

228TH THEATER TACTICAL SIGNAL BRIGADE SPRING 2014



Signal Ready, Signal Strong

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Signal Ready, Signal Strong



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Col. Wallace Hall

Command Sergeant Major:
Command Sgt. Maj.
William Bostic

Deputy Commander:
Lt. Col. William Brown



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On the Cover



Soldiers of the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade stand in formation during the command sergeant major change of responsibility ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 7.

Commander's Corner

Message from
Col. Wallace Hall
Brigade Commander

Summertime is here and with it comes quality time outdoors with family and friends. As we enjoy our warm weather routines, we should not forget the challenges we face during this season.

Every year, service members are involved in numerous accidents, both on and off duty, involving motor vehicles and workplace injuries. I cannot stress enough the need for each of us to be aware of our surroundings and practice risk management in our day-to-day lives.

Off-duty accidents are a major concern among service members. Encourage those around you to take precautions and avoid

Photo by Staff Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine



Col. Wallace Hall stands with his wife to watch the Military Spouse Appreciation Day video-message from Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston and Mrs. Barbara Livingston during the South Carolina National Guard Spouse Appreciation event held at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., May 9.

making mistakes that could cost them their lives. Always use appropriate protective equipment in all of your activities, such as reflective gear, helmets, proper clothing and always wear your seatbelt. Never drive under the influence, tired or distracted. A phone call or text message can always wait until you've arrived at your destination.

Even though annual training is behind us, use caution and be sure to understand the risks inherent in military training during drill weekends. Ensure equipment is well-maintained, the standards are enforced and leaders are involved with the execution of the mission. Also, ensure proper Soldier care does not get neglected. Stay hydrated, get plenty of rest and look out for your fellow unit members. Let's each do our part to mitigate the risks and ensure a safe training atmosphere.

The Soldiers of the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade and their friends and families are all members of a team and we must continue to look out for each other. Have a safe and happy summer.

Signal ready, signal strong.

Command Sergeant Major's Comments

Command Sgt. Maj. William Bostic
Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Becoming the brigade command sergeant major is a great HONOR!

However, with that being said, my becoming the BDE CSM will also bring change. My expectations from each of you will be as follows:

-The **noncommissioned officers** will be expected to **LEAD!** To do so, you must anticipate, research and attack all issues with a **PRO-ACTIVE ATTITUDE**. Don't wait for an officer of the BDE to ask for something; try to be ahead of the situation. Maybe you won't have the final outcome, but at least have the plan ready to get to the final outcome.

-For the **junior enlisted**, my expectations are for you to be professional, respectful and honest in **ALL** that you do, while also having pride in yourself and

your job.

-**Officers** of the BDE, challenge your NCOs. Let them be the work horses; and if they are not, give them the chance to correct the problem or **REPLACE THEM**.

-Our 1st focus is **LEADERSHIP!** Real leaders are always respectful, but not afraid to challenge their superiors, peers and subordinates.

-The 2nd focus is **TRAINING**. We have to break the mold of "block training" within the unit. We must challenge our section-level leaders to incorporate training into their daily work routine. We do this while deployed, we can do it during IDT weekends.

-The 3rd, but probably most important focus, is **MOTIVATION** and **MORALE**. We have got to get creative in our drills and

Photo by Sgt. Bethany Witherington



Sgt. Maj. William Bostic is appointed to brigade command sergeant major during an appointment ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., May 3.

annual trainings. We can still be a close community-driven Guard; this is our greatest retention and recruiting tool. When we accomplish that, **WE CAN BE THE STRONGEST TEAM IN THE STATE.**

Thank you for the opportunity, I look forward to working with you, so let's get busy! See you all at drill.

228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade Soldier to attend U.S. Army Senior Service College Fellowship

Story and photos by
1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly

A Soldier with the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, was chosen above his peers to attend the U.S. Army Senior Service College Fellowship through the University of Texas in Austin, in order to complete the highest level of formal military education for commissioned officers.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Richard Wholey, 228th TTSB deputy commander, will leave for the one-year active duty resident fellowship in July to fulfill his requirement of Military Education Level One, which is the education prerequisite to be eligible for promotion to general officer.

“The purpose of the U.S. Army War College is to educate and develop leaders for service at the strategic-level, while advancing knowledge in the global application of Landpower,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. David Gayle, SCNG Joint Force Headquarters deputy human resources officer.

