

PREMIER SIGNAL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 311TH SIGNAL COMMAND [THEATER]

ARMY SIGNAL:
THE FOUNDATION
OF PACIFIC POWER



BRIDGING THE
INDO-PACIFIC

PREMIER SIGNAL

VOLUME 12 | 2021-2022 EDITION

Publisher

Brig. Gen. Jan C. Norris.....Commanding General

Board of Directors

Michelle Bolinger.....Civilian Deputy to the Commanding General

Col. Jeffrey Schroeder.....Chief of Staff

Managing Editors

Liana Kim.....Public Affairs Specialist, 311th SC (T)

Carlos D. Rodriguez Ortiz.....Public Affairs Specialist, 311th SC (T)

Associate Editors

CSM Randy Gillespie.....Command Sergeant Major, 311th SC (T)

Maj. Kerry Wright.....Public Affairs Officer, HHC, 311th SC (T)

Cpt. Christopher Kim.....Public Affairs Officer, HHC, 311th SC (T)

Sgt. Luis Solorio.....Public Affairs NCOIC, 1st Sig. Bde

Graphics and Layout Design

Staff Sgt. Michael Aranda.....Multi-Media Illustrator, HHD, 311th SC (T)

Jonathan Tanji.....Art Director, Trade Media Hui

Contributing Writers

Spc. Maurice E. Washington.....41st Signal Battalion

Cpt. Ariel Hector.....30th Signal Battalion

Cpt. Brandon Welty.....59th Signal Battalion

Maj. Chris Scheel.....78th Signal Battalion

Maj. Chris Arrington.....78th Signal Battalion

Maj. Chauncey Henry.....307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced

Cpl. Jong Ho Lee.....1st Theater Signal Brigade

Sgt. Alex Estrada.....1st Theater Signal Brigade

Sgt. Luis Solorio.....1st Theater Signal Brigade

Sgt. 1st Class Clyde Vaughan Jr......1st Theater Signal Brigade

Sgt. Gage Goodell.....516th Theater Signal Brigade

Staff Sgt. Rebecca Petrie.....516th Theater Signal Brigade

Capt. Christopher Kim.....311th Signal Command (Theater)

Carlos D. Rodriguez Ortiz.....311th Signal Command (Theater)

Liana Kim.....311th Signal Command (Theater)

Chief Warrant Officer 5

Kevin Kuhn.....311th Signal Command (Theater)

Col. Hallah Nilsen.....311th Signal Command (Theater)

Premier Signal is an authorized Army publication of the 311th Signal Command. The views expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Army. Unless otherwise stated, material in this magazine may be reprinted without permission; please credit the magazine and author. *Premier Signal* can be found online at <https://www.dvidshub.net/publication>.

Printed in the U.S.A

311th Signal Command Public Affairs Office,
Building 520, 3rd Floor, Ft. Shafter, HI 96858

Check us out on the web!



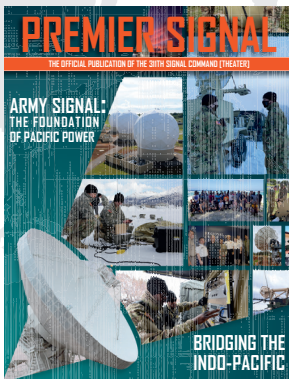
Search on Facebook for:
311th Signal Command - Theater



[Instagram.com/311thsct](https://www.instagram.com/311thsct)

CONTENTS

PREMIER SIGNAL MAGAZINE



On the Cover

Photo illustration of Pacific Signal Cyber Team activities around the Indo-Pacific region

Front and back cover photo illustrations by Staff Sgt. Michael Aranda, 311th Signal Command.

4 Command Group Messages

Notes from the Commanding General, Command Sergeant Major, Chief of Staff, and the Command Chief Warrant Officer

8 Q&A on enabling the Theater Army and Joint Force

An interview with Pacific Signal Cyber Team Leaders and Subject Matter Experts

10 Feature Story

Soldiers of the 307th ESB-E receive new scalable tactical equipment

12 DODIN-Pacific

Improving our secure network, extending support to the tactical edge

22 People First

Highlighting our Soldier and Civilian heroes

32 Phoenix Rising

Celebrating Signal Excellence

40 Homefront

Supporting the communities where we live and work

44 Enjoying the Pacific

Unique opportunities of our region, on and off duty

48 Command Group Message

Note from Civilian Deputy to the Commanding General

50 Salutations

In Memoriam – Honoring our fallen team mates

What's your story about Signal equipment or support, exercises, volunteering, or enjoying the Indo-Pacific? Ideas and feedback welcome! Contact us at liana.m.kim2.civ@army.mil / DSN 315-437-4095 / COM 808-787-4095.

Team Signal/Cyber Pacific!

For the past five years, your collective efforts across the Indo-Pacific Theater ensured mission command for supported Theater Army and Joint Force Commanders and units. Your contributions were vital for a successful campaign of competition to sustain a Free and Open region for our allies and partners. Change on our network infrastructure is constant.

From switch upgrades to virtual ware implementation to service/application delivery to extensions of tactical and commercial points of presence, the complexity of our cyber terrain is largely undervalued by those we support. This cyber terrain demands daily care and feeding, accomplished only by our dedicated professional Civilians, Soldiers and contractors like you. Looking ahead, we need to strive to build out and deliver capability that is easier to access, secure, survivable and expandable in the event of crisis or conflict while developing and training our workforce to sustain ever evolving technologies. The criticality of our network to support operations in Department of Defense's most geographically dispersed and priority Theater of Operations is obvious. To say that commanders can't talk (or compete) without us' is a huge understatement. What we do underscores everything. Everything!

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve alongside you. As I move on to my next assignment, I do so with great pride and reflection.

**Thanks for all you do for the Nation!
Theater Voice! One Team!
Brig. Gen. Jan C. Norris**



**BRIGADIER GENERAL
JAN C. NORRIS**
Commanding General
311th Signal Command (Theater)
U.S. Army Pacific Network
Authorizing Official (AO)



Aloha Signal-Cyber Pacific Team,

Over the last three years I have served as your 311th Signal Command (Theater) and it was an absolute honor and privilege to serve all of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members across the vast Pacific Theater!

I have said it many times and will continue to do so, this command has a climate and culture that will not be seen anywhere else in the Army. We are a Great Ohana that remained vigilant and resilient through some of the most challenging times we have seen in a while and I am proud to say that I am a member of this team and family.

This is my final Premier Signal Magazine article and want to take this time to thank a few people that were part of My Squad over the last three years. First I want to thank Brig. Gen. Norris for being my battle buddy and friend. I could not have asked for a better Team Mate! Enormous thanks to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) 311th, 516th Theater Signal Brigade and 1st Theater Signal Brigade command teams. Your excellent leadership, competence, and dedication to supporting our mission made my job easy. I also want to thank all the leaders and staff across the command for ensuring our soldiers, civilians, and families were taken care of. Finally I want to say thanks to all of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families, you are what makes this organization great.

The one last piece of wisdom that I will leave: Leaders, you must ensure your Soldiers are trained to the highest levels possible. Always train to the standards and don't take shortcuts as training is the most important thing we do as Soldiers. Ensuring that your Soldiers

are highly trained builds confidence and trust, which will transform into a cohesive team and a cohesive team can win at anything.

In closing, everyone on this team is amazing, thanks for what you do and for serving this great nation. I wish everyone the very best of luck on your endeavors and hope to see some of ya'll again down the road. Like in the past two years, I ask everyone to make sure you continue to take care of your people (your "squad"), take care of your Family, and lastly take care of yourself and maintain your Warrior Spirit.

Phoenix 7, Signing Out

One Team! Theater Voice!
CSM Randy W. Gillespie
311th Signal Command (Theater)
Command Sergeant Major



Aloha to the 311th Signal Command Ohana and friends,



It is hard to believe that I am coming up on 1 year in the command, but what an exciting year it has been. As you will see as you flip through the pages of this volume of the Premier Signal Magazine you will see this command has been extremely busy. I am exceedingly proud of what this team of teams has accomplished over this past year, all while still working our way through the COVID-19 pandemic impacts. Our ability to persevere and accomplish the mission across our vast geographic area of responsibility and safely navigate the pandemic cannot be overstated. The Soldiers and Civilians of the 311th Signal Command continue to serve with distinction and provide trusted, ready and reliable mission command capabilities anywhere required in the theater.

From the first day my family and I arrived in this command, we have been showered with the feeling of Ohana and Aloha, and for that I want to say Mahalo. I'm extremely proud to be on your team and serving alongside each and every one of you!

This year 2021-2022 has been challenging as we continued to set the theater for United States Army Pacific and the joint team. We bring to bear a capacity and capability that no other service can delivery and sustain on a daily basis. But knowing that

we can never rest on our previous successes, the year to come will continue to bring expansion, innovation, and experimentation to the far reaches of our theater. This next year will most certainly bring change and challenges, but I am confident as a team we are up to the task.

As we step out into 2022 – 2023 I encourage all of you to do two things: One, execute with “disciplined initiative” within the Commander’s Intent and get after the mission sets and requirements placed in front of you. Don’t wait to be asked or tasked to do something, but act with discipline initiative and trust your leaders have your back. Second, “empower” your subordinates and teammates. This requires we trust each other and assume a little risk, but the benefits of empowering our employees/Soldiers to get after the mission are immense. If we can do these two things no mission, challenge, or task will be too great that we cannot accomplish it.

Mahalo for your service and leadership to our Soldiers and to our great Nation. I’m proud to be standing with you. One Team! Theater Voice!

Colonel Jeff Schroeder
Chief of Staff
311th Signal Command (Theater)



Aloha Team Pacific,

As I embark on this role of Command Chief Warrant Officer for the 311th Signal Command (Theater), I am both humbled and honored. I'm extremely thankful for the warm welcome my family and I have received. I'm honored, and

I look forward to serving with this great organization.

I've spent much of my career in the Indo-Pacific to include time at 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), 25th Infantry Division (G6), and Special Operations Command, Pacific (SOC PAC). During those tenures, I've had multiple opportunities to both observe and collaborate with the 311th

SC (T). This great

command has never failed to deliver on-time, reliable, robust communication support. That's why I'm extremely excited about the future here as we tackle challenges moving forward such as: expanding the C2 colorless infrastructure west of the Interoperable Data Link (IDL); converging domains to provide seamless movement in theater; as well as the ongoing operation, maintenance, protection, and modernization of the DODIN-AP.

All mission essential efforts start with people first. I'm here to support you and your families, from senior officers to lowest enlisted, both personally and professionally. While my main focus is naturally on the Warrant Officers within our ranks, I have time for everyone, and will never shy away from an opportunity to assist where I can. I look forward to getting out to the various sites to meet each of you and better understand where I can assist.

Mahalo!

One Team! Theater Voice!
CW5 Robert J. Christian
311th Signal Command (Theater)
Command Chief Warrant Officer

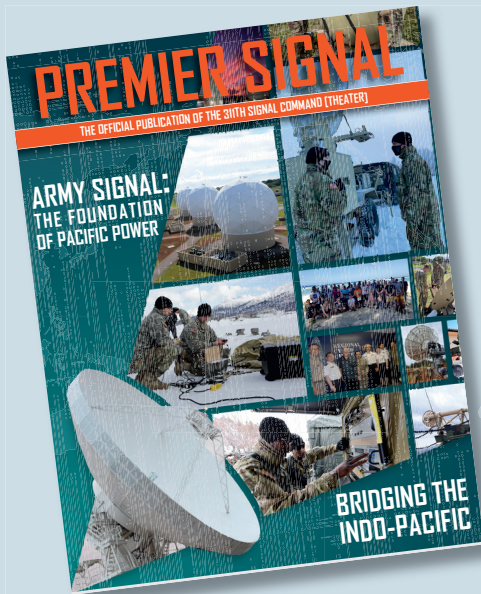


CW4(P) ROBERT J. CHRISTIAN
311th Signal Command (Theater)
Command Chief Warrant Officer



Q & A with our Technical Experts

What does the theme of this edition,
“Army Signal: The Foundation of Pacific Power,” mean to you?



G2 Intelligence Team – Capt. Jonathan Tsujimura, Special Security Officer



Intelligence support to Army Signal operations is more critical than ever and particularly in the Pacific. As the largest and most diverse region, communication is a foundation upon which any power projection can occur and is required to ensure effective synchronization across all domains and with partner nations. Intelligence operations supporting and protecting the ability to communicate is vital due to threats from advances in technology and perfection of tactics and techniques. Intelligence support contributes to successful

relationship building by informing leaders on important facts and cultural knowledge prior to partner nation engagements to maximize success during exercises and operations.

G4 Logistic and Transportation support – Mr. Ed Ancheta, Traffic Management Specialist



The G4 team and our logistics counterparts across the Theater play a key role in supporting the Army Signal mission across the Pacific. The 311th SC(T) and BDE logistics personnel ensure: property accountability, distribution of materiel, tactical and strategic maintenance, acquisition actions, facility maintenance and my personal favorite, movement of personnel and equipment. With many of our subject matter experts (SME) in low density Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), success hinges on strong relationships, active communication and collaboration among transportation providers, buyers, and vendors helps reduce expenses. By adhering to our customer needs and industry standards, logistics management and distribution facilitates process strategy, planning and implementation. Our focus is to provide the best customer support possible to our units and ensure

the Signal missions will be met wherever or whenever our assets are needed, every time, all the time.

