




5th Signal Command (Theater)



Fall/Winter 2015



Team  Signal

Working together to make *Signal Strong* for a *Strong Europe*



Signal One Voice



Last year President Obama hosted NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the White House to discuss the implementation of NATO's Readiness Action Plan and the United States' investment in the Alliance through the European Reassurance Initiative. Just this month, we saw proof of this commitment as the Defense Department quadrupled the defense budget for Europe. Why is the United States investing so heavily in Europe and NATO? Because, as President Obama says, NATO is the cornerstone not just of transatlantic security, but of global security.

Part of this investment comes in the establishment of the European Activity Sets and the deployment of Regionally Allocated Forces throughout Europe. In addition to U.S. military strength and equipment, this investment represents a commitment to the NATO Alliance and a recognition that we are stronger working together as Allies than we could ever be as individual nations. Not only must we bring the full capability of our warfighters to the theater, but we must ensure that our warfighters can work effectively with our partners and Allies—that they can “inter-operate.” As we weave the strands of our capability with those of our partners, we strengthen the fabric of the Alliance to assure our friends, deter our enemies and protect U.S. interests in Europe and the world.

Team Signal is the most fundamental enabler of this commitment. Our dedicated and talented Soldiers, Civilians and local national employees deliver relevant and reliable information technology to establish strong communications, enable mission command and facilitate interoperability.

As Regionally Allocated Forces deploy to the theater, Team Signal is quickly integrating them into our network and connecting them with the tools they need. As U.S. Army forces plan and conduct exercises and operations with our Allies and partners, Team Signal is designing and building the networks that provide both the information protection and information sharing capabilities that ensure success. Team Signal is fostering meaningful relationships with our partners to strengthen trust and enhance interoperability. And from the strategic backbone to the tactical edge, our cyber warriors are reinforcing the core of our networks, eliminating vulnerabilities and blocking attacks.

Together, Team Signal is making Signal Strong for a Strong Europe.



CSM Harry Mercado
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
5th Signal Command (Theater)



COL Jimmy L. Hall Jr.
U.S. Army Europe CIO/G6
Commander,
5th Signal Command (Theater)



SGM Ricardo Samudio
Sergeant Major,
U.S. Army Europe G6



5th Signal Command (Theater)

Mission: BUILD, OPERATE and DEFEND Network Capabilities to support the full range of communication, information technology and cyber requirements for Army, Joint, and Multinational forces in the EUCOM and AFRICOM areas of responsibility.

Vision: IT delivered, relevant and reliable.



2nd Signal Brigade

Mission: 2d Signal Brigade Builds, Operates, Defends Mission Command System and Networks in order to support Unified Action anytime -- anywhere.

Vision: Brigade of Excellence. An empowered and agile team providing relevant and reliable IT services across all levels of warfare.



U.S. Army Europe G6

Mission: Ensure delivery of Joint Net-Centric Mission Command Network Systems and IT services to USAREUR, by providing architecture, governance, policy and portfolio/ acquisition management, to provide USAREUR Warfighters decision superiority.

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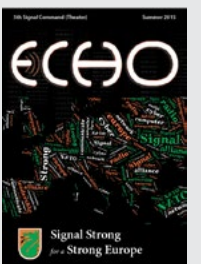
Cover: Members of the Interoperability Working Group meet Dec. 4, 2015 in Bonn, Germany. Submitted photo



2015 U.S. ARMY EUROPE
KEITH L. WARE
JOURNALISM COMPETITION

ECHO Magazine, Summer 2015

1st Place, News Publication
1st Place, Digital Publication



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Awards *and* Recognition



Maj. Gen. John Morrison Jr., commander of U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, presents the FY 2014 NETCOM Network Enterprise Center of the Year Award to the 102nd Signal Battalion, accepted by James Ellersick, 102nd Signal Battalion regional director, at a ceremony Sept. 1, 2015 at the 102nd Signal Battalion headquarters in Wiesbaden. Photo by William B. King

102nd Signal Battalion wins NETCOM NEC of the Year

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany -- The 102nd Signal Battalion Network Enterprise Center (NEC) was named NEC of the Year in the FY 2014 Network Enterprise Technology Command NEC of the Year competition.

"This was the third consecutive win for us, but the first in the large category. The two previous wins in 2012 and 2013 were in the medium category," said James Ellersick, 102nd Signal Battalion regional director.


The 102nd's submission included the accomplishments of the NECs in Wiesbaden, Baumholder, Kaiserslautern, the 181st Signal Company's Enterprise Satellite Gateway and Theater COMSEC Management Office, and the combined effort of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and the 102d Signal Battalion staff.

"A key factor of our success is our 360-degree partnership with unit S6, G6, IMOs and the 2nd Signal Brigade and 5th Signal Command staffs" Ellersick said.

Speaking at the award ceremony Sept. 1, 2015 at the 102nd Signal Battalion headquarters in Wiesbaden, Col. Ed Buck, commander of 2nd Signal Brigade, attributed this success to the NEC's comprehensive engagement and integration with Team Signal.

"You guys should be very proud of what you have done over the last year and a half," Buck said.

The NEC award program recognizes a signal command NEC that is responsive to enterprise building efforts; supports enterprise solutions; has shown the most innovative solutions to resource shortfalls; is cohesive in team building, morale, and structured approaches to improved employee relations, to include contributions towards selected enterprise initiatives.

Maj. Gen. John Morrison Jr., commander of NETCOM, said, "It's recognition for what you do to support every day. Keep doing what you're doing." 



Hans-Juergen Fischer, a mechanic with the 6981st Civilian Support Group, 2nd Signal Brigade, fixes an engine on a cargo truck in the unit's motor pool Dec. 11, 2015 at Germersheim Army Depot. Photo by William B. King

6981st CSG to represent NETCOM for Army Award for Maintenance Excellence

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany -- The 6981st Civilian Support Group, 2nd Signal Brigade, was recently selected as the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command's "All Others" category winner for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) for fiscal year 2015.

Eight NETCOM units submitted nomination packets in three different competition categories. The multiphase competition consisted of a review board and on-site evaluation.

Gerd Drechsler, commander of the 6981st CSG, said the award showed the unit's commitment to maintenance improvement and innovation.

"It's proof that we do things right and that we are heading in the right direction, and also shows the commitment of our unit members to improve ourselves and to be willing to learn new things day by day," Drechsler said.

The 6981st CSG has a tradition of maintenance excellence having previously won 11 times at the NETCOM level and three times at the Department of the Army level since 2003.


"My S4 team is dedicated to keep our unit in the band of excellence -- their professionalism is right to

the point," Drechsler said.

Juergen Schmitt, 6981st CSG motor pool chief, manages more than 50 vehicles and pieces of equipment spread throughout Germany, including excavators, generators, lift trucks, forklifts and a fleet of service vans. He said the inspection for the award covers hundreds of items related to vehicle and equipment maintenance, including record keeping, inventory control, training, safety and environmental compliance.

"You must do your best every day and have a system that includes (standard operating procedures), service and inspection sheets," Schmitt said.

The 6981st CSG will represent NETCOM in the "All Others" category at the Department of the Army level for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence at the Chief of Staff of the Army's Combined Logistics Excellence Awards early next year.

The 6981st CSG is a U.S. Army unit under 2nd Signal Brigade consisting exclusively of German civilians. The unit provides cost-efficient and high-quality installation work and solutions for passive inside and outside network upgrades, new installations or cable repair in both copper and fiber. 



Vollrath award ceremony recognized top human resources personnel throughout U.S. Army Europe

By Sgt. Daniel Cole, U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

WIESBADEN, Germany -- Four Soldiers and one Department of the Army civilian were recognized here, Jan. 28, for their excellence in human resources at Army Europe's 6th Annual Frederick E. Vollrath Awards ceremony.

This year's winners are:

--Officer of the Year: Capt. Sean Raleigh, company commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army NATO Brigade

--Warrant Officer of the Year: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Enrius Collazo, human resources technician, 21st Theater Sustainment Command

--Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Stephens, human resources noncommissioned officer, 173rd Airborne Brigade

--Soldier of the Year: Spc. Travis Chenette, human resource specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Signal Command

--Civilian of the Year: Dustin Oakes, information

management specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army NATO Brigade

The program was named after retired Lt. Gen. Frederick E. Vollrath and developed to recognize human resource personnel for their quality service and leadership. Vollrath was a 45-year professional in the human resources field and the second adjutant general officer to be promoted to lieutenant general.

One by one the awardees came to the front of the crowd to receive their awards and spoke about their individual reasons they believe they were selected for this award.

Gratitude, honor and pride were a common theme as the participants explained why they believed they were here. 🇺🇸🇩🇪

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Spc. Travis Chenette, a human resource specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Signal Command, is awarded and recognized as the Vollrath Human Resource junior enlisted Soldier of the Year, Jan. 28, 2016. Photo by Sgt. Daniel Cole, U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs



Spc. Arica Wilson, 587th Signal Company, points to a map in the barracks in Stuttgart, Germany. Photo by Stuttgart Family and MWR

Stuttgart Barracks living just got better

By Andrea Stauffer, Family and MWR Marketing

Single or unaccompanied service members stationed in Stuttgart often get assigned to live in barracks. Whether it is for three months or three years, they want the same thing as everyone – a nice, welcoming place to call home.

While discussing quality of life issues during a Better Opportunities for Single service members (BOSS) meeting in July, service members mentioned that the hallways in barracks were completely bare and thus felt stark instead of welcoming. Other meeting attendees expressed concern that they hadn't met other people living in the barracks since arriving. These comments sparked a movement within the Garrison to make the barracks a more welcoming place to live.

Cory Hoffman, the USAG Stuttgart BOSS Advisor, jumped on the bandwagon first, with BOSS hosting a "Meet your Neighbors" day in mid-September. This event boasted a BBQ, music and games with prizes and support from organizations across the Garrison including ACS, the USO, FRGs, ASAP, and of course, Family and MWR. "We encouraged our service members to get out of their rooms, meet new people and engage with the community, and they did just that, ending the day joined together in a dance line celebrating with their new friends," Hoffman stated. "Since then, we also received approval from CSM Lynice Thorpe for our plans to update the décor in the barracks' entrances. This should make a big impact on the service member's first impression of

living in Stuttgart."

CSM Woody Carter, in charge of the barracks for the 52nd Signal Battalion Soldiers, took it upon himself to take this mission one step further. CSM Carter started working with the Family and MWR Marketing office to collect and print large images from travel destinations across Europe. "As a senior enlisted leader, barracks life is in my blood and taking care of Soldiers is near and dear to my heart. I figured the hallway photos would cheer up the dreary space but also inspire my folks to band together to explore the nearby sites and experience the benefits of living in Europe," said CSM Carter. "I knew there was a plan in place to decorate the building entrances, but I just wanted to carry that plan (and homey feeling) further into their living space."

Apparently the plan is working. "The pictures are definitely inspiring. I want to go to Munich for sure since it is so close, but London is also on my bucket list. This has been a great initiative and I hope it continues. It has definitely made my stay in Stuttgart more appealing," stated SPC Wilson from the 587th Signal Company.

Service members can expect barracks beautification and improvements to continue. "Their quality of life is one of our greatest concerns, and we are committed to showing them that USAG Stuttgart cares. We want to make sure everyone in our community says – I'm glad I live here," added Carter. 🇺🇸🇩🇪

In the Community



1st Sgt. Reginale Thomas, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Signal Command, is recognized by the Wiesbaden Middle School football team for his exceptional commitment, leadership and mentorship as the team's coach before a game Oct. 17, 2015 in Wiesbaden. In appreciation of Thomas, the team re-named itself for the remainder of the year from the "Wildcats" to the "Paladins" - in honor of Thomas' son who plays football in his senior year for Furman University. Screenshot with permission from AFN Wiesbaden video



Capt. Christopher Drescher of the 5th Signal Command G3 section volunteers at Wiesbaden High School Oct. 8, 2015. 5th Signal Command is the sponsoring unit for the high school. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline



Spc. Kohlenberg, a radio and communications security repairer in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, teaches a Grafenwoehr Elementary School student how to talk on an ASIP radio during events to mark the 44th day of school, Nov. 3, 2015 in Grafenwoehr. 44th ESB is the sponsoring unit for Grafenwoehr Elementary School. Submitted photo

Col. Timothy Norton, 5th Signal Command G3, and his wife attend a reception following a ceremony in honor of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the state of Hessen Sept. 19, 2015 in Frankfurt. On Sept. 19, 1945 Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower signed "Proclamation No. 2" of the U.S. Military Government, constituting the state of Hessen, in his office at the former IG Farben Building, which is now part of and used by the Goethe University in Frankfurt. Speaking at the ceremony, Minister President Volker Bouffier underscored that Sept. 19, 1945 was the date that marked a new beginning in the history of Germany. "Without the Americans, the reconstruction of Germany would not have been possible," he said. Submitted photo