In order to progress through the ranks, and further leadership development, Soldiers

must complete multiple levels of military education throughout their Army career. Due to civilian commitments and budget constraints, National Guard Soldiers are accustomed to completing these courses through distance learning, while their active duty counterparts attend the schools. So, when a National Guard Soldier is chosen to attend one of these courses, it is considered an accomplishment in itself.

“Lt. Col. Wholey has an exceptional performance record that set him apart from his peers,” said Gayle.

Gayle added that to be selected, eligible officers must submit an application where a board of Senior Service College graduates from the South Carolina Army National Guard will select a qualified applicant, based on a variety of criteria and merit list, to be referred to the National Guard Bureau.

Wholey explained that he had to compete for one of only 27 available slots for National Guard Soldiers, along with candidates from 54 states and territories, to attend Senior

Service College. The selection is based on a merit list and 12 of the Soldiers were selected for the traditional resident program in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, seven were chosen for fellowships with universities across the nation, such as Wholey, and the final eight were selected to attend either the Naval War College, Air War College or other resident program.

“I’m proud that I was chosen to get to represent this brigade and I promise you I will not let you down,” said Wholey to the unit members. “I feel confident leaving this organization in great hands with superior leaders, great soldiers and most importantly, great families...I hope one day to come back here and serve with you all again, but if not, the relationships I’ve made will last a lifetime.”

While attending the fellowship, Wholey will receive educational experience comparable to the U.S. Army Senior Service College traditional resident program. At the completion of the fellowship, Wholey is expected to have expanded his knowledge, proficiency and skills in public policy through the study of National security policy, strategy and operational issues, as well as prepared himself for the responsibilities of strategic leadership. The fellowship also emphasizes professional development to ensure only highly-trained officers progressing through the ranks to general officer.

“Lt. Col. Wholey was selected for this honor because of his accomplishments during his military service,” said Col.

Wallace Hall, 228th TTSB commander. “He has served in key leadership positions and received many accolades throughout his career. How he mentors and trains Soldiers and how he grows his leaders have all contributed to his success.”

For officers not selected for the U.S. Army Senior Service College resident program, they can reapply the following year or they can choose to complete the Department of Distance Education Program, added Gayle. The distance learning program is made up of a rigorous, two-year curriculum that still results in a U.S. Army War College diploma and fully-accredited Master of Strategic Studies Degree.

Wholey has served in various positions throughout the brigade since his commissioning in 1996. He completed two combat tours where he served as a company commander and later as a battalion commander while deployed. He was recognized as the first recipient of the Joseph G. Totten award during a ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 7. The award was created as a way to recognize a select few Soldiers who have served in the 228th TTSB and have made a significant impact to the unit. Wholey was also presented with an Army Commendation Medal during the ceremony as an interim award for the Legion of Merit.

“I know you are going to exceed the standards while at War College and I look forward to you coming back and serving in my position one day,” said Hall.



Lt. Col. Richard Wholey was recognized as the first recipient of the Joseph G. Totten award during a ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 7.

228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade appoints new command sergeant major

Story by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. William Bostic was appointed to the position of brigade command sergeant major for the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, during a ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., May 3.

“It is my honor today to appoint one of the finest Soldiers and one of the finest non-commissioned officers I’ve had the opportunity to work with,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Richard Wholey, 228th TTSB deputy commander.

Wholey explained that there are not many enlisted positions within the National Guard that would be higher than brigade command sergeant major, which would include the state command sergeant major or serving at the National Guard Bureau level. He added that roughly less than 1 percent of the population serves in the military and less than 1 percent of those who serve ever make it to the level of brigade command sergeant major.

The position of brigade command sergeant major serves as the senior enlisted member of the unit and represents the enlisted Soldiers serving under them, carries out policies and standards, training, appearance and conduct. They also function as the special advisor to the commanding officer.

“Obviously a man of extraordinary integrity,” said Wholey. “Anyone in any type of leadership has a core group of people they refer to when you need advice. Sgt. Maj. Bostic is one of those guys in my core group that I turn to. A man of strong personal courage, he’s not afraid to stand up for what he believes in.”