1st Theater Signal Brigade S3 Operations – Mr. Tony Beck, Supervisory IT Specialist



Over the years Army Signal has led the way to posture Pacific networks for the future. Pacific network integration was critical to moving beyond an architecture of “Islands of Excellence”, toward one of more robust services, information sharing and security. The 311th Theater Signal Command, 516th & 1st Theater Signal Brigades have now enabled the Pacific to embrace larger Army initiatives which will bring more changes in legacy divestiture, information transport and data management. All these improvements are critical to maturing the network into a warfighting system capable of supporting Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). In addition to the numerous technical changes we face, Army Signal must continue to reform and update policies and procedures that sustain these capabilities. The shift from decentralized (Islands of Excellence) to centralized (fully integrated) can deprive a Commander of flexibility and time to affect change at the point of need.

Regional Cyber Center- Pacific – Lt. Col. Mike Denison, Director



At the tactical level, Army maneuver units are trained to “Shoot, Move, and Communicate,” while at the operational level of war, the Army must rapidly project and synchronize combat power as part of a Joint / Multinational Force. Army Signal is the foundational component across all levels, especially here in the Indo-Pacific. One of the most disperse and challenging regions to fight and win wars, Army Signal is the critical component to “Pacific Power” as we leverage capabilities within almost all domains (Land, Air, Sea, Space, Cyber) to facilitate the Theater Army’s mission. Signal is the foundational block upon which partnership, logistics, command and control thrive, allowing our Theater Army to compete, build capacity, and deter malicious actors with like-minded Armies from partnered nations.

307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced - Warrant Officer Nathaniel Floyd Jr, Network



**Management
Technician**

307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced deploys on short notice to provide reliable tactical communications support for Army, Joint, and Combined Forces

in order to enable mission command in support of USARPAC and Theater Enablers. Working in a ESB-E we are an immediate response force that provides redundant and robust communications, contingency, communications and forced-entry signal support. With the fielding of new equipment and the Soldiers' training complete, the battalion deploy Soldiers into diverse locations supporting the Pacific and began to focus on supporting customers with an array of communication solutions. You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us! Signal leads the way!!!

Fort Greeley Missile Defense Station – Wolfgang McLachlan, First Sergeant



In order to successfully win a military conflict, from gorilla warfare to near-peer and peer adversaries, the warfighter must be able to perform three tasks effectively: shoot, move, and communicate. Acknowledging the fact that such tasks may be required to be performed in an environment where conventional SATCOM reliant communications may be degraded or denied, proficiency in these three tasks, regardless of challenges encountered in the operational environment, holds renewed importance. A key component of the U.S. Army Signal Corps' mission is to directly support and facilitate the warfighter's ability to communicate across all platforms in order to successfully execute the three previously identified tasks against an adversary. In displaying marital prowess and operating from

a position of strength, American armed forces can deter potential opponents from taking actions which would incur a military response. In doing so, we win a military conflict without firing a single shot.

516th Theater Signal Brigade – Command Sgt. Maj. Katrina Richardson



Signal is the foundation to successful operations across our fighting forces. It enables Commanders to execute mission command across multiple domains at various echelons including the joint force and coalition partners. In the Pacific, 516th Theater Signal Brigade enables communications for the U.S. Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) Commander across the Indo-Pacific. With the Pacific being a key component to the defense of our Nation and its allies, signal is critical to maintain Power in the Pacific. We must provide the strategic and tactical backbone which is communications. Our Soldiers and Civilians are the subject matter experts and professionals who provide that backbone enabling Commanders to shoot, move, and communicate in order to accomplish the mission. In TEAM 516th we believe that Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) and this is made possible by the selfless service and commitment of our teammates. The foundation of Pacific Power is Army Signal but the force behind that power is our People!

New Equipment Empowers Tactical Signaleers

Soldiers of 307th ESB-E get Scalable Kits for Theater Support

BY MAJ. CHAUNCEY HENRY

307th ESB-E, 516th TSB

HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION, HAWAII – In the spring of 2022, the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion “Dragons” began their transition into an Expeditionary Signal Battalion–Enhanced, a process expected to be complete this summer.

“This is exciting news for our Soldiers, as operators and leaders of the sole expeditionary provider of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) for the theater Army and joint force,” said Maj. Brett Gilbert, Operations Officer, 307th ESB, “as we enable U.S. Army Pacific Command and fellow Theater Army Commands with a wide scope of critical actions and products including theater operations plans, security cooperation, Defense Support to Civil Authorities, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief activities, and key BMD communications.”

As part of the transition to ESB-E, the unit was issued new tactical signal kits this spring, a major upgrade to the unit’s construct that will facilitate more mobile and flexible communications support tailored to mission requirements.

“The newly-fielded equipment package includes a medium ground satellite terminal and baseband kit, known as the Scalable Network Node,” Gilbert said. “This scalable network node will reduce the operational footprint and logistical requirements placed on the supported unit. This smaller, lighter equipment can be set up in minutes.”

These new kits will replace all of the Command Post Nodes, Joint Network Nodes, Single Shelter Switches, and Satellite Transportable Terminals with Joint Communications Support Element-like capabilities. This upgrade reduces overall personnel and equipment needed while increasing the number of communication support teams.

“The Expeditionary Signal Battalion is designed to be the Army’s foundational communications platform for formations without organic communication equipment,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Chaffee, 307th ESB Commander. “The mighty Dragons of the 307th ESB Proudly provide this communication capability to USARPAC and its supporting units including the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command,

8th Theater Sustainment Command, United States Army–Japan, 18th Medical Command, and the 311th Signal Command (Theater).”

U.S. Army Pacific Command’s Area of Responsibility stretches from the waters off the U.S. west coast to the western border of India. The ESB’s legacy communications equipment is heavy, fragile, and difficult to operate. Vehicle-mounted shelters, large satellite trailers, and generators require costly air or sea support for movement.

Since 2019 when ESBs received their Transportable Tactical Command Communications systems, 85% of the 307th’s supported units have requested this system for deployed missions as it is smaller and lighter than older systems and transportable via commercial airline.

“Our Soldiers are working full speed ahead toward being fully operationally capable as a modernized Expeditionary Signal Battalion–Enhanced,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Kimberly Costello, 307th ESB. “We are most excited about the expanded abilities we can now provide. Ours will finally be a true expeditionary unit in practice.”



Pictured here is an example of the legacy Expeditionary Signal Battalion equipment that is being replaced with more versatile and compact equipment such as the network node kits.



Soldiers of the 307th ESB-E familiarize with their new scalable network nodes which allow for more flexibility to support customers.

Cyber Leader Creates Software App for Army university

Pacific Signal University Implements Application by

BY CAPT. CHRISTOPHER KIM
311th Signal Command (Theater)



Maj. Yim demonstrates the registration process he created for the Pacific University Cyber Team.

HONOLULU, HAWAII – This summer, students of Pacific Signal University now have a faster, more user-friendly way to register for classes, thanks to one of our own Pacific Signal-Cyber leaders.

Maj. Sang Yim, an Operations Chief with U.S. Army Pacific Command (USARPAC), developed the Microsoft Power App and “Power BI” program (a collection of software services, apps, and

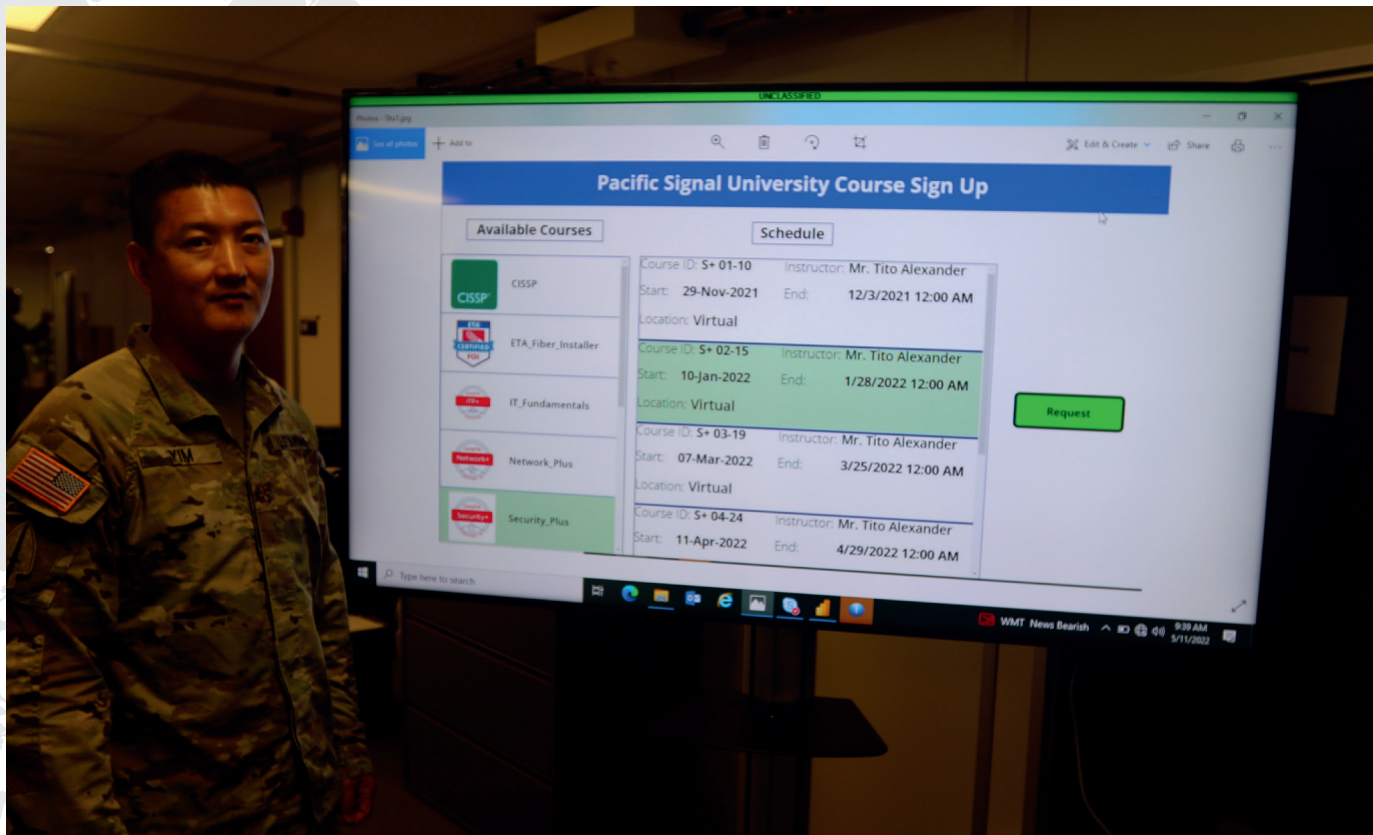
connectors) to streamline and simplify data gathering and registration processes.

“The Army needs to leverage technology to be more efficient and accurate like the civilian industry,” Yim said. “We need to utilize this technology so we can have more Soldiers fight battles and save man hours.”

As a signal officer, being able to adapt is an important task for

mission success, as signal technology and innovations continually change. As an experienced signal officer, Yim created the applications to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

“MS Power Apps is a low/no code service tool that allows a rapid development platform to build custom application to support organizational operations,” Yim said. “Using MS Power App, PSU has developed a custom application



Maj. Yim shows how the Pacific Signal University uses the registration process he designed and implemented for the school which leads both virtual and in-person classes for Signal Soldiers and Civilians.

for PSU administrators for course registration, schedule/student info update, and communication.”

Yim’s team said the presence of this new empowered registration program was well-received and felt immediately by the students and faculty. The two programs streamlined the accessibility and presentation of data for students to utilize quickly and effectively.

“The custom admin application is greatly improving PSU operation as data is centrally shared and any update is immediately reflected,” Yim said. “Students can now see updated class schedules and their registration status as soon as PSU admin makes a change via our custom PSU app.”

One of the key features of MS Power BI is that it is a program

that utilizes Artificial Intelligence technology in order to gather data and information at an instant.

“PSU collects student demographic and respective course performance data, and uses Power BI to create informative charts and analyze certification success rates,” said Yim. “In a matter of minutes, PSU admins were able to identify the top five PSU participants by command, rank, age, and Military Occupational Specialty. Additionally, PSU was able to identify three key variables that influence student certification success rate: Command, Prep Period, and Degree Field.”

According to Yim, the automated data that the administrative tool provides is also useful in better understanding students’ performance, and for students to be

aware of school policies.

“Automated metrics and trends to certification success will help us understand students and eventually methods to improve instruction and certification pass rates.” said Col. Gary Golubski, Director of Programs for USARPAC.

