

228TH THEATER TACTICAL SIGNAL BRIGADE SUMMER 2015



*Command & Communicate
Signal Strong*

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Command Sergeant Major:
Command Sgt. Maj.
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Spc. Victoria Niemela

On the Cover

The 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducted annual training at Clark's Hill Training Site in Plum Branch, S.C., June 2015. During the training, the battalion validated signal equipment upgrades that were fielded to the units earlier this year. The upgrade to the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical system will replace dated components and provide expanded networking capabilities.



/228thSignalBrigade



/228thSigBDE



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Commander's Corner

*Col. Wallace Hall,
outgoing brigade commander*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Soldiers of the 228th. Thank you for your dedicated service, for your ability to adapt as the training required, for doing what it takes to complete the mission, and thank you for allowing me to serve as your commander.

As the unit transitions to a new brigade commander, I want each of you to continue to provide that same commitment to Col. Jenkins and show him the spirit and comradery of the 228th.

The unit will face new challenges over the next year and beyond, but I am confident you

will overcome any obstacles and will come out successful! Allow these challenges to test your limits and help each one of you grow as Soldiers and leaders. Take the opportunity to learn from mistakes, share lessons learned and always enjoy what you do.

I have come to know many of you personally during my time as the commander and I will take those relationships with me and hold them close. Thank you for the memories and friendships only the National



Capt. Matthew Harakas presents Col. Wallace Hall with a token of appreciation from the brigade during the change of command ceremony, June 13.

Guard can provide.

Thank you again for all you have done for this unit and all you will continue to do.

Signal ready, Signal strong!

*Col. David Jenkins
incoming brigade commander*



Col. David Jenkins addresses the Soldiers of the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade for the first time as the new commander.

I am honored and humbled to be able to serve as your new brigade commander. I hope that I will be

able to meet the expectations that you have of me, as I'm sure you will meet the ones I have of you.

Looking ahead for the brigade, there are many great challenges and opportunities that lie in the immediate future, including bringing a new battalion into the brigade. I am confident we will be successful in on-boarding the 1050th Transportation Battalion and ask for your continued support and dedication as we transition this unit into one of our own.

As many of you may know, I began my career in the South Carolina Army National Guard in the 228th Signal Brigade. My first assignment was 2nd platoon leader, Charlie Company 151st Signal Bn. Since that time I have been fortu-

nate to serve in a number of units and positions throughout the State. These varied and broadening assignments have well prepared me for this opportunity. I am extremely excited and honored to be coming back home as your commander and look forward to working with all of you to train and prepare the next generation of military leaders.

I leave you with this thought; at the end of each day history is made. I charge and challenge you to work with me to make the next season in our Brigade's history remarkable.

“Command and Communicate - Signal Strong”

South Carolina National Guard inducts three into Warrant Officer Hall of Fame

Photo by Sgt. Brad Mincey



Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Bibb was inducted into the South Carolina National Guard Warrant Officer Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover, S.C., April 12, 2015. Bibb continues to serve the Army and the South Carolina National Guard as a civilian contractor supporting the 263rd AAMDC mission in Anderson.

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Cashion

EASTOVER, S.C. — Warrant officers are known as the “quiet professionals,” as they often go about their work without a lot of fanfare, but are frequently looked upon by officers and enlisted Soldiers alike as the subject matter experts in their career fields. Perfectly illustrating that quiet professionalism and dedication to duty were the three Soldiers of the 2015 induction class

into the South Carolina National Guard Warrant Officer Hall of Fame, as they were honored April 12, 2015, at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover, S.C.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harold (Eric) Seymore, Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael C. Bibb and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gene A. Norris, Jr. were inducted for their outstanding achievements and service to the South Carolina National Guard. They join an elite class of 28 war-

rant officers currently in the Hall of Fame.

Originally from Seneca, S.C., Bibb began his military service in January 1981 as an enlisted Soldier and was appointed as a warrant officer in February 1991.

In August 1996, Bibb re-classed as a signal warrant officer and served in multiple capacities within the 111th and 151st Signal Battalions.

While serving as the 111th Signal Battalion’s C&E officer, he personally developed the tactical and technical communication architectures for the 111th Signal Battalion, 228th, 30th, and 48th Signal Brigades in support of National Training Center and numerous other missions that greatly contributed to overall mission success.

While deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in 2003-2004, Bibb worked with members of the 11th Sig-

nal Brigade, 22nd Signal Brigade and V Corps on the installation and management of the largest tactical communications network ever deployed by the U.S. Army.

Bibb continues to serve the Army and the SC National Guard as a civilian contractor supporting the 263rd AAMDC mission in Anderson, S.C.

Some of Bibb’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

“I never thought I would be standing here today,” said Bibb. “This is a great honor.”

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston Jr., the Adjutant General of South Carolina, presided over the ceremony.

“I want to express my appreciation and admiration,” said Livingston. “You have to be special to earn induction into the Hall of Fame. Thank you so much for your service.”

228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade master sergeant commissions into warrant officer corps

Story and photos by Sgt. Witherington

A senior non-commissioned officer with the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade commissioned into the warrant officer corps at a ceremony at the National Guard armory in Hodges, South Carolina, May 1.

Master Sgt. Steve Dixon, 228th TTSB logistics

NCO in charge, became a warrant officer 1 at the ceremony, surrounded by family and friends.

Dixon had his two sons, Bryson and Caden, help with the promotion and was sworn in by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Andrew Robinson, 228th TTSB property book officer.

“I think that Steve’s focus on

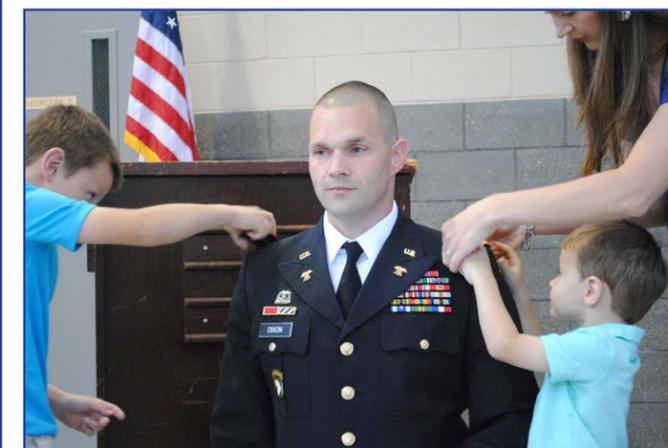
his character, his faith and his family helped to get him to the rank of warrant officer,” said Maj. Seth Horrell, 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion executive officer. “He has his priorities right and he has the balance right, he is a hard worker.”

Since originally applying for warrant officer, Dixon said that he has been promot-

ed three times, but added that his rank did not matter when he went through and graduated warrant officer school.

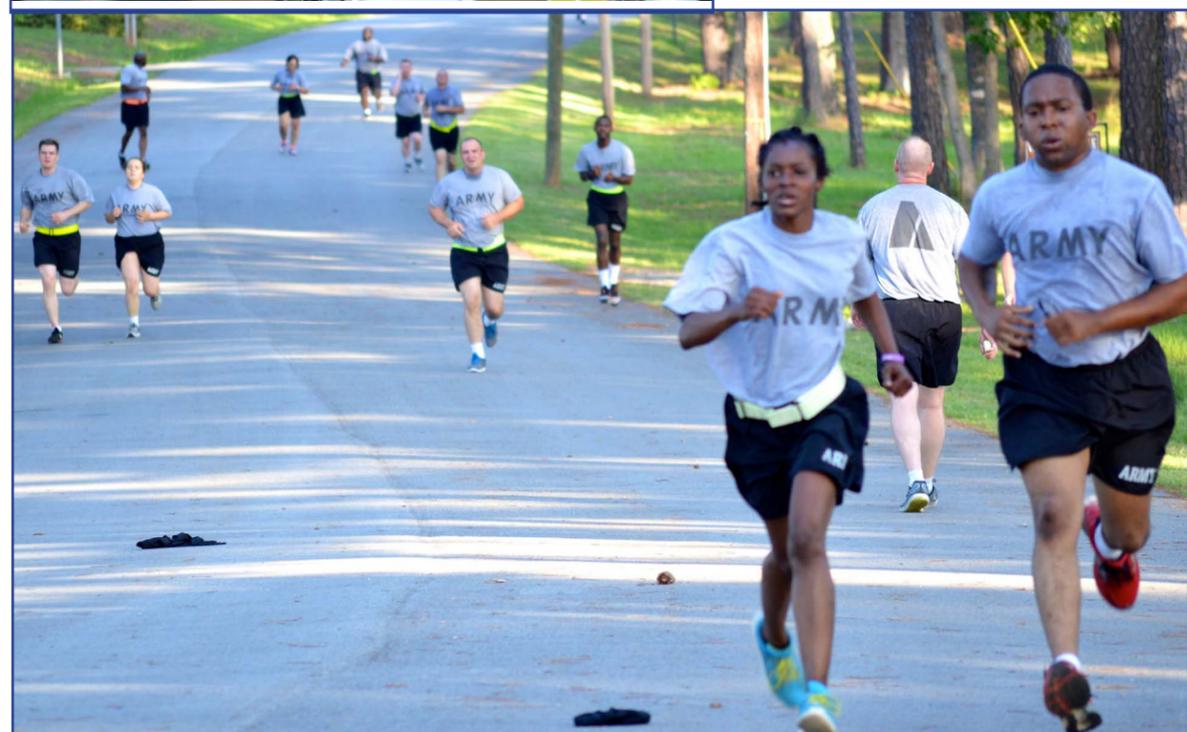
“I was accepted to the warrant officer corps...before I was promoted to master sergeant, but even if I was promoted to the rank of sergeant major, I would have still proceeded to warrant officer,” said Dixon.

