Operating Bzhout the FOB to ensure they remain prepared for upcoming missions.

The 518th Soldiers also used the Ditch Witch, a piece of underground construction machinery that prepares the ground for cable systems installers to install cable and assist in building the communication infrastructure of an operating base or technical control facility.

Spc. Dylon Jameson of Elk City, Idaho, is preparing for his second deployment with the 518th. His first deployment was to Afghanistan in March of last year. Jameson is Ditch Witch certified and understands the training will better prepare those Soldiers who are new to the unit for deployment.

"We have quite a few new Soldiers who learned how to fusion splice fiber optic cable, CAT 5 and CAT 6 cable in (Advance Individual Training), but won't run a drop like they would in Afghanistan or Kuwait," said Jameson.

Pvt. Jazimine Smith of Greenville, Ala., trained on the Ditch

Witch for the first time. She joined the 518th after completing AIT here at Fort Gordon.

"The Ditch Witch was kind of scary at first, but you get used to it," said Smith. "Once you get the hang of it, it is pretty cool."

A culminating training exercise does not only entail technical training, it also ensures Soldiers are able to protect themselves and know how to react in a combat environment.

In one scenario, the 518th conducted convoy operations. The Soldiers were attacked with an improvised explosive device, rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire and had to respond quickly by setting up a 360-degree perimeter of security, send reports of enemy activity to their higher headquarters, and attain accountability of their equipment and personnel.

The senior observer and trainer for the exercise was Chief Warrant Officer 4 Edwin Crews, assigned to the brigade plans section.

"Throughout this exercise Soldiers learned crucial skills that they may not remember verbatim, but in combat, the skills will come back to them," said Crews. "One day they may be able to save their life and the life of their battle buddies."



Train to sustain



Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade conducted a field training exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wa., March 3-6. The primary objective of the exercise was to conduct training, which would prepare the company to deploy in support of the battalion's Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield explosive Response Force mission.

51st ESB prepares for DCRF

Story by 2nd Lt. Fang Liu
51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash.—Soldiers of 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) rushed in to work well before dawn on Dec. 10 in preparation for a level III Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, which was the culminating training event after months of planning to be on a year-long assignment in 2014 for Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives Response Force. A unit on DCRF is responsible for responding to any and all of these issues if they were to arise in the continental United States almost like a Quick Reaction Force for natural disasters.

Enacting an EDRE allows the unit to test and score its own ability to react

in the regulated amount of time. For example, if a battalion serving DCRF was called in at 2 a.m. for a mission, all units within the battalion would have to report by the 4th hour or 6 a.m. EDRE's will give commanders clear guidance on what they need to improve on.

For the 51st, bags were pre-packed, vehicles lined-up, and the mentality throughout the battalion could be summed up by one word—'GO'. There had been rumors among the ranks for weeks prior to the recall, still no one knew for sure when and what would take place.

"I was hoping that it would just be a recall like the ones we had done before," said Spc. Terrence J. Feathersen of Bravo Company, assistant CPN team chief, unaware of where he would be 12 hours later.

The EDRE included an early morning

recall followed by a Field Training Exercise that sent personnel out to different training areas so the teams could verify all services (what services?).

"Everything happened so quickly, there was no time to complain or gripe, we had to listen to the task given to us and get started right away," explained 2nd Lt. Benjamin A. Smart, 1st Platoon leader in Alpha Company.

