THE LION'S ROAR

EDITION 3: FY14

"UTMOST OF OUR ABILITY"



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THE LION'S ROAR

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Brigade Commander

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COMMANDERS NOTE

Lion Brigade,

The brigade continues to perform with excellence and the CSM and I are confident that we will continue to exceed the standards. As we approach the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth, we must not lose sight of building a bench of highly qualified leaders. Commander's need to start placing a greater emphasis on finding "tomorrow's Army leadership" among today's ranks.

Like it or not, my 23 years of service puts me closer to mandatory retirement than does it afford me the ability to serve for another 23 years. That means that my future replacement is already somewhere in the Army; likely serving as a Platoon Leader. And given our domestic context, if not brought to the table, my replacement will either chose to depart the Army for so called greener grass or, should they remain alone, lack the benefit of years of mentorship. Either way, it's our turn to ensure that the bench remains filled with highly qualified players who, when tapped, are fully prepared to enter the lineup. So what do we need to do?

Trust is the cornerstone of military service. An individual's choice to serve, whether enlisting or reenlisting, depends on a strong bond of trust between the volunteer, the Army and the Nation. Soldiers need to know that their Commander values their service and will provide them with the training, equipment and leadership necessary to accomplish their mission.

In closing, to build a bench of future leaders in this Army, it is imperative that we're honest with our subordinates, embrace talent management, and hold to high standards. We are only as good as our people and our aim should be to retain the best of the best. We are well down the road of transitioning from an Army of execution to an Army of preparation. So put your best foot forwards and always aim high. Everything else will fall into place.



Lion Warriors,

We are three quarters of the way through this fiscal year and I just want you to know how proud I am of each and every one of you. You have accomplished a tremendous amount of tasks, training, missions and so forth and we still have one more quarter to go. With that, we need to focus on three things; standards, discipline, dignity and respect.

We must not lose sight of the standards and discipline the Army has set forth for us. Although, the Army has been going through a series of changes this last decade, there is no excuse for service members to not abide by those standards. The Army holds all Soldiers and leaders accountable for upholding Army Values. You are all helping shape the future of this Army, whether you realize it or not. During these crucial times is when we need to look hard at ourselves and evaluate what we are doing right and what we can continue to improve and build upon.

Lastly, I want you to take time out to get to know your Soldiers. By knowing your Soldiers you are taking a proactive approach in their lives which helps with the prevention of Suicide, Sexual Harassment and Assault, and other threats to Soldier health and readiness. Which in turn, puts yourself in a better position to identify and appropriately address risk factors. Through education, positive influence, intolerance for abuse, and mutual respect, we can help put an end to these tragedies that haunt our Army family. Never forget that one of the most powerful means of influence you have is leading by example, the Army and the American people expect it from every member of the profession of arms. We must embody with our own character, the traits that we encourage in our Soldiers, live the Army Values, and exemplify the Army Profession— where military expertise, honorable service, esprit de corps and stewardship are built on a foundation of trust and respect.

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ON THE COVER



Spc. Willie L. Smith, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives specialist for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade, ensures everyone receives the signal to don protective masks during the Field Training Exercise at Fort Gordon, May 20. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Ashley M. Armstrong, 35th Signal Brigade Public Affairs/Released)

14



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35TH SIGNAL BRIGADE



"UTMOST OF OUR ABILITY"

Signal Strong



Soldiers of the 518th Tactical Installation Networking Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) file into Gym 5 at Fort Gordon, Ga., to be honored before departing on a 9-month deployment during a ceremony, May 4. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs/Released)

518th TIN Co. deploys

Story by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman
35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical)

FORT GORDON, Ga.— More than 120 Soldiers of the 518th Tactical Installation Networking Company took center stage at Gym 5 Sunday afternoon during a deployment ceremony. With their families and friends in attendance to show their support, the Soldiers headed off for a nine-month mission to the Middle East.

The 518th TIN Co. is part of 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) but will be supporting the 40th Signal Battalion and the 160th Signal Brigade in sustaining telecommunication facilities in the Middle East.

The ceremony marked the fifth deployment for the 518th TIN Co., the most recent was from June 2012 to March 2013, but it will be a first for several of the Soldiers who currently serve in the 518th TIN Co.

"This is my first time I've ever been away from my family. It's kind of life changing," said Pvt. Jaziman R. Smith, cable systems installer / maintainer for the 518th TIN Co. "I was kind of sad the last couple of days, but it's okay. I'm very family-oriented so I'm going to miss them the most. It should be an experience."

The Soldiers stood gallantly before the crowd who gathered in their honor as Lt. Col. Michael P. Martel, battalion commander, 63rd ESB, shared their unit's history and prestige and offered them words of encouragement.

"We know you'll make yourself, your families and your unit proud," Martel told the 518th TIN Co. Soldiers.

As the ceremony came to an end, Soldiers loaded buses and reached

"WE KNOW YOU'LL MAKE YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILIES AND YOUR UNIT PROUD."

— LT. COL. MICHAEL MARTEL

through windows to give their loved ones one last touch goodbye, before the Patriot Guard Riders escorted them off post.

"They know that I have a job to do over here and over there," said Spc. Corey Taylor, about preparing for his first deployment and added that though he was excited, his wife, Erica, and their 1-year-old daughter, Jacqueline would always be on his mind. "I'll miss them. Everything else is a commodity that I can do without."



Soldiers of 518th Tactical Installation Networking Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) load a plane on their way to a 9-month deployment following a farewell ceremony at Gym 5, May 4. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs/Released)



TOP AND BOTTOM: Soldiers of the 518th Tactical Installation Networking Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) say their goodbyes to their loved ones before loading the buses May 4 at Gym 5, Fort Gordon, Ga. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs/Released)



RAIDERS UPDATE



Soldiers of the 518th Tactical Installation Networking Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) arrived safely to their desitnation.