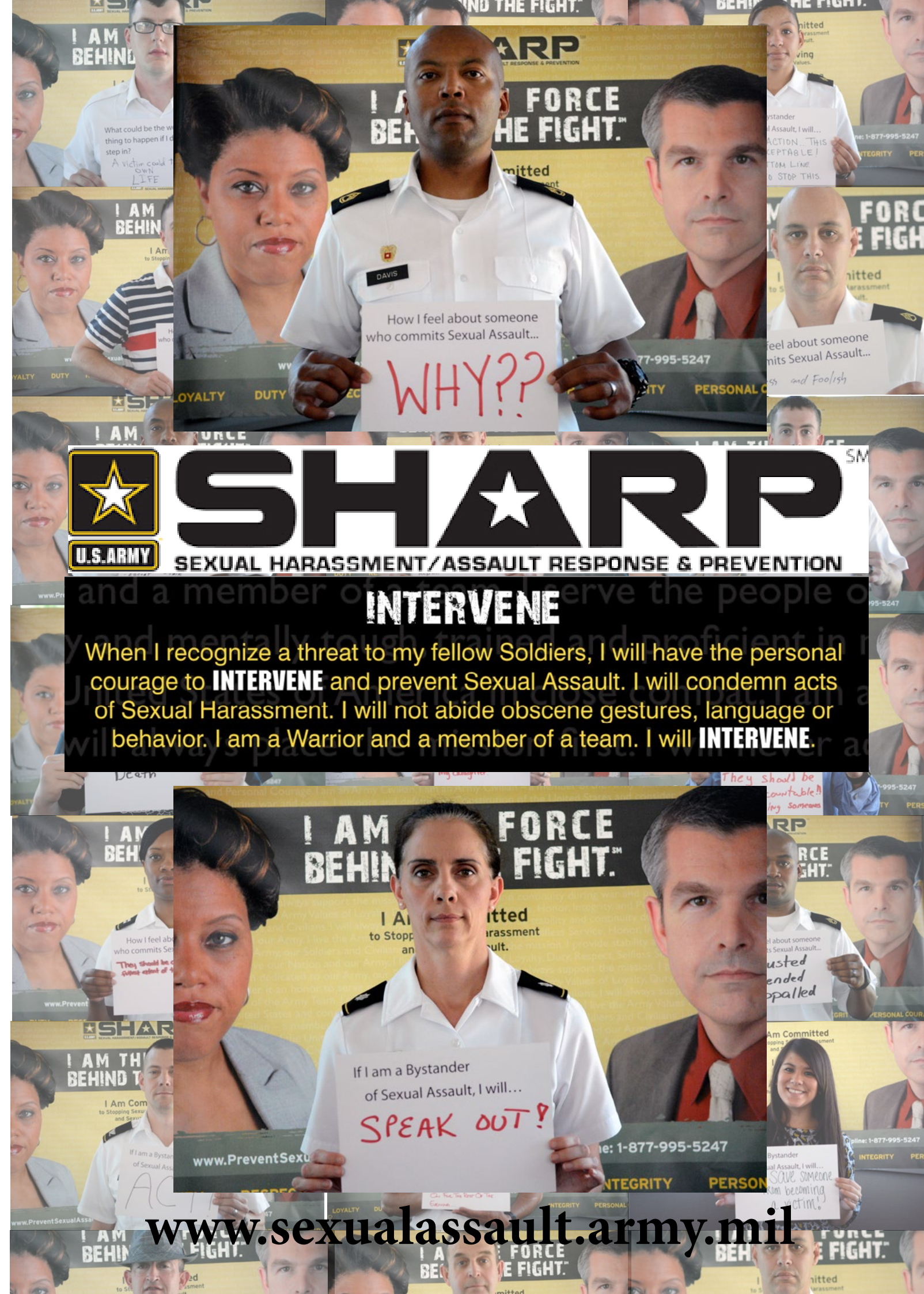


Staff Sgt. Rashid Jones (far left), 5th Signal Command G3 Training, and Col. John Broomhead (foreground left), 5th Signal Command chief of staff, participate in a National Day of Mourning ceremony with Michael Kissel, Lord Mayor of Worms, and Werner Schamberger, director of the Criminal Investigation Department and deputy director of the City of Worms Police Department, Nov. 15, 2015 in Worms. The National Day of Mourning is an annual remembrance for victims of all wars and conflicts, suffering and persecution. 5th Signal Command was headquartered in Worms from 1974 to 1996 and maintains a close relationship with the city. Submitted photo



Above: A 2nd Signal Brigade Soldier helps cook up some culture at the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's Native American Indian Heritage Month breakfast Nov. 20, 2015 in Wiesbaden. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline

Below: Several 509th Signal Battalion senior leaders, including Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Rowland, 509th Signal Battalion senior enlisted advisor, and Maj. Brian Stieritz, 509th Signal Battalion S3, supported the Team Signal Fall Festival Sept. 26, 2015 at a local vineyard near Vicenza, Italy. Part of the teambuilding with the signal community across Vicenza was not only picking the grapes, but being able to stomp them as well. Thanks to C Co, 54th BEB, 173rd IBCT(A) for putting the event together. Submitted photo



Strong Europe | *Empowering Junior Leaders*

U.S. Army Europe is a leadership laboratory that empowers junior leaders to thrive in a complex operating environment. These leaders are expected to operate in an environment of distributed operations – often serving as the senior U.S. representative in a country. Under these conditions, they encounter unique challenges that could never be replicated outside of Europe.

Junior leaders are executing the full range of operations from tactical to strategic as they integrate with our allies and partners, developing as leaders as described in the Army Operating Concept.



Sgt. Tabatha Johnson, 5th Signal Command SGS administrative assistant, passes the hand and arm signal for a freeze during a squad training exercise Sept. 16, 2015 at the Finthen Land Training Area MOUT site near Wiesbaden. Commander's Prime Time training was hosted by the 102nd Signal Battalion to support training requirements for Soldiers in the 102nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade and 5th Signal Command. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline



Two Germans complete three-year IT apprentice program, three more begin

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany -- Two employees of the 6981st Civilian Support Group recently completed a three-year apprenticeship program and were recognized for their accomplishment at a ceremony Sept. 24 at the 6981st CSG headquarters at Germersheim Army Depot.

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, 5th Signal Command senior enlisted advisor, presented certificates and commander's coins to Merlin Haeusner and Jan Sandmaier for their successful completion of the apprentice program.

Hall told the apprentices they were joining an important part of the 5th Signal Command and U.S. Army Europe team and challenged them to uphold the high standards of professionalism set by the 6981st CSG.

"The U.S. Army Europe would not be successful without our Allies, and you're a big part of that," Hall said. "I really appreciate our more than 60 years of partnership."

The 6981st CSG is a U.S. Army unit under 2nd Signal Brigade consisting exclusively of German civilians. The unit provides cost-efficient and high-quality installation work and solutions for passive inside and outside network upgrades, new installations or cable repair in both copper and fiber.

The apprentice program is a multi-year program consisting of on-the-job and school vocational training in cooperation with the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce or Chamber of Crafts. Upon completion, apprentices take an examination and get certified as IT specialists, which can then lead to follow-on employment with the 6981st CSG or in the German civilian workforce.

"In Germany the apprenticeship program is called dual system as it is divided into the practical part in the company and a theoretical part in a professional school," said Thomas Pfeiffer, apprentice program manager for the 6981st CSG.

Pfeiffer said Haeusner and Sandmaier have the right skills and attitude to be in the 6981st CSG, but still need to gain some more experience in the field.

"Both were very interested and motivated to learn our profession. They gained experience from training lesson to training lesson and from project to project they supported during their apprentice time," Pfeiffer said.

Haeusner said the program allowed the apprentices to get practical, hands-on training and experience with a variety of IT systems and equipment.

"The best thing is that I learned so much -- fiber optic, copper, IT systems. That's more than any other trainee has learned in my school class," Haeusner said.


After completing the apprentice program Haeusner and Sandmaier both received a one-year follow on contract with the 6981st CSG.

"I will try to stay here, if possible. My co-workers are all really nice, and here you are a part of the team," Haeusner said.

The 6981st CSG has also taken on three new apprentices to begin a program of work and study lasting up to 42 months. Anton Baranowski, one of the new apprentices beginning the program, said the educational opportunities, people and atmosphere at the 6981st CSG are the reasons he applied for the program.

"I want to learn about fiber optics and IT systems -- it's the market of the future, I believe," Baranowski said.

Gerd Drechsler, commander of the 6981st CSG, said the apprentice program is invaluable because it allows the unit to train potential employees to current IT industry and Army standards concurrently.

"The apprentice program allows us to grow our own successors which is even more important as the industries do not train the profession in the way we need it anymore," Drechsler said. 

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Opposite page: Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, 5th Signal Command senior enlisted advisor, present certificates to Merlin Haeusner and Jan Sandmaier for successfully completing a three-year apprenticeship program at a ceremony Sept. 24 at the 6981st Civilian Support Group headquarters at Germersheim Army Depot. Photo by William B. King

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Editor's note: This story won third place in the 2015 U.S. Army Europe Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition, Category G News Article

USAREUR chief of staff visits 6981st CSG

Ehab Hassan, a telecommunications specialist with the 6981st Civilian Support Group, speaks with Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal, U.S. Army Europe chief of staff, over a building diagram Jan. 20, 2016 at the 6981st headquarters at Germersheim Army Depot. During his visit Laubenthal received a briefing on the history, organization and capabilities of the 6981st CSG, toured the unit's facilities and met with leaders and employees. "It's an honor and a privilege for me to see my fellow countrymen working for the U.S. Army, just as I am," Laubenthal said. Photo by William B. King





Left: Sgt. Maj. Ricardo Samudio, U.S. Army Europe G6 sergeant major, speaks during a professional development session for signal Soldiers and noncommissioned officers at the U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Orange Call Oct. 21 at the Armstrong's Club in Kaiserslautern. Photo by William B. King

Opposite page: Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command and the U.S. Army Europe chief information officer/G6, speaks to more than 100 Army and Air Force signal Soldiers and civilians at the U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Orange Call Oct. 21 at the Armstrong's Club in Kaiserslautern. Photo by William B. King

Signaleers come together for USAG Rheinland-Pfalz Orange Call

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany -- More than 100 Army and Air Force signal Soldiers and civilians gathered for networking and professional development at the U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Orange Call Oct. 21 at the Armstrong's Club in Kaiserslautern.

The event included a keynote talk by Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command and the U.S. Army Europe chief information officer/G6, a cybersecurity presentation, breakout sessions focused on civilian, officer and enlisted professional development, and a networking lunch.

Hall spoke about his unique role and responsibilities as policy maker and service provider as the theater signal commander, chief information officer and G6. He also spoke about upcoming changes to signal force structure in Europe and how Team Signal can continue to support two combatant commands and NATO.

"It's a team effort, that's how we get it done. Spend time focusing on what you can accomplish and not on what you don't have," Hall said.

He also spoke about a range of issues across the Signal Regiment, including G2/3/6 integration, the increasing role of cyber and the importance of defending our networks.

"I recognize that for everybody here it's 'live fire'

every day," Hall said of maintaining and defending the network.

Dan Hingtgen, from the USAREUR G6 Cybersecurity Division, gave a presentation about cybersecurity awareness, training opportunities and some do's and don'ts for users at work and at home. He also spoke about threats to our networks and the need to protect government and personal information online, including social media.

"Threats and vulnerabilities are increasing exponentially, and they're growing in complexity," Hingtgen said. "The threat is real, and it's happening every day."

He said cybersecurity is a shared responsibility that starts with each user.

"Each and every one of us has the duty and responsibility to protect the network -- cybersecurity is a team effort," Hingtgen said.

The Orange Call was organized by the USAG Rheinland-Pfalz S6 in cooperation with the 21st Theater Support Command as part of the garrison's National Cybersecurity Awareness Month observance.

For more information go to <https://itt.eur.army.mil>.



SERGEANT'S TIME



New NCOER form

The Army's new NCOER form went into effect in January. So what's the big change all about and how does it affect NCOs, raters and senior raters? We asked Master Sgt. Katherine Lawson-Best, senior human resources sergeant, 5th Signal Command G1, to answer a few questions about the new form and what it all means.

ECHO: Why is the Army moving to a new NCOER form?

LB: In 2010, the Chief of Staff of the Army directed a review with a focus on three key areas of interest to the Army leadership.

First, aligning the NCOER with current leadership doctrine. The 2166-8 version had been in place since 1987, it was outdated and did not adapt to change in doctrine or the expectations of the Army or the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

Second, focusing on establishing and enforcing rating official accountability.

Third, the old form was a "one size fits all," meaning all Noncommissioned Officers received the same evaluation.

ECHO: What are some of the biggest differences between the old and new forms?

LB: First and foremost, there are now three different grade plate reports, no longer "one size fits all." The Army recognizes the differences between junior NCOs while allowing assessments to focus on grade-specific technical performance objectives. There is now a clear delineation in rater and senior rater roles and responsibilities. The rater concentrates on performance, the senior rater on potential.


ECHO: How can NCOs best prepare to be rated under the new form?

LB: Be proactive! Ensure that they establish and maintain a professional relationship with their rating officials. Seek mentorship and understand the senior rater leadership philosophy.

ECHO: What can supervisors and raters do to make sure they are ready to use the new form?

LB: They should become familiar with APD 6-22 and attend one of the many training sessions available by a certified trainer.

ECHO: Where should people go to get help with the new form?