Bostic has more than 28 total years of dedicated service in the military and has held numerous positions within the 228th TTSB for the past 12 years. His previous positions include a signal control NCO, senior signal maintenance NCO, first sergeant, plans and operations NCO, radio team chief and a single channel radio operator. He served six years on active duty after enlisting in 1986 with assignments at Fort Hood, Texas; Germany and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He has also deployed four times during his Army career.

“It means nothing without every one of you out here that I’ve worked with,” said Bostic.

“Any job you do, you’re only as good as the people you serve with. I promise you I will represent the NCO corps stronger and better than you’ve ever had it represented before.”

Bostic will be replacing Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Campbell.



Photos by Sgt. Bethany Witherington

Sgt. Maj. William Bostic is appointed to brigade command sergeant major during an appointment ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., May 3.



228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade conducts change of responsibility ceremony

Story and photos by
1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly

The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, conducted a change of responsibility ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 7, to officially recognize the outgoing and incoming command sergeants major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Campbell relinquished responsibility as the command sergeant major of the 228th TTSB to Command Sgt. Maj. William Bostic.

“I have mixed emotions as I stand here today,” said Campbell. “I’m leaving an organization that has meant so much to me...but I’m happy and confident that the 228th Signal Brigade will continue its fine tradition of excellence in the South Carolina Army National Guard and beyond.”

Campbell served as the brigade command sergeant major since October 2007. He enlisted into the South Carolina Army National Guard in 1978 as a Wire System Installer and has served in various positions throughout the brigade. He has deployed

twice, once in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and once in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He will be retiring with 36 years of dedicated military service.

“I have been fortunate to have met and been surrounded by some of the best superiors and subordinates that a man could hope for,” said Campbell. “I humbly submit that there is not one accomplishment in my career that I can take full credit for. It has always

been a team effort.”

The position of brigade command sergeant major serves as the senior enlisted member of the unit and represents the enlisted Soldiers serving under them, carries out policies and standards, training, appearance and conduct. They also function as the special adviser to the commanding officer.

“Thank you for this opportunity,” said Bostic. “I’m here to take care of you...and I promise you 100 percent.”

“I HUMBLY SUBMIT THAT THERE IS NOT ONE ACCOMPLISHMENT IN MY CAREER THAT I CAN TAKE FULL CREDIT FOR. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TEAM EFFORT.”

-Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Campbell



Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Campbell and Command Sgt. Maj. William Bostic sit in front of the formation as they prepare to change responsibility as the brigade command sergeant major from Campbell to Bostic during a change of responsibility ceremony June 7.



Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Campbell gives a final salute as the brigade command sergeant major to Col. Wallace Hall.

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Campbell stands in front of the brigade one final time as the unit’s command sergeant major.



Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Campbell pass the brigade guidon to State Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Brickley signifying the end of his duty as brigade command sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. William Bostic accepts the brigade guidon from State Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Brickley signifying the beginning of his duty as brigade command sergeant major.



South Carolina National Guard welcomes home Bravo Co., 198th ESB during Freedom Salute ceremony

Story and photos by
1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly

Awards were presented to the service members based on the number of deployments completed and included an American flag in a display box, commemorative coins, medallions, lapel pins and certificates.



Approximately 130 members of Bravo Company, 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, were officially welcomed home during a Freedom Salute ceremony held at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., May 17, after their nearly yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



While deployed, the unit was headquartered in Kandahar, Afghanistan and provided strategic and tactical communication to more than 30,000 customers throughout the theater of operations. The unit worked across 20 different locations throughout Afghanistan completing signal missions, managing technical control facilities and supporting radio and full motion video operations, without any Information Assurance or Cross Domain violations.

"The Freedom Salute ceremony is a special event to recognize accomplishments and you all did an outstanding job during your deployment," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Roy McCarty, Deputy Adjutant General for South Carolina. "Each of you enlisted or re-enlisted since 9/11, knowing that you could get the call to go to war and we thank you for having answered that call."

While back home, the unit is stationed out of Hodges, South Carolina, but the Soldiers are members of communities across the state. They will begin their traditional weekend training periods again in June, which U.S. Army First Sgt. Robert Kappel, Bravo Co., 198th ESB first sergeant, explained will be the first time the unit will be working together in more than a year. While deploying, the company

Approximately 130 members of B Co., 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion were officially welcomed home during a Freedom Salute ceremony held at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., May 17, after their nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

Welcome Home

left and returned in three separate waves and worked at different locations throughout Afghanistan.