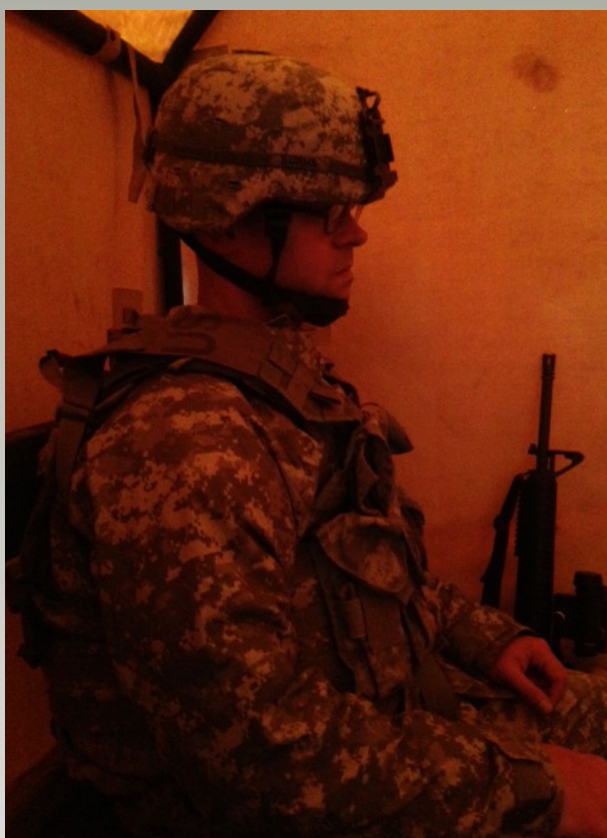
The Soldiers began to quickly accomplish each necessary step in a rapid deployment scenario promptly upon arrival – including Soldier Readiness Processing. The first steps may have seemed quick and easy, but getting over to battalion headquarters was made more difficult, as Spc. Ryan C. Lamm, tactical satellite operator, explains, "The roads were all iced over; even walking to the battalion building was a feat in itself." Still, Soldiers drove



TOP LEFT: Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade conducted a field training exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wa., March 3-6.

BOTTOM LEFT: Sgt. Russell D. Burns of Bravo Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade, puts his 'war face' on as he is transported to a training site at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wa., Dec. 10.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Soldiers of Bravo Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), prepare to board a mock C5 cargo jet during an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wa., Dec. 10.



on and accomplished their missions.

By noon, companies were preparing to roll out to their respective Training Areas. A few teams were tasked to go through the weigh station with their vehicles to simulate deploying for DCRF by plane. There was even a mock C5, or cargo jet, that these units were required to drive onto. The other teams went straight to their TA's upon completion of the joint inspection.

"By the time we were getting ready to roll out with all our equipment, everyone was on edge. We'd all been up

for nearly twelve hours so the simplest decisions seemed like big deals," said Spc. Aaron L. Bogue, assistant team chief.

Luckily, the entire unit was able to safely exit the motor pool and travel to their TA's. By noon, the ice on the roads had already melted to slush.

The melting ice and snow provided another problem—wet ground. Bravo Company, who went to TA-8, experienced the dew in its worst form—tall grass.

"If I hadn't brought my extra pair of

boots, I would probably have gotten trench foot. Even being on top of a hill felt like working in a swamp on that day," Pvt. Adrian R. Earl, CPN team primary automations operator, jokingly remarked.

Leaders across the battalion urged the Soldiers to carry on with their missions. By the 20th hour, most of the teams had established communication. In the end, the battalion was able to identify what needed to be fixed and gained a better understanding of how it would operate during a real mission.

Safety hits home

*Commentary by Hayley Bayne
Daughter of Joe Bayne, safety
35th Signal Brigade*

When I was 11 years old, my dad crashed his motorcycle. He almost died and I couldn't imagine my life if anything would have happened any differently. He sustained massive rotator cuff tears in his shoulder, broken elbow, broken middle finger, eight broken ribs and a massive cut and fracture of his forehead.

He had multiple surgeries and went through months of physical and occupational therapy. It was April 18, 2008, a Friday, at about 8 p.m. My mom and I had just dropped off my sister at a sleepover and were on our way from shopping in Fayetteville, N.C. About a mile away from our house, we passed Fire trucks and police cars. We had wondered what was going on, but we figured we would hear about it on the news. About an hour later there was a knock on our door. I opened the door and a police officer was standing there with his lights still flashing in the back ground. He asked me where my mother was, and when she came to the door, she told us that my dad was in a terrible motorcycle accident.

As we stood there in panic and shock, he explained that my dad was at the hospital.

"Is my Dad alive?" I asked.

The Police officer said: "He is barely alive and it doesn't look like he is going to live. If the ambulance had gotten there even a minute later, your father would have been dead. Hurry to the hospital."

We got in the car and drove rapidly to the hospital that I thought we may end up in the hospital too.

When we got to the hospital the doctors directed us to a room. They told us about how bad the accident was and how astonishing it is that he



is even alive. They explained all his injuries and that when they found him, the motorcycle was completely on top of him and the only thing showing was the finger of his hand. My dad's helmet almost broken in half and completely

soaked in blood. The doctors took my mom into the hall and told her some other things that apparently I wasn't privy to hear. They didn't shut the door all the way, so I could still hear bits and pieces of what they were saying.