Shortly after, they honored Memorial Day at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 26, 2014, by contributing to an elaborate display of lights representing the U.S. service members who have fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a Memorial Day vigil.



CBRNE TRAINING

BRAVO, 67TH ESB READIES FOR DCRF

Story by 1st Lt. Kevin Troy and photos by Spc. Ryan Black
67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)



FORT GORDON, Ga.—Bravo Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) will be assuming Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive Response Force (DCRF) in October of 2014. In order to better prepare the 67th ESB Soldiers for DCRF, Bravo Company conducted a three-day priority training event that enabled Soldiers to train on various communicate and survive Army Warrior Tasks at a training site.

The tasks that were selected for training directly correlated with situations Soldiers may encounter while on DCRF including; radio communications during convoys, encountering a contaminated site, exposure to chemical or biological agents, communicating using hand-and-arm signals when protective masks are worn, sending accurate reports on contamination, and requesting medical evacuation upon the event of injury or contamination.

From setup throughout the three days of training, every Soldier stayed motivated and engaged. Soldiers learned how to operate a Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, evaluate a casualty, maintain their assigned protective mask, react to chemical and biological hazard, perform voice communications, use visual signaling techniques, decontaminate themselves and individual equipment using decontaminating kits, mark CBRNE contaminated areas, send a SPOT (situation, position, observation, and task) report, request medical evacuation, and protect themselves from chemical and biological contamination using assigned protective mask and with the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST).

"The training was more in depth, there was more participation, and more Soldiers took something away from training than in the past," said Sgt. James Crumbo, a command post node team chief. "All the training I gave was directly applicable for what we may have to react to when we are on DCRF."





"THIS PTE WAS A WORLD CLASS TRAINING EVENT. IT FINE-TUNED OUR WARRIOR'S TASKS AND BETTER ENABLED THEM TO BE PREPARED FOR THE UPCOMING DCRF MISSION AND OTHER MISSIONS WE MAY BE TASKED WITH."

— 1st SGT. JOHN BOND

The Soldiers gave positive feedback about the training event saying that the classes were relevant, instructors were able to answer questions, and there was a lot of hands-on training. Soldiers also provided their insight for ways to make future training better.

"The hands-on training gave us muscle memory on how to use our equipment," said

Sgt. Bradley Armstrong, a CPN team chief. "It's important to know and understand the uncertainty of potential situations we will encounter while on DCRF."

Pfc. Edgar Villedajimenez, Bravo Company CBRNE noncommissioned officer in-charger, was an invaluable asset to have part of training. Villedajimenez led training on the first day in order to teach Soldiers how to use the new protective masks. Even when he was sitting in classes he still spoke up and added his CBRNE experience to the class. For example, during evaluate a casualty and request medical evacuation Villedajimenez explained the process of care if there is chemical or biological exposure while treating casualties.

"This PTE was a world class training event. It fine-tuned our Warrior's in several different army Warrior Tasks and better enabled them to be prepared for the upcoming DCRF mission and any other missions we may be tasked with," said 1st Sgt. John Bond, Bravo Company's first sergeant, after assessing the training.

"As the company commander (of Bravo company), I was extremely proud of the Army Warrior Task training that was conducted." Said Capt. Terrance Pitts, Bravo Company commander. "It was a reflection of the caliber of Soldiers and Leaders we have within our ranks."





a 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Soldier conducts training at switch park at the newly designated Fort Gordon, Cyber Center of Excellence, April 25. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Ashley M. Armstrong, 35th Signal Brigade Public Affairs/Released)

Cyber Network Defender MOS now open to NCOs

Story by David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON-- A new military occupational specialty, 25D Cyber Network Defender, is now open to staff sergeants, sergeants first class and master sergeants in the Active Component, per Military Personnel Message 14-085.

Soldiers in the military occupational specialty, or MOS, "will protect against unauthorized activity in the cyberspace domain and perform assessments of threats and vulnerabilities within the network environment," according to the MILPER.

Soldiers from any MOS with a background in information assurance and information technology are encouraged to apply, said Jim Bragg, chief, Retention and Reclassification Branch, Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate at Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Ky.

The rules for getting into 25D "have been relaxed," Bragg said, explaining that normally, only Soldiers in "over-strength" MOSs are allowed into MOSs with shortages like this one.

As the Army downsizes, Soldiers in all MOSs, especially those that are over-strength, should consider applying for 25D, if this type of assignment is to their liking, he said, adding that getting into this MOS might also be beneficial for promotion opportunities.

"They're building this MOS from the ground up," Bragg said, meaning no one has actually been designated a cyber network defender yet. Once Soldiers get approval to become a 25D and then get the requisite training, they will have the MOS 25D, beginning Oct. 1 this year.

No decision has been made as to how large the MOS will be, so he said sooner would be a good time to apply rather than later. The training has already been validated, he added, and formal training will begin this summer.

The need to defend the networks is now critical due to the "increased pace of technology and the increase of the threat we see in the cyber world," said Col. Robert E. Duke, chief of Operations Support Division, Officer Personnel Management Directorate, HRC, where the new Cyber Branch is being established.

Soldiers who are in the information technology field were doing related cyber work in the past as part of their secondary duties, said Duke. "This will be a growth field."

Therefore, the importance of these duties demanded a need to establish a branch to manage cyber MOSs, he said.

"The Cyber Branch will ensure all Soldiers -- officer, warrant officer and enlisted performing cyber duties -- receive the same quality professional development they have come to expect from HRC. We will be the Cyber Soldier's contact for assignment, training and promotions."

Further details on 25D reclassification can be found in the MILPER, along with links for putting together a package for submission. The package goes to the chief of the Signal Corps for approval and will also include a follow-on exam and screening test.

Soldiers are encouraged to contact their career counselor to determine reclassification eligibility, Bragg said.

RETENTION

Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier... A Soldier for Life!