Because the program was successfully implemented at the PSU, Maj. Yim believes that these two applications can be utilized by and would significantly aide the wider U.S. Army operations community in being more effective and efficient.

“Users can now create professional applications to powerfully automate administrative processes,” said Col. Lisa Whittaker, Deputy Chief of Staff in USARPAC G-6. “It will definitely increase productivity.”

Supporting the Army in the Northern Frontier:

United States Army Network Enterprise Center – Alaska

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. BRANDON WELTY,
59th Signal Battalion



Signal operators assigned to the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Center (USANEC) Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) team and the U.S. Army, Alaska G6 team conduct sustainment operations at the MARS station, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA – While it may be cold and dark most of the year outside, inside the United States Army Network Enterprise Center – Alaska is a hub of activity around the clock, 365 days per year.

The only arctic-based NEC in the U.S. Army, USANEC- Alaska is comprised of technically skilled Soldiers, Department of the Army

Civilian employees and contractors who work diligently to support the 24-hour Department of Defense information networks - Army Enterprise mission.

Located within the interior of the 49th state, the facility supports three military bases: Fort Wainwright, Fort Greely, and Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson. To do this, a team of less

than 100 people supports more than 12,000 customers across their 355-mile footprint.

Resiliency is a virtue in the interior, as the weather can fall to as low as negative 60° F ambient temperature during the winter months. In addition to extreme temperatures, the team experiences 100+ miles per hour wind gusts and very little sunlight in

the winter which creates frequent hazardous conditions.

The USANEC's day-to-day mission does not cease despite the 100+ days of average temperatures below 0° F in a calendar year. As the customer-facing U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) representative in Alaska, the team takes pride in being at the last frontier and providing uninterrupted services regardless of the conditions.

Brigade and command leaders who visit the facility often commend the team for their motivation and resilience to live and operate in an environment that can be both physically and mentally difficult.

A majority of mission-critical equipment must be custom ordered. One example is the Pelsue trailer used to splice fiber optic cables. This system provides the ability to thaw the ground in order to locate cables and conduct maintenance in even the coldest winter months.

Much of USANEC's equipment maintains a rating of only 10° below zero. This rating impacts mission readiness and requires the unit to adhere to strict maintenance schedules to ensure serviceability.

The mission of every Outside the Continental U.S. (OCONUS) Network Enterprise Center is unique. Along with the baseline tasks of ensuring Command, Control, Communication, Computers and Information Management capabilities, USANEC-Alaska facilitates the facility management of five Alaska



The Birch Hill - Alaska Land Mobile Radio Station overlooks Fort Wainwright, in Alaska's interior.

Land Mobile Radio towers, including Birch Hill on Fort Wainwright and four other towers located throughout the Alaska interior. These repeater towers host an internal network that directly ties into state and local emergency departments across Alaska, and various federal agencies operating in the state. Facility management includes maintaining and controlling access and monitoring system security.

Due to the austere environment, access to locations of responsibility are generally difficult. In just the first four months of FY22 alone, Fort Wainwright received nearly 70 inches of accumulated snowfall.

In addition to other mission requirements, USANEC-Alaska in conjunction with the U.S. Army Alaska G6 team, maintains a Military Radio Auxiliary Station (MARS) with High Frequency reach

back capability for emergencies.

With the future in mind and in support of the Alaska Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities missions, the team is currently working toward making the HF bay station a viable part of the Army's Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency (PACE) plan, to include supporting the Donnelly Training Area and the annual Joint Pacific Multi-Readiness Center Combat Training Center rotation.

Despite their extreme environment ranging from 22-hour days at the summer solstice to less than four-hour periods of daylight at the winter solstice, the Soldiers stationed at 63° North latitude embody the Signal Corps March lyrics – *"We speed the message day or night. Technicians too, ever skillful, ever watchful, we are the Army Signal Corps."*

Mastery of the Sky Waves

Soldiers of 30th Signal Battalion MARS Team Compete in Noble Skywave

BY CAPT. ARIEL HECTOR AND MAJ. VICTOR UGENYI,

30th Signal Battalion

Photos courtesy of the 30th Sig. Bn.



Noble Skywave 2021 hosted 182 teams from around the globe. Teams ranged from amateur radio operators to military and military auxiliary radio operator teams.

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII – From a small building on a nondescript plot of land across from Range Control, Pacific Signal Soldiers recently leveraged their antenna farm and skills to achieve a global victory.

The humble facility is home to the premier High Frequency radio operators of the Indo-Pacific Theater, the 30th Signal Battalion's Military Auxiliary Radio System team, who participated – and made waves – in exercise Noble Skywave, Oct. 26-28, 2021.

Noble Skywave is an annual HF radio operation competition hosted by the Canadian Armed Forces' 21st

Electronic Warfare Regiment. Since the exercise's inaugural iteration in 2013, the annual training event brings hundreds of teams from many nations together to showcase their HF ability and strengthen their expertise in a friendly competitive atmosphere.

Over the years, Soldiers of the MARS section have conducted several directed and collaborative exercises with units ranging from U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command to the 25th Infantry Division, and the 2d Battalion / 75th Ranger Regiment. The one constant factor repeatedly mentioned by participating units is the exceptional

service and reliable communications provided by the MARS team.

While the MARS section is known to frequently exploit opportunities to demonstrate the team's capabilities and capacity to individual units, there is one annual exercise where their collective talent is showcased on a global stage: Noble Skywave. Competing teams include amateur or "Ham" radio operators, the Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio System, MARS, and military radio operator teams around the globe.

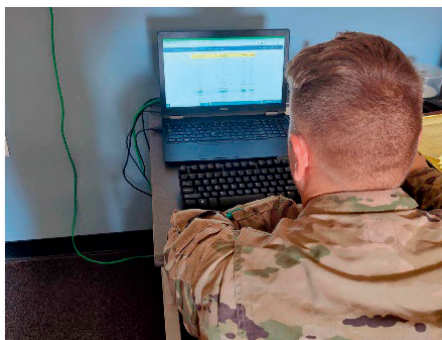
Known as the most prestigious military-led HF competition in the world, Noble Skywave is comprised



The 30th Signal Battalion MARS section mans the radios during the Back to the Future Challenge.



The 30th Signal Battalion MARS section Noble Skywave team, made up of SGT Robert Martin, CPL Timothy Wages, and SPC Odie Moses, enjoying success at the end of the competition.



CPL Timothy Wages monitors the 30th Signal Battalion MARS section placement during the competition.

of four challenges: Establishing the Net, Free Play, Team Contact, and Back to the Future.

In the Establish the Net challenge, teams make initial contact with the Noble Skywave organizers by sending and receiving voice communications to confirm voice quality. Awarded points are based on a team's ability to send and receive communication separately as well as its ability to establish communication over the event's slack channel.

During the Free Play challenge, teams establish contact with other teams over both voice and data modes of HF. To earn points, they must contact as many dispersed stations as possible and communicate though the Noble Skywave Slack

channel. After teams coordinate a frequency, they conduct a radio check over Single Sideband Voice, SSB data, 2G Automatic Link Establishment voice, 2G ALE data, 3G ALE voice, or 3G ALE data. SSB voice earns the lowest points possible while 3G ALE data earns the most. Teams are encouraged to transmit over the most complex modes attainable in order to earn the most points in this challenge.

In the Team Contact challenge, teams are placed into three pre-designated groups based on equipment capability: SSB, 2G, and 3G. The goal is to contact as many teams in your group as possible given the mode designation restriction under SSB, 2G, and 3G. This phase relies heavily on group coordination and the ability to share and program Communications Planning Application plans. Typically, one team will create the CPA plan for their group and share it through Slack or email.

For the final challenge, Back to the Future, teams reach out to as many stations as possible over voice or data, similar to the Free Play challenge, this time with distance calculated into the score. The longer the distance the team can communicate, the more points are earned.

With the call sign "Garden Ridge," the 30th's MARS section demonstrat-

ed excellence in HF radio operation by placing first in the U.S. Pacific Command theater, second of all United States Military, and 11th out of all global competitors. These accomplishments further cement their place as the predominant HF team of the Indo-Pacific region.

During the competition, the MARS team accomplished its furthest successful transmission of 13,350 km (8,000 miles), from Oahu to Greece.

As the military rediscovers latent capability needed to support Large Scale Combat Operations and Multi-Domain Operations, exercises such as Noble Skywave provide a venue to demonstrate proficiency under stress while highlighting individual operator competency skills.

Battalion and brigade leaders attribute the MARS team's work ethic, technical expertise, and drive of the team for their overwhelming success in this global competition.

"I believe it's our competitive spirit as well as our passion for understanding HF communications," said Sgt. Robert Martin, MARS section NCO-IC, on what led to the team's success. "We saw ourselves as underdogs in a competition that has many teams with more manpower and better equipment, and we wanted to prove we had the know-how to succeed."

Soldiers of 293rd Signal Company on Fighting a Pandemic:

Stay Proactive to Ensure Mission Readiness

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ALEX ESTRADA,
1st Theater Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office



U.S. Army soldier assigned to 1st Theater Signal Brigade receives battle sight correction advice during the "zeroing" portion of the individual weapons qualification event at Camp Casey, South Korea, January 26-27, 2022.

CAMP CASEY, REPUBLIC OF KOREA – To meet the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic brought for all us, adjustments had to be made, especially as new variants affected units' ability to train.

However, the readiness of units assigned to the 1st Theater Signal Brigade did not falter, thanks to the proactive planning of engaged leaders.

Leaders of the 293rd Signal Company, 41st Signal Battalion,

hosted a M4 Carabine Qualification Range at Camp Casey, January 26-27, 2022.

The range benefitted Soldiers of the 293rd as well as those from other units across the Mercury Brigade who answered the invite to join, including Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st TSB; Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 41st Signal Battalion; the 501st Signal Company; and the 362nd Signal Company.

Upon arrival at the range, Soldiers were given safety instructions by the range control officer, and on-site instruction from the senior enlisted leaders to reinforce the basics of marksmanship.

"More people actually passed this time than the last time we had a range," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robin Sylvester, Headquarters Platoon Sergeant. "We prepared more for it this time around, conducting Preliminary Marksmanship



U.S. Army soldier assigned to the 293rd Signal Company aims down the sight of his M4 carbine while conducting his individual weapons qualification event at Camp Casey, South Korea, January 26-27, 2022.

Instruction, and leaders assisted our junior enlisted.”

In total, this range event supported 60 soldiers from various units on the Korean Peninsula. In support, Soldiers of the 293rd handled more than 12,000 rounds of ammunition.

Sylvester commended the hard work of Spc. Kadeem Bush, Spc. Darrell Ling and Pvt. Thomas Richards who helped coordinate and supported the event.

“The range was a fun experience to show and improve our skills,” said Bush, “I wish we could do it more often with even more people.”

The Soldiers of the 1st TSB continue to do their part to mitigate the spread of the virus while maintaining training and mission readiness. To keep it all in perspective, Sylvester said they help each other be mindful of safety precautions, and keep practicing their Soldiering tasks and drills.

“Honestly, I think the pandemic has been slowing us down,” said Sylvester, looking out at all the Soldiers at the range, “but there are many things we can do to make the difference between being proactive and not reactive.”



U.S. Army soldier assigned to 1st Theater Signal Brigade receives advice during individual weapons qualification portion event at Camp Casey, South Korea, January 26-27, 2022.

Critical Collaboration for Communications

Pacific Signal General partners with contract agencies for optimal operations

BY CAPT. CHRISTOPHER KIM,
311th Signal Command (Theater)



Brig. Gen. Jan C. Norris, 311th Signal Command (Theater) commanding general addressing the audience during his keynote at the AFCEA International's TechNet Indo-Pacific event, in the Hyatt Regency Waikiki, Hawaii, Apr. 11, 2022. (U.S. Army photos by Capt. Christopher Kim)

HONOLULU, HAWAII – Engage, Collaborate and Learn – these were the watchwords of Brig. Gen. Jan Norris, Commanding General of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) during his keynote address to a symposium during AFCEA International's TechNet Indo-Pacific 2022 event, Apr. 11.

To help emphasize the importance of strengthening effective relationships between the U.S. military and contracting agencies, Norris shared his perspective as a theater-enabling commander in the Indo-Pacific theater with the Pacific Command Technology Exchange symposium hosted by Catai Solutions as part of TechNet here, Apr. 11-13.

“With the nature of ever evolving information technology, it is absolutely critical for the Army to collaborate,” Norris said, “with both government agencies and industry partners, to enhance communication capabilities.”

One of the primary reasons the U.S. military is at the forefront of technology is their symbiotic relationship with civilian contracting agencies.

“With constant change and innovation, it is important for the military to have a strong working partnership with the contracting agencies,” said Joseph Shields, managing director of Catai Solutions, who shares Norris’ sentiments on a

stronger alliance between the military and industry partners.

“With the speed technology is accelerating, partnerships between government and industry is critical,” Shields said. “The pandemic demonstrated the importance of not just collaboration and mobility platforms as part of digital modernization efforts, but also how to adapt to exigent circumstances and exposed at some level, the risk of capacity and capability gaps represent.”

