



NETCOM Newsletter

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Combat Camera team tackles documentation mission in wake of Hurricane Harvey

By Eric Hortin
NETCOM Public Affairs

Keeping communication lines open

We in Public Affairs always look forward to feedback - complimentary or constructive. We appreciate those folks who took the time to send us messages that help to make this newsletter even better the second time around.

It has been a busy few of months around this global command. From exercises to competitions, Soldiers and Civilians of this organization have been out and about on critical Army missions.

For those who wish to see their work in the newsletter, give us a yell. We accept images and articles of interest to the command as a whole and unique material that may interest the readership.

Keep up the great work out there.

We look forward to hearing from you. Email us by clicking [HERE](#).

FORT HUACHUCA, Arizona (September 12, 2017) -- While Federal organizations were conducting rescue and assistance missions in eastern Texas after the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey, team members from the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), from Fort Meade, Maryland, were always close by. Several Army photo and video documentation specialists have been on-site since August 27, and out in the most devastated parts of the state documenting coordination, relief and rescue efforts of the dozens of organizations tasked with a mission that has become the costliest in U.S. history.

Setting up with the task force base in Austin, Texas, members of the only active component Combat Camera unit quickly started their part of the monumental effort.

"I was woken up by a phone call at 0730 from my squad leader," said Spc. Austin Boucher, a combat photographer and videographer from Watertown, Connecticut. "He told me to get my gear ready because I was going out to Texas to document the situation on the ground. Our flights left later that day, so we all had a short amount of time to get ready."

They were on the ground within



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Austin T. Boucher

Spc. Gabriel Rangel, 1st Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, helps bring a child onto a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle in Orange, Texas, Sept. 4, 2017. Both the U.S. Military and civilian volunteers are working together to assist those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

hours of their call to support. The team's mission took them into some of the hardest hit areas of the state. Documenting rescues and relief supply runs in flooded neighborhoods, and joint civilian and military operations -- all conducted in a very short period of time -- has presented a number of opportunities to coordinate and cooperate with several federal and civilian relief organizations.

While on the ground, they receive support from different organizations in the form of a place to work and sleep, and access to communications to provide them a means to send their products to home station.

(Link to the full article, click [HERE](#))

(Link to more images and videos, click [HERE](#))

5th Signal Command cases colors after 43 years in Europe

Article and photo by Will King

2nd Signal Brigade Public Affairs

WIESBADEN, Germany -- The U.S. Army's 5th Signal Command (Theater) cased its colors at an inactivation ceremony Aug. 4, 2017, at Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, bringing to a close more than 43 years of professional communications service in Europe.

The command's heritage could be traced back to the U.S. Army Signal Command Europe, organized under U.S. Army Europe General Order dated March 20, 1958, which consolidated military communications in the European Theater. 5th Sig. Cmd. was activated July 1, 1974, in Schwetzingen before moving to Worms the following month. The command's headquarters later moved to Mannheim in 1996, then to its final location in Wiesbaden in 2009.

Col. Rob Parker, the U.S. Army Europe chief information officer/G-6 and last commander of 5th Sig. Cmd., said the unit had forged strong bonds with its host nation over the last 43 years and thanked the German people for their enduring friendship.

"Over the years the partnerships between the United States military and the communities in which we live and operate have often grown into friendships and ultimately into inseparable bonds of mutual

commitment, respect and support," Parker said.

Parker also thanked the Soldiers, Civilians and Local National employees of 5th Sig. Cmd. for their hard work and professionalism over the years. He said people will be key to ensuring success as Signal forces continue to reorganize and restructure to meet future missions and provide communications support to U.S. forces in Germany and throughout Europe.

"I'm confident we will remain an essential element to enabling a Strong Europe while standing shoulder-to-shoulder with allies and partners," Parker said.

The inactivation is a result of directed funding and force structure cuts made throughout the Department of Defense announced November 2016. The Theater Signal Restructure and Reinvestment is U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command's effort to transform and streamline overseas theater Signal mission command structure. This plan eliminates a layer of mission command by consolidating support functions at the NETCOM headquarters elements and theater signal brigade, and reinvests manpower and resources into supporting five core functions -- network planning, network engineering, network operations, network intelligence and cybersecurity.

(Link to the full article, click [HERE](#))



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NETCOM's Best Warriors tough it out in the desert

By Eric Hortin

NETCOM Public Affairs

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. (May 19, 2017) -- After a grueling week of competition, two Soldiers were chosen as the Network Enterprise Technology Command 2017 Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during an awards and recognition ceremony held May 19 in the Greely Hall Auditorium.