Master Sgt. Steve Dixon, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade logistics noncommissioned officer in charge, was promoted to warrant officer 1 during a ceremony held at the armory in Hodges, S.C., May 1. Dixon had his two sons, Bryson and Caden, help with the promotion and was sworn into the warrant officer corps by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Andrew Robinson, 228th TTSB property book officer.



151st ESB in the Field

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Arthur Hampton, unless otherwise noted



The 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducted their annual training at Clark's Hill Training Site in Plum Branch, S.C., June 2015. During the training, the battalion validated signal equipment upgrades that were fielded to the units earlier this year. The upgrade to the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical system will replace dated components and provide expanded networking capabilities. Service members also completed additional Soldier requirements such as an Army Physical Fitness Test, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills and ancillary training.



The 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducted annual training at Clark's Hill Training Site in Plum Branch, S.C., June 13-27, validating signal equipment upgrades that were fielded to the units earlier this year, while also conducting company-level training.

The equipment upgrade to the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical system will replace outdated components and provide expanded networking and communications capabilities. The updates make the WIN-T system faster and more secure, as well as more versatile, flexible and user friendly.

Training on the equipment with the new upgrades lets the Soldiers adjust and work out any bugs in the system making them more efficient and battle-ready.

"I like the hands-on training and to actually understand how it works," said Spc. Tabi Marshall, 151st ESB, Alpha Company satellite transportation terminal operator.

In order to test the Soldiers' understanding of the new upgrades, each company was split into several teams consisting of three to four Soldiers capable of providing Internet data and communications. The teams were then given a mission from the battalion headquarters to travel to a South Carolina National Guard Armory and set up communications there. These locations were at various armories across the state and the teams were given a certain amount of time to have communications online at the given armory. After arriving at the specified armory and

establishing a communications link, they were to maintain the link for 48 hours.

Not only did this training provide familiarization with the new upgrade, it also gave Soldiers the opportunity to learn how to conduct signal missions.

"Each mission is different and every time I learn something new," stated Staff Sgt. Janette Domingo, 151st ESB, Bravo Company squad leader.

While the major focus of this annual training was on the signal missions, other company level training was also conducted, including the Virtual Convoy Operations Simulator.

"The Virtual Convoy Operations Simulator teaches Tactical Convoy Operations and the plus to this program is that it saves gas and money for the military," said Master Sgt. Anthony Parker, the instructor of this simulator. "It also allows young Soldiers to be in leadership roles in a training environment, where nobody dies from mistakes."

The program encompasses the entire convoy movement from planning the convoy, vehicle posi-

Col. Ronnie Finley, SCARNG chief of staff, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Brickley, state command sergeant major, and CW5 Kent Puffenbarger, state command chief warrant officer, visited Soldiers of the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion during their annual training at Clarks Hill Training Site.



Col. Ronnie Finley, SCARNG chief of staff, greets Soldiers of the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion during annual training at Clarks Hill Training Site.



1st Lt. Moran briefs Col. Ronnie Finley, SCARNG chief of staff, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Brickley, state command sergeant major, on Bravo Company's training status during annual training at Clarks Hill Training Site.



tioning, and selecting a route to parking the vehicle in a forward operating base. The program simulates real world locations; therefore, units can practice the convoy operations on roads that are identical to where their mission is to take place.