Norris also shared how the unique geographic location of the 311th SC (T) and its vast footprint warrants the most optimal signal communications systems.



“The Indo-Pacific region is the most disbursed geographic region in the world, and you can't command and control across such a vast area without an extended communications infrastructure,” Norris said. “Communications are our foundational weapon system's capability to enable the Theater Army and Joint Force; in the coming years, this infrastructure will expand into South Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania to meet competition goals for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

Shields emphasized the strategic advantage the Indo-Pacific theater has based on its vast area of operations and how advantageous it is compared to other operational theaters.

“It's remoteness makes signal tech

fundamental—but the broader view is, military and intelligence agencies are flattening their organizational structure and missions—and deployable, hybrid-cloud based mobile networks and solutions are central to that imperative,” Shields said. “Assuring data is protected, accessible, and actionable makes an agile, forward looking military possible.”

According to Shields, to say that the Tech Exchange was a success is an understatement, as the event was not just a collective gathering of government and contracting agencies but also a representation of the partnership of the two forces.

“We look to be a conduit between military leaders and the contract

industry, so hearing from leaders is a game-changer.” Shields said. “It created both shared values and mutual understanding—so the more technical work can be fostered in meaningful ways.”

The key takeaway from the Tech Exchange was not just the technical information shared but the necessity to work alongside each other to ensure an open and free Indo-Pacific Theater.

“We must continue to engage, collaborate and learn,” Norris said. “To ensure we are seeking the most resilient, survivable and efficient communication platforms available to support the current and future force.”

CPT: Caring for Soldiers Near and Far

1st TSB's Comprehensive Performance Team visits Camp Walker Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. LUIS SOLORIO,
1st Theater Signal Brigade Public Affairs



The 1st Theater Signal Brigade Military Family Life Counselor, Brenda Knox talks to soldiers of the 41st Signal Battalion, 169th Signal Company on March 8, 2022, at Camp Walker, South Korea. Knox provides different kinds of counseling to soldiers who might be having difficulties in their personal lives while serving the 1TSB. (U.S. Photos by Sgt. Luis Solorio/1TSB PAO)

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA – Following extended periods of distancing and isolation for many, the 1st Theater Signal Brigade Comprehensive Performance Team proactively planned their schedule of visiting, talking with and listen to the Soldiers of the brigade who are stationed across the Republic of Korea.

Maj. John Lee, 1st TSB Chaplain with the support of Cpt. Anthony Priest, 1st TSB Environmental Behavioral Health Officer; Master Sgt. Wilson Ramirez, Brigade Sexual

Assault Response Coordinator; Sgt. 1st Class. Michael Boutin, Brigade Military Equal Opportunity Advisor; and Brenda Knox, Military Life counselor, met with Soldiers at Camp Carroll, March 8, 2022.

Soldiers assigned to the 41st Signal Battalion, 169th Signal Company, Orange Platoon, had the chance to sit and discuss the various resources available to them, share their thoughts on topics of concern, and discuss ideas about how the brigade can improve in supporting service members.

“The CPT is a great tool for interacting with Soldiers and providing them with information about the resources we have,” said Cpl. Seung Hong, 1st TSB Religious Affairs Specialist. “It builds trust, confidence, relationships, and improves the working environment as well as providing the right kind of support that service members need.”

During the dialogue between the CPT and the Orange Platoon, each member of the CPT shared with the group their area of expertise. To add to the fun, they asked attendees



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael M. Boutin, 1st Theater Signal Brigade Military Equal Opportunity Advisor talks to soldiers of the 41st Signal Battalion, 169th Signal Company in Camp Walker, South Korea on March 8, 2022. Boutin discussed with the soldiers different concepts under MEO and discussed with them the available resources for them. (U.S. Photos by Sgt. Luis Solorio/1TSB PAO)

questions and gave prizes to those who answered correctly.

“Asking these kinds of questions not only helps us to interact with them and make it more relaxed,” said Boutin. “It also helps us understand how much they already know about our services so we can focus on the areas that need to be improved or better advertised.”

At the end of the two-hour session, the CPT leaders thanked the service members for their participation, and the command team for providing the time to meet with their troops.

“The goal of the CPT is to interact as much as possible with our Mercury brigade team members, and use their insights to improve the brigade and make things easier for them,” said Ramirez. “After all, we work for the service members. From the newest private to our senior leaders, their efforts and troubles should not be ignored. They are the ones who make the mission possible.”



The 1st Theater Signal Brigade Comprehensive Performance Team, formed by the Mercury Special Staff (the Unit Ministry Team, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Military Equal Opportunity, Military Family Life Counselor, Retention, and Behavioral Health), went on March 8, 2022, to Camp Walker to visit soldiers from 41st Signal Battalion, 169th Signal Company. (U.S. Photos by Sgt. Luis Solorio/1TSB PAO)

Shogun Leaders' Week joins Signaleers from across the Pacific

BY MAJ. CHRIS SCHEEL AND MAJ. CHRIS ARRINGTON,
78th Signal Battalion

Photos courtesy of Lt. Col. Vinny Nguyen, 78th Sig. Bn. Commander



78th Signal Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Nguyen, and the DSCS Commander, Capt. Andrada, cut the cake during the kick off of the Shogun Leaders' Week.

CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN – For the first time in more than three years, leaders of the 78th Signal Battalion and assigned companies held their Shogun Leaders' Week here, Feb. 21-25, 2022.

The event brought leaders who operate on different islands together to discuss and brainstorm solutions to the many unique challenges of a distributed command's operating

environment.

The 78th Sig. Bn. is arrayed across mainland Japan on Honshu Island, Okinawa and Guam. The Battalion Headquarters splits between Camp Zama, where the Battalion Command team and select portions of the staff are located and Torii Station on Okinawa where the Battalion Executive Officer and remainder of the headquarters staff reside.

On Honshu Island, the 78th team operates two Network Enterprise Centers that provide network connectivity and information services to Army units located on Camp Zama and Torii Station. On Okinawa, a company from the battalion operates and maintains a Large Satellite Communications gateway at Camp Foster Annex. In Guam, a detachment of unit personnel operate and

maintain a Regional Hub Node.

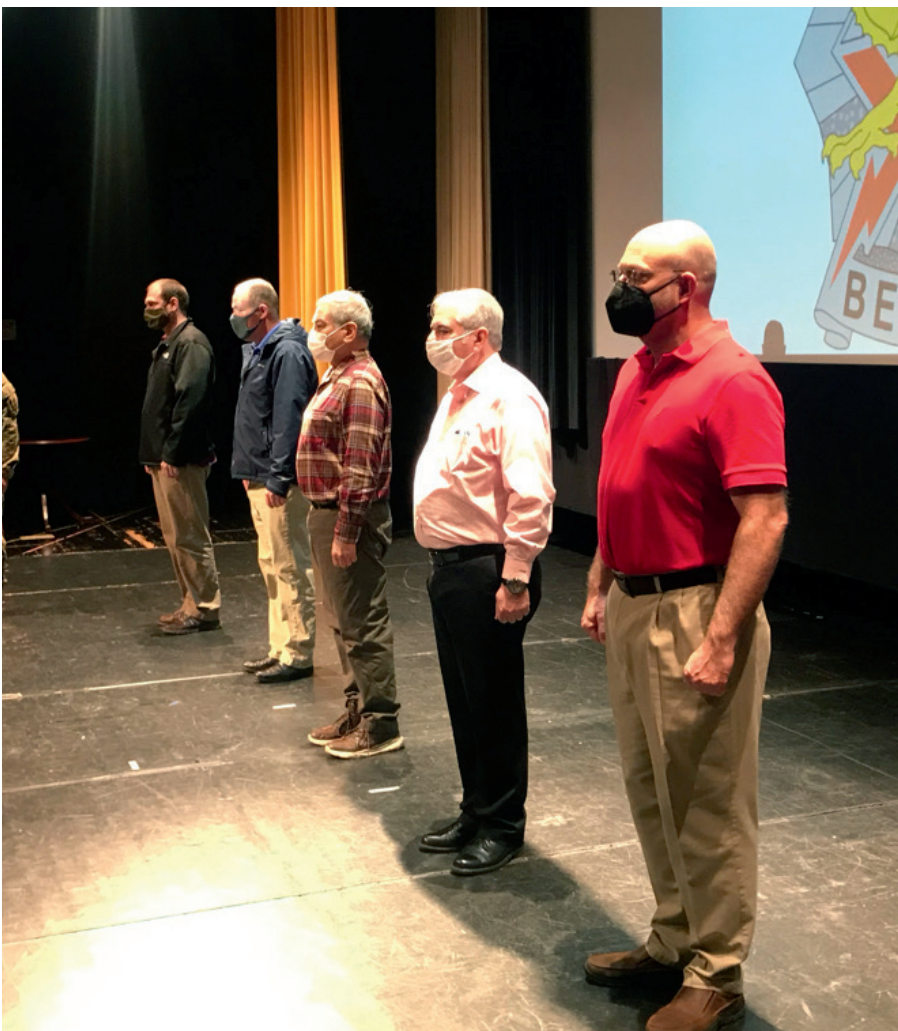
According to Lt. Col. Vinny Nguyen, 78th Sig. Bn. Commander, understanding the challenges associated with distributed command operations is critical to identify ways to overcome and prevent a breakdown in command and supporting relationships.

“As our leaders are reliant on distributed command and control methods, we encourage them to leverage relationships with Army and joint supported partners,” said Nguyen. They provide life support and resources, and foster a fundamental trust in supporting leaders and staffs.”

With numerous daily activities, the week-long event focused on team building, professional development, and fostering situational understanding of the operational environment and theater through information briefs, round table discussions and town halls.

At the end of the event, the company leaders shared input to help battalion planners align individual events with priorities that support the unit’s effort to “Baseline the Battalion” in Fiscal Year 2022:

See Shogun on page 27



Shogun 6 recognized Department of the Army Civilians for their time in both Federal and Army service.



78th Signal Battalion leaders pose in front of the BN HQ after the close out golf scramble.

1st TSB Environmental Behavioral Health Team's new approach:

A Better You in 2022

STORY BY SGT. LUIS SOLORIO,

1st Theater Signal Brigade Public Affairs

Photos by Sgt. Alex Estrada and Sgt. Luis Solorio,

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA – Maj. Christine



Maj. Christine Haywood

Haywood and Capt. Anthony Priest, leaders of the 1st TSB's Environmental Behavioral Health Team, with support from Health Technicians Cpl. Jamal Bush and Spc. Raymond Choi, began 2022 with a new way to assist Soldiers across the Mercury Brigade.



Capt. Anthony Priest

As the New Year began and resolutions were made, the EBH team developed

a new plan to help Soldiers achieve their health and fitness goals.

"We were having lunch and the idea clicked," said Haywood to Priest during a lunch meeting focused on how to better support Soldiers who work long hours daily. "We thought, 'What if we focus on a group forum instead of meeting Soldiers one by one?' We realized we can publish weekly videos so they are accessible to all Soldiers at all times!"

Both EBH officers shared the idea with their Soldiers to obtain their insights from the enlisted perspective. After discussing the idea further, the



Maj. Christine Haywood, Brigade Behavioral Health Officer in charge of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade talking in a radio interview with American Forces Network Pacific Humphreys in South Korea about mental health effects of sexual assault/abuse and the importance of leaders to be proactive, Apr. 24, 2022. (U.S. Army photo provided)

team decided to contact the person who was vital to the initiative and could help them implement their idea, the unit's Public Affairs representative.

"We expect to create great content and reach out to our current and future Soldiers in ways that we haven't done yet," said Priest while discussing the idea with Sgt. Alex Estrada, UPAR for the 1st TSB. "We focus on this two days of the week to discuss tips and encourage Soldiers in the unit to apply them in their daily lives."

From this discussion and with the support of the 1st TSB Public Affairs Office, the EBH team began posting weekly episodes on social media. The episodes provide health tips and highlight discussions on subjects common to the lives of Soldiers. The

team's first two weekly recurring programs, "Mind Over Mondays" and "Wellness Wednesdays" share helpful information for not only Soldiers but for everyone who is part of the Mercury Brigade.

"We know how stressful being a Soldier can be," said Haywood. "We want to help everyone feel better and increase their productivity, not only as Soldiers but as people."

Since then, Haywood and Priest have continued to send out their Monday and Wednesday messages, often with challenges for the Soldiers to complete. Their goal is that Soldiers of the Mercury Brigade have the tools to make the best of their week, to meet the challenges in their lives, and to make adjustments as needed.

Shogun

Continued from page 25

PRIORITY ONE – TAKE CARE OF SOLDIERS, FAMILIES AND CIVILIANS

During the week, the Shoguns conducted a Town Hall to solicit feedback from participants and held an award ceremony to recognize the excellence and service of several Civilians for their Army and Federal service lengths. These individuals have a combined length of service of more than 140 years.