I would like to thank all the battalions for all the hard work in accomplishing 100% in all categories. July kicks off 4th Qtr Retention mission which also comes with a new bonus message.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 ELIGIBILITY WINDOW

Will begin on 1 Oct 13 and will continue through 30 Sep 14. Soldiers with an FY14 ETS date (1 Jan 2014 thru 30 Sep 2014) and FY15 ETS date (1 October 2014 thru 30 September 2015) are considered in the reenlistment opportunity window (ROW).

Reference: ALARACT 020/2014, Army Precision Retention

*For more information contact your unit Retention NCO

35th Signal Brigade
Senior Career Counselor
SFC DEATRA WILKES
706-791-6508





THE VEINS OF THE OPERATION

63rd ESB plays vital role in Beyond the Horizon

Story by Arkansas National Guard Sgt. Chauncey Reed
119th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ZACAPA, Guatemala—Charlie Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical), provided the network links to the task force supporting a humanitarian relief effort in various areas of Guatemala and the Dominican Republic during an exercise called Beyond the Horizon.

They played a vital role ensuring the safety and success of the operation as a key element interconnecting the moving parts as the veins of the operation. This large operation with more than 300 service members on mission at any given time of personnel who come from all across the United States and meet in Guatemala to assist. Beyond the Horizon-Guatemala is focused on strengthening relationships between countries by partnering to improve health and living conditions for the Guatemalan people.

"This exercise clearly demonstrates how well joint combined interagency partners can successfully come together to achieve common goals and objectives," said Army Lt. Gen. Ken E. Toyo, deputy commander, U.S. Army South providing educational and medical facilities to citizens of the Barahona Province.

Beyond the Horizon-Guatemala is a United States Southern Command sponsored Joint, Interagency, and Combined Field Training Exercise that was conducted this year March 31-June 27. The Soldiers in Guatemala helped to provide and incorporate Humanitarian and Civic Assistance construction projects, Medical Readiness Training Exercises and Exercise Related Construction projects.

In Barahona Province, Dominican Republic, the C Co. 63rd Soldiers supported the Joint Training Exercise for Engineer construction projects and HCA MEDRETES in and around the province from in order to improve the readiness of U.S. Forces and to support the USSOUTHCOM Theater Campaign Plan. They contributed to providing military and HCA training opportunities with Partner Nation Military and Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture.

"The 63rd Signal Battalion is down on the BTH mission to provide data and voice communications for the communications back to the States," Spc. Joel Vangura, C Co., 63rd ESB. "It's really the behind-the-scenes side of the Army because when you think of the Army you think of helicopters and tanks but the Army can't really operate without commands coming down from the top. We are the link back to the states and ultimately to the Commander and Chief."

Soldier of C Co., 63rd ESB, operated and maintained reliable, responsive, and robust Multi-Channel Tactical Satellite systems located at the Forward Operating Site in the Guatemalan 2nd Brigade Military District. Many beyond the horizon work sites are in impoverished areas and adequate communication is the key to successfully assisting the local communities.

"Our goal was to improve the quality of life of the Dominican people," said Tovo to U.S. service members at the closing ceremony, June 16. "With your hard work, I believe we did just that."

(Sgt. Monte Swift, 203rd Public Affairs Detachment, contributed to this article)

"THE 63RD SIGNAL BATTALION IS DOWN ON THE BTH MISSION TO PROVIDE DATA AND VOICE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS BACK TO THE STATES."