Physical training was also emphasized during annual training, with several physical training tests were conducted to evaluate the physical condition of the Soldiers. In addition, company runs were

conducted to improve the physical condition of the troops and cohesion among the Soldiers.

The battalion also conducted a Combat Lifesaver course in order to be more mission ready. A CLS is trained in basic first-aid and serves as a bridge between self-aid and buddy care and a medic. In the class the Soldiers learned to measure and monitor a casualty's pulse, clear an airway and apply a

tourniquet.

The Soldiers of the 151st also received a visit from Col. Ronnie Finley, S.C. Army National Guard chief of staff, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Brickley, S.C. National Guard state command sergeant major, and CW5 Kent Puffenbarger, S.C. National Guard state command chief warrant officer. While at Clarks Hill, Finley visited the 151st

ESB Bravo Company and 198th Bravo Company areas of operation and was briefed on the situation of the troops, their operations and the status of the training.

"Annual training is the best time to learn. It is where troops get the most hands-on training and you build momentum," said Finley. "We have to keep the momentum, which takes innovation and good leadership."

Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



Staff Sgt. Jefferson briefs Col. Ronnie Finley, SCNG chief of staff, on the operation of a Satellite Transportable Terminal at the Bravo Company training area at Clarks Hill Training Site.



Sgt. 1st Class Liegey cooks hot wings, hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch at Clarks Hill Training Center during annual training.



Spc. Goulette applies a tourniquet to Pfc. Brown during Combat Lifesaver training at Clarks Hill Training Site.



The 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion companies competed in a softball championship at Clarks Hill Training Site, June 20, during annual training. Headquarters and Headquarters Company won the tournament and was awarded the flagship.

228TH THEATER TACTICAL SIGNAL BRIGADE CONDUCTS CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

Story & photos by
1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly

The South Carolina Army National Guard, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade conducted a change of command ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 13, to recognize the outgoing commander, Col. Wallace Hall, and welcome the incoming commander, Col. David Jenkins.

The purpose of the change of command ceremony is to pass the command and control of the unit from the previous commander to the new. The passing of the unit colors signifies that the organization is more important than one individual and that even though the commander may change, the organization remains constant and continuity will remain.

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston Jr., The Adjutant General of South Carolina, presided over the ceremony and praised Hall's service as the commander of the brigade.

"Col. Hall, tremendous job. You took the brigade and raised the strength, raised the proficiency, sent Soldiers to war, brought Soldiers home from war...you started accepting the cyber mission... You've set this brigade up for tremendous success," said Livingston.

Livingston also provided insight for Jenkins as the incoming commander.

"You're taking this brigade, a high performing brigade that has performed well in combat, performed well in state operations, exercises, Vigilant Guard. They're ready for you and I know you're ready for them. I know you're up to the task... Good luck and you will do well," said Livingston.

Hall, who has served in many roles within the 228th TTSB, provided his final remarks to the men and women of the brigade and encouraged them on their future endeavors.

"Soldiers of the 228th, my experience with you guys goes way beyond 3 years, a lot of memories... you guys are the foundation of all that happens," said Hall. "You have more challenges ahead of you. I'd like to call them opportunities because I know you will get them done... you guys will accept them, you will take them on and you will get them done. I hate that I will miss that, but I will let you know that I will be there in spirit."

As the incoming commander of the brigade, Jenkins acknowledged the achievements of his predecessor and expressed his expectations for the future of the unit.



"The unit has performed admirably under your leadership and is well positioned for a future of success. Building upon your accomplishments, I'm confident we will advance the mission readiness of the brigade and continue to build on its legacy," said Jenkins. "To the Soldiers and families of the 228th Signal Brigade, you have my personal commitment to uphold the great traditions of this brigade and to advance its mission readiness and its legacy to the next level. We will train hard, remain true to our ideals and stand ready always."

Col. Wallace Hall relinquished command of the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade to Col. David Jenkins during a change of command ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 13.

Guard since earning his commission in 1990. Hall is an Abbeville, S.C. native and will retire from the South Carolina Army National Guard with more than 30 years of dedicated service to the state and nation.

The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade is a highly experienced, professional unit that provides communications support to units throughout the state and around the world. Soldiers from the 228th TTSB have deployed in sup-

port of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The 228th TTSB is the largest theater tactical signal brigade of the U.S. military's reserve component.