PRIORITY TWO – ENSURE BATTALION IS FULLY RESOURCED TO CONDUCT ITS MISSION

This means leaders must plan and forecast accurately to enable predictable, operations-driven requirements. Leaders' Week enabled organizational resource planning by taking advantage of multiple working groups and round-table discussions between the staff, external agencies and subject matter experts.

PRIORITY THREE – IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING THROUGH A SHARED COMMON OPERATING PICTURE

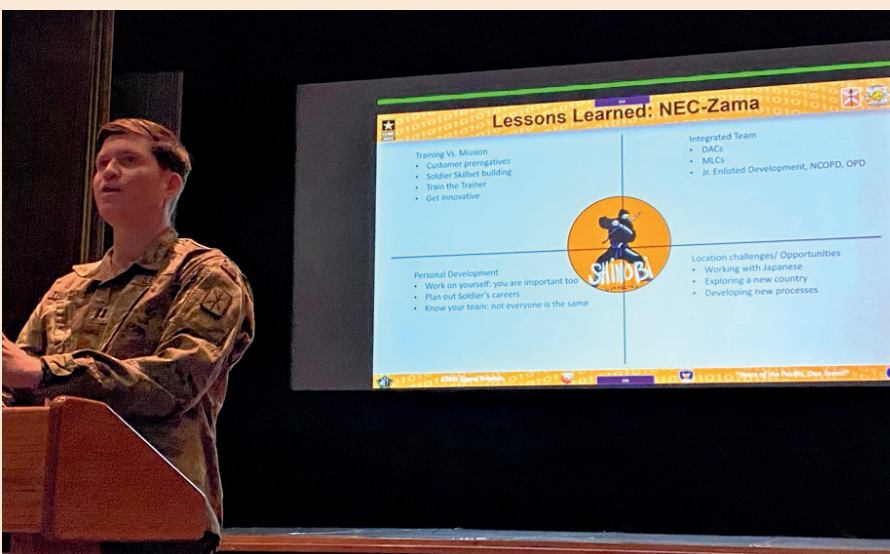
The Battalion conducted a Staff Round Robin event in which companies spent focused time with each staff section and division. This interaction provided direct feedback to company staff, and the opportunity to refine organizational processes to effectively support the battalion's operational requirements. The four company command teams also provided Lessons Learned briefs highlighting challenges and opportunities of their unique command experiences.

PRIORITY FOUR – GET BACK TO THE BASICS

Throughout the week, leaders held an officer interview board, conducted Leaders' PT, ran the Camp Zama obstacle course, and executed several professional development events to empower command teams to plan and conduct individual and collective training events that support the unit's Mission Essential Task List. A recent



HHD Commander, Capt. Pidcock, delivers his biography to the members of the board. The board was designed to train leaders prepare for the interview process during the AIM marketplace.



USANEC-CZ Commander, Capt. Thornquist, shares his learned lessons on managing his team while in command for the past 6 months.

example was the unit's Quarterly Training Brief rehearsal which focused command teams and key leaders on aligning collective training to theater events and priorities.

Lastly, the battalion hosted a Change of Responsibility ceremony for its Headquarters Detachment to recognize the outgoing First Sergeant and welcome the incoming.

"While it is too soon to report tangible evidence on the operational impact of this event, observed indicators are trending

toward improved organizational effectiveness," said Nguyen. "We are seeing improved, flattened communication and reporting between battalion leadership and our operations center."

"Commanders at all levels are supporting each other through teambuilding events and mutual trust," Nguyen said. "Between the staff and companies, working relationships have improved, and new efforts to support one another are visible in everyday activities."

A True Leader Retires

Mercury Brigade Soldiers Bid Fond Farewell to Chaplain Col. Moon Kim

STORY BY SGT. LUIS SOLORIO

Photos by Sgt. Alex Estrada/Cpl. Jong Ho Lee
1st Theater Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office



CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA – Family, friends and colleagues gathered to honor U.S. Army Col. Moon Kim during his retirement ceremony at the Freedom Chapel here, Feb. 22.

Kim culminated his military service of more than 23 years in the military as the 1st Theater Signal Brigade Chaplain and the primary spiritual guide for Soldiers of the 1st TSB at Camp Humphreys. After dedicating his life as mentor of Soldiers, Kim finally decided to leave the mantle for the future generations and retire from military service.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Scott Thomsen, 41st Signal Battalion, Charlie

Company 2nd Platoon Leader, presided over the ceremony which was hosted by the 1st TSB Command Team, Col. Anne-Marie Wiersgalla and Command Sgt Maj. Jay A. High.

During Thomsen's opening remarks, he took the audience on a walk down memory lane, giving a glimpse of the many selfless acts of service Kim has given for the U.S. Army, the Chaplain Corps, and for all the Soldiers he has served and mentored over the years.

Kim's commitment to serve and provide spiritual advice to all whom he met while serving his country was recognized not only by those with whom he served at the Mercury

Brigade but also by others on the peninsula who had the opportunity to meet and learn from him.

"As a Chaplain, Colonel Kim works intensively with the sole purpose to guide soldiers spiritually," said Cpl. Seung Wook Hong, Korean Augmentation to the United States Army religious affairs specialist. "His loyalty and commitment to his mission was highly noticeable and inspired and push me to have that kind of strive in my life."

Kim is married to Mrs. Min Jung Kim, who has also provided support and encouragement alongside her husband during their time in Korea.

As all military families know, to

survive a career in the service one must be flexible and learn how to go with the flow, adapt and overcome the challenges of being part of a military family. Kim said his family understood this and demonstrated the ability not only to adapt, but also to remain united and supportive of each other while enduring the sacrifices that his profession brought throughout his career.

The command team recognized Kim for his hard work and contributions to the Army, the unit and his profession. His awards included a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the President of the United States and Commander in Chief, President Joseph R. Biden; The Official Retirement Certificate; The Soldier for Life Pin; The Legion of Merit; and The Chaplain Corp Regimental Award.

At the end of the ceremony, Kim took a moment to express what it meant to him to serve his country and those around him. He then addressed those who stood by him, his family.

“For 23 years you have been with me, you have helped me and being patient with me,” Kim said looking lovingly at his wife. “Thanks for being with me, and for making this journey with me.”



Col. Kim Moon, 1st TSB chaplain receives the Chaplain Regimental Corp medal by Col. Karen L. Meeker, command chaplain of the Eight Army as part of his awards during his retirement ceremony at the Freedom Chapel in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 22, 2022. (U.S Army photo by Sgt. Alex Estrada)



Retired Col. Moon Kim, former chaplain of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade, deliver his remarks during his retirement ceremony at the Freedom Chapel in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 22, 2022. (U.S Army photo by Sgt. Alex Estrada)



From left to right, Eight Army Command Chaplain, Col. Karen L. Meeker, retired Col. Kim Moon, former 1TSB chaplain, Min Jung Kim, wife, Eight Army Chief Religious Affairs NCO, Sgt. Maj. Robert B. Blalock, after the retirement ceremony event at the Freedom Chapel in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 22, 2022. (U.S Army photo by Sgt. Alex Estrada)

Pacific Signal Soldiers, Partners in Korea Build Teamwork

Soldiers of RCC-K, 19th ESC G6, 169th Signal Company Enjoy Paintball, ATV Riding

BY THE RCC-K INTERNAL SERVICES BRANCH AND CPT. KEVIN KIRK,
311th Signal Command (Theater)



Lt. Col. Robertrel Sachi, Regional Cyber Center-Korea Director, center, shows his team how to properly ride an ATV during a group ride. The event was held to build camaraderie and teamwork amongst the soldiers at U.S. Army MWR's Warrior Adventure Quest, South Korea, Oct. 7, 2021.



GYEONGJU, SOUTH KOREA

– To build camaraderie and strengthen teamwork, RCC-K, 19th ESC G6, and 169th Signal Company undertook a paintball and all-terrain vehicle trip when they visited MWR’s Warrior Adventure Quest (WAQ) on Oct. 7, 2021.

“WAQ is a leader-led tool that emphasizes teamwork, unit cohesion, and enhancing readiness”, according to Lt. Col. Robertrel Sachi, director of Regional Cyber Center-Korea.

Soldiers practiced basic Soldier drills and strengthened trust in one another while playing paintball.

“In my first round, I rushed then I got shot. During the second round, I controlled my adrenaline and became more tactical”, said private first-class Kilmer of 19th ESC G6.

Soldiers were initially skeptical of coming outside by doing something different, but they later expressed that they made the right choice.

“At first, I did not want to come, but I am glad that I did,” said Cpl. Kreuch, RCC-K.

“This is a blast!,” said Major Groen, “I love my job, but this beats sitting around the office any day.”

After the paintball and ATV



Sergeant 1st Class Kordik inspects his helmet after getting blasted by paintballs in the last round of competition. The event was held to build camaraderie and teamwork amongst the soldiers at U.S. Army MWR’s Warrior Adventure Quest, South Korea, Oct. 7, 2021.

activities, soldiers had the chance to reflect on the day before they returned to Camp Walker.

“Thanks to WAQ, I had the chance to interact with people that I normally don’t,” said Staff Sgt. Marin, 169th Signal Company.

“I learned to manage risk while riding the ATV,” said Sgt. Ornelas. “I learned that the faster I went, the greater the injury could be.”

“This is my third time utilizing

WAQ in my career as a team building tool,” Sachi said, “because I fully believe as General McArthur said ‘upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that, upon other fields, on other days will bear the fruits of victory.’”

“During the paintball battle, we got shot, but we got back up and moved on,” said Staff Sgt. Al-Nawasreh. “We learned not to quit.”

Stereotypes Broken!

Young Female Soldier Takes NETCOM Best Warrior, Air Assault Course

STORY BY CARLOS D. RODRIGUEZ ORTIZ,

311th SC (T) Public Affairs Office

Photos courtesy of Sgt. Krystal Hernandez

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

— Spc. Krystal Hernandez Rosario, a Human Resource non commissioned officer (NCO) with the 311th Signal Command (Theater), is having a power year!

After earning runner-up Soldier of the Year category at the 311th SC (T) Best Warrior Competition in Hawaii, May 3-6, this native of Caguas, Puerto Rico, went on to compete in U.S. Network Enterprise Technology Command's competition as the only female participant. She was selected as NETCOM's 2022 Soldier of Year, June 5.

"I can't describe the emotion I felt when I won," Hernandez said. "I feel honored and humbled to be representing females and the Hispanic community in an event like the Best Warrior Competition."

And she didn't stop there. Hernandez, 26, went on to represent NETCOM at the U.S. Army Cyber Command competition, where she was selected as runner-up Soldier of the Year with another outstanding performance.

"This is my dream job. My goal is to serve for more than 20 years, and I love being a human resource professional, but I love even more being a Soldier," Hernandez said. "I do not know how far in rank I'm going to make it, but I will provide my best. I am dedicated and committed to excellence. It is my goal to continue to provide great customer service, take care of Soldiers, get personnel actions processed and



Sgt. Krystal Hernandez Rosario, a human resource sergeant assigned to the 311th Signal Command (Theater) rappels during a training exercise during a 25th Infantry Division Air Assault Course, at Schofield Barracks, January 21- February 4, 2022.

inspire those that are around me."

This type of competition enables experiences and training that solidify Soldier readiness.

Soldiers spend a week competing in a variety of challenges including firing weapons, land navigation, and the Army Combat Fitness



Spc. Krystal Hernandez, right, is pinned to rank of sergeant by her husband Bryan Miranda, left, during her promotion ceremony at the command's headquarters, March 2, 2022.

Test, among others to test their capabilities and combat readiness.

After the competitions, Hernandez didn't stop with those milestones and continued achieving numerous accomplishments and recognitions during the year, graduating from courses such as Basic Leader Course as Honor Graduate student in July 2021, 25th Infantry Division Air Assault School in February 2022, among others.

At her promotion to the rank of sergeant in March 2022, Hernandez received special recognition from Lt. Gen. Jason Evans, U.S Army G-9 Deputy Chief of Staff and senior Army Adjutant Core officer, for her outstanding performance during her young career.

"It is an accomplishment that I am proud of, as are my family and neighbors. I was a new soldier with one year and three months of service at the time I competed in the 311th Signal Command (Theater) Best Warrior Competition. All the achievements from BWC set the tone for my career. I knew I had a lot to offer physically and mentally, but for a female and a human resource professional, it is rare to participate in and win challenges like BWC,"

Hernandez said, beaming. "I got the opportunity to graduate from BLC, Air Assault, and got promoted to Sergeant within months of the competition. Now I can pass on all that knowledge and experiences to other Soldiers that are interested in their career development."

The 311th Signal Command (Theater) has become an essential part of the total strength of the U.S. Army, with streamlined, deployable forces, soldiers, and Department of Army Civilian embodying the warrior mindset and spirit.

"This could not be possible without my husband and family support. My family has always supported me and reassured their love for me every step of the way. My accomplishments are my family's accomplishments and for that, I'm extremely grateful," said Sgt. Hernandez. "My husband and family, apart from being extremely proud of my accomplishments were at ease once the competition was over, as he knows I tend to push my limits. However, my mom told me that neither she nor my sisters doubted me and were supporting me because they knew I would enjoy it."