Staff Sgt. Brian Randall, assigned to the U.S. Army Signal Activity at Fort Detrick, Maryland, and representing the 7th Signal Command (Theater), was announced as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Spc. Stephen Calderone, assigned to U.S. Army Signal Activity at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, representing the 160th Signal Brigade, was announced as the Soldier of the Year.

The winners received the Army Commendation Medal, a "Soaring Eagle" statue, and gift certificates from local community sponsors. They will represent NETCOM at the Army Cyber Command level of competition in August.

"These are the absolute best Soldiers from across NETCOM," said Command Sgt. Maj. Darris Curry, NETCOM's command sergeant major.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Quince Lanford

Spc. Stephen Calderone, assigned to the 160th Signal Brigade, U.S. Army Signal Activity-Kuwait, pulls himself along a rope at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, May 15, 2017, during the Network Enterprise Command (NETCOM) Best Warrior Competition.

Throughout the week, the Soldiers took part in a series of tasks and events which included the Army Physical Fitness Test, Obstacle Course, M4 Rifle Marksmanship, Day and Night Land Navigation, Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, Mystery Tasks, essay writing and the formal Sergeants Major Board. Each of these tasks tested the strength, endurance and mental agility of the Soldiers.

(Link to full article, click [HERE](#).)

(Link to additional images, click [HERE](#).)

Upcoming Calendar Events

October

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
National Disability Employment Awareness Month
9 - Columbus Day
13 - Navy Birthday
15-21 - National Teen Drivers Safety Week
31 - Halloween

November

Military Family Appreciation Month
1 - National Family Literacy Day
10 - Marine Corps Birthday
11 - Veterans' Day
23 - Thanksgiving
30 - National Computer Security Day

December

7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
13 - Army National Guard Birthday
25 - Christmas
26 - Kwanzaa (until January 1)
31 - New Year's Eve

January

National Blood Donor Month
National Human Trafficking Prevention Month
1 - New Year's Day
9 - National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed)

311th Signal supports Eighth Army during 2017 UFG

By Capt. Emily Klinkenborg

311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER (September 14, 2017) – The Republic of Korea and the U.S. Combined Forces Command conducted the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, Aug. 21-31.

Personnel from the 311th Signal Command (Theater) participated in the exercise as augmentees for the Eighth Army G6 Contingency Command Post at Camp Walker, South Korea.

The Eighth Army G6 CCP Team monitored exercise-related activity and reported significant events to the Main Command Post at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

The augmentees filled different positions to help sustain the exercise, such as two battle captains, some help desk positions and positions attached to the Command Post Node (CPN) team. They manned two shifts, day and night, that rotated in and out. Together, the team provided 24-hour contingency communications throughout the exercise.

“This was my first exercise, and it was a rewarding experience as a battle captain. While we were operating under an exercise environment, there were simultaneous real-world events happening in North Korea,” said Nisha Chawla, 311th SC (T) G335 assistant plans and exercises officer. “I am definitely going to push to go on more exercises like this in the future.”

UFG is designed to enhance readiness, protect the region and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula. Approximately 17,500 total U.S. service members participated this year, with approximately 3,000 arriving from off-peninsula.

U.S. forces joined ROK military forces representing all services, as well as ROK government participants.

Nine United Nations countries also participated in UFG 2017, including Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Italy, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Bell

Eighth Army receives a brief in the Critical Operations Intelligence Center at CP Oscar, located on Camp Walker.

“This is my third UFG this tour, and (I) have participated in UFGs and variations of it, to include its predecessor Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL), in previous Korea tours dating back to the mid-90s,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Billy Schultze, senior Information Services technician, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, Eighth Army G6.

“UFG is a constantly evolving exercise as the mission set in Korea adapts to the current threat. From a Signal point of view, the technology since the '90s, and especially in the last four years, has greatly improved to enable coalition commanders decisive capabilities. This includes the training and quality of trained Soldiers and civilians operating and maintaining this technology.”

Training exercises like UFG are carried out in the spirit of the Oct. 1, 1953, ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty, and in accordance with the Armistice for the Restoration of the South Korean State (1953).

These exercises also highlight the longstanding military partnership, commitment and enduring friendship between the two nations. They help to ensure peace and security on the peninsula, and reaffirm U.S. commitment to the Alliance.

Social media romance scams, extortion continue to target military, families

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) receives hundreds of reports a month from individuals who have fallen victim to a scam perpetrated by a person impersonating a U.S.

Soldier online. More information on current scam trends are found [HERE](#).

The Army encourages Soldiers, Civilians and their Families to maintaining awareness

when using social media to stay connected and tell the Army's story.