The next thing my mom did was call all of our family, who wear spread from Nebraska to Texas to Georgia. It broke my heart to watch my mom make those phone calls because she would break down crying after every other word. She was talking to my dad's brothers, his parents, her brothers and her parents arranging for them all to come help take care of my sister and I. She called her brother whom lived in Hope Mills, NC and told them to hurry to the hospital.

My mom turned and looked at me and realized I could hear her, so she shut the door. I set there in silence for what seemed like hours with my Aunt and cousins. We waited in the in the waiting room until 3 a.m. the following morning, when I was forced to leave by the doctors. They said Dad looked way too broken and beaten up and it was not healthy for me to not sleep.

Even though they sent me to my aunt's house to sleep, I didn't actually fall asleep until around 0600 or 0700hrs. I was too worried about my parents and my sister to sleep. I only slept for 2 hours and I woke up to my uncle telling me that it was time to go get my sister. When we got to her, we told her what happened. She was only 7 at that time,

and she thought we were joking with her. On the way back to the Hospital, we stopped at McDonalds but I couldn't even eat. When we got back into the ICU, they were only allowed to let one person in at a time, but the nurse snuck both my sister and I back at the same time.

My mom was sitting beside the bed where my dad was lying unconscious. He was hooked up to numerous machine and had wires and tubes running everywhere. He was covered in bruises, scratches and scrapes from head to toe. My sister and I spent the rest of that week waking up, going to school until 1500, going to gymnastics practice until 1800 staying at the hospital until 2200hrs and brought home to eat, shower and sleep, only to do it all over again for the next day.

We were always surrounded by dozens of people who loved my father. One time the entire waiting room was completely filled with friend on my dad's. it was standing room only, just because there were not enough chairs to hold everyone. They brought us books, games, toys, coloring books, crayons and other things to occupy our time. Some people even brought us

soups, casseroles, and desserts.

My dad's parents arrived from Nebraska to take care of me and my sister on Wednesday. Once my dad became conscious on Sunday he was moved to a normal hospital room on Monday. On the following Friday my dad cam home..

Everyone at the hospital called it an absolute miracle that he healed so fast. He had to sit in the house and do little to nothing for a month, which drove him almost insane. He is always doing something.

Now six years later and my father is doing very well!!! He can still do almost anything providing its safe. He bought another motorcycle after the accident and said if a horse bucks you off, get back on the horse.. Life will put you down- its your choice to get back up.. When I asked what he learned from his accident he stated: "It made me shape into the person I am today. It taught me to live everyday to its fullest because you never know when it will be your last. It also taught me to cherish your family and friends, because without their help. I wouldn't have been able to recover (Bounce back) as fast as I did."

Hayley Bayne- Age 17



Hunt the Good Stuff

*Commentary by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Matthews
35th Signal Brigade Master Reiliency Trainer*

Hello Lion Brigade,
We've covered three of the twelve competencies of Resilience in 2nd Quarter FY 14. 'Hunt the Good Stuff' reminds us to stop and smell the roses. Problem Solving reminds us that we cannot solve a problem, until we truly understand the source of the problem. And last but definitely not least, 'Put It In Perspective' reminds us that nothing is ever as bad it seems. We can only control our own actions. Bear in mind that this is just my opinion. These are just a few motivational thoughts that keep me grounded in reality. Good leaders know there are things beyond our control. When we get in over our head, we have tools in our tool box that help us find the answers we seek.

I hope you all took the time to take the Values in Action Survey to see some of your signature strengths. Remember that just because some of the strengths may be listed at the end, they are no less important than the higher listed ones. It just means that they are not used as often. If there are some listed at the latter portion and you feel that they should have been listed higher, think about what you can do to improve them and move them closer to the top of the list. The Army is a great melting pot that forces us to come in contact with a variety of people from different backgrounds and different core beliefs. It's all about connection.

Remember to Stay Resilient and continue to Hunt the Good Stuff.

STRONG MINDS ★ STRONG BODIES

COMPREHENSIVE SOLDIER FITNESS

Welcome

My Training He

OVERVIEW EMOTIONAL SOCIAL FAMILY **SPIRITUAL**

Intro Spiritual Support Rituals Making Meaning Meditation **Hunt the Good Stuff**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "HUNT THE GOOD STUFF"?