Like Hernandez, thousands of female Soldiers assigned to the only



Spc. Krystal Hernandez performs the drag and carry event during the Army Combat Fitness Test, as part of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) Best Warrior Competition at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, May 3-6, 2021.



Spc. Krystal Hernandez writing an essay during the 311th Signal Command (Theater) Best Warrior, as part of one of the events during the competition, May 3-6.

U.S. Army signal command in the Indo-Pacific are courageously breaking stereotypes and changing our society.

"Competing with males has always helped me push through my limits," Hernandez said. "Yes, males are going to be stronger due to the body composition differences compared to a female, but that is never going to stop me from providing the best version of myself. I hope my participation serves as motivation to other females to compete in other high-performance events."

Ichi Dan: Bridging the Divide

Bi-Lateral Cooperative Work Program Shares Cultural Knowledge, Understanding

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS CLYDE VAUGHAN JR.,

1st Theater Signal Brigade

Photos by USARJ FXD and courtesy of the 1st TSB Public Affairs Team.

CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN – United States Army-Japan offers periodic professional development courses covering various military topics for the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force. One is Ichi Dan, an eight-week course that provides insight to the host nation's service members on American military culture. This program demonstrates the spirit of "Ichi Dan," a Japanese phrase meaning "One Team."

The course begins an introduction of Japanese participants to their assigned American Soldier sponsor. Participants and designated sponsors share similar military occupational specialties or mirroring unit missions. Classes in this program

are similar to the leadership schools conducted by the United States Army. Examples of classes taught in this program are Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Troop Leading Procedures. Assigned Sponsors serve as advisors and are there to assist their counterparts throughout the vigorous training.

Another rewarding aspect of the program are visits to various military sites around the Japanese Mainland. These visits will always start with a mission brief from various command teams in order to build a shared understanding of how individually focused missions work together to make the team's mission successful.

After graduating from the Bi-Lateral

Cooperative Work Program our partners have a greater understanding of American leadership building which they can use when leading their own forces and as they engage internationally.

The Bi-lateral Cooperative Work Program, inaugurated in 1995, is designed to give the host nation partners, a deeper understanding and appreciation the American Military. Historically, participants of the program return to their units with a deeper knowledge of American military tactics; which makes them invaluable to their own military units.

The most recent class marked the 107th iteration of this bilateral course. Each new group strives to further



Sgt. 1st Class Edilberto Ramos and Master Sgt. Masaru Sano participating in a weekly interview which catalogs the experiences during the Bi-Lateral Cooperative Work Program.

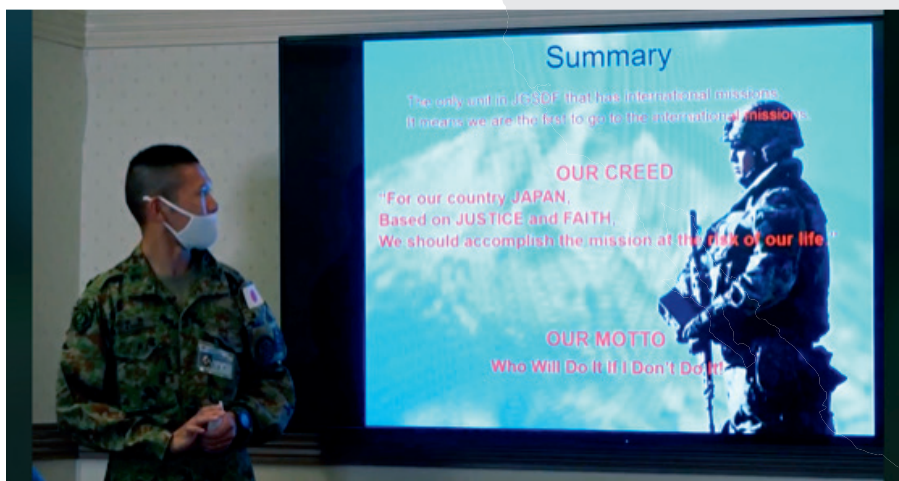
the bonds between United States Forces and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force.

The first day of the work program begins with the introduction of the Japanese Self Defense members to the group carefully selected to sponsor them throughout the eight-week time frame. During introductions, participants give a biographical overview of themselves to foster understanding of their own upbringing and culture. During the course, students and sponsors continue to share their customs and language with each other.

Students of the work program participate in training on Army doctrine and techniques hosted by their sponsors. Additionally, participants will also learn how the United States Army maintains its fitness levels through its physical readiness training program. Another unique aspect is U.S. Army Senior Leaders from across Japan will deliver classes on leadership philosophies to the participants.

As Japanese partners return to their homes and units; they do so with an elevated perspective of the bi-lateral operational environment. The time spent building bonds with teammates of different nationalities furthers the cultural horizons of all participants. American participants likewise leave the program with greater appreciation for Japan, its people, and its culture; thereby making them Ichi-Dan!

The “Shoguns” of the 78th Strategic Signal Battalion have supported Ichi Dan since its inception and the Soldiers look forward to continuing this tradition.



Master Sgt. Masaru Sano gives his home unit brief covering his responsibilities and daily operations.



Sgt. 1st Class Ramos escorts Master Sgt. Sano through the United States Army Network Enterprise Center- Camp Zama to receive a briefing from Sgt. 1st Class Lyttleton on the devices that maintain network connectivity throughout Japan.

The Knights' Best Warrior

Soldiers of the 41st Signal Battalion Train to Lead

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. MAURICE E. WASHINGTON,

41st Signal Battalion,
Unit Public Affairs Representative

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA – February began with Soldiers of the 41st Signal Battalion preparing themselves for their toughest test of the year, the 41st Signal Battalion's Best Warrior Competition.

This annual competition empowered Soldiers of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade's subordinate battalions compete for Soldier and NCO of the Year, Feb. 13-17, 2022.

The Soldiers selected to compete in the BWC demonstrated superior leadership, mentorship, courage, responsibility, trustworthiness and a strong desire to achieve excellence. These top Soldiers competed in various events over five days to earn the right to be called "The Knights' Best Warrior." Soldiers competed under the following categories: Soldier, Non-Commissioned Officer, Officer, and the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army.

Participants challenged their knowledge on basic warrior tasks and drills, Army regulations, physical readiness and marksmanship basics.

The competition began Sunday, Feb. 13, with an icebreaker fellowship between contestants. The fellowship gave competitors the opportunity to interact with each other. During the icebreaker, Soldiers also received their initial instruction brief for the competition.

In the early morning hours of Feb. 14, in freezing temperatures that tested one's fortitude but not one's goal to achieve the highest score possible, the contestants took the Army Combat Fitness



U.S. Army Soldier assigned to the 41st Signal Battalion of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade, 311th Signal Command (Theater), conduct preliminary function check during the 41st Signal Battalion Best Warrior Competition at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 13-17, 2022.

Test. This test's score is extremely important to the overall calculation of points. The amount of points earned on the ACFT could mean the difference between a contestant winning and not winning the title. In the afternoon on the same day, the contestants in 12 minutes assembled and performed function checks on three different weapon systems: the M4, M17 and M249.

The next day, competitors qualified on the 9mm hand gun at a weapons range on Camp Humphreys. Initially, contestants received and expended 15 practice rounds before proceeding into the range qualification tables. Each contestant received 30 rounds to complete the qualification tables and obtain the highest qualification score possible.

The Soldiers faced their toughest challenge yet on Wednesday as they were suspended and released from nine feet above a swimming pool wearing their Improved Outer Tactical Vest and holding their weapons. Once dropped into the pool, the competitors swam 15 meters, sunk to the bottom of the pool and removed all of their tactical gear before resurfacing.

"I am not going to lie, at one point I was scared," said Cpl. Rafael Norfleet, 41st BN, BWC competitor. "I thought I was going to drown, but once you are up there, you just have to go with it."

On the final day of the competition, the competitors faced a panel of senior Army leaders who tested their military knowledge. One by one, each



U.S. Army Best Warrior assigned the 41st Signal Battalion jumps into the pool, as part of the water survival event at the 41st Signal Battalion Best Warrior Competition at the Vandal Training Center in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 13-17, 2022.

Soldier stood in front of the panel and answered the questions asked of them. The panel members consisted of a battalion command sergeant major and first sergeants from various companies within the command.

After the panel interviews, all the scored points were tallied, and the winners were announced and recognized.

“There can be only one,” said Davis said at the end of the BWC.

The Battalion’s Best Warrior Soldier is Sped. Joseph Oberlin of USANEC- Seoul. The Battalion’s Best Warrior NCO is Staff Sgt. Donpredrito Marin of USANEC-Walker. The Battalion’s Best Warrior Officer is 2nd Lt. Jackson Quinn of HHD. The Battalion’s Best Warrior KATUSA is Cpl. Kyoung Jun Lee of USANEC- Seoul.

There could only be one winner in each of the four categories, however all of the contestants put forth a tremendous effort and made their companies proud while serving as examples to emulate to their peers.



U.S. Army Best Warriors competitors assigned the 41st Signal Battalion preparing for the water survival event at the 41st Signal Battalion Best Warrior Competition at the Vandal Training Center in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 13-17, 2022.



U.S. Army Best Warriors competitors assigned the 41st Signal Battalion shoot their M7 pistol during a qualification event at the 41st Signal Battalion Best Warrior Competition at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 13-17, 2022.



Sp. Joseph Oberlin, center, winner of the soldier of the year category for 41st Signal Battalion Best Warrior Competition, receives an Army Achievement Medal certificate from Command Sgt. Maj. Dominique Mone Davis, right, 41st Signal Battalion command sergeant major and Lt. Col. Kyle R. Yates, 41st Signal Battalion commander, left, during the Best Warrior award ceremony in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 13-17, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Maurice E. Washington)



Staff Sgt. Donpredrito Marin, center, winner of the non-commissioner officer of the year category for 41st Signal Battalion Best Warrior Competition, receives an Army Achievement Medal certificate from Command Sgt. Maj. Dominique Mone Davis, right, 41st Signal Battalion command sergeant major and Lt. Col. Kyle R. Yates, 41st Signal Battalion commander, left, during the Best Warrior award ceremony in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 13-17, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Maurice E. Washington)



KATUSA CPL Kyoung Jun Lee, left, winner in the KATUSA category receives a plaque of excellence from Command Sgt. Maj. Dominique Mone Davis, right, 41st Signal Battalion command sergeant major and Lt. Col. Kyle R. Yates, 41st Signal Battalion commander, during the Best Warrior award ceremony in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 13-17, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Maurice E. Washington)

Words of a Wise Commander

Soldiers of HHC, 1st TSB Bid Farewell to Grout, Welcome Robison

STORY BY CPL. JONG HO LEE, PHOTOS BY CPL. JONG HO LEE/SGT. LUIS SOLORIO,
1st Theater Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA – Soldiers of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company welcomed their new Commander, Cpt. Ryan Robinson, during a change of command ceremony at the Reserve Center here, March 4, 2022.

Family, friends, colleagues and Soldiers from the 1TSB HHC gathered to receive the incoming commander and recognize the tenure of the outgoing commander, Capt. Matthew P. Grout who served as the HHC Commander for the past 18 months.

Col. Anne-Marie Wiersgalla and Command Sgt Maj. Jay A. High, the 1st TSB Command Team, hosted the ceremony which was emceed by 2nd Lt. Bonvie Fosam.

During her remarks, Wiersgalla thanked the HHC Team for their achievements during Grout's tenure as the HHC commander, and thanked Grout for his leadership.

"Your commitment to your family and to HHC is without doubt, unparalleled," said Wiersgalla. "Your passion and commitment to make things better for continual improvement was present in every aspect of your command."

Wiersgalla also addressed Robinson, and left him with three charges, "Ryan, I charge you with three things: First, take care and train your people; Second, help them grow to be better Soldiers, leaders and remind them that they are valued members of the team; Lastly, remember to take care of yourself and your family."

Once Wiersgalla had addressed the Soldiers and both their former and



Col. Anne-Marie Wiersgalla, brigade commander of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade passes the guidon to Capt. Ryan Robinson, incoming commander of the 1st Signal Brigade headquarters and headquarters company commander, right, during the change of command ceremony at the Reserve Center in Camp Humphreys, South Korea, March 4, 2022.

new company commanders, the official passing of the guidon took place. Receipt of the unit colors symbolizes a new commander's authority and responsibility to lead and care for his Soldiers.

1st Sgt. Gabriel Hieglie, as the official guarding HHC's guidon, passed the colors to outgoing commander Cpt. Grout who passed them to Wiersgalla, indicating his relinquishment of command and gratitude for the opportunity to lead Soldiers. Wiersgalla then presented them to Robinson, making official his appointment as the new HHC Commander.

After exchanging the colors, Grout and Robinson addressed the team with their thoughts, memories and vision of what HHC has been and will be.

"I cannot thank all of you enough

for how you have helped, shaped, and bore with me during this entire process," said Grout emotionally. "I refer to all 400 of you as my family and once again, I cannot thank all of you enough for this opportunity."