"Men and women of the 228th, you have been privileged to serve with a great commander, Col. Hall... and I ask you to support Col. Jenkins, a great leader and a leader you know, I ask that you support him as well as you have Col. Hall," concluded Livingston. Signal ready, Signal strong.

Jenkins was born in St. Stephens, S.C. and is a current resident of Lexington, Ky. He has served in the South Carolina Army National





U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Goode, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade Operations communications manager, taught a refresher course on the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) to members of the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., April 12, as part of noncommissioned officer development. The training was used to provide basic knowledge on the use of the SINCGARS to be implemented during future convoy operations to be able to communicate with vehicles within the convoy. (Photos by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly)



SINCGARS Training



1st Lt. Matthew Hayden, 228th Signal Brigade radio officer, conducted training at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 14. The training consisted of using Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems to call in a SALUTE report and to call in a 9-Line MEDEVAC request. The hands-on training allowed Soldiers to familiarize themselves with how to turn on the radios, as well as how to change channels if their call did not get answered. (Photo by Sgt. Bethany Witherington)

Getting the most out of individual weapons qualification



Photo by 2nd Lt. Justin Zagarella

Story by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly

Extensive planning and movement goes into implementing a drill weekend at the range conducting individual weapons qualifications, but there is a unit that can help ensure this training is executed as effectively as possible – the South Carolina Army National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit.

The MTU is based out of Columbia, S.C., and will typically help S.C. National Guard Soldiers on the ranges at Fort Jackson. However, they have traveled as far as Forts Gordon and Stewart in Georgia and will also visit a unit's home station to provide formal preliminary marksmanship instruction, explained Staff Sgt. Mark Bratcher, MTU marksmanship instructor.

"We try to provide all the support we can for the South Carolina National Guard," added Bratcher.

Which can make for a busy schedule. Bratcher explained that because they provide support for any S.C. National Guard unit that requests it, schedule allowing, the unit performs at a high operational tempo. Some months they may be working every weekend or even traveling to provide support to deploying units. While on the range, the MTU will provide instruction on the line, identify and correct any

issues the Soldiers may have while firing to assist in qualifying, and provide additional training as needed.

"Our unit is passionate about our job as instructors and we all enjoy helping Soldiers achieve their personal goals," said Bratcher.

Their passion is evident with the extent that the unit members train themselves to remain proficient in marksmanship. Bratcher explained that the unit members compete nationwide in pistol, rifle and combat matches. Some of the members are even sniper qualified or have been awarded the prestigious President's Hundred Tab. This allows the unit members to demonstrate their credibility as marksmanship instructors and affords them the opportunity to practice what they preach, added Bratcher.

Recently, the MTU provided support to the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade and 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion with individual weapons qualification at Fort Jackson and the Soldiers experienced firsthand the capabilities that the MTU can provide.

"They were out here with us all weekend and the training they provided was essential to the units qualifying," said Staff Sgt. Michael Coffey, 151st ESB, Headquarters and Headquarters Company readiness noncommissioned officer.

151st ESB, HHC appoints new first sergeant



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Miller was promoted to master sergeant, as well as appointed to the role of first sergeant for the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company during a ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C, June 13.

Story by Sgt. Bethany Witherington

The 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company appointed a new first sergeant during a ceremony at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, South Carolina, June 13.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Miller was promoted to master sergeant, as well as appointed to the role of first sergeant for the unit. The appointment follows Miller having served as an acting first sergeant with the 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Bravo Company from September 2014 to May 2015.

“As a platoon sergeant, Chris Miller displayed confidence and leadership abilities during our deployment in Afghanistan,” said Capt. Ginger Tate, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade operations and training officer and previous 198th ESB, Bravo Co. commander. “He has been performing at a first sergeant level for quite some time. He is outstanding and will do great as the HHC first sergeant.”

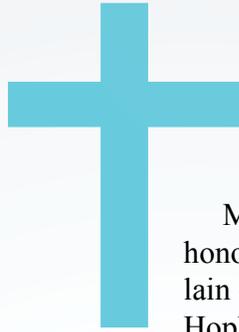
Miller said he feels as though having served as an acting first sergeant provided the experience that has helped him learn what it takes to fill the position with ease. He added that he feels that serving in this role will help him further his career and at the same time be able to assist Soldiers with the knowledge he has gained with his 18 years of service.

“I am looking forward to what the future brings for me and the 151st ESB,” he added.