**When we ignore the good stuff,
our total fitness is decreased.**

U.S. ARMY

+ FAST FACT



COMPREHENSIVE SOLDIER FITNESS

STRONG MINDS ★ STRONG BODIES

Physical

Emotional

Social

Spiritual

Family



Strengthening a set of **beliefs, principles** or **values** that sustain a person beyond family, institutional, and societal sources of **strength**.

Special Victims Counseling Program here to help

Commentary by Sgt. 1st Class Michael T. Perkins
35th Signal Brigade SHARP

It was not too long ago that a victim of sexual assault did not have legal representation to help them navigate through the criminal justice system. From a legal stand point they were basically on their own as they were interviewed and routinely gave testimonials. Although there was access to a victim advocate was limited access to someone who had knowledge of the legal system to look out for their best interest. This all changed on 13 November 2013. Today, anyone in official active duty status, to include Reserves, National Guard and their adult dependents are entitled to a Special Victims Counselor when they make a restricted or unrestricted report of sexual assault.

Special Victim Counselors (SVCs) are legal assistance attorneys that have received specialized victim assistance training and their role is to provide confidential legal representation in regards to issues that may arise as a result of being sexually assaulted. The SVC will always represent the victims best interest, not that of the government or the accused.

The SVCs are available to ensure their clients understand all aspects of the military judicial process while simultaneously providing legal assistance. They can also assist with coordinating available programs and services at the discretion of the victim. Their goal is to provide timely advice and assistance to ensure the victim's rights are not violated. Communications with the SVC are confidential with limited exceptions. The information you provide cannot be provided to others without your express permission.

If you would like to speak to a Special Victims Counselor seek out your SHARP representative they will be able to assist you.

SVCP SERVICES:

- Accompany and advise during interviews, examinations, hearings and courts-martial proceedings
- Represent you in courts-martial proceedings as permitted by law
- Referral to Trial Defense Services for collateral misconduct, if necessary
- Advocate your interest with Government counsel on disposition options
- Assist you with post-trial submissions to include victim impact statements
- Advise you on collateral civil issues arising from the crime
- Provide legal assistance as needed
- Answer any questions that you may have about the courts-martial process

Until next time, Stay SHARP!



MY STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

*So when that guy
tried to cross the line
with my battle buddy,
**I GOT HER OUT
OF THERE.***

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS MY DUTY.

Hotline for Assault Victims:
Fort Gordon: (706) 791-6297
Fort Bragg: (910) 584-4267
Joint Base Lewis-McChord:
 (253) 389-8469



I.A.M.
S'STRONG

www.preventsexualassault.army.mil

Loyalty

Respect:

Selfless Service

Honor

More Opportunities

Personal Courage

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

STRENGTH THROUGH

DIVERSITY

Hello Lion Brigade,

I would like to recap on the five discriminatory factors that are covered under the Equal Opportunity program.

Race - A division of human beings identified by the possession of traits transmissible by descent and that is sufficient to characterize persons possessing these traits as a distinctive human genotype.

Color – A division of human beings identified because of the color / complexion of their skin

Gender – The action taken by an individual to deprive a person of a right because of their gender. Such discrimination can occur overtly, covertly, intentionally, or unintentionally.

Religion – A personal set or institutionalized system of attitudes, moral or ethical beliefs and practices held with the strength of traditional views, characterized by ardor and faith and generally evidenced through specific observances

National Origin - An individual's place of origin or that of an individual's ancestors. The term also applies to a person who has the physical, cultural, or linguistic characteristics of a national group.

We also recognized three national observances this quarter: Martin Luther King's Birthday, African American / Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Next quarter we have Holocaust Remembrance Day (Days of Remembrance), Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Pride Month. Every quarter, I invite you to join the Fort Gordon family in celebrating our national observances. This is a time to reflect upon our history so that we can expand our future.

I encourage each Soldier to step forward and do the right thing. If you have any questions stop by and or call my BlackBerry Number. My main focus is the fair and equal treatment of all soldiers and civilians.