"Katchi Kapshida (We Go Together), First to Communicate!, Havoc 6 signing on the Net," Robinson said. "I look forward to working with all of you, and to know you in this journey."



Seeking the Phoenix

Soldiers of 78th Signal Go for the Gold in Maintenance Excellence

STORY BY COL. HALLAH NILSEN AND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 KEVIN KUHN,
311th Signal Command (Theater)

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, JAPAN – Most years, the 78th Signal Battalion is one of few units recognized by the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence. This year, the team has its sights even higher.

The United States Army Signal Activity-Okinawa (Defense Satellite Communication System), a company-sized element assigned to the 78th Signal Battalion, 516th Theater Signal Brigade, hopes to compete for the Department of Defense's Phoenix Award for maintenance excellence in Autumn of 2022.

To compete for the AAME, units are chosen to represent their command at the lower level.

Next, they must be nominated by the Headquarters, Department of the Army, to represent the Army in the DoD level competition.

The Phoenix Award is presented annually to designate the single best maintenance unit out of six Secretary of Defense Field-Level Maintenance Award winners.

The USASA-O (DSCS) team completed its inspection by HQDA maintenance program inspectors April 13, and was selected to represent Network Command, then Army Cyber Command.

As of mid-June, they are competing at the HQDA level for the chance to represent the Army in the Department of Defense (DoD) level competition.

"At this time, we do not know the results of the Army level completion or if the 78th will be selected to compete at the DoD level," said Sgt. Maj. Traceyann Powell, 311th SC

(T) G4 Sergeant Major. "Regardless, the unit's maintenance achievements provide a great example and inspiration for others."

Sponsored by the Army Chief of Staff, the AAME program provides incentive to Army units by recognizing extraordinary maintenance management and accomplishments, improves and sustains field level maintenance readiness, and improves efficiency.

Inspectors assess command-nominated units who demonstrated excellence in their maintenance programs. They look for innovative resource management, readiness of weapon and material equipment, how a unit overcomes theater unique challenges, contributions to the accomplishment of the overall mission, production control innovation, innovative maintenance processes, Soldier maintenance competency, and the unit's leadership's attitude toward maintenance.

"We recognize and honor the 78th Signal Brigade team's amazing efforts to promote exceptional maintenance standards," Powell said, "and we look forward to a unit in our command winning the DoD Phoenix Award!"



Sharing the Joys of Spiritual Faith

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tugaoen: Global Leader of Women

BY LIANA KIM,

311th Signal Command (Theater)

Photos courtesy of the 311th SC (T) Staff Judge Advocate Team



From left to right, Kekoa, son, SGM (Ret) AJ Tugaoen, husband, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Alyson Tugaoen, 311th Signal Command (Theater) legal administrator, Noelani, daughter, smiles while preparing for a training activity at Ke'ehi Lagoon, Hawaii, December 24, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Warrant Officer 2 Alyson Tugaoen)

TAMPA, FLORIDA – When she is not serving in uniform, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Alyson Tugaoen, Legal Administrator with the 311th SC (T) Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, enjoys participating in triathlons with her family and friends, and supporting her spiritual community.

As Director of Forum for the Military Council of Catholic Women – Worldwide since 2018, Tugaoen

planned and led MCCW's Forum 2022 here, Apr. 21-24.

"It is a wonderful reunion of ladies who want to grow in their faith through keynote addresses, break-out/workshop sessions, daily Mass, prayer, adoration, and reconciliation," Tugaoen said, "and most of all, after a pandemic filled with strict isolation, fellowship with one another."

The intent of this biannual event

held in rotating U.S. mainland locations is to connect, unite and inspire military-affiliated Catholic women worldwide, and empower them through the pillars of spirituality, leadership and service.

"It also serves as a great way to reconnect relationship with those from past duty stations," said Tugaoen, spouse of an active duty Soldier, "and as was my experience one year, an



SGM (Ret) AJ Tugaoen, left, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Alyson Tugaoen, with their son, Kekoa, center, during his high school graduation ceremony at the Hawaii Convention Center, May 21, 2022.



Warrant Officer 2 Alyson Tugaoen, 311th Signal Command (Theater) legal administrator, getting recognize with a coin of excellence by Brig. Gen. Gerald R. Krimbill, U.S Army Assistant Judge Advocate General for Military Law and Operations on behalf U.S. Army Judge Advocate General, Lt. Gen. Stuart W. Risch, at the command's headquarters. (U.S. Army photo provided)

opportunity to meet ladies at your next duty station, if you know where you are headed.”

While her directing role was intended for an April 2020 event in San Antonio, Texas, the COVID pandemic brought major changes, and some unexpected blessings for Tugaoen who charged on along with a committee of Board of Directors and other volunteers.

“When the pandemic forced us to move to an all-digital format in November of 2020, it was our first foray into the virtual event scene,” Tugaoen said, “and required relentless dedication, creativity, ingenuity and all out faith that God would help us realize the vision of connecting, uniting and inspiring women across the globe in their faith.”

“With the pandemic raging on, my two years in the position was ending, but the uncertainty of it all lead a few of us to stay another term, hoping things globally would be better by April of 2022,” said Tugaoen. “We stayed for continuity, and what a blessing it was to be able serve in this women’s ministry arm of the Archdiocese for Military Services.”

For those interested in joining a fellowship group, Tugaoen shared some moving examples of how MCCW has improved her life and brought personal fulfillment.

“I have made lifelong friendships with women I would have otherwise never met, and found meaningful connections that are hard to find when you move every two to three years,” Tugaoen said. “It’s almost as if I never had to start from square one when we moved to new duty station because all I had to do was to reach out. I was certainly blessed to find them when my children were in pre-school.”

“I have been given the gift of this group of like-minded people who want to grow in their faith and more importantly, live it out in their daily lives,” said Tugaoen. “The global reach of women who foster and support one another through all phases of military life are astounding.”

Giving Back During a Water Crisis

Soldiers of Pacific Signal Team Support Red Hill Elementary School

BY THE HHC, 516TH TSB TEAM

Photos by Sgt. Gage Goodell



A Soldier fills water jugs for transportation to classrooms and bathrooms from the temporary water storage at Redhill Elementary School.



Soldiers rally in the morning to fill jugs with clean water at Redhill Elementary School during the water crisis.

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII – In January of 2022, the Red Hill water contamination crisis, Soldiers of the 516th Theater Signal Brigade and the 311th SC (T) were tasked with a meaningful duty close to home: to provide support to the brigade's partner school, Red Hill Elementary.

"For the past few weeks here at Red Hill Elementary School, I've been assigned to fill hand-washing stations with clean water," said Sgt. Gage Goodell, 516th Theater Signal Brigade, "We refill and service water stations at the school throughout the day to help

prevent the spread of COVID-19 and maintain the safety and well-being of these students, our future generations."

For about two months during the contamination period, the Red Hill mission transported 2,500 gallons of water to the school each week. Every morning before school, the Navy tested the water to ensure it safe. Once deemed safe, Soldiers provided the manpower and transportation needed to move the 5-gallon jugs of water to the improvised hand-washing stations in the classrooms and bathrooms

throughout the school campus.

Despite the water crisis, Red Hill Elementary continued to hold classes and kept school year moving forward. The school's ability to do this would have been impossible without the logistical support and tremendous effort from HHC's Soldiers who also helped to refill water tanks used by the school cafeteria staff for meal preparation. The support from HHC 516th TSB was essential for the school to remain in operation.

According to the Soldiers who supported, the Red Hill Elementary staff were extremely thankful for the help, and showed their gratitude by providing lunch for the Soldiers. The leaders of HHC were thankful for their partnership with Red Hill Elementary and glad they were able to assist a local school in need.

For the Soldiers, helping Red Hill Elementary School provided them with a unique opportunity to catch a glance of or give a wave to their own children because many children of HHC's Soldiers attend Red Hill Elementary.

"The opportunity to help the school we sponsor during a tough time made it a lot easier on the kids and the community," said Command Sgt. Maj. Richardson, 516th TSB.

"Thank you, to all the Soldiers who supported this mission. It was truly a great experience to see the direct impact of our community outreach and knowing that our efforts kept the school operational until its water source was deemed safe for regular use."

Pacific Signaleers help local foodbank

Soldiers of 30th Signal Battalion volunteer, distribute food baskets

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. REBECCA PETRIE,
516th Theater Signal Brigade

HONOLULU, HAWAII – Continuing a long-standing community partnership, Soldiers of the 30th Signal Battalion joined the North Shore Food Bank for their monthly routine of handing out baskets of food during a drive-thru event at Kaiaka Bay Beach Park, May 4.

“We started out helping the homeless, but nowadays, everyone needs help,” said Linda Seyler, director of the North Shore Food Bank. “We used to do this in a gym, but had to move to the park because there are so many cars. There’s just a huge need.”

During this recurring event, volunteers distribute food for approximately 160 households comprised of 275 individuals. The North Shore Food Bank distributes donated food at the park twice a month on the first and third Wednesdays.

Each month, Soldiers of the 30th volunteer on first Wednesdays, and Soldiers of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion volunteer on the third Wednesday of each month.

“The North Shore Food Bank is so proud and appreciative to have the military volunteers alongside us,” said Seyler. “Their positive presence helps build strong ties and trust in our community whether it be a homeless individual asking for prayer or a senior needing assistance with carrying a box of food - the Soldiers are always ready to assist.”

The military started volunteering with the North Shore Food Bank in 2017 when the 307th Sig. Bn. Chaplain reached out to create a partnership. Since he arrived, Chaplain John



Soldiers of the 30th Signal Battalion preparing for the food bank alongside volunteers at the North Shore Food Bank.



Soldiers of the 30th Signal Battalion passing out food to members of the community in the North Shore.

Bazal, Chaplain for the 30th Sig. Bn., has been coordinating the effort.

“People join the military to give back, but there’s not a lot of face-to-face with the community, and Soldiers can’t easily see the impact,” said Bazal. “But here, you can see it. It’s a huge win for the battalion and for each person who shares of their time in this way.”

The Soldiers work alongside community volunteers until the food is all distributed. Some Soldiers volunteer on a regular basis and have developed close friendships with other volunteers, most of whom are recipients of the charity. For others, it was a new experience.

“This is my first time volunteering,” said Spc. Yaritza Acevedo, an Information Technology Specialist from Clermont, Florida. “I volunteered just to give it a try, but we’re actually helping people. It was better

than I expected. I like the feeling of helping people out.”

The North Shore Food Bank also supports the homeless veterans. They partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Homeless Veterans in Hawaii), but due to COVID-19, were unable to continue. The North Shore News sponsored the “Veterans Mini Service Event” which included numerous service organizations including: VA Outreach Team, USVETS GPD Team, VA Nursing Team, VET Center Team, and COVID Screening Team.

“We are working on building a relationship with local schools to expand our volunteer opportunities,” said Chaplain David Rhee, 307th ESB Chaplain. “Seeing people every week in need has wet the appetites of our Soldiers to get more involved.”

Army Reserve Pacific Pride Paddlers Help Make History

BY CARLOS D. RODRIQUEZ ORTIZ,

311th Signal Command (Theater)

Photos courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Alyson Tugaoen.

HONOLULU, HAWAII – Two Soldiers of the 311th Signal Command (Theater)’s Pacific Cyber ohana recently participated in a historic event and a physical fitness opportunity unique to our region, involving the traditional Hawaiian team sport of outrigger canoe paddling.

As members of the 9th Mission Command’s Pacific Pride Paddlers, or P3 Team, Maj. Lidia Gatchalian and Warrant Officer 2 Alyson Tugaoen leaned in with their oars and helped welcome the Navy’s newest destroyer to its home port on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11.

“It was an honor to have the opportunity to share in this remarkable event,” said Tugaoen, an Army Reserve officer on the 311th SC (T) Staff Judge Advocate team. “The historical significance of it all was deeply felt. As our outriggers passed both the Arizona Memorial and the Battleship Missouri, we paid our respects before greeting the Daniel Inouye.”

Thanks to this dedicated team of Army Reserve paddlers, the Daniel Inouye arrived in Honolulu Harbor with a traditional Hawaiian Outrigger escort in preparation for the ship’s official commissioning in December. The ceremony designated the fleet’s newest vessel as the USS Daniel Inouye, with Pearl Harbor as its home port.

“This was a once in a lifetime experience being on the outrigger crew for such a unique and meaningful event,” said Gatchalian, a Force Management Officer with the 311th SC (T) Operations Team. “I am thankful that the Navy chose to honor Senator Inouye in this way.”



Pacific Pride Paddlers stare at the newest Navy’s destroyer from their rowboat, Nov. 11, 2021.



Members of the Pacific Pride Paddlers lean with their oars and welcome the Navy’s newest destroyer to its home port, Nov. 11, 2021.



Members of the Pacific Pride Paddlers ready to welcome the Navy’s newest destroyer to its home port, Nov. 11, 2021.

Canoe paddlers row towards USS Daniel Inouye official commissioning ceremony, at Pearl Harbor's home port, Nov. 11, 2021.