LB: To access the current support form and any of the three grade plate Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports, log onto the Evaluation Entry System (EES) page: <https://evaluations.hrc.army.mil> 



Above: Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey visited 5th Signal Command Sept. 8, 2015 in Wiesbaden. After a company run, Dailey spoke with Soldiers about leadership and current issues facing the Army, before handing out coins and posing for photos. Photos by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline

Below: Current and former command sergeants major of the 39th Signal Battalion pose for a photo at the battalion's change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 19, 2016 in Chievres, Belgium. From left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Schehl, 2nd Signal Brigade senior enlisted advisor; Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, 5th Signal Command (Theater) senior enlisted advisor; Command Sgt. Maj. Oscar Campos, outgoing 39th Signal Battalion senior enlisted advisor; and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Brikhead IV, incoming 39th Signal Battalion senior enlisted advisor. Submitted photo



FTL

FIT to LEAD

5th Signal Command Soldiers, Civilians, Family members run more than 20,000 miles

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany -- Challenged to individually run at least 100 miles in the first quarter of fiscal year 2016, the Soldiers, Civilians and Family members of 5th Signal Command and 2nd Signal Brigade together ran more than 20,000 miles as part of the command's Fit to Lead program.

The goal of the Fit to Lead program is to institutionalize a culture of health, fitness and balanced lifestyles across the command for Soldiers, Civilians and Family members. The yearlong program features quarterly focus areas based on the four pillars of Fit to Lead -- physical fitness, financial planning, mental well-being and education planning. Within each focus area will be challenges with certificates for successful completion, training, workshops and other learning opportunities.

The first quarter focused on physical fitness and included the 100-Mile Challenge, a Metabolic Challenge and a Lift to Lead Challenge.

The 248 individuals and family teams who participated in the 100-Mile Challenge ran a combined total of 20,441 miles (32,897 kilometers) during the first quarter's 100-mile challenge, 96 of whom earned gold certificates by running 100 or more miles.

The top individual was Sgt. 1st Class Joel Augustine from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion with 657.07 total miles, and the top family group belonged to the family of Sgt. Felipe Abrahamcalderon, a culinary NCO at the Ever Vigilant Cafe in Grafenwoehr with 823.23 combined total miles (1,324 kilometers).

Augustine said his motivation to participate and excel in the program started with friendly competition with a fellow NCO.

"Being physically fit is important for everyone's overall health. The more fit you are, the less likely you are to get sick or suffer from injuries; hence maintaining a high level of Soldier readiness," Augustine said.

He said he put in extra miles by taking simple steps such as walking to meetings instead of driving, and by running or walking in his spare time.

"If you can stay motivated and dedicated with your diet and exercise, you can put that same dedication to the Army's mission," Augustine said.

There were 70 participants in the Lift to Lead Challenge, 26 of whom earned gold certificates.

Master Sgt. Strate Flessas, 5th Signal Command senior career counselor and Fit to Lead program coordinator, said the level of participation and results from the first quarter physical challenges exceeded expectations.

"There's been enhanced motivation for the program, lots of advertising and getting the word out, as well as a top-down engagement to participate in the program," Flessas said.

For more information about the Fit to Lead program go to www.5sigcmd.army.mil/ftl.



Members of Team Signal conduct joint PT Nov. 13, 2015 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Photos by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline



Col. Ed Buck, commander of 2nd Signal Brigade, presents the Dragon Warrior Fitness streamer to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 509th Signal Battalion, represented by Capt. Lucyana Roldan, HHD 509th sergeant, Nov. 13, 2015



Team Signal members play in the Turkey Bowl, Nov. 24, 2015 on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline

Strong Europe | *Regionally Allocated Forces*

U.S. Army Europe continues to lead the Army in integration of Regionally Allocated Forces, or RAF, by leveraging the European Rotational Force and multiple rotational aligned units.

The 4th Infantry Division's alignment with Europe further enables USAREUR to conduct joint and combined training in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve using USAREUR-assigned forces. These forces train closely with our Allies to improve interoperability, demonstrate the Army's power projection capability, and provide assurance to our Allies.

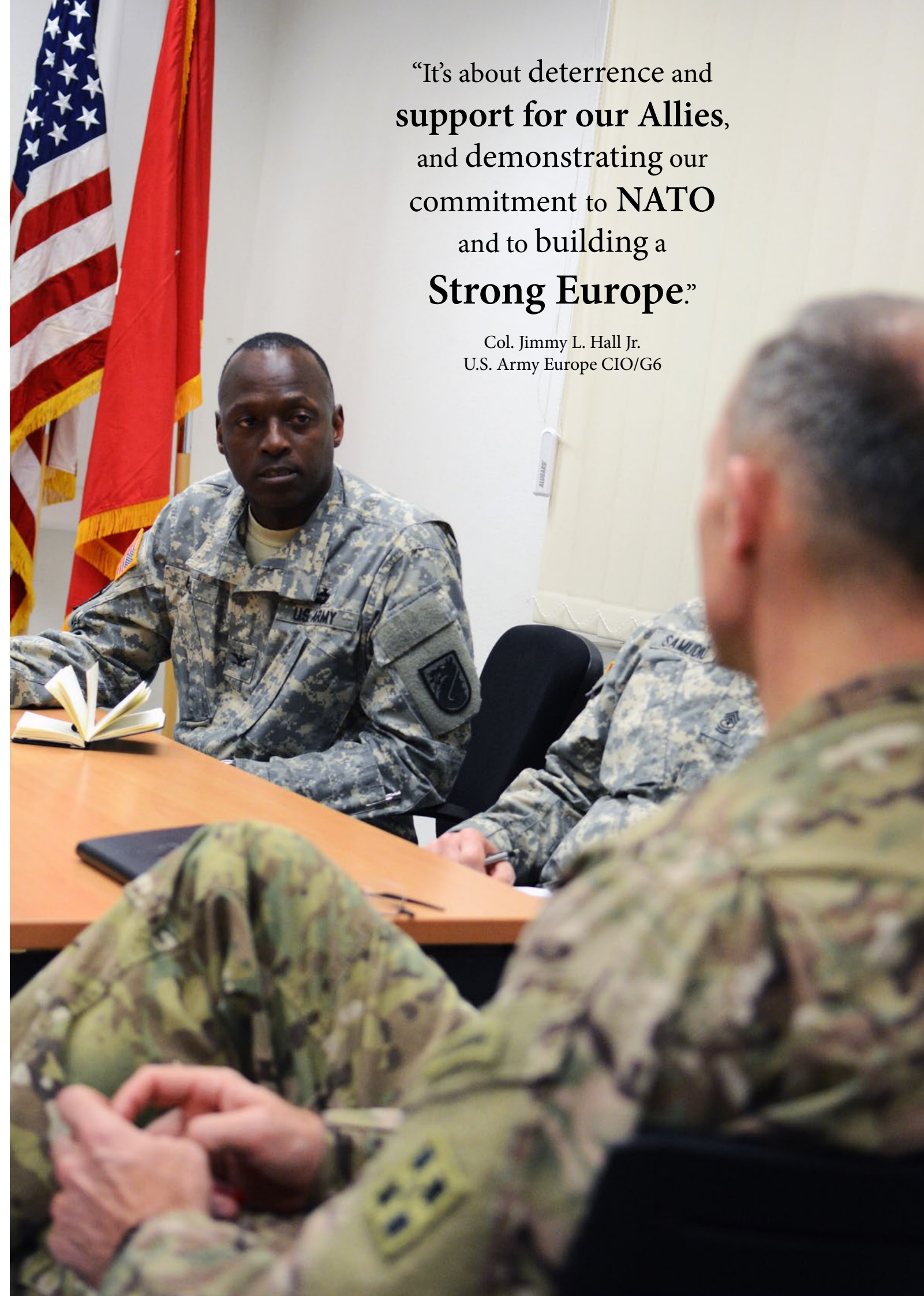


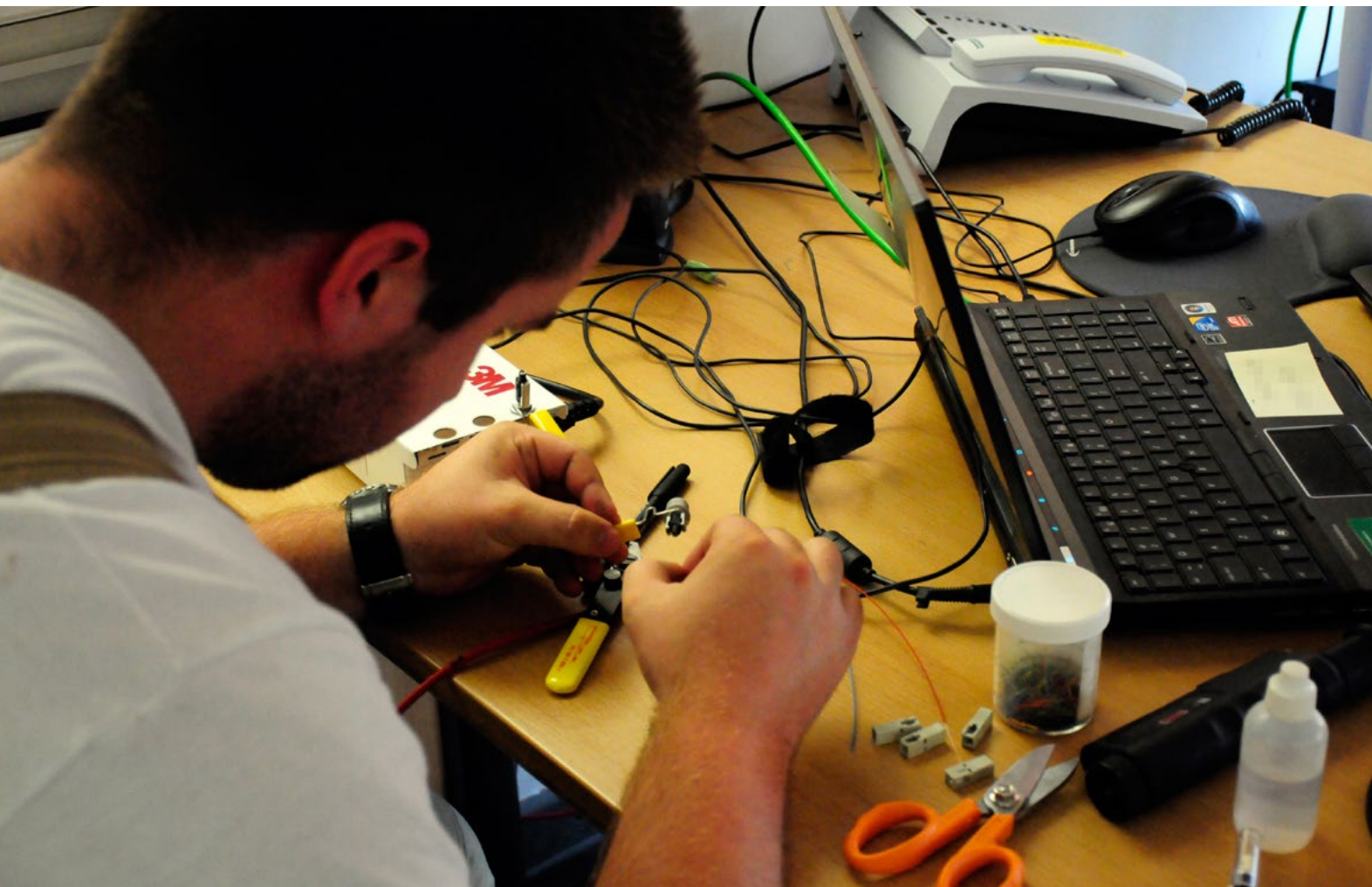
Above: Spc. Donte Cromety, an Information Technology Specialist, assigned to 4th Infantry Division Mission Command Element (MCE) and native of Virginia Beach, Va. adjusts a Tampa Microwave satellite at Baumholder, Germany, Oct. 19, 2015. The MCE moved its headquarters from Grafenwoehr to Baumholder, increasing the size of their footprint and establishing a permanent home for 4th Infantry troops operating in Germany. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason E. Epperson

Opposite page: Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., U.S. Army Europe chief information officer/G6, talks with Brig. Gen. Randy A. George, deputy commanding general, 4th Infantry Division, about network and communications support for 4ID's deployment as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, March 17, 2015 in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Hall said there were some issues of interoperability to be worked out between services, Allies and within the Army as well, and emphasized the need for USAREUR G6 to address the communications requirements of rotating units and Regionally Allocated Forces. Photo by William B. King

“It’s about deterrence and
support for our Allies,
and demonstrating our
commitment to **NATO**
and to building a
Strong Europe.”

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr.
U.S. Army Europe CIO/G6





New 4ID Mission Command Element gets network infrastructure upgrades

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WIESBADEN, Germany -- Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commander of U.S. Army Europe, has said on a number of occasions, “If I can’t communicate, then I can’t command.”

The same holds true for the 4th Infantry Division as it establishes a new Mission Command Element (MCE) at Smith Barracks in Baumholder, Germany. In order to provide effective mission command over Regionally Allocated Forces (RAF) operating throughout Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, the new command center needs the network infrastructure to be able to communicate.

A site survey was completed in late September by 4th Infantry Division, 5th Signal Command, 2nd Signal Brigade, the 102nd Signal Battalion and the 6981st Civilian Support Group and together a plan was made for how to upgrade the infrastructure and get the MCE on the network. The building the 4th Infantry Division MCE is now occupying had

not been in use for some time and therefore needed significant communications and network upgrades.