— SPC. JOEL VANGURA

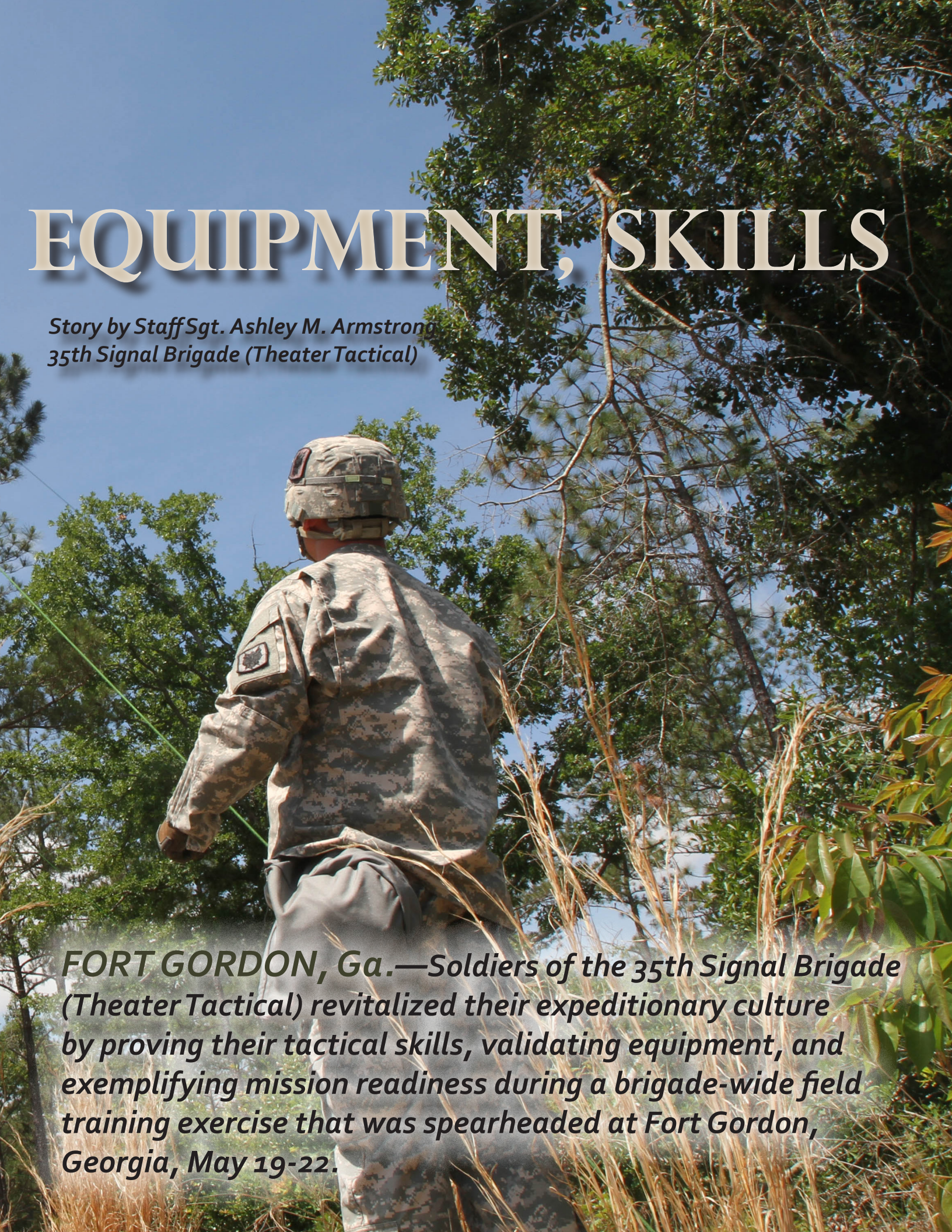





BRIGADE VALIDATES

EQUIPMENT, SKILLS

Story by Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Armstrong
35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical)



FORT GORDON, Ga.—Soldiers of the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) revitalized their expeditionary culture by proving their tactical skills, validating equipment, and exemplifying mission readiness during a brigade-wide field training exercise that was spearheaded at Fort Gordon, Georgia, May 19-22.

All four battalions, spanning from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, were tasked to establish an operating base, employ communications systems, and rapidly move all equipment and reestablish connection once during the day and once at night during the exercise titled "Operation Lion's Creed."

"It was a great exercise for the brigade as we were able to mission-command units actually moving on the battlefield, which we would do in a real-life scenario," said Maj. Jennifer Mendel, brigade operations officer in charge, 35th TTSB. "It was good for us to work with those systems as a Brigade; keeping track unit locations and understanding that they may only be there for a short period of time before moving again. It was a very realistic exercise."



The brigade FTX also prepared Bravo Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), for Vibrant Response 2014, a national training exercise that will ensure the battalions readiness for Defense Chemical, Radiological, Biological, Nuclear, and Explosive Response Force missions in the future and validated Alpha Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) for Global Response Force missions.

"We did stability operations for years where we were at a fixed site and we have to get back to the field craft," Mendel said. "It was really great to be able to exercise those skills that we generally don't or hadn't been using in so long."

The exercise proved a bit uncomfortable for some who were unaccustomed to the environment, their new teams, equipment and updates added Mendel.

"I've been able to cross train with [Joint Network Node] and the Phoenix," said Spc. Ned A. Bennett, a satellite communication systems operator-maintainer and Nehawka, Nebraska, native, with Bravo Company, 67th ESB, 35th TTSB, who has most recently been on a Satellite Transportable Terminal team.

"Learning more and reacquainting with the Phoenix plus learning the JNN has been beneficial. It also allowed the brigade commander and other leadership an opportunity to understand what improvements could be made in training and equipment to enhance overall mission capabilities.

"Some of the equipment just doesn't want to work but the good thing about that is that you tend to learn a lot, like what to look for when there are problems," said Bennett. "If everything works all the time you never learn what you should do when something goes wrong. It helps us communicate. We find these little hiccups and make ourselves better for it."

Many of the equipment issues that the signal teams



faced couldn't have been identified during day-to-day maintenance but required the trials of real-life operations, Bennett added. Those shortcomings, once properly annotated, are intended to be addressed and alleviated by the brigade's next FTX in the summer.

Though it was far from flawless, the exercise still united the brigade in tactical scenarios and provided opportunity for all involved to grow individually and collectively into a more battletested and battle focused team.



B Co. 63rd ESB ready for action

Story by Staff Sgt. Fong K. Yang
63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

FORT GORDON, Ga. — Preparing for a field exercise and completing one can be an arduous task and Soldiers of Bravo Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) found this out while preaparing for the 35th TTSB FTX, May 19-22.
Bravo Company conducted a battalion communication and switch exercise leading up to the one weeklong brigade field training exercise. The main focus of the exercise was to ensure that the Brigade could provide constant communication while working with High Capacity Line of Sight (HCLOS) and tactical satellite.

The field exercise involved getting Soldiers from 63rd and 67th Signal Battalion involved in a four-day field exercise starting the. Bravo Company Soldiers tested out all their pieces equipment on various training sites around Fort Gordon, GA. They were also to be able to provide communication for the 63rd ESB ALOC and Battalion Command Post.

During the initial phase of operation, Bravo Company deployed everyone to the field on the first day to include their support elements. Being at five separate locations miles apart, the network would start to shift that night by having different teams jump to other locations. The network was consistently changing and HCLOS was the main priority at every site jump.

On the second night, the two Joint Nodal Networks (JNN) had swapped sites to ensure continuity of communication. The first to "jump" was 1st Platoon, who started the process on or about 2200. The movement of the JNN would also coincide with night driving using night vision goggles. After a successful completion of movement to Battalion Main site and relieving 2nd platoon's JNN, they proceeded with the movement to their new site using the same method as 1st platoon.

Days three and four consisted of making sure all communication was completed and the teams were fully up and functioning. The smaller Command Post Node (CPN) teams were there support the various other units from the Battalion that were involved in the exercise.

Spc. Stewart, a satellite communication systems operator maintainer, 1st platoon, was asked what he thought about the field exercise. His response was that he learned some important things about team work and accomplishment of the mission. He also wished the field training exercise would have been longer in length to better prepare for longer missions.

Overall, this one week field training exercise allowed the unit to determine what requirements were needed in the field. Learning from their mistakes, they are now preparing for another field training exercise and will continue to progress and learn from their mistakes. Big Dawgs fit to fight!