The first sergeant position serves as the advisor to the company commander on all enlisted matters including enlisted development, physical fitness training and soldier health, morale, safety, mentoring and discipline.



Photo by Chap. (Capt.) Brian Hopkins



My prayer is that everyone is doing well this summer. It has been an honor and privilege serving the 228 Signal Brigade as the Brigade Chaplain over the past few months. I have been supporting Chap. (Capt.) Brian Hopkins this year at 151 Signal Battalion's Annual Training at the Clarks

Hill Training Site, which is located in Plum Branch, S.C. Chap. Hopkins and I have provided great ministry here to our Soldiers by actively walking along our Signal Soldiers as they train to be proficient in their jobs. We have been bringing God to our Soldiers and our Soldiers to him.

One of the common themes that we struggle with in our lives is worry. When I got out of the Regular Army last summer, I thought that I would have no problem finding a chaplain job in the civilian world, but I soon learned that I had to learn not to worry, but put my trust in God as was actively seeking employment to go along with the South Carolina Army National Guard. After three months, I was able to find a job with the South Carolina Department of Corrections, but I was driving 1.5 hours from my home in Lexington to Ridgeville, which is near Summerville. During this time, God taught me some valuable lessons about how important it is to lean on Him and I learned how to do ministry in the correctional environment. After six months of trusting God, I was able to get a chaplain position in SCDC that is less than 30 minutes from my home. God is good.

Paul says in Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." This means that we must give everything over to God and He will take our worries from us. All anxiety is provoked by worrying about material and temporal things.

Why worry about something you can't change anyway. Worry immobilizes us, but trust in God moves us to action. Jesus is not suggesting that a man not prepare for life—that he be lazy, shiftless, and thoughtless with a no-care attitude. Here are four steps you can do to stop worrying.

S- Share your problems with someone else. There is something very healing about getting our worries out, whether through Prayer with God, talking face-to-face with someone, writing a letter; or talking on the phone with a friend or loved one. Worry loses its power over you when you express it to the right person, when you get it outside of you and examine it, because then you can let it go.

T- Take time to relax and mediate on God's Word. It is a proven scientific fact that if we can control our reactions to stress by relaxing. When you get upset your heart races, your blood pressure goes up, and you perspire, doesn't it? This reaction is a survival technique that was built in us long ago to protect us from danger. You can listen to soft music or read scripture or positive statements in a quiet room and pray and ponder on their meaning.

O- Open your heart to God's presence in your life. Your worry will be diminished if you remind yourself that your life is in God's hands. God will not ignore those who depend on him. You can attend worship services, read the bible, and pray; all these activities help you focus on God.

P- Put limits on your worry. Set a goal to worry less. God was teaching me that the only thing I had to fear was fear itself (as Theodore Roosevelt once said) and I learned that by putting off worry and conserving my energy, I will see the positive results. So put limits on your worry.

Jesus tells us don't worry because God is in control. Trust in God and your worries will not seem as large. Don't worry, but seek first the kingdom. Worry won't: Solve your problems, make your problems go away, or make you feel better. Worry will make your blood pressure go up and make you stress about things that are out of your control. My challenge is that these words will be a valuable lesson for us all.

SCENES FROM AROUND THE BRIGADE

Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Donnelly



1st Lt. Matthew Conley, 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, presented a company photo to 1st Sgt. Joseph Miller Jr. during formation at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., June 14, as a token of appreciation for his service as the first sergeant of the 228th TTSB, HHC. Miller will transition to the first sergeant for the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Charlie Company.

Photo by Spc. Victoria Niemela

The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade held a change of command ceremony for the 228th Headquarters and Headquarters Company at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., April 11, to recognize the outgoing commander, Capt. Ryan Purdie, and welcome the incoming commander, 1st Lt. Matthew Conley.

The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade held a change of command ceremony for Bravo Company, 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion April 12, to recognize the outgoing commander, Capt. Ginger Tate, and welcome the incoming commander, Capt. Gerren Carter.



The South Carolina National Guard hosted multiple events across the state in honor of Military Spouse Appreciation day, May 8. One of these events took place at the University Readiness Center in Spartanburg, S.C., where service members and their spouses attended to recognize the support of military spouses.



Photo by 1st Lt. Sam Hronesz

Final Frame

Photo by Spc. Victoria Niemela



Members of the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company complete a morale run during annual training at Clarks Hill Training Site in Plum Branch, South Carolina.

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