

PREMIER SIGNAL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 311TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER)

**STRATEGIC
& TACTICAL**

Pacific Signal Teams in Action

**50TH
ANNIVERSARY**
All Volunteer Force

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BETTER TOGETHER

VOLUME 13 | 2022 - 2023

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PREMIER SIGNAL

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Premier Signal often incorporates photo composition, textures and other design elements to enhance the drama and visual impact of its feature stories.

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ON THE COVER

A Soldier of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade operates a high-frequency radio, calling in a nine-line medevac during a Best Squad Best Warrior Competition. His focus mirrors the dedication required to harness the power of HF radios, a technology that thrives in the realm of unseen waves, bridging gaps and forging connections in the most remote corners of the globe.

Step into the pages within to delve into the world of Signaleers operating across the Indo-Pacific. This Soldier's tale is just a strand woven into the tapestry of Volume 13; flip through to explore the cutting-edge research pushing the boundaries of signal and cyber warfare, promising faster, more secure transmissions for an interconnected world.

From military precision to global connectivity, this issue celebrates the versatile role of the signaleer. As you journey through these pages, you'll come to realize that in a world of invisible waves, the power of human ingenuity shines brightly, connecting us all in ways we've yet to fully comprehend.

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Commander's Note

Aloha! If you have any interest in Indo-Pacific Army communications, this magazine is for you! Premier Signal focuses on 311th Signal Command (Theater) people, readiness, modernization and partnerships everywhere between Hollywood to Bollywood and polar bears to penguins.

As the only forward deployed Army Theater Signal Command in the region, we are responsible for conducting DoD Information Network operations with oversight of end-to-end communications across the Indo-Pacific, enabling multi-domain operations for the Army and Joint Force. Our multi-component command operates across 16 time zones. The 1st and 516th Theater Signal Brigades operate, maintain and secure our portion of the DoDIN in the region. From a cyber-perspective, the Regional Cyber Centers – Korea and Pacific defend our networks and provide our forces the freedom of action to communicate across the Indo-Pacific.

Upon my arrival in the theater a year ago, I realized we must continue to build our understanding to enable readiness across our formation and allow us to overcome challenges in the future. In order to do this, we must **Know Ourselves, Know Our Customers** and **Enable decision dominance through ready and resilient interior lines**. I am happy to report we continue to increase our collective knowledge and grow capabilities and redundancies to support warfighters throughout the theater.

As a command, we continue to operate, maintain and defend the controls that protect data flows across the networks, to assure secure processing and movement. Due to the geographic dispersion of our theater, challenges remain in the region associated with the “tyranny of distance” and the complex web of activities from potential adversaries. Rest assured, I’m fully confident that we will extend and protect the network, pushing it to the tactical edge with the help of our highly dedicated and skilled Soldier and Civilian teams.

Kevin Meisler
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

CSM's Message



In 2019 the United States Army began a campaign plan called "People First," people are the United States Army's greatest strength and most important weapon system. We succeed because of the dedication and commitment shown by our people - our Soldiers, Families, Army Civilians, Retirees and Veteran Soldiers for Life!

Since I assumed responsibility as the senior enlisted advisor and command sergeant major to the commanding general for the 311th Signal Command (Theater), we have committed our efforts to continue putting People First, through programs such as Command Sponsorship, Career Development, Retention and Readiness.

The 311th SC (T) is a family! As we receive new additions to our family, we immediately enroll them into our Command Sponsorship Program, known as "Operation Jealousy," which gives a positive first impression to incoming Soldiers worthy of making other organizations jealous. It includes a welcome packet that orients the Soldier and their family, provides guidance during in-processing specific to their location throughout the Pacific Theater, and most importantly, it assures them that they are cared for and valued by the unit. Our leaders embrace this program to ensure that we properly welcome our newcomers, provide a well balanced lifestyle for service members and their families, and begin the evaluation process to continue their career progression. In the technical realm of the signal community, it is paramount that we continue to build Soldiers' technical and tactical crafts through various career development programs. As such, we provide practical, hands-on training and support to set Soldiers on a path for long-term success as you will see throughout this magazine.

People First is about treating people right and spans from pre-arrival to becoming a command alumni. This mentality and culture builds strong, cohesive teams that care for one another and directly results in producing technically and tactically sound professionals that are certified in their core functions and warrior tasks and battle drills while simultaneously reducing harmful behaviors throughout our command and the Army. These are the reasons that the 311th SC (T) has some of the highest retention and readiness rates throughout our force and why I am proud to call my teammates an extension of my family!


Jonathan DeHart
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army

INDO-PACIFIC THEATER

BY THE NUMBERS

52%

THE WORLD'S SURFACE AREA

1/2

THE WORLD'S POPULATION

36

NATIONS

16

TIME ZONES

5

U.S. ALLIES THROUGH MUTUAL
DEFENSE TREATIES

4,000+

311th SC (T) SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS

★ KOREA
1ST SIG BDE
-41st SIG BN
-304th ESB-E
- USACISA-PAC
RCC-K

★ JAPAN
78th SIG BN

★ OKINAWA