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



BEEN THERE; DONE THAT

Commentary by Maj. Arleigh F. VonSeggern
35th Signal Brigade Chaplain

Having recently reported into the 35th Signal Brigade, I took advantage of my PCS leave. I spent time with family. Ensuring my family was settled into our home before reporting to Fort Gordon was my priority. My family relocated to North Wisconsin so we were aware I would not be home on weekends. My mission was to accomplish a number of projects that would help my family settle into their new surroundings. When I would come home, I would further work on some of these projects as well as home improvement. It is reassuring to know my family is settled, comfortable, and have all they need-it provides a peace-of-mind so I can focus on the mission before me with the 35th.

While on this leave I attended a weekly morning Bible Study sponsored by my home congregation at a local cafe. A few folks were in attendance as we studied the Scriptures. The pastor had served in the Army in Viet Nam and was currently the chaplain for the county Sheriff's Department and commander of the local American Legion. I was in transit between assignments.

Our military association may be what spurred the conversation following the conclusion of the Bible Study. There was a gentleman who had a question. He had served in the Korean Conflict, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant in the Infantry in his less than 33-month tour. Often rank was made as others fell in the ranks. His question began, "I have been wondering something for 60 years..." He went on to explain his tour in Korea. He listed several situations, such as when on a patrol the man in front of him and behind him were killed.

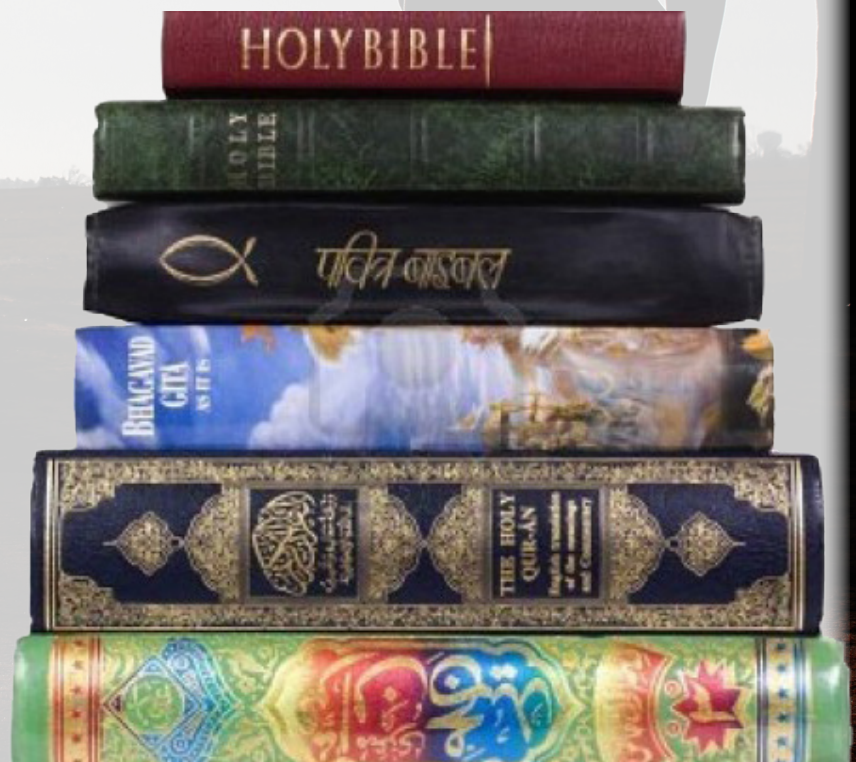
In conclusion, his question was why he survived after seeing so much death and destruction around him. Some may call it "survivor's guilt"; others may simply wonder, "Why or why not me?" Some go through these situations with a desire it had been them who had fallen and not their battle-buddy. At one point, I would have been one of those people to pull out the book and provide the "school solution".

Having been in combat, I am one of the many who learned that for many of life's questions, there are no answers. I have also known people who have fallen. I have been

in 3 IED's that have detonated and am here today. I had my "spot" in the operating room and have stood by the medical personnel as they worked to sustain a life. I have stood in many mortuary affairs locations and numerous ramp ceremonies. I have stood side by side with the doctor as she prepared the death certificate. Looking into the lifeless faces of countless military personnel, the thought has crossed my mind, this could be me lying on the table. You may also have experienced this. One thing one can know for certain is that one is here today. One cannot answer about tomorrow. The "school solutions" are not always the right answer. In fact, sometimes the solution provided does not answer the question. Both the pastor and myself did not attempt to provide an answer on this occasion. We knew where he was coming from. We let him express his inquiry.