“We’re installing the cable and wiring in the building in accordance with 5th Signal Command standards and German power standards,” said Guenter Volz, telecommunications manager in the 6981st CSG.

The 6981st CSG is a U.S. Army unit under 2nd Signal Brigade consisting exclusively of German civilians. The unit provides cost-efficient and high-quality installation work and solutions for passive inside and outside network upgrades, new installations or cable repair in both copper and fiber.

Volz said it should take about three weeks to install the more than 8 kilometers (4.97 miles) of fiber optic and network cable, another 300 meters (984 feet) of power cable, more than 75 network drops and 25 power outlets.

Ted Ryon, NETOPS team lead for the 102nd Signal Battalion’s Network Enterprise Center – Baumholder, said the unit had to develop a plan, then configure switches and find equipment on short notice to get the MCE online. He credited a close working relationship with 4th Infantry Division MCE and other Team Signal partners throughout the project.

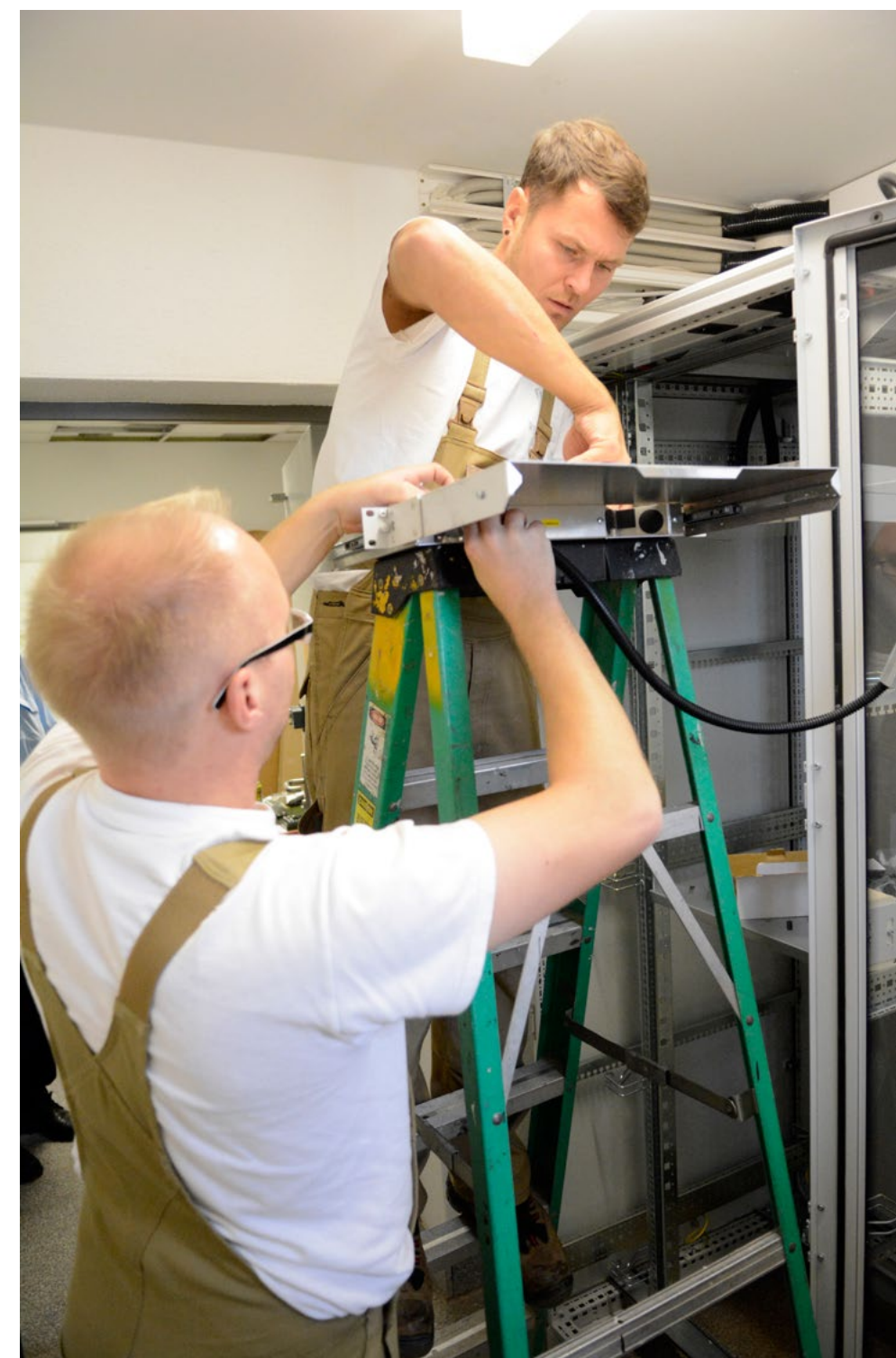
“It was a collaborative effort with 4ID (MCE), 102nd Signal Battalion, the 6981st, and all the way up to the brigade and 5th Signal,” Ryon said.

Maj. Jose Rodriguez, the 4th Infantry Division MCE G6, also credited teamwork for the MCE’s successful transition to Baumholder, especially considering the complexity of network connectivity associated with mission command for Operation Atlantic Resolve.

“The network build out for the 4ID MCE at Baumholder will allow us to continue to perform division-level mission command of RAF units and Allies across 10 countries within the Eastern European flank,” Rodriguez said.

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command and the USAREUR chief information officer/G6, said the newly connected MCE would not only support building a Strong Europe, but is providing lessons learned across the Army for interoperability and support of Regionally Allocated Forces.

“The network build out in support of the MCE is also critical not just for Europe and our important role here, but will serve to inform the overall Army concept,” Hall said. ✪



Above: Matthias Menge (right) and Marcus Muenzberg, local nationals with the 6981st Civilian Support Group, 2nd Signal Brigade, install network cable and equipment as part of the network build out and infrastructure upgrades for the new 4th Infantry Division Mission Command Element Oct. 27, 2015 at Smith Barracks in Baumholder, Germany. Photo by William B. King

Opposite page: Jan Sandmaier, a local national with the 6981st Civilian Support Group, 2nd Signal Brigade, attaches a connector to a fiber optic cable as part of the network build out and infrastructure upgrades for the new 4th Infantry Division Mission Command Element Oct. 27, 2015 at Smith Barracks in Baumholder, Germany. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline



Multinational Army leaders address interoperability concerns during Combined Resolve V

By Sgt. Kenneth D. Reed, Joint Multinational Training Center

HOHENFELS, Germany -- Senior leaders from around the Army visited exercise Combined Resolve V, Oct. 29, 2015, at Hohenfels Training Area.

Combined Resolve V is a Joint Multinational Training Command, U.S. Army Europe-directed exercise held from Sept. 22-Nov. 21, 2015 at the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training Areas in southeastern Germany. Combined Resolve V includes 4,600 participants from 13 nations: Albania, Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and the United States.

The purpose of the visit is to promote and improve interoperability among NATO Allies and coalition partners, building partnership by executing unified land operations while simultaneously emphasizing a multinational team partnership through the use of interoperable systems.

"I am very pleased to see Gen. Burleson, Gen. Crawford, and Gen. Maddux here representing different aspects of how the Army works," said Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commander, U.S. Army Europe. "The fact that senior Army leaders have come to take a look at this training for themselves is very encouraging."


With communications, mission command and simulation in mind, these commanders got a better understanding of how the U.S. Army's Regionally

Allocated Force - the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia - works together in a multinational environment with NATO Allies and partners to effectively reinforce regional security.

"We are here to understand the interoperability challenges we face today and the ones we will face tomorrow," said Maj. Gen. Jonathan Maddux, the program executive officer for the Simulations, Training and Instrumentation Command. "We are tackling those challenges with our capabilities managers and prioritizing those needs. We understand the sense of urgency here in theater to accomplish what we need for our future needs and our partner's needs."

Lt. Gen. Seppo Toivonen, the commander of the Finnish Army, was among the visitors who observed the multinational training and explained that he looks forward to sending Finnish troops here for future training.

"It is great to be here," said Toivonen. "You are working really hard to enhance the interoperability between the Alliance and its partners. I am also excited to see how you run the exercise and how the OPFOR (opposing forces) helps train the forces."

For more information on exercise Combined Resolve V, visit www.eur.army.mil/jmtc/CombinedResolve.html. 



Sgt. Kelvin Bownes, a CPN team chief in Company A, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, works with a Dutch officer during exercise Combined Resolve V Oct. 29, 2015 at the Hohenfels Training Area. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline



Col. Matthew Holt, U.S. Army Europe deputy G6, speaks with Lt. Col. Pete Wilson, commander of the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, during exercise Combined Resolve V Oct. 29, 2015 at the Hohenfels Training Area. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline

The Watchdog Tradition

By Capt. Phil Gilchrist

As U.S. Army Europe continues to strengthen the alliance with our NATO Allies and maintain a dynamic presence, the ability to communicate and share knowledge has become a key element to success. The 39th Signal Battalion “Watchdogs” have become key players in enabling the NATO alliance by providing services to leaders across Northern Europe and the United Kingdom. These services enable U.S. personnel embedded within NATO headquarters the ability to communicate with Allies and U.S. assets over DoD networks. Providing secured network services is one way the Watchdogs continue to enable the alliance.

Enabling the alliance is nothing new to the 39th Signal Battalion. First constituted during the final year of World War II, the 39th Signal Battalion was tasked with providing communication support during the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. These two campaigns took place when Allied forces began to expand into Europe on a course to Berlin. As the Allied forces began to expand into axis controlled Europe so did the 39th Signal Battalion’s area of responsibility. Then as now, the 39th Signal Battalion was key to enabling the alliance. During the Vietnam conflict, the 39th Signal Battalion was tasked with maintaining the backbone to all communications flowing in and out of Vietnam. This huge undertaking was just the beginning and like today, the 39th Signal Battalion assumed more tasks and expanded its area of responsibility as the conflict continued. Enabling the alliance and leveraging every opportunity has been a standard way of operating for the Watchdogs and this is true today as U.S. Army Europe continues to expand its presence with NATO Allies.

Today the 39th Signal Battalion is located in Belgium and is nested with several NATO headquarters. Although the Watchdogs ensure reliable communications for a relatively small number of users, however, the unit’s area of responsibility spans Europe providing services in Belgium, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, France, and parts of Germany and Poland. These services are critical to commanders and provide them the ability to exercise Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) across Europe and the world.

The list of customers for the 39th is lengthy, but it clearly shows a trend towards enabling U.S. personnel in key NATO organizations and commands. U.S. personnel embedded in these organizations across Europe rely on the 39th to provide secured DoD networks that enable them to stay in close contact with U.S. and allied commanders.

The constant expansion of the 39th Signal Battalion’s area of responsibility has led to the development of many projects delivering services to distant customers. One of these projects was the delivery of DoD networks to the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command’s Forward Element - Atlantic (RFEC-A) in England. RFEC-A connects foreign scientists, engineers and educators from more than 100 countries to develop collaborative technologies that can be used throughout Europe and Africa. The sharing of knowledge and the ability to access DoD networks is crucial to RFEC-A and allows them to connect with multiple U.S. agencies and conduct high-level agreements to facilitate the sharing of scientific knowledge with other nations.

One example was the request for U.S. test data concerning the rocket propelled grenade (RPG). With the recent improvements in protection systems against RPGs, an allied nation formally requested technical data from the U.S. on how to better protect their vehicles from these shoulder-fired weapons. RFEC-A was instrumental in communicating with the Pentagon and developing an international agreement that facilitated the sharing of U.S. test data, allowing that nation to acquire the best technology available. Enabling this location was not without difficulty due to its remote location, network IP conflicts and substandard infrastructure. The RFEC-A infrastructure needed to be updated to meet security standards which required bringing in new equipment. The undertaking was a great challenge and required personnel to come together and develop achievable solutions in supporting RFEC-A. Enabling RFEC-A will ensure the U.S. Army is able to explore international collaboration opportunities and work with Allies to close capability gaps in Europe and Africa.

continued



The 39th Signal Battalion hosted Belgian Communications and Information Systems officers and staff members to evaluate how they can partner together. Several options were already brought forward: plan a visit during a NATO exercise, participate in functional training, organize a joint combatives or weapon training, and participate in fiber optic training were some of the options. Both units are looking at enhancing their ability to have the American and Belgian systems to interact and learning from each other's experience while maintaining a positive, intercultural partnership. Photo by Cis Spook, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux

Another expansion in the 39th's area of responsibility has resulted in the delivery of services to Headquarters Multinational Corps-Northeast (MNC-NE) located in Poland. The mere distance of this location presented difficulties with providing services. Courses of action had to be made for equipment replacement, fiber connections, and first-line support for users. NEC Schinnen, located in The Netherlands, currently supports U.S. personnel embedded in the ISAF headquarters at Joint Forces Command Brunssum (JFCBS) and is geographically the closest to MNC-NE. But in order to avoid interfering with NEC Schinnen's primary customers at JFCBS, contingency plans had to be put in place. The maintenance of the fiber

connection to Poland represents a perfect example. Fiber cables require specialized skills and equipment to repair connections. In case there is limited manning at NEC Schinnen and to avoid interfering with their main customers at JFCBS during high operational tempo, service members from the 39th's cable team will be the cabling service provider and send a team to troubleshoot. This is a clear example of how the 39th Signal Battalion is balancing user expectations and available resources to meet the Strong Europe priorities.