Lion's pride



Command Sergeant Major Perry D. Summerville, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) passes the saber to the incoming Command Sergeant Major Marlon D. Anding, 50th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, at Twins Lions Field, June 10, Fort Bragg, N.C.

50th ESB farewells CSM Acome and welcomes CSM Anding

Story and photo by Sgt. Dianne M. Carter
10th Press Camp Headquarters

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—Soldiers, assigned to the 50th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical), stood in formation, June 10, to participate in a change-of-responsibility ceremony at Twin Lions Field.

A change-of-responsibility ceremony is a time- honored military tradition to show respect to the outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Mathew I. Acome and bare-witness to the acceptance of responsibility by the incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Marlon D. Anding who assumes the responsibilities of advising the battalion commander and taking care of troops.

"Every Soldier should look to you and see what right looks like. Every Soldier should feel comfortable coming to you for advice and every Soldier should know exactly where he or she stands in your eyes. That is what it means to be a sergeant major," said Command Sgt. Maj. Perry D. Summerville, the command sergeant major of 35th TTSB, as he explained the importance the position holds.

During Acome's 27 months in the 50th ESB, he accomplished three company redeployments, more than 100 local signal support missions, partnered with the 21st Signal Brigade to improve tactical flexibility, worked with the Golden Knights to provide tandem jumps, established a battalion German Proficiency Badge program with the Fort Bragg German Liaison, reintroduced the Noncommissioned officer's Induction Ceremony and built a Combative Tournament to build troop morale.

As Lt. Col. William McDowell, commander of 50th ESB, wished Acome a farewell and blessings on his new endeavors he said, "He leaves a truly remarkable legacy that will not soon be forgotten."

Anding approached the podium and looked over his troops as they stood on the field. He spoke to them about leadership, that leadership was influence, and together they have the power to increase that influence. He also talked about how the battalion's mission was to remain ready, relevant, and prepared to fight and win the nation's wars.

Anding has served with the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado; U.S. Army Fort Gordon Signal Center of Excellence and 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, Fort Gordon, Georgia; 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; 57th Signal Battalion, 3rd Signal Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas; 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; 13th Corps Support Command, Fort hood, Texas; 101st Airborne Division and Division Support Command, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey Korea; 24th Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Georgia; 3rd Infantry Division Aschaffenburg, Germany; and 75th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



A drawing done by the son of Lt. Col. Daron L. Long, deputy brigade commander, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical), stands for display at Long's promotion to colonel at the Gordon Club, Fort Gordon, Ga., May 30.



Lt. Col. Daron L. Long, native of Greenwood, S.C., and deputy brigade commander, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical), receives the rank of colonel by his son's Joseph and Jarod while his wife Gara watches at a ceremony at the Gordon Club, Fort Gordon, Ga., May 30.

35th TTSB celebrates DBC's promotion

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Armstrong
35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical)

FORT GORDON, Ga.—Family, friends and colleges gathered at the Gordon Club May 30, in honor and celebration of the promotion of 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Deputy Brigade Commander Lt. Col. Daron L. Long to the rank of Colonel.

Maj. Gen. Clarence K.K. Chinn, Task Force Bragg IV commanding general at 18th Airborne Corps, introduced Long and spoke on the importance of leadership and the heritage of the Colonel rank. Long, native of Greenwood, South Carolina, was joined by his wife Gara and children Joseph, Jarod, Bryce and Jenna, along with other members of his family.

Daron L. Long currently serves as the Deputy Brigade Commander, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical). He is from Greenwood, South Carolina and graduated from Lander College in December 1991, receiving his commission as a second lieutenant.

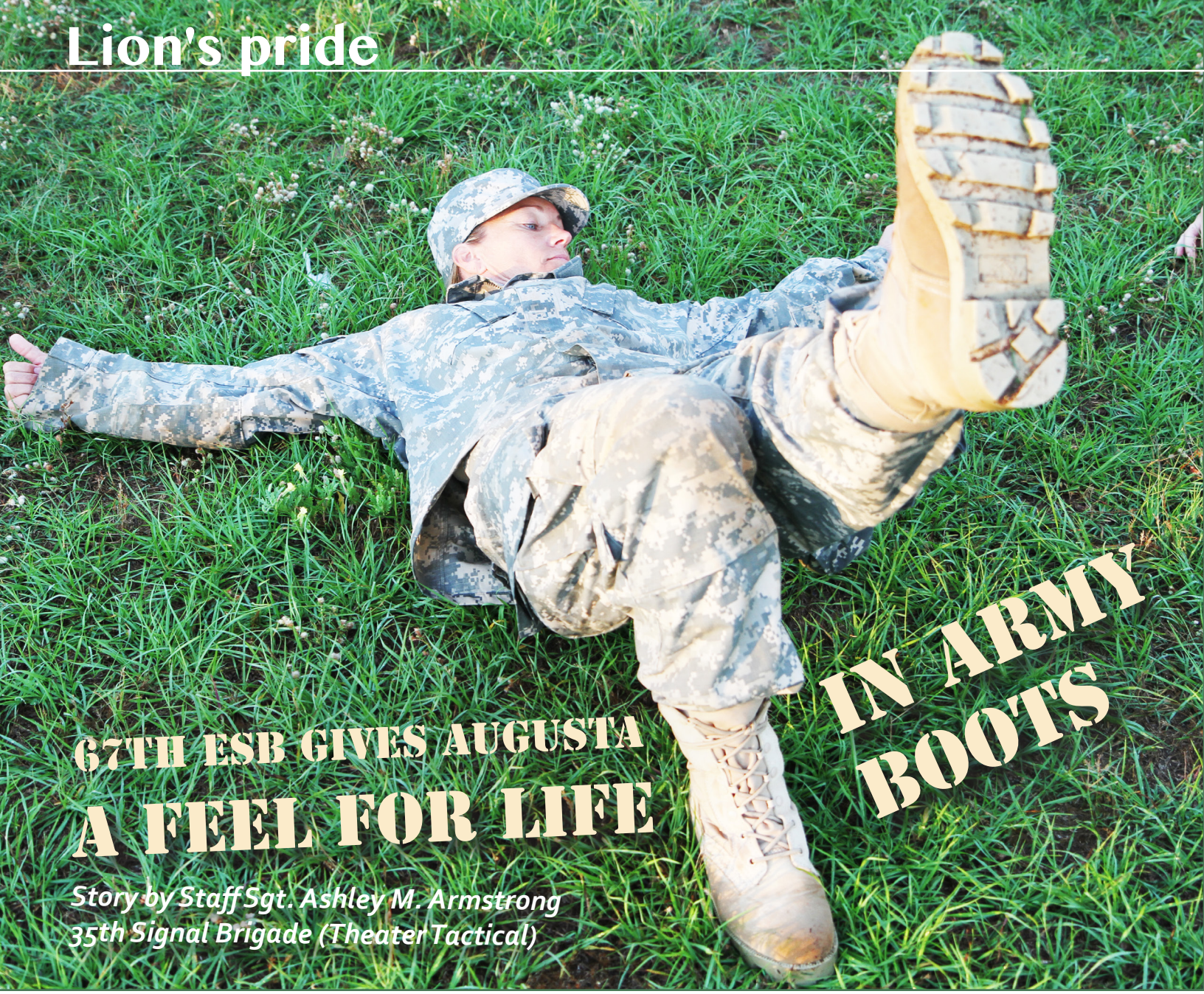
"I'm really humbled by the opportunity that the Army has given me to continue to serve and I haven't gotten this far by myself," said Long during his ceremony.