Resources and guidelines for using social media platforms are available [HERE](#).

Are You mPWR'd?

Do you know what your team is working on, when tasks will be complete, and when people are available for more work?

Do you know in which priority to do your work?

Can you check the status of your work in four clicks or less?

Can you send project and task status to executives with the click of a button?

mPWR (pronounced Em'power) is NETCOM's system for tracking and managing the portfolio of work we do and the people who do the work. It stands for Management of Portfolio/Projects/Programs, Work and Resources.

The mPWR system is being rolled out throughout NETCOM, and encompasses scheduling software, and a web browser interface where all work and status can be seen.

NETCOM's work activities are aligned to the Army's mission. To track execution of these work activities, it is important to identify five pieces of information for each activity:

1. What is the activity?
2. How long will it take?
3. Who will do it?
4. What does this cost?
5. Does it need to wait until something else is done first?

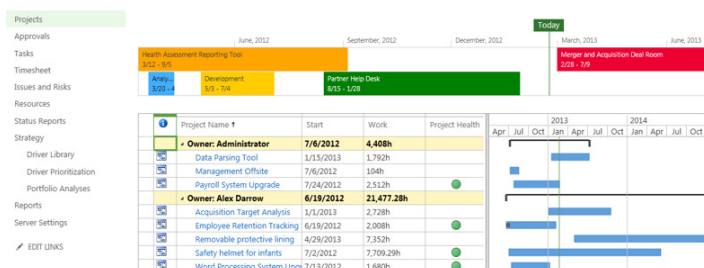
These are the five main pieces of information you feed into scheduling software, to get an organized representation of work to be performed, timelines, and people assigned.

In Microsoft Project, the five pieces of information are called Task Name, Duration / Work, Resource Names and Predecessors / Successors, and Cost.

Come learn how this works, and how you can be more productive and efficient in planning, tracking, and executing your tasks.

Sign up for an mPWR class if you haven't taken the training yet, or contact one of Microsoft's consultants, if you want 1-1 help with your specific challenges.

To sign up for class or to get help from a consultant, click [HERE](#). (launches email)



STAND-TO!

THE OFFICIAL FOCUS OF THE U.S. ARMY

Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army Increment II, Release 2

What is it?

The Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army (IPPS-A) is an online Human Resources (HR) system that will provide integrated personnel, pay and talent management capabilities in a single system to all Army components for the first time ever. IPPS-A will improve the lives of Soldiers, their Families, and how the Army interacts with them by transforming its industrial age personnel systems to a 21st-century talent management system.

IPPS-A will deliver visibility over the entire force and maximize the potential of the Army's greatest asset, the Soldier, to enhance Army readiness. It will improve access, timeliness and accuracy of personnel and pay information for the Total Army by integrating more than 30 current systems.

To read more about this, click the link [HERE](#).

Cyber Sextortion

What is it?

Cyber Sextortion is a crime in which a criminal uses the threat of releasing sexually explicit pictures or videos to the public to extort money from a victim.

In perpetrating this crime, the criminal will approach the victim over social media and seduce the victim into engaging in an online sexual act. Once the victim has sent a compromising photo or participated in a sexually explicit video chat, the criminal will threaten to publicize the material unless the victim provides money or favors.

To read more about this, click the link [HERE](#).

Have something you think the global NETCOM Team should know? Have something unique to share? Send us an email - click [HERE](#).

Photos and Events Around the Command

Liberation of Orleans

A U.S. Army color guard from the 52nd Signal Battalion, 2nd Theater Signal Brigade, marches in a parade May 14, 2017 commemorating the World War I liberation of the city of Orleans, France. In addition to the parade, Soldiers from the 52nd Signal Bn. participated in a number of key events designed to strengthen the existing partnership between the unit, the city of Orleans and the French military.



U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Daniel Wood



U.S. Army photo

Visiting the troops

During his battlefield circulation around the U.S. Central Command area of operations May 24, Command Sgt. Maj. Darris Curry, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, met with members of the 335th Signal Command (Theater)(Provisional) and Soldiers from the 54th and 67th Signal Battalions at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. During his visit Command Sgt. Maj. Curry spent time talking to Soldiers and he also presented coins to five Soldiers for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the unit's mission.

Capt. Latisha Collier, a mobilization readiness officer assigned to the 335th Signal Command (Theater) gives a warm welcome home hug to Maj. Frank Trinidad, deputy J-6, Detachment 1, 335th SC(T) at the Killeen (Texas) Regional Airport, June 28. Trinidad and 11 other Soldiers returned from a nine-month deployment where their mission was providing communications support to a special operations joint task force, as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Powell