The 39th Signal Battalion has remained adaptable and continues to provide new communication assets to its customers. This is shown with the recent steps to

deliver and support mobile SIPRNet services to some users in the region. Most technologies simply did not meet security standards. But that has changed as the 39th Signal Battalion is now fielding DoD Mobility Classified Capability (DMCC), a joint venture between the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) that enables commercial mobile devices such as a Samsung Galaxy mobile phone to receive SIPRNet services. The 39th Signal Battalion has made big strides in learning about various technologies available and how to support them; all in an effort to provide better services. The roll-out of DMCC brings the Army one step closer to an environment where leaders can gain access to secure networks anywhere.

In an effort to maintain a dynamic presence, the 39th has recently taken major steps to work with a Belgian Computer and Information Systems (CIS) unit. The 39th aims to develop a long-lasting multinational working relationship between the two organizations by conducting combined training and communication exercises. Some of the key objectives include exploring technical challenges surrounding interoperability, information sharing and creating a common operating picture in a multinational coalition scenario. The Belgian CIS unit is equally committed to the partnership and recently visited the 39th battalion headquarters with a formal invitation for the 39th to attend their annual communication exercise "GENESIX." Rough plans were developed on training scenarios and ways to pass data between the two nations. Overall, it was a great step forward that proved both units are serious about the partnership.

With its extensive heritage, the 39th Signal Battalion has evolved with time and technology to deliver communication networks across Europe. The demands placed on the 39th Signal Battalion continue to grow in step with the demand for information and remaining resilient has become critical to the 39th's success. With the delivery of static and mobile services, the Watchdogs have proven to be a key enabler to the alliance. Every day the personnel assigned to the 39th Signal Battalion unknowingly enable the alliance to a high degree by providing services that enable allied commanders to command and control operations. Without the 39th, allied leaders would have to rely on unsecured networks to provide C4I. As the area of operations continue to expand the 39th Signal Battalion will remain resilient and evolve with demands ensuring continued support for the alliance.



About the author

Capt. Phil Gilchrist is currently serving as the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 39th Signal Battalion in Belgium. His previous assignments include working with the NATO Communication Information Agency in The Netherlands to deliver several IT projects that enhanced NATO and ISAF's ability to communicate, and as a JNN platoon leader and battalion signal officer with the 1st Cavalry Division. He attended the University of North Georgia on a ROTC scholarship earning a bachelor's in accounting and a master's in management.



39th Signal Battalion

MISSION: Build, Operate, Defend and Extend Network Capabilities throughout the BENELUX, United Kingdom, France and Northern Germany in order to enable Mission Command for Army, Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental and Multinational Forces

VISION: The premier Strategic Signal Battalion in Europe; A professional workforce delivering Functional, Reliable, and Secure C4IM services to our customers; partners in our community with a reputation for success

Strong Europe | *Allies and Partners*

Working with our Allies and partners is the normal way to operate in Europe. We contribute to strengthening our alliance as part of the NATO Collective Defense.

The Joint Multinational Training Command is a place where U.S. forces with our Allies and partners train and practice interoperability. Our exercises and daily training focus on interoperability and interdependence.



U.S. and Allied leaders gathered Jan. 11, 2016 in Wiesbaden for the 5th Signal Command training management review presentation to U.S. Army Europe. From left to right: Cmdr. Lars Jaehrling, Bundeswehr Communication and Information Systems Command's International Relations, Cyber, and Risk Management Directorate; Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commander of U.S. Army Europe; Brig. Gen. Dr. Michael Faerber, BwCISCOM deputy commander; Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command and the USAREUR chief information officer/G6; Brig. Gen. Dr. Jozef Nasiadka, chief of the Command and Control Directorate - J6, General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces; and Col. Marek Gladysz, J6 Branch head, General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces. Photo by William B. King

Additionally, Operation Atlantic Resolve has resulted in 50 battalion-sized or greater exercises carried out from the Baltics to Black Sea in 2015.

In USAREUR, it is not unusual to find U.S. tanks crossing a German-assembled bridge on British trucks. Together we forge a powerful land power network that simultaneously deters aggression and assures the security of our Allies.



Lt. Col. Pete Wilson, commander of the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, speaks to a Romanian officer during exercise Combined Resolve V Oct. 29, 2015 at the Hohenfels Training Area. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline



Bayonet Thrust: Communications, maintenance readiness put to the test

By Sgt. A.M. LaVey, 173rd Airborne Brigade

HERNADVECSE, Hungary - Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade crossed over from Slovakia to Hungary at the border point here Oct. 28, 2015, on the seventh day of Operation Bayonet Thrust. The multinational convoy was heading home to Vicenza, Italy, after a five-month rotation in Lithuania, in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, the United States' continued commitment to European security.

During those last five months, the paratroopers from Company D, 503rd Infantry Regiment, have been actively using their communications equipment and vehicles, training with allied forces - battle-tested equipment that they now are relying to get them the more than 2,600 kilometers home safely.

"Being able to communicate with each other and with our allies is a key part of this operation," said Spc. Christopher Wells, a signal support specialist with Company D, and the person in charge of

making sure the communications equipment for this 17-vehicle convoy is functional. "We need to be able to communicate with all the vehicles in the convoy, as well as our higher headquarters at all times during this mission - it's about safety and security of the people, as well as the other motorists on the road."

The convoy is using a mix of vehicle-mounted and hand-held radios, each with its own mission. Each time the convoy crosses a border, the signal team works with host-nation equipment to make it easier for the military police escorts.

Wells and the rest of his team have had a lot of training in both foreign and domestic signal equipment during the last five months in the Baltics.

"We trained with the Lithuanian army on their equipment and they've trained on ours," said Wells. "Training on each other's systems comes in

handy when we're asked to work with each other; it improves the interoperability of our two forces."


While communications is important, it's the Humvees and other wheeled vehicles that are tasked with most of the work during this operation, being driven an average nine hours each day - for a week straight.

"We've never driven long distances like this in such a short amount of time," said 1st Lt. Filiberto Pacheco, a platoon leader with Company D. "We've really been able to spend a lot of time with our equipment during this operation - we have learned and are always testing our maintenance capabilities."

A tactical recovery truck, the military version of a tow truck, along with a crew of maintenance personnel are following the convoy, but to date, there has been no issue that couldn't be solved at the

operator level. A petroleum supply specialist and his fueler are also following the convoy, allowing the drivers to travel the long distances.

"Our ability to freely move across Europe from country to country and sustain ourselves along the way is a demonstration of our readiness capabilities," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Thompson, a platoon sergeant with Company D. "But we aren't doing this alone - and we couldn't. Our NATO Allies are helping to make this mission succeed. Working together continues to strengthen our bonds and prepares us to be mutually ready for future operations."

The 173rd Airborne Brigade, based in Vicenza, Italy, is the U.S. Army Contingency Response Force in Europe and is capable of deploying ready forces to conduct the full range of military operations across the U.S. European, Africa and Central Commands' areas of operations within 18 hours. 



Above: U.S. Army paratroopers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, tie a brigade flag on their vehicle on day one of Operation Bayonet Thrust, Panevezys, Lithuania, Oct. 24, 2015. Photo by Sgt. A.M. LaVey/173 ABN PAO

Opposite page: U.S. Army Capt. Helaman Fepuleai, commander, Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade synchs communication with a Lithuanian army Sgt. Albnas Kondrotas, a military policeman, in Panevezys, Lithuanian, Oct. 24, 2015, prior to day one of Operation Bayonet Thrust, a multinational convoy bringing the Americans home to Italy after five month training in Lithuania as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Photo by Sgt. A.M. LaVey/173 ABN PAO



Diverse international group takes part in Marshall Center Cyber Security Studies Course

By James Brooks

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany - In the time it takes to read this story, more than 2,000 people will become victims of a cyber-crime.

In the next hour, the U.S. Navy expects to see 110,000 cyber-attacks. By day's end, approximately 600,000 Facebook accounts will be compromised. And by the end of 2016, global cybercrime is expected to cost nations in excess of \$100 billion.

The world of cyber-networks intended to make industry and life easier and more efficient has also become a haven for international criminals, terrorists and "hacktivists" not limited by geography or sophisticated military capability.

A one-of-a-kind, two-week program on cyber security studies recently began at the George C. Marshall European Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. In its second year, the Program in Cyber Security Studies brings together government and

military leaders from nearly 50 nations to reach a shared understanding of international and country specific approaches to a more secure, global cyber network.

"I think one of the biggest things we learned from last year was that we didn't aim high enough in getting the top leaders to attend. This year we achieved that and that's attributed to our U.S. and German embassies and country teams extending invitations to our partners," said Professor Phil Lark, director of PCSS. "We had to close the registration for the program early. We couldn't satiate the demand of our partners who wanted to come and share from others."

According to Lark, participants will hear and discuss from cyber experts working in senior military, private industry and government positions. They will be exposed to best practices for governance and management of information systems as well as cooperative approaches to shared cyber challenges.

Among the scheduled keynote speakers are European Court of Human Rights Judge Robert Spano; U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Cyber Policy Aaron Hughes; U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Homeland Security Greg Touhill; private sector executives from Microsoft and Hewlett Packard.

In addition to hearing from the experts, participants will be able to discuss issues in more detail with each other through smaller breakout seminars.

"The biggest challenge we have with a course like this is building trust between people. To get them to understand cyber security isn't anything magical or complex. It's really about something you deal with people. Sharing what I'm doing is transparent and clear and that the challenges we face are exactly the same. Cyberspace is unique because there are no borders. Everything moves at the speed of light," said Lark.


Another aspect of PCSS is an interactive computer simulation game designed specifically for the George C. Marshall Center that will pit participants against a terrorist operating in the cyber realm.

"Called 'CounterNet,' the simulation gives serving government practitioners an opportunity to learn how violent extreme organizations use the Internet to their advantage. These organizations use the Internet through propaganda, recruiting, and financing. So we will run the participants through this stimulation so they can go back home to better inform senior government officials and decision makers whom they work for," said Lark.

The relationships formed between the 89 registered participants from 47 countries will help create an international network of trust, and familiarity where cyber challenges can be addressed. One thing that won't be found in this 2.0-version of PCSS is a solution to cybersecurity.

"The field of cybersecurity is too big. Strategy and policy, all the things that governments and private industry have to deal with, is too complex. The discussion to address it, isn't well framed right now. I think in the future, some of the issues we will discuss in this program, our participants will take home and take initial steps to take action in their countries. That's one of the big challenges," said Lark.

Another strength and value of the PCSS resident course is the diversity of the 87 participants. There is almost an equal mix between civilian and military professionals. Participants represent nations in every U.S. Department of Defense combatant command area of responsibility. Eighty percent of the participants are men and 20 percent women.

More information about the George C. Marshall European Center's PCSS program can be found online at: <http://www.marshallcenter.org/mcpublicweb/en/nav-main-wwd-res-courses-pcss-en.html>. 

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Opposite page: Program for Cyber Security Studies director Professor Phil Lark gives an overview of cyber security terms and definitions during the first day of class. The two-week PCSS program is offered once a year at the George C. Marshall European Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. The course brings together international government and military leaders to reach a shared understanding of international and country-specific approaches to a more secure, global cyber network and to build partnerships to resolve shared challenges. Photo by Karlheinz Wedhorn

The mission of the Marshall Center, as a vital instrument of German-American cooperation, is to create a more stable security environment by advancing democratic institutions and relationships; promoting active, peaceful, whole-of-government approaches to address transnational and regional security challenges; and creating and enhancing enduring partnerships worldwide.

The Marshall Center conducts a variety of unique programs involving to date officials from more than 110 countries. Most programs are taught in English and Russian. The center's resident programs have a long-term academic focus while its non-resident programs focus on current issues and problem solving. Graduate support specialists work to maintaining contact with and support more than 60 percent of all Marshall Center alumni.

www.marshallcenter.org



Allied Spirit IV to exercise communication, interoperability among NATO Allies

By Joint Multinational Training Center

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany -- More than 2,200 participants from Canada, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Slovenia, and the United States are participating in exercise Allied Spirit IV at the Hohenfels Training Area in southeastern Germany, Jan. 10-Feb. 5, 2016.

The goal of the exercise is to prepare forces in Europe to operate together by exercising tactical interoperability at the brigade and battalion levels, and testing secure communications within NATO Alliance members.

In this exercise, Italy's Garibaldi Brigade will command a multinational force of seven different battalions from ten countries.

"With the Garibaldi Brigade serving as the headquarters element, Allied Spirit provides a unique opportunity for us as NATO Allies to become stronger and more agile," said Brig. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, commander, 7th Army JMTc. "When Allies train together in realistic, challenging tactical conditions, we are able to develop levels of

interoperability that provide our leaders with options during times of crisis."

Allied Spirit challenges NATO Allies to connect and find solutions together to confront today's challenges.