After the Signal Officer Basic Course (1992), Long began his career in Stuttgart, Germany, with the 587th Signal Company serving as a Platoon Leader and Executive/Operations Officer (1993 – 1995) and later moved to serve as the Administration and Logistics Officer (S1/S4) for the 52d Signal Battalion (1995 – 1996). After completion of the Signal Officer Advanced Course, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he served in the Division Signal Office / G6 (1996 – 1997, 2001 – 2002) and served as Signal Officer for 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment (1996 – 1998), Signal Officer for 2nd Brigade and 502nd Infantry Regiment (1998 – 1999), and Commander of B Company, 501st Signal Battalion (1999 – 2001). Following his time with the Screaming Eagles, Long was reassigned to Fort Gordon, Georgia, where he served in the 442nd Signal Battalion as the Branch Chief responsible for S6 training and Battalion Executive Officer (2002 – 2004).

Upon completion of Command and General Staff College, he was assigned to the 54th Signal Battalion in Iraq and Kuwait as the Battalion Operation Officer (2005 – 2006) and later reassigned to Fort Gordon, GA where he served as the Operations and Executive Officer for the 56th Signal Battalion (2006 – 2008). He next served as a Joint Staff Action Officer on The Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. (2008 – 2010). Just prior to his current assignment, Long served as the Commander of 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina (2010 – 2012).

Long earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Lander College in 1991 and a Master of Arts degree in Telecommunications Management from Webster University in 2005. His professional military education includes the Signal Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Battalion and Brigade Signal Officer Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, and Command and General Staff College.

Long is married to his bride of 21 years, Gara, and they have four children. He is scheduled to conduct a permanent change of station in July to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, where he will serve as the Third Army/U.S. Army Central Command's G6.



67TH ESB GIVES AUGUSTA A FEEL FOR LIFE IN ARMY BOOTS

Story by Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Armstrong
35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical)

FORT GORDON, Ga.—Eight Augusta managers, directors and CEOs traded their business suits for Army Combat Uniforms, their briefcases for rucksacks, and stepped out of their offices and homes onto a military training field for a two-day experience as U.S. Army Soldiers during an 'Augusta in Army Boots' event at Fort Gordon, June 10-11.

The event is available several times a year and aims to create opportunity for Augusta community members to hone their leadership skills while gaining tactical knowledge while encouraging mutual respect and understanding.

"This event is an excellent opportunity for us to continue to build our relationship with our community and provide community leaders an opportunity to experience the importance of what we do as well as the impact of their support for our Soldiers and families," said 1st Lt. Kashmir M. Rhymes, the officer-in-charge of the event, and plans OIC for Headquarters and Headquarters Company 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical), the organization who sponsored the event.

Each community member was paired with a Soldier to guide them through various warrior tasks and battle drills including; react to an Improvised Explosive Device, react to an ambush, and break contact using basic movement techniques for individual and squad size elements.

"You always hear that the military is structured for a reason this gave me a sense of why that is." said Kim R. Asbell, Director of Advanced Clinicals at Doctors Hospital of Augusta. "It was an interesting adventure being able to experience what the military goes through. It makes it real and gives you that kind of understanding that you can only get from real life experience."

Adorned in military gear, the participants low-crawled through mud and sand, busted through doors to clear buildings, familiarized with an assault rifle and learned some basics of Modern Army Combatives and Combat Life-Saver.

"Besides the rucksack, the most challenging part for me was the low-crawl. I kept asking, 'Are we there yet?"Asbell said with a chuckle. "I gained a real appreciation for what they







do on a day-to-day basis."

The community members were afforded a realistic military training experience while staying the night in tents at the Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy Forward Operating Base where they witnessed the true meaning of adaptability.

"When the thunder and lightning started we had to pack-up and move out all of a sudden," said Asbell about a storm that hit them during their stay at the FOB. "It wasn't planned, it wasn't scheduled, and it was exactly like what the military goes through. That ended up being my favorite because I got to experience what Soldiers really experience when things aren't choreographed."

Even though the program focused on training community members, it also provided a unique experience for the Soldiers who sponsored them.