"Today's the first time the entire company has been together since last May," added Kappel. "It's been a good reunion."

The Freedom Salute Campaign is one of the largest Army National Guard welcome home endeavors in history. It is an event designed to publicly recognize the sacrifice of Army Guard Soldiers, as well as those who have supported them during their deployment. The campaign began in 2003 and has recognized more than 100,000 Soldiers coming home from Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Awards are presented to the service members based on the number of deployments completed and include an American flag in a display box, commemorative coins, medallions, lapel pins and certificates.

"We're thankful to have you back in South Carolina," said McCarty. "Thank you for what you've done, what you do and what you will be called to do."



SCENES FROM AROUND DRILL

Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade conducted an awards ceremony during final formation at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 8. Pfc. Christopher Millard received an Army Commendation Medal.

Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



Spc. Christopher Honeycutt, 228th TTSB HHC administrative specialist, was promoted from specialist to sergeant during first formation at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C. June 8.

Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



The 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company conducted a change of responsibility ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 8, to officially recognize the outgoing and incoming first sergeants. First Sgt. David Wilson relinquished responsibility as the first sergeant of the South Carolina National Guard, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, 151st ESB, HHC to First Sgt. Robert Martin.

Photo by Sgt. Bethany Witherington



The Family Readiness Group provided gift boxes to Soldiers with the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade at the Upstate Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., May 4, to give to their spouses or mother in honor of Mother's Day.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Roberto Di Giovine

Members of the South Carolina National Guard celebrated Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 9, at locations across the state, including the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., in honor of the support of service members by their spouses.



Resiliency in the Army National Guard

Commentary by
Sgt. Bethany Witherington

The definition of resilient is the ability to become strong, healthy or successful again after a negative situation.

Part of the process of becoming resilient requires the ability to move past the situation after it has happened. Being able to learn from the situation and react differently is another part of becoming strong, healthy and successful after a difficult situation.

Resiliency training is good in the Army National Guard because there is so much expectation as a citizen-Soldier. Not only do the Soldiers have a commitment to the Army, but also have the demands of a civilian job and family. Being able to accept the good and the bad helps Soldiers to concentrate on their work and surroundings more clearly than would be possible if

stressing about a situation at home.

When someone is bothered by a situation and cannot get past their feelings surrounding it, that Soldier is no longer efficient in their work. For example, if a Soldier has a difficult time at home and brings that stress to drill they could lose focus while working in the vehicle maintenance shop. They could be driving a vehicle and not see a person standing in their path and hit that Soldier. A difficult situation to begin with has now become a major problem.

If the Soldier has had resiliency training they would know of a way to work through the stress and problems at home, which could potentially lessen other problems at work.

Also, being resilient while on deployment is something that helps personnel to make it through from being away from family and keeps them

from getting injured, or injuring their fellow service members. By a Soldier applying the resiliency training they are better able to adapt when plans change. For example, if the deployed Soldier is trying to go home to see their family during the deployment and the date of the visit gets changed, the Soldier could very easily get upset and let the situation effect their work. Being away from family is difficult, having those plans shattered is something that could really hurt someone. Having resiliency training can teach effective ways of managing that hurt and directing it in a positive way.

Being resilient is also a good way to help see the warning signs in their battle-buddies. If you ever notice another Soldier having a hard time, help the person that is struggling to accept the situation and teach them how to be resilient.

Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



Members of the South Carolina National Guard receive Master Resilience Training at Joint Base Charleston June 6.

Message from Col. Wallace Hall 228th TTSB Commander

As most of you are aware, in the last 6 weeks the South Carolina National Guard has tragically lost 4 Soldiers, including our own Stacy Brown. Please take a moment to remember the service of these Soldiers and keep their friends and families in your thoughts and prayers. Remember, we are all in this together - as a team and as a family. We should take care of each other and look out for each other. If you or someone you know needs help, please do not hesitate to talk to a chaplain or someone in your chain of command.

Final Frame



Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Campbell, Command Sgt. Maj. William Bostic and State Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Brickley sit in front of the formation as they prepare to change responsibility as the brigade command sergeant major from Campbell to Bostic during a change of responsibility ceremony June 7. Campbell served as the brigade command sergeant major since October 2007 and will be retiring with 36 years of military service. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly)

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