Top: Slovenian and Italian Army Joint Terminal Attack Controller soldiers pose for a portrait with U.S. Air Force JTAC trainer, Capt. Skylar Jackson of the Bullseye Observer Coach Trainer Team after a successful training scenario in the Hohenfels training area, Germany, during exercise Allied Spirit IV, Jan. 25, 2016. JTAC Soldiers execute complex air-to-ground missions that integrate ground-based radio operations with fixed and rotary wing aircraft in combat environments. The training they receive at JMRC with its advanced simulations and real-life squad tactics lanes will prepare them for real combat scenarios. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Caleb Barrieau

Strong Europe | Reserve and National Guard

Integration of the National Guard and Army Reserve into the U.S. Army Europe team is a major component to making 30,000 Soldiers look and feel like 300,000. Army Reserve and Guard Soldiers have played a vital role in boosting land force capability across USAREUR's footprint through the 21 states that participate in the State Partnership Program in 22 different countries and by leveraging Overseas Deployment Training rotations.

The National Guard is resourced with units that supplement the active force and the Army Reserve provides both individuals and units. When we synchronize and integrate these assets, we achieve greater component interoperability and capability in Europe.



Sgt. Jacob Showerman, Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Boyd, and Sgt. Matthew Rentz, all with the Michigan Army National Guard, work as part of NATO Rapid Deployment Corps-Hohenfels (NRDC-H), a composite team of Michigan National Guard Soldiers. During this exercise they have partnered with National Armed Forces representatives from the Latvian Army, to work on the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) system, during Exercise Allied Spirit at 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command's Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, Jan. 17, 2016. Exercise Allied Spirit IV includes more than 2,200 participants from six NATO nations, and exercises tactical interoperability and test secure communications with Alliance members and partner nations. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Helen Miller, Michigan Army National Guard

Partnerships in Europe Mixed Signals

By Maj. Natalie Vanatta
Capt. Robert Singley and
Capt. James Torrence

Even decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization continues to be the world's most important military alliance (Economist, 2015). The strength of this alliance comes from the 28 countries that make up NATO and their dedication to cooperation and partnership. Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, U.S. Army Europe commander, said the United States "needs the capacity that other countries can bring. In a world where the U.S. can no longer afford (economically, militarily, and politically) to be the lead on every action, we must develop and sustain strong partnerships in order to be successful."



The 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, and the Bundeswehr Communication and Information Systems Command's 383d Communication and Information Systems Battalion conducted a joint small arms range Feb. 19, 2015 at the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Photo by William B. King

This article explores how the European Signal community is accepting the challenge to create lasting and meaningful partnerships with our Allies.

Why develop partnerships?

In the fiscally constrained yet dynamic environment of Europe, we routinely operate at 2010 funding levels yet have more combined operations occurring than any other theater. Our Soldiers embody the concept of ready and resilient. They routinely work with Soldiers from other nations in order to accomplish the mission and maintain peace.

The diversity this represents in training opportunities, operational concept sharing, and cultural experience is a strength gained from partnerships. President Obama, during the 2014 NATO Summit, remarked "First and foremost, we have reaffirmed the central mission of the Alliance. Article 5 enshrines our solemn duty to each other – 'an armed attack against one...shall be considered an attack against them all.'" (whitehouse.gov, 2014) Developing a relationship with our partners is important in order to further strengthen NATO as well as to be successful in future

armed conflict. Partnerships need to be created at the tactical, operational, and strategic level. These partnerships ultimately create valuable training experiences for our Soldiers while building power projection platforms to deter theater threats.

Once such partnership is between Bravo Company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron. In order to maintain interoperability between signal assemblages, the two units participate in an annual exercise called "Stoney Run." Unit planners base the training scenario around real world events affecting the European theater. The scenario adds realism to exercise which is centered on passing data through respective systems using IP-based routing, telephony, and line of sight.

After the exercise the partners engage in friendly sporting competitions while sharing food from their respective countries. The technical portion of the exercise lays the ground work for the future, while it is the human side of the engagement which strengthens the alliance and helps to foster the partnership.

continued

Signal Partnerships

The requirement to develop successful partnerships with NATO and partner nations does not rest solely on the shoulders of tactical maneuver units. Signal units play an important role in establishing and maintaining partnerships by enabling mission command. In Afghanistan, Commanders saw a need to share information and communicate with multinational units across the battlefield. The International Security Assistance Force's evolving mission made it apparent to leaders that timely information sharing and the creation of a shared awareness would increase overall operational efficiency. In 2009, the commander of ISAF, Gen. David McKiernan, approved the development of the Afghan Mission Network. In 2010, Initial Operational Capability was achieved and in 2011 there were 48 NATO and partner nations operating on AMN. AMN is not the end state for an allied mission network, but it is a real-world example that clearly highlights that when a need exists, the technical creation of a coalition network is relatively simple. Our difficulty comes from a need to shift from "limited distribution of information" to an "information sharing" culture.

In an effort to reach Lt. Gen. Hodges' vision of an interoperable European land force, 2nd Signal Brigade must turn the combination of unique capabilities in distinctive battalion areas of responsibility with disparate partners into a viable, secure and stable communications network. Adhering to the philosophy of mission command, each battalion determines what partnership in their AOR means and actively pursues it.

The end state of this objective is to strengthen current social and business relationships while building technical relationships that extend our network capabilities. One output from the process was the creation of the Austere Challenge Mission Environment. It began as a collaborative mission partnership environment to support allied partner exercises developed by individuals within the BDE, 5th Signal Command, and USAREUR G6.

This solution, recently renamed the Army Coalition Mission Environment, will be fully integrated with NATO core services and systems during Steadfast Cobalt 15 in Poland this summer. The 102nd Signal Battalion began their partnership with the 282nd Bundeswehr Command Support Battalion with a host of training and socialization events. In March, they successfully communicated via High Frequency

radio between command posts. The two battalions are now planning a communications exercise that will demonstrate the possibilities for communications interoperability (voice and data) between coalition partners utilizing different media. Further south, the 509th Signal Battalion is participating in Bold Quest, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's Network Integration Evaluation 16.1 in which an Italian Airborne unit conducts a Joint Forcible Entry Operation as part of a multinational division operation. This event will test the Italians' ability to mission command subordinate units via 509th's strategic connectivity.

Challenges

The last decade of war has thrust the U.S. into a position where partnerships with NATO and Allied nations are essential to maintain peace, stability, and cohesion in an ever-changing operational environment.

The need for lasting partnerships has institutional, technical, and cultural challenges for U.S. forces. Some of these challenges can be met at the unit level while others require senior leader attention if we hope to shape our force into valuing partnerships.

Institutional Challenges

The need for partnership has outpaced both our military education system and the Mission Essential Tasks by which a unit is assessed. In order for partnership to be successful in the Army it should become a part of curriculum in TRADOC courses and become a MET assigned to units asked to partner with a foreign nation.

The Army concept of "train as we fight" has been around for decades. It is an underlying principle that creates a premier fighting force. Partnerships are how we fight today. TRADOC has spent extensive resources providing simulations and communications platforms to schoolhouses in order to train Soldiers. In fact, the latest version of FM 6-02 (Signal Support to Operations) covers the importance of "providing Soldiers the capability to train on the same warfighting applications terminals used during deployment."

Even with the doctrinal requirement of creating an environment similar to a deployed one, schoolhouse training does not occur on combined communications platforms essential to allied operations. Providing an awareness of the variety of networks, the countries that can access them, and the constraints on information sharing would be beneficial to Soldiers.

NATO Mission Secret Network, Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation, and Coalition Network are frequently found in European Allied operations and Signaleers are expected to be familiar with them. Ask a Signaleer about why we can share SECRET information with Australia. Chances are they do not know the answer.

However, it came from the partnership and trust developed between the five countries (now known as Five Eyes) as they worked in Bletchley Park to break codes during WWII. Understanding how we are authorized to share information between countries is integral in being able to develop and defend shared communications networks (a primary task of a Signal Soldier).

According to FM 7-15, there are no Army METs that deal with Allied nation partnership. The Universal Navy Task List which includes the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard does not have any tasks dealing with coalition partnership. In fact, Joint doctrine only has two tasks in the Universal Joint Task List with the word partnership.

While the USAREUR Commander's intent espouses partnership as being paramount to success, there are still no means for the evaluation of individual units if the value of partnership is not quantified as a MET. Although partnership is not a new concept it has never been captured or codified in our handbook of what we do. Partnership should be a MET in the European Theater where combined operations continue to increase (both in number and frequency) and communications interoperability is essential.

Technical Challenges

Along with the challenge of properly educating our military on partnerships, there are also technical challenges in maintaining partnerships. From a signal perspective, the challenge is creating communications interoperability.

Communications interoperability is the integration of tactical and strategic communications platforms resulting in: secure line of sight/beyond line of sight communication capabilities between units, position location information of combined forces which feeds into a common operational picture, and a shared network that facilitates mission command amongst combined forces. According to Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander 5th Signal Command, "interoperability is critical to mission success because the very fabric

and strength of a unit relies on our ability to be interoperable whether it's in the Combat Arms arena, through direct support or in an Enabler organization."

Looking at the development of communications capabilities with U.S. forces over the last two decades, we still struggle to ensure an Army Soldier can call for fire from an Air Force or Navy unit without a liaison on the ground. We struggle to convince acquisition entities and senior service leadership to champion communications equipment that is interoperable. Now we need to convince foreign countries that we should all purchase and use technology that would enable interoperability.

This enormous challenge cannot be tackled overnight. Short term efforts should focus on re-purposing existing technology to achieve an initial level of communications interoperability. There are three primary goals within Europe. First is to talk secure FM between company headquarters of Allied forces. Second is to feed information on units (position, disposition) into a higher headquarters COP. Third is to provide a communications backbone that Allies can access and reach back to their home station. While this does not sound overly difficult, U.S. units engaged in Operation Atlantic Resolve can only organically communicate with tactical Polish units via plain text FM and not at all with many others. This should be very troubling. Without shared communications – partnerships fail.

At the strategic level, the 39th Signal Battalion's Communications team supporting Gen. Philip Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, is leading the effort to provide him with updated, secure data capabilities; a secure cross-domain solution for complete two-way classified message traffic and attachment functionality between SIPR, BICES, NMSN, and others. While other DODIN domain solutions have been used around the globe – this is a holistic system that will enable SACEUR to communicate with his staff.

Finally, long-term solutions (7-10 years) are also needed to facilitate communications interoperability amongst our Allies. Technical solutions are easy; the challenge is getting a group of people moving toward the same objective. Personnel from the communities of intelligence, communications, logistics, operations, acquisitions, NATO, and host-nation representatives

continued

must conquer the challenges presented by a host of issues that include a varied communications capabilities, security measures, acquisition policies, and country regulations in order to develop a functional and interoperable solution.

Cultural Challenges

If we are able to tackle the educational shift in our thinking towards valuing partnerships and develop fieldable, technical solutions to handle the challenges of communications interoperability that will still leave us with many cultural challenges. These cultural challenges, both internal as well as external, play an equally important role when developing lasting partnerships.

One internal cultural challenge is the existing stigma that assignments with foreign nations are easy and “away from the flagpole.” More value is placed on a “combat” tour in Kuwait than a year embedded in a foreign military speaking their language, learning

their doctrine, being an ambassador for the U.S. military, and learning how we can better work together when deployed to face a common foe. There needs to be a paradigm shift amongst leaders in the military to embrace the opportunities to interact with our foreign allies. Combined assignments result in a force that understands how and why foreign militaries conduct operations; they result in enduring relationships and enhance leader education and development.

Pick a typical day in a NATO Task Force. You might see a company-grade foreign officer (that is not a native English speaker) briefing a 4-star general on battle plans that will affect combat operations. This clearly shows how other countries value their partnerships (to spend the time training leaders on other cultures and languages). Of course, the easy answer is that the U.S. has Foreign Area Officers to handle these situations. That is a fallacy we need to overcome in the U.S. military. Every Soldier is an Ambassador, and partnership is not a specialized job for only a few. This must be one of the many tasks required of the American Soldier, NCO, and Officer.

There are also external cultural challenges when creating partnerships. The first is language related. Different countries provide different levels of resources/requirements for their populations to learn English. Therefore, the ease of a company commander speaking to his Hungarian counterpart vice his British counter-part might be different. Another cultural difference is planning cycles. The U.S. Army locks in unit training six weeks in advance. Perhaps significant large-scale training events are scheduled six months in advance. However, typically Italian units lock in their unit training at least 12 months in advance and normally closer to 24. Additionally, challenges can arise from partnering with countries with different societal values, economic structures, and requirements for military service. Therefore, the evolution of their militaries can be significantly different than our own. Finally, the greatest challenge is in cultivating and maintaining trust within the partnership despite our differences.

With over 51 countries in USAREUR’s area of responsibility, multiple multinational exercises, and the possibility of real world missions, the European theater is a constant leadership lab for those fortunate enough to support these efforts. However, to truly enable the alliance, one must go beyond exercise participation.

Leaders should seek to build successful, active partnerships with NATO Allies and partner-nations. According to author Jack Schafer’s book, *The Like Switch*, friendships are influenced by the principles of proximity, frequency, duration, and intensity. In order to build successful relationships, units should find organizations within the theater that they can plan training events with. These events can span from social to tactical.