"I just love her. She's so funny," said Staff Sgt. Jeanette J. Natta, platoon sergeant, Bravo Company, 67th ESB, 35th TTSB, about the friendship she gained with Asbell who she sponsored. "It was so awesome to be able to use my skills and knowledge, and share it with someone who really wanted to learn. It definitely helped teach me patience and helped shape me into a better leader."

During a graduation ceremony the participants relived their accomplishments in a commemorative video and were awarded the gold bar of a second lieutenant on a hat presented to them by Col. Robert L. Edmonson II, commander of 35th TTSB, and Col. Samuel G. Anderson, garrison commander of Fort Gordon.

"I would recommend it to anyone. It's a great leadership experience. When I go back to the hospital I can use what I've learned, like how important it is to take command of a situation and not let it get out of hand. Sure everyone has an opinion and everyone has limitations, but you work around it," said Asbell of what her takeaways were. "I definitely have a sense of pride after going through it. It was well worth the time and effort."

Augusta in Army Boots has several events throughout the year and the next is scheduled for October 2014. For more information contact the program coordinator and U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Gordon's Chief of Community Engagements, Alia Naffouj, at (706) 791-1871 or email alia.n.naffouj.civ@mail.mil.

THE LION BRIGADE

TIME CAPSULE

2003



A page from the 93rd Signal Brigade's magazine, prior to the brigade being redesignation as the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical).

The resolve of 63rd Signal Battalion was called into action for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in Southwest Asia on February 16, 2003. The 63rd crossed into Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st MEF and emplaced signal support stretching from Kuwait to as far North as Baghdad and Fallujah, Iraq.

From tactical to installational 63rd Signal Battalion in Operation Iraqi Freedom

Story by Lt Col. John A. Rutt, 63rd Signal Battalion commander, 2003
and Capt. Jeremiah J. Jette, Bravo company commander, 2003

The 63rd Signal Battalion deployed deep into Iraq upon initiation of the ground war, and installed an echelons-above-corps tactical network that supported theater logistic support areas from the Kuwaiti border to Baghdad. The 63rd deployed three companies into Iraq on the first few days of the ground war. Company C installed communications at three different LSA sites in central Iraq maneuvering the company a distance of over 1,150 kilometers in a month and a half before reaching the final mission site.

Company A installed communications in Eastern Iraq moving twice in a few weeks across a distance of over 200 km. Concurrently, Company B moved 150 km into Iraq and supported LSA Adder at Tallil Air Base.

It became very apparent early on that this mission at Tallil would grow beyond 63rd 's tactical capabilities. In this article we specifically discuss the Company B mission in Iraq because of its relevance in future operations for Signal units and give insights into solutions to this tactical dilemma.

The 63rd Signal Battalion is a Tactical EAC Telecommunications Battalion that provides digital group multiplexing line-of-sight radios, single shelter switches, EAC small extension nodes, a large extension node and commercial off-the-shelf data packages. For the mission into Iraq our higher headquarters, the 11th Signal Brigade, augmented us with numerous Promina 400 Multiplexing nodes, Tropospheric scatter radio vans, Triband and GMF SATCOM systems.

On March 23, 2003, after convoying through the desert for two days, the battalion headquarters, BATCON and Company B, arrived at Tallil Air Base, ten miles southwest of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. Tallil Air Base was liberated by the 82nd Airborne Division during the first Gulf War and had not been an active Air Base since then. It was, however, the Headquarters of the Iraqi 11th Infantry Division only days before we occupied it. The day prior, the 377th Theater Support Command commander decided to move the location of LSA Adder from the planned site in the middle of the desert to the former Iraqi Air Force Base at Tallil 30 km away. This decision would become the reason that we would ultimately take on an installational communications role.

Company B's mission was to provide voice and data communications to the 377th TSC (Foward) commanding






general, his staff and operations center. The 377th TSC was responsible for opening Theater LSA Adder. Added to this mission, Company B was tasked to provide gateway connectivity between the CFLCC theater network and V Corps tactical voice and data networks. Initially, the 22nd Signal Brigade located a corps node center at Tallil where we incorporated them into our operations installing SSS to node center links to integrate the two networks. From the first hours on site and for the next five months, Company B provided services to over 40 battalion-level and higher commands in a steadily developing strategic hub of logistical support.

The tactical network

Company B provided initial services to LSA Adder by installing one Promina 400 SA trunk link providing voice, non-secure internet protocol router and secure internet protocol routers routes via Triband satellite to a large EAC communications hub at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. An internodal was installed to the collocated 22nd Signal Brigade node center via coax cable. The early days of combat operations went smoothly as the node center terminated all corps and division units with assigned SENs. This freed Company B to provide service solely to the theater subscribers at Tallil.

At this time, the company operations functioned the same as most tactical operations cells throughout the Signal Corps. The OPS, with all the automations support and tracking tools, was collocated with the switch and data package. As in most tactical setups, relocation and flexibility were essential, therefore the OPS set up in two Standard Integrated Command Post tents side-by-side.

As the fight steadily progressed and the corps and divisional units on Tallil were jumping to other positions north, theater-level assets, none of whom had their own SENs, were replacing them. The changing corps boundaries signified the beginning of the shift from tactical to installation communications support. Our customer support requirement increased dramatically, causing a number of challenges. Technically, we could not support the increased subscriber bandwidth requirements while single-threaded into Kuwait. Arriving units also created a much larger footprint spreading throughout the twelve square mile area of the Air Base. In order to support these units, we employed three remote SENs, four remote multiplexer combiners, one line termination unit and over 30 Campus RS digital subscribe line (PairGain) modems to transport data via two or four strand wire. The backbone was improved when the 11th Signal Brigade provided us a TSC-93C TACSAT terminal and we engineered in two TRC-170V(2), Heavy Tropo Scatter Radios, with links into a large EAC hub at Camp Udairi, Kuwait. With these additions the network became a more redundant tactical structure.