Pacific-Islander and Asian American Heritage:

A Family Celebration

BY LIANA KIM,

311th SC (T) Public Affairs Office

Photos courtesy of Capt. Christopher Kim, 311th SC (T) Public Affairs

MILILANI, HAWAII – For this happy young family, a diverse American heritage is a proud legacy that comes in many flavors, literally.

“After the Korean War, my grandparents from both my mother and father’s side remarried because they lost their original spouses during the war,” said Cpt. Christopher Kim, Public Affairs Officer with the 311th Signal Command (Theater). “My parents grew up very poor in Korea and they worked extremely hard to give me the life I have here in America. My drive and work ethic –and appreciation for a varied menu– are a reflection of the inspiration I gained from my parents.”

Born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in Orange County, CA, Kim considers himself Korean American. His wife, Kellie-Anne, is $\frac{3}{4}$ Japanese, $\frac{1}{4}$ Okinawan. This gives them four diverse sets of history, culture and food to pass down to their daughter, Isla, who just celebrated her first birthday.

“In addition to all U.S. major holidays, a proud Japanese holiday our family celebrates is Girl’s Day,” Kellie-Anne said, “For her first Girls Day this year, Isla wore the kimono that her great great-grandmother made for her.”

Growing up, most of Kim’s extended family was in the Republic of Korea so he spent holidays with his immediate nuclear family.

“A special holiday dish for New Years is called “Dduk gook” which is rice cake and dumpling soup, and according to tradition, for each bowl you finish, you get a year wiser and

older,” Kim said. “For other holidays, our family usually grills “kalbi” which is Korean style marinated short ribs. The food is always delicious but the company of my family is what really counts.”

“When it comes to holiday dishes, our family usually does a potluck and there are dishes from every culture reflected here in Hawaii!” said Kellie-Anne, describing her family’s gatherings on the island of Oahu. “My grandmother embraces her Okinawan side and makes “andagi” which is deep fried donut holes, for desert.”

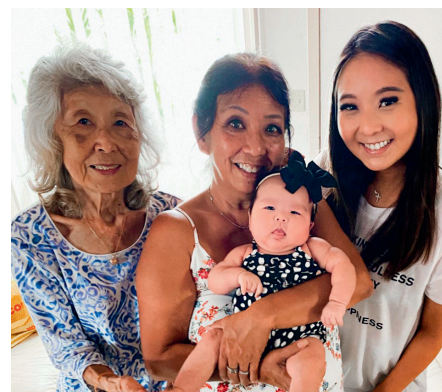
“If it wasn’t for the United States’ intervention during the Korean War, I would not be here. I am extremely proud of my roots as a Korean and an American,” Kim said. “In Korea, military service is mandated for every male, and every single male in my bloodline has served in the ROK military.”

“I am extremely proud to continue our tradition of military service, and to be the first one in my family to serve as a U.S. Army officer,” said Kim. “It is my duty to serve this great nation that has afforded great opportunities to my family.”

“For anyone new to the Hawaiian Islands, I implore you to take advantage of all the amazing opportunities to be enriched with the various cultures and traditions. From art to food, this island is a Petri dish of cultures,” Kim said of his island home. “I hope that Isla will immerse herself in the rich culture and lineage of her roots in Korea, Japan, Okinawa, and Hawaii.”



Isla with her grandparents from her father’s side. Hei Kyoung Kim, grandmother, and Doo Hwan Kim, grandfather, are elated to be first time grandparents.



Isla with her mother, Kellie-Anne Ishii-Kim, right, her grandmother, Dawn Ishii, center, and her great grandmother, Mae Sakamoto, left.



Isla celebrating her first 4th of July with her parents Christopher Kim and Kellie-Anne Ishii-Kim.

Physical Fitness Empowers Soldier's Life

Logistics Soldier of Pacific Signal Cyber Team Wins Body Building Contest

BY CAPT. CHRISTOPHER KIM
311th Signal Command (Theater)

HONOLULU, HAWAII – For this humble warrior, competing means winning.

After months of rigorous training, Master Sgt. Jason Mallory, 311th SC (T) Senior Supply Sergeant, competed and took first place in his category of the annual Shawn Ray Hawaiian Classic body building competition, Nov. 20, 2021.

“A Soldier’s physical wellness goes hand in hand with optimum performance,” Mallory said. “As Soldiers, we are constantly working to improve our overall fitness level by conducting organized physical training as well as individual strength and endurance training.”

According to Army Public Health messages, physical fitness is directly correlated with job capability and considered one of the tools for the trade. The greatest assets of the United States Army are the Soldiers themselves, and the greatest form of stewardship of this amazing asset is to be in stellar shape and have a nutritious diet.

“If you fill up your car’s gas tank with inferior fuel then your car’s engine will run inconsistent and inefficient,” Mallory said. “However, if you fill your car’s gas tank with premium fuel, your engine will produce the highest horsepower possible and run much more efficient.”

Mallory showcased his passion for his regimented physical training and meticulous diet to the big stage by competing in the Shawn Ray

Hawaiian Classic body building competition. Having competed four times before, he left no stone unturned in order to ensure victory.

“During the last competition the hardest aspect was - and will always - be the nutrition,” Mallory said. “This experience was the most rewarding due to my ability to stay focused and not cheat on my nutritional program, and I’m grateful for putting in and seeing through the hard work.”

Due to his self-discipline, he won first place in the Master Over 35 division. Furthermore, his enthusiasm and zeal for physical and nutritional fitness has inspired fellow Soldiers to be honorable stewards of our greatest resource, themselves.

“I’ve noticed several co-workers start an individual strength and conditioning program since I shared my experience in the competition,” said Mallory. “The same co-workers have applied some recommendations of nutrition in their lifestyles and I’ve noticed they are happier, more energetic, and they look better.”

For Soldiers who want to test themselves and have the desire to compete in a body building competition, Mallory shares his tactics that have served him well throughout his years of competing.

“For any Soldier who aspires to compete I would recommend four watch words: Intensity, Consistency, Discipline, and Patience,” said Mallory. “You need to discipline yourself to get up and train when you don’t want to, to eat when and



Master Sgt. Mallory proudly posing with his 1st place competition trophy the Master Over 35 division of the at the Shawn Ray Hawaiian Classic body building competition, Nov. 20, 2021.

what fuels your body for optimum performance, and to rest, because that is when you grow.”

Bodybuilding is a daunting task that is extremely demanding but for Soldiers who just want to begin their fitness journey, Mallory’s advice is to simply get started and be accountable to yourself.

“My simple message would be get started, and take control of your life,” Mallory said. “Take control of feeling better, and set up an appointment with a health care provider or licensed coach to start your journey.”

Note from the Civilian Deputy to the Commanding General

Aloha Team,

I'm so excited to be writing to you as your senior civilian. I'm honored to be part of this amazing, diverse organization and want to thank the team for such a warm welcome home. I wake up every morning filled with excitement, optimism, and an open heart for what is ahead of us. I am humbled to step into the role, and to have the opportunity to continue to build this world-class organization alongside each and every one of you.

To paraphrase a quote from Oscar Wilde — we need to believe in the impossible and remove the improbable. This starts with clarity of purpose and sense of mission that will lead us to imagine the impossible and deliver it.

I truly believe that each of us must

find meaning in our work. The best work happens when you know that it's not just work, but something that will improve other people's lives. This is the opportunity that drives each of us at this command. Many organizations aspire to change the world. But very few have all the elements required: talent, resources, and perseverance. 311th SC(T) has proven that it has all three.

Thank you for everything you do—your hard-work, passion and enthusiasm for building our future together. I am grateful to be on this journey with you. I wish you and your families good health, and I look forward to our days ahead together.

Sincerely,
Michele Bolinger



Do you have a story to tell?

A mission of the 311th Signal Command's Public Affairs Office is to tell the stories of all our Signal units, Regional Cyber Centers, Soldiers, Civilians and Families assigned to the 311th SC (T), across the entire Asia-Pacific Theater. We continually seek stories that may be of interest to all of our readers, new voices and fresh perspectives. Contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all manuscripts. Story ideas, written articles, photos for consideration, questions, may be sent to liana.m.kim2.civ@army.mil / DSN 315-437-4095 / COM 808-787-4095 or carlos.d.rodriquezortiz.civ@army.mil / DSN 315-437-3115 / COM 808-787-3115.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!



Search on Facebook for:
311th Signal Command - Theater



[Instagram.com/311thsc](https://www.instagram.com/311thsc)

In Memoriam

Major General Woodrow "Douglas" Boyce 1940-2021

Maj. Gen Boyce was born March 10, 1940, in Laurel, Delaware to the late Woodrow David Boyce and Doris Jones Boyce. In 1958 he graduated as the valedictorian from Laurel High School. In 1962 he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of Delaware. He served two years in the United States Army and upon his return to Delaware he joined the Delaware Army National Guard as an Air Defense Artillery Officer. MG Boyce is a graduate of the Air Defense School, Signal Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College (with honors) and the Army War College (Class Vice President). Upon the conversion of the Delaware Army National Guard to Signal, MG Boyce was assigned to the 261st Signal Command in Dover. He also commanded the 280th Signal Battalion. He was promoted to Major General in July 1995, and then transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve and became the first commander of the newly activated 311th Theater Signal Command at Ft. Meade, until 1999.

In civilian life, MG Boyce "Doug" worked for Delmarva Power and Light Co. for 35 years, retiring in 1998 as the Vice President of Electric Operations. He was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in Dover, where he was extremely involved in the administration and finances of the church as well as the Men's Club and Bible Study. Doug was the rock of his family and was always the go to person when any of his kids or grandkids needed anything. He was caring, compassionate and was always quick with a joke to keep people laughing. Doug enjoyed going to flea markets, traveling up and down the east coast on his quest for antique woodworking tools and was a member of the Early American Industries Association "EAIA". In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his sister, Elaine Lynch; brother-in-law, Ronnie Lynch; and sister-in-law, Sharon Boyce.



Maj. Gen. Woodrow Douglas Boyce (right) officially assumes command of the 311th Theater Signal Command with Maj. Gen. Charles "Chuck" Sutton (center), commander of the Network Enterprise Technology Command, during the activation ceremony at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, June 22, 1996. (U.S. Army photo provided)

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Diane Dickerson Boyce of Dover; children, Darla Boyce of Middletown, Drew Boyce and Denise Boyce of Wyoming, and Dina Nacin and her husband Paul of N. Las Vegas; brothers, David Boyce and his wife Ann and Brent Boyce all of Laurel; sister-in-law, Donna Atkins and her husband Ramon of Broadway, N.C.; grandchildren, Sirena Estrada, Dustin Boyce (Jill), Matt Estrada, Elena Estrada, Aaron Boyce (Tia), Michael Boyce (Caila), Ashley Boyce, Alex Estrada, Sam Boyce, and Callie Boyce; great grandchildren, Luna, Goldie, Zoeie, Woods, and Anneli; and many other cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In Memoriam

SGT Isaiah M. Vazquez

1999-2022



SGT Isaiah M. Vazquez was born on September 29th, 1999 in Orlando, FL. He enlisted into the United States Army on July 17th, 2018. He attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, SC and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, GA where he became a Multi-Channel Transmission Systems Operator Maintainer. Upon completion of training, SGT Vazquez was assigned to Alpha Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion – Enhanced on Heleman Military Reservation. He served Alpha Company as an AN/TSC-154 SMART-T Operator Maintainer from July 2019 to May 2022.

SGT Vazquez' awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

SGT Vazquez is survived by his wife Samantha Troncosa, father Miguel Vazquez, mother Sylari Gonzalez, stepfather Michael Corry and siblings Moriah, Kaylean, Alysia, Brianna, and Emily Vazquez

311TH SIGNAL COMMAND (T)

THEATER VOICE, ONE TEAM

VISION: ONE TEAM OF READY AND RESILIENT PROFESSIONALS ENABLING JOINT FORCES WITH CONTINUOUS ACCESS TO THE CYBER DOMAIN.

MISSION: ENABLING MISSION COMMAND AND CONTINUOUS ACCESS TO THE CYBER DOMAIN WHILE COMPETING FOR A FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC

1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE



41ST SIG BN

KOREA



304TH ESB



6TH RCC-K

JAPAN



78TH SIG BN



78TH SIG BN
RHN GUAM



SIGNAL CORPS BIRTHDAY
21 JUNE 2022
CELEBRATING 162 YEARS

THEATER VOICE!

ALASKA



59TH SIG BN 307TH ESB



CALIFORNIA



311TH SUPPORT UNIT
PACIFIC (USAR)



307TH ESB



30TH SIG BN

HAWAII



311TH SIGNAL
COMMAND (THEATER)
MULTI-COMPO



516TH SIG BDE



4RCC-P



30TH SIG BN
KWAJALEIN

LINES OF EFFORT:

1. CONDUCT DODIN-OPS
2. SET THE THEATER: NETWORK MODERNIZATION
3. SUPPORT MULTI-DOMAIN OPERATIONS
4. SUSTAIN THE FORCE
5. ENABLING MISSION COMMAND