Furthermore, these partnerships should be constantly developed over time through multiple engagements that will add positive value to both units. The 52nd Signal Battalion embodies this concept as they partner with a local German Reserve Association. With a focus on cultural exchange, they have jointly participated in field training, land navigation, warrior task-based competitions, Christmas parties, and other events.

Those not within the theater should look forward for how they may prepare themselves for the future of unified land operations worldwide. Cultural, linguistic, and doctrinal training centered on our partners will act as a force multiplier allowing us to better understand our coalition team members and build lasting relationships.

Conclusion

When it comes to understanding the importance of our European Allies, U.S. troops stationed overseas in the European theater have a distinct advantage over their state-side peers. Not only are Soldiers immersed in European culture during their tour, they also have many opportunities to participate in multinational training events. Although the cultures may differ, many of our partner nations have similar units, task organization, or mission statements which help to bridge the cultural gap. These partnerships are important in preparing NATO and partner-nation armies for stability, defensive and offensive operations all while fostering interoperability and trust. We must train our Soldiers and leaders to be flexible in their thinking, understand that sometimes they must lead and other times they must follow, and we must recognize that everyone has a contribution to make when addressing multinational problems.

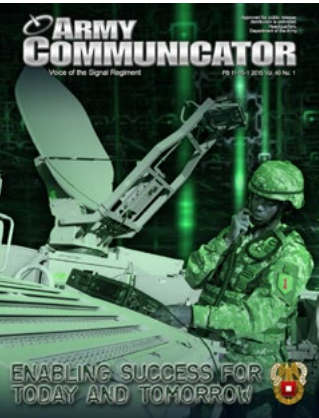
About the Authors

Capt. James Torrence is a Signal Corps officer and former commander of the 128th Signal Company, 39th Signal Battalion. He has a B.S. from West Point, an M.S. from California University of Pennsylvania, and an M.S. from American Military University. He has deployed twice as a battalion signal officer in a brigade combat team and spent the last two years serving in a joint and combined strategic communications environment.

Capt. Robert Singley is a Signal Corps officer and former commander of Company B, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Grafenwoehr. He has a B.S. from West Point and an M.S. from the University of Maryland University College. He has deployed twice to Iraq as a platoon leader and battalion signal officer and once to Afghanistan as an aide to the ISAF CJ6.

Maj. Natalie Vanatta was commissioned in the Army Signal Corps through the ROTC program. She is one of the first Army Cyber officers and previously served as the 509th Signal Battalion executive officer in Vicenza, Italy. She has a PhD from the Naval Postgraduate School and multiple master’s degrees. She has worked from tactical to operational levels in the signal arena around the world while also teaching/researching in the cyber field.

Editor’s Note: This story was first published in the Spring 2015 issue of the *Army Communicator* magazine and has been reprinted here with permission. To view the story in the *Army Communicator* go to http://cybercoe.army.mil/images/Army_Communicator/Spring2015/s_Spring_2015-Online.pdf



ACRONYM Quick Scan

- | | |
|---|---|
| AMN – Afghan Mission Network | NMSN – NATO Mission Secret Network |
| BICES - Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation Systems | SACEUR – Supreme Allied Commander Europe |
| ISAF – International Security Assistance Force | TRADOC – U. S. Army Training and Doctrine Command |
| MET – Mission Essential Task | U.S. – United States |
| NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization | USAREUR – U. S. Army Europe |

Spc. Josue Vazquez, a LAN manager in Company B, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, speaks with British signal officers during exercise Stoney Run III June 2015 in the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Submitted photo

Strong Europe | *Dynamic Presence*

Dynamic Presence enables U.S. Army Europe's connection to our allies, local government leaders and civilians in the U.S. and Europe. NATO is the most successful alliance, with over 60 years of history.

USAREUR is a smaller force than in previous years, but we leverage every opportunity to develop relationships and capabilities throughout Europe.

In 2015, USAREUR conducted over 50 battalion level and above exercises. Dynamic Presence is how land power is committed to European security. Through dynamic presence we demonstrate and tell the Strong Europe story.

Sometimes dynamic presence is a full battalion commitment to an exercise, other times it is a single Soldier liaison officer or a meeting between key leaders from allied and partnered nations. It is constant contact with others, in Europe and the U.S.

Dynamic presence is USAREUR's culture and in it we live the eight tenets of Army Operations: initiative, simultaneity, depth, adaptability, endurance, lethality, mobility and innovation.



Above: Master Sgt. Strate Flessas, 5th Signal Command senior career counselor, teaches English, including military-specific terms, to Austrian Armed Forces officer cadets Nov. 11, 2015 at the Theresian Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt, Austria. Photo courtesy Theresian Military Academy

Below: Alex Hudson, a vendor with Global Knowledge, speaks with a group of German signal Soldiers from the Bundeswehr Communication and Information Systems Command's 282nd CIS Battalion during the semiannual U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Tech Expo Feb. 2, 2016, at the Tony Bass Fitness Center in Wiesbaden, Germany. The expo was organized by National Conference Services, Inc. and featured more than 20 vendors displaying a range of technologies for potential government use, including cyber security, mobile devices and communication, data storage and retrieval, and cloud computing, among others. Photo by William B. King





Army Europe CIO/G6 highlights interoperability at communications conference

By William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

WARSAW, Poland -- Signal, cyber and communications experts from industry, government and the militaries of several NATO allied and partner nations gathered together for the 9th annual Mobile Deployable Communications Conference in Warsaw, Poland, Feb. 4-5.

One of the key themes of the conference addressed the need for mobile, resilient and deployable communications and for those systems to be interoperable in a joint and multinational environment.

Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command (Theater) and the U.S. Army Europe, or USAREUR, chief information officer/G6, delivered a keynote address about how interoperability enhances existing U.S. assets and capabilities and how this can lead to greater cooperation across Europe as USAREUR works to reassure NATO allies and partners and deter potential aggression.

Hall highlighted the cooperation agreement signed

last May with the Bundeswehr Communication and Information Systems, or CIS, Command, or BwCISCOM, as an example of building upon existing relationships to enhance signal-specific interoperability and partner capacity. “We want to take that to the field, to work on practical applications where our communications systems are talking across platforms,” he said.

Addressing the assurance of NATO allies and partners, Hall spoke about the progress and importance of ongoing exercises as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, and how the five pillars of Strong Europe contribute to assurance and deterrence. He said USAREUR completed 75 exercises in 2015 and has 101 planned for 2016.

“It’s about our persistent presence, it’s about our resolve. Assurance and deterrence is important for us - that’s what we’re here for,” Hall said.

“We will stand together as partners and allies. We will make Signal Strong for a Strong Europe,” he said.

Col. Juergen Schick, from BwCISCOM’s Concepts and Developments Branch, spoke about their efforts to build the German Mission Network and how it would work in a multinational environment.

“Our goal is to support network-enabled operations in missions and ensuring national and multinational command and control,” Schick said.

He said BwCISCOM is working to eliminate differences between green [mission] and white [non-tactical] systems and networks to allow Soldiers to train and work as they fight. As for what constitutes a mission, Schick said Germany plans for a range of scenarios that includes everything from stability operations to high intensity combat.

“If you are able to provide communications in both scenarios, then you are able to cover any likely mission, in our eyes,” Schick said.

U.S. Air Force Col. Ken Yunevich, head of operations for the NATO CIS Group, delivered a keynote address about the organization and capabilities of NATO’s communications support deployed forces. He emphasized the need for NATO’s static and deployable communications assets and networks to work together to support and sustain multiple missions on short notice.

“Secure communications on the move is an

important growth area for our own internal capabilities,” Yunevich, said.

Brig. Gen. Jozef Nasiadka, chief of the Command and Control Directorate - J6 for the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, spoke about the capabilities building activities in the Polish Armed Forces and its top mobile deployable CIS projects.

“It is essential to have networks that channel information among allies,” said Nasiadka, highlighting Poland’s experience as part of the Afghanistan Mission Network and NATO’s push for Federated Mission Networks.

Nasiadka emphasized the importance of cyber as the fifth dimension of operations, together with air, land, sea and space.

“Military success in the physical domain is today increasingly dependent on success in the cyber domain,” he said. 🇺🇸🇵🇱

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Opposite page: Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr. commander of 5th Signal Command (Theater) and the U.S. Army Europe CIO/G6, delivers a keynote address on the importance of interoperability and USAREUR’s assurance of NATO Allies and partners and how this can lead to greater cooperation across Europe at the 9th annual Mobile Deployable Communications conference Feb. 5, 2016 in Warsaw, Poland. Photo by William B. King

Refugee Situation

Right: Brig. Gen. Eckart Klink, commander of the Hessen State Command, gives a briefing on the refugee situation in Germany and the state of Hesse Nov. 26, 2015 at the 5th Signal Command headquarters in Wiesbaden. According to numbers from late September, Klink said, “We’ve got a daily influx into Germany between 11,000 to 12,000 people. This is absolutely a major challenge for the whole system.” Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline



Second German-American Staff Ride to Remagen Bridge

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Sven Herbold, Hessen State Command Public Affairs Office

(Courtesy translation by Mrs. Christine Straus, Political Advisor, 5th Signal Command)

Because of the overwhelming interest in the Bridge at Remagen, a staff ride to Remagen took place for the second time this year from Oct. 21-22, 2015. Six German Soldiers [from Hessen State Command] were among the overall 27 staff ride participants. The group of participants included not only U.S. military personnel, but also civilian employees who work at Lucius D. Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden.

The two-day staff ride to the Remagen Bridge was again a huge success. The two-part program, led by project officer Lt. Col. Frank Schaefers, consisted of an academic instruction at Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden followed by the actual visit of the bridge at Remagen. Schaefers' presentation included historical photos and video footage and highlighted the time from the landing of the Allies in Normandy in June 1944 to their advance

into Germany. In this context, the Ludendorff Bridge, which had been built during World War I, attained historical significance as it was the first bridge over the Rhine that the Allied troops crossed during their advance.

Bright and early on the following day, the bus took the staff ride participants on a journey through time. The first stop was the Erpeler Ley, a basalt cliff with a fantastic

view of the towns of Erpel and Remagen, the Rhine River, and the two bridgeheads of the collapsed Ludendorff Bridge. Afterwards, the bus dropped off the staff ride participants at the passenger ferry in Erpel for the Rhine River crossing to Remagen.



Next on the agenda was the visit of the Peace Museum, which is located in the two towers of the Remagen bridgehead. Peter Kuerten, director of the Peace Museum, took over from here to serve as an exceedingly knowledgeable museum guide. With great enthusiasm, he informed his audience in self-taught English about the eventful history of the bridge and answered many questions. As a token of appreciation, Col. John Broomhead, 5th Signal Command chief of staff, presented Kuerten with a certificate for his inspiring tour. Schaefers also received a certificate for organizing and facilitating the event.

The participants of the staff ride were excited about the program. One of them was Adam Ellis from 2nd Signal Brigade, who especially enjoyed the opportunity to get to know some of his counterparts in the German military. "The Remagen staff ride was a great opportunity to learn more about our shared history as well as spend time getting to know some of our counterparts in the German military. A fantastic experience!"

In conclusion, Broomhead was very impressed with the staff ride and the program. "The Remagen Staff Ride was brilliantly presented and organized by Lt. Col. Frank Schaefers and the members of Hessen State Command. Herr Kuerten's tour of the Museum was eventful and a treat. His idea to sell rock pieces of the Remagen bridgehead to raise funds to develop the museum is a metaphor for us as citizens of the world to begin small — piece by piece, and rock by rock — to develop a firm foundation of peace, firstly in the mind and then to the community. The Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and Local National members of 5th Signal Command will now have a historical perspective to reflect upon and a peaceful goal to strive for thanks to the efforts of Herr Hans Peter Kuerten and Lt. Col. Frank Schaefers and his comrades from Hessen State Command," Broomhead said.

Because of the high interest, more staff rides to Remagen will likely be organized in the future.



Above: The staff ride participants listen eagerly to Lt. Col. Schaefers' presentation Oct. 21, 2015 at the 5th Signal Command headquarters in Wiesbaden. Photo courtesy of Hessen State Command Public Affairs Office

Left: The participants of the Remagen staff ride outside the Peace Museum Oct. 22, 2015. Photo courtesy of Hessen State Command Public Affairs Office

173rd Sky Soldiers train for contingencies, airdrop Shark
By 1st Lt. Orlando Florea, 173rd Airborne Brigade

VICENZA, Italy - Paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade airdropped a Shark mobile communications Humvee from a C-130 Hercules aircraft onto Frida IV Drop Zone near Dandolo, Italy, Jan. 21.

The Shark mobile communications vehicle is specially designed for airborne and forced-entry operations. It contains a minimum of six different communication platforms and can deploy worldwide on short-notice to support combat units.

The name originates from the 1980s, when similar communication platforms were mounted onto all-terrain vehicles. In order to accommodate the loading onto and dropping the vehicle from a CH-47 helicopter, the antenna had to be moved to the center of the vehicle, resulting in a side profile that resembled a shark fin and earned the vehicle its name.

“The ability to airdrop a rapidly-deployable SHARK vehicle facilitates mission command for the 173rd Airborne Brigade anywhere in the world,” said Capt. Marc Levitt, commander, Company C, 54th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 173rd. “The platforms on the vehicle provide commanders with reliable digital and voice communications and are critical to reach back to higher headquarters.”