Conclusion

As always, the success of the mission for us depended on our soldiers. It took over 450 assigned and attached soldiers for the 63rd Signal Battalion to accomplish its mission. Many of our most critical systems were provided to us as attachments from the various units of the 11th Signal Brigade. Their competence and spirit were absolutely critical to our success. All of our soldiers were well trained and had the right attitude and leadership to work with new equipment and pull this network together. The 11th Signal Brigade provided us with the expertise and training for all of this new equipment and their support for us was truly extraordinary. All the soldiers of the battalion performed magnificently under extreme conditions in some of the most forward and dangerous places in the theater as the first EAC Signal Battalion in Iraq. Signal soldiers can and will get the message through.

In box

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Strength Through Diversity





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

Hello Lion Brigade,

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.

We have recognized these three national observances for 3rd quarter: Holocaust Remembrance Day (Days of Remembrance), Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Pride Month. Next quarter we have Women's Equality Day and the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. Also during our 4th quarter we will be training on Sexism, and Inappropriate relationships. Every quarter, I invite you to join the 35th TTSB family in celebrating our national observances at your locations. This is a time to reflect upon our history so that we can expand our future.

SHARP

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION

I AM THE FORCE BEHIND THE FIGHT



IT STARTS WITH ME...



35th Signal Brigade SHARP Representative
MSG MICHAEL T. PERKINS
BLDG 25426
706-791-7038

SHARP HOTLINES: FORT BRAGG 910-584-4297, JOINT BASE LEWIS MCCORD 253-389-8469, FORT GORDON 706-791-6297

9 Interesting facts about the US Military



1. 30 of the 43 Presidents served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General (Washington and Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (T. Roosevelt)

2. The Department of Defense owns worldwide 29,819,492 acres of land worldwide.

3. The U.S. Air Force was part of the Army until 1946. It was called the U.S. Army Air Corps.

4. 24 of our United States Presidents served in the Army during wartime

5. The Department of Defense employs about 1.8 million people on active duty. It is the largest employer in the United States, with more employees than Exxon, Mobil, Ford, General Motors, and GE combined!

6. The United States has 737 military installations overseas alone.

7. The U.S. Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.1. President Theodore Roosevelt was awarded the Medal of Honor, 103 years after his time in combat



8. 30 of 44 United States Presidents served in the Army (NOTE: we had a few Presidents also who served in the Navy or National Guard as well)

9. The Army was in charge of mapping and exploring much of America, including the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which included both commissioned and non-commissioned officers from The United States Army

The signs are all around

IT'S UP TO YOU TO RECOGNIZE AND ACT ON THEM

HEAT INJURY PREVENTION

TRAINING, DISCIPLINE AND STANDARDS

Training, discipline and standards are the bedrock of our Army, and as Soldiers, you've been taught what right looks like. As leaders, you have a duty and a responsibility to maintain standards in your formation. You also have an obligation to your Soldiers and their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. In our fight against accidental fatalities, knowledge is the weapon of choice.



35th Signal Brigade
Safety Manager
JOE J. BAYNE
706-791-2978

KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT
know the signs
DO WHAT'S RIGHT



COMPREHENSIVE SOLDIER FITNESS

STRONG MINDS ★ STRONG BODIES

35th Signal Brigade
Master Resilience Trainer
SFC CHRISTOPHER MATTHEWS
706-791-3519

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

WHAT'S THE ROCK IN YOUR POCKET?

The story has been told of a young man, whose first job was working in a rope factory. These were no ordinary ropes but the thick ropes used for sea faring vessels. Various strands were fed into a machine that wove them together into the rope which came out the end of the machine. His job was to take the end of the rope and wrap it around a spool.

Several workers inquired if he had a "rock in his pocket". Not sure what this meant, and not wanting to appear ignorant his first day on the job, he replied in the affirmative. It was not until the first strand came out of the machine and he grabbed it, only to find out it was one stiff pole that continued to move rapidly straight ahead, even taking this man along with it, off his feet, and he fell onto the concrete floor with his ego deflated. The finished rope kept moving straight ahead, horizontal to the floor, until someone turned off the machine.

It was then he understood, if only he had a "rock" or a "foundation" upon which he could hold on to, then he could have moved the rope where he wanted it to go rather than the rope carrying him where it wanted to go. How often do we have these "ropes" in our lives, which seem to want to carry us away? These may be in the form of bad habits, addictions, financial difficulties, problems at home or at work, problems with relatives, health issues, and the list can go on.

It may be at times like this, we begin to realize that if only we had a "rock in our pocket" we could do something with these ropes that threaten to carry us away. For those of faith, your faith will be able carry you through great difficulties. One begins to realize that what we trust in is big enough to enable us to maneuver that rope where one needs it to go.

There are other "rocks" in one's tool box. For those who are concerned about making a decision that impacts their marital relationship, one may find a foundation rock while reflecting upon the marriage vows, such as "cleave only unto you as long as we both shall live". One may feel like quitting, and then the "rock" of the "Warrior Ethos" comes to mind, "I will never quit". Or when temptation comes ones way, one may find a rock to hold onto in the "Army values". When one could be overwhelmed, family and coworkers may provide the rock that is needed.

Without various "rocks in our pocket" one could be like that individual who got carried away and dumped on the floor in the factory.

35th Signal Brigade
Master Resilience Trainer
MAJ ARLEIGH VONSEGGERTH
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ARMY




ARMY
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ARMY
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ARMY
ST. JOHN'S





















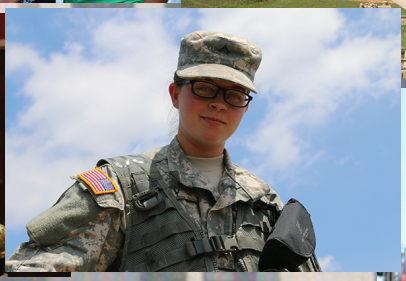



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WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We want to help you tell it...



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