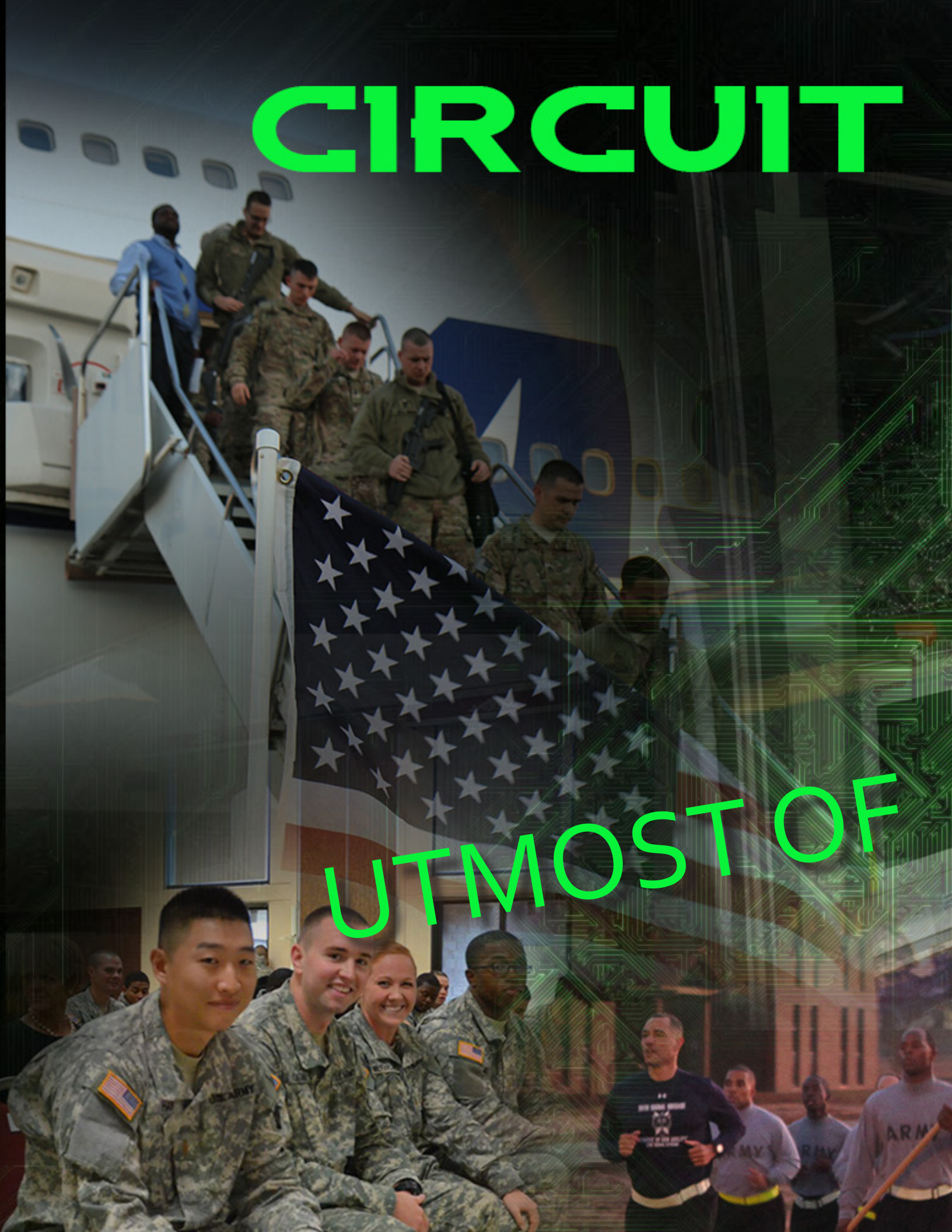
This Korean veteran did reach a profound conclusion near the end of our conversation. He said that if he had not returned home, he would not have met his wife; would not have known his children and grandchildren; would not have gone to work and made a decent life and retirement. In conclusion he indicated he was fortunate to have known all these things, and more, because he survived, he will not take these experiences for granted but appreciate them even more.

May we not take what we have for granted either.



CIRCUIT

UTMOST OF



BOARD

OUR ABILITY



HELP US CAPTURE HISTORY IN THE MAKING



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