Brigade signaleers conducted this mission to maintain readiness for contingency operations, as the 173rd Airborne Brigade is the U.S. Army contingency force for Europe. When the SHARK landed, the paratroopers de-rigged the vehicle, placed it into operation, and provided secure communications for more than six different radio and network platforms for the ground force commander for a follow-on mission.

“Being able to conduct airdrop operations here in Europe is a great opportunity for our newer noncommissioned officers to take charge and lead a group of paratroopers towards an objective on the drop zone,” said Sgt 1st Class Cesar Ruiz, a platoon sergeant with Company C. “The dispersion factor of the airborne operation encourages our paratroopers to perform in the absence of a senior leader for a short period of time. Regardless of the outcome of the airdrop operation, our paratroopers are prepared to recover the vehicle and place it into operation wherever we land.”

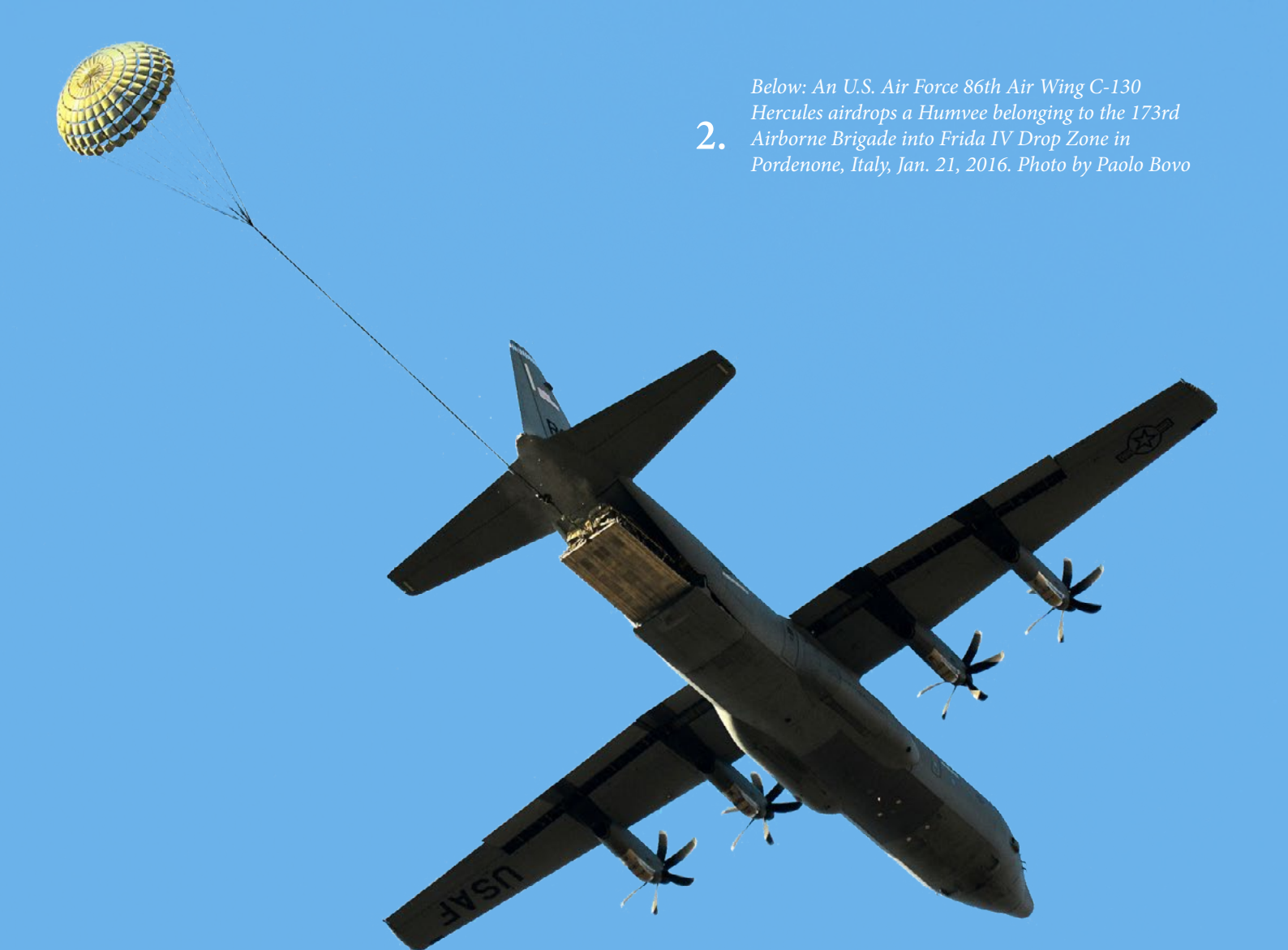
The 173rd regularly conducts airdrop operations of mobile communication and other platforms throughout Europe in order to enhance communications readiness for combat units anywhere in the European, Africa and Central Commands areas of responsibility within 18 hours.



1. Below: A U.S. airman waits to load two parachute-rigged Humvees onto a U.S. Air Force 86th Air Wing C-130 Hercules aircraft at Aviano Air Base, Italy, Jan. 21, 2016. Photo by Paolo Bovo



2. Below: An U.S. Air Force 86th Air Wing C-130 Hercules airdrops a Humvee belonging to the 173rd Airborne Brigade into Frida IV Drop Zone in Pordenone, Italy, Jan. 21, 2016. Photo by Paolo Bovo



3. Below: Paratroopers assigned to the 54th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade, recover a Humvee after it was airdropped onto Frida IV Drop Zone in Pordenone, Italy, Jan. 21, 2016. Photo by Paolo Bovo





Motorcyclists from U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, including members of Team Signal, ride past the 5th Signal Command (Theater) headquarters building during Motorcyclist Safety Day training July 17, 2015 in Wiesbaden. Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian M. Cline

Winter and your motorcycle

By Sgt. 1st Class John Brandt, 5th Signal Command (Theater) Motorcycle Mentor

If you are reading this, then chances are you love to ride, or wish to ride. With the current season upon us we should be aware of some dangers as well as some tips. Throughout this article I plan to give you some thought provoking information as well as some tips to ride in the weather or keep your bike ready for the summer (if you don't ride in the winter).

Let's talk on two of the most important points of our bikes -- our tires. As the temperature drops so does the effectiveness of the tires. Different tire compounds (sport, touring, etc.) have different attributes in cold weather. Not only are there differences between tire types, but each manufacturer can differ from one another even though you may have a similar blend of tire. I have experienced this first hand and can tell you it's no fun when your tires continue straight as you try to lean through a corner in the cold. Expect the symptoms of the cold to affect your tires around 45 F (7 C) with significant effects happening at 30 F (minus 1 C) and below. These effects will force you to adjust your turns and braking. A good rule of thumb is to ensure that your

tires have at least 50 percent remaining wear and that your tires were manufactured in the last six years (four-digit code by the DOT marking). If riding in the cold you should also keep a close eye on your tire pressure -- cold can affect you PSI and you can expect a 1-2 PSI drop for every 10 degrees. Lastly, keep in mind the surface you're riding on can differ such as going from road to cobble stone to cinders that were spread to melt the ice.

A battery keeps you going or stops you before you can start (pun intended). Whether or not you're storing your motorcycle this winter or riding, you need to check the battery at least once a month. When you PMCS your battery check the cables and connectors and clean as necessary. Check to see what kind of battery you have (sealed or not) and top off the electrolyte levels using only distilled water. If storing your bike think about using a trickle charger to keep the battery from going dead. Test the system once a month by starting the bike and observing any problems such as hard starting.

Getting ready for spring riding can be simple. However, if you make no plans or conduct zero maintenance, then you might be stuck with a bike that won't start. Now is the time to get your bike in the shop if you need tires, engine work, oil changes, belt/chain, brakes, lights, cables, air filter, or any other adjustments and maintenance. Being proactive will ensure a seamless transition into the riding season.

One thing I try to remember when storing my bike is gas. I previously owned a 150cc go kart and one winter left it with a full tank of gas and no additives. When I went to start it in the spring I found the carburetor was completely gummed up with the needle clogged. I had forgotten to shut the valve that cuts the gas to the carburetor. Even if I had shut the valve, the gas left in the tank started to go bad and would have caused problems anyway. A gas additive would have assisted in keeping the gas fresh. Remember that gas evaporates and can break down leaving varnish. If you're storing your bike for a long time either empty the tank completely or add a specifically engineered chemical additive to keep your gas good.

Planning ahead a day or two before you ride will help you dress for the weather. Winter riders will appreciate staying warm as the outside temperature itself isn't the only consideration. One must be aware also of the wind chill, precipitation, cloud cover and its effect as you ride. When riding in the cold you want to make sure you cover ALL exposed skin and yes, this does include your neck. Take advantage of and use features on your bike that can assist in your comfort (such as heated grips). Consider protective gear designed specifically for cold weather since gear intended for summer's heat isn't going to protect you well from the cold.

Some bikes have known issues in certain conditions; for example, my Ducati 800ss does not like the rain. Water can play havoc on my bike's electrical system and it wouldn't start wet. Knowing an issue and fixing it can be the difference between riding and sitting in the rain. Sometimes a problem such as this is an easy fix; for me dielectric grease placed on all of the electrical connecting plugs fixed the problem. It is important to fix small problems before they become big problems, after all you're only riding on two wheels. Don't make temporary fixes on a motorcycle as they typically become a permanent fix until that fix fails you.

Staying safe. Most of us have been riding for years. We have been through MSF courses several times and have been "safety trained" to death. Even so, motorcycle skills are perishable and can degrade in the course of mere weeks for some and months for others. When hopping back onto your ride after months or weeks of nonuse, keep in mind that it may take a week or two (perhaps more) of constant riding to regain your footing of where you once were. Don't rush it, allow your skill to progressively come back. It's easier to regain your skill while you still have your bike then push your skill too far and not have a bike on which to hone your skill.

Thinking about everything involved with riding will assist you in keeping you and your ride safe. Take time to maintain your bike and that time spend will be well worth it when you hit the open roads. Everything is a consideration when you are on the roads, if you expect something to happen you will be ready for it in case it does. Stay safe out there! 🇪🇺

Editor's Note: For more information about the 5th Signal Command Motorcycle Mentorship program, contact Sgt. 1st Class Brandt at DSN 314-565-0077.

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Below: Motorcyclists from U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, including members of Team Signal, participate in the Motorcyclist Safety Day training July 17, 2015 at McCully Barracks near Wiesbaden. Photo by William B. King





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New telephone system launched

by Martha Rudd
 Maj. Gen. Gerd S. Grombacher, Commander, US Army Communications Command (USACC), visited Garlstadt, Germany, on September 3 to open the first digital telephone switch of the new European Telephone System (ETS). The action marks the first of a number of important steps on the road to a modern military telephone system for Europe.

Before he cut the bright orange ribbon, officially opening the switch, Grombacher said, "This is an emotional moment for me. I have been involved since the '60s in getting to get a new European telephone system. This ceremony means almost a lifetime crowning achievement to get this thing going. Eventually the project will mean a better communications system for Europe."

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests were invited to tour the facility.

The new switch Grombacher opened at Garlstadt, the KN 101, is a field test unit. One-hundred-thirty other KN 101 switches like the one at Garlstadt will be installed all over Germany in the next years. Installation of the second switch is scheduled for later this year in Giebelstadt, near Wuerzburg, and the third switch is planned for Munich in 1982. In 1983, the ball will really start rolling: between 20 and 40 new switches will be installed every year until 1987, when the project is scheduled for completion.

Development of the ETS is actually a joint effort of the US Army and Air Force. The effort consists of three separate projects: replacing existing telephone switches with KN 101 switches, upgrading telephone transmission, and replacing telephone cables at Army and Air Force installations. When all three projects are completed, the ETS is expected to be one of the best military telephone systems in the world.

While it will be a long time — at least three years — before military telephone users in Germany will begin to see the effect of the KN switches on their telephone system, it still helps to know that the Department of Defense is aware of the problems an antiquated telephone system causes and is doing something to improve the situation. Garlstadt is just a beginning.



Cut It On!

Maj. Gen. Gerd S. Grombacher, Commander, USACC, prepares to cut the ribbon on the new digital telephone switch in Garlstadt. Assisting Grombacher are, left to right, Mr. Meirad Adelman of the Deutsche Bundespost,

Mr. Walter Strobelt of Siemens Corporation, and Maj. Gen. Thurman E. Anderson, Commander, 2nd Armored Division Forward. (Photo by Martha Rudd)

Today: 5th Signal Command's G3 Plans and Engineering is leading the implementation of Army Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) throughout the European Theater to set conditions for the decommissioning of the legacy and end-of-life Siemens EWSD Time Division Multiplex (TDM) telephone switches. P&E deployed a team Nov. 2-6 to implement the rollout of VoIP in Brunssum, Netherlands. The Brunssum installation is the first complete infrastructure build-out for the VoIP implementation in the European Theater. With the support from the local NEC, the installers were able to install all necessary components. 5th Signal Command is actively working to migrate customers to VoIP and other IP technologies in order to decommission the TDM switches in each AOR throughout the theater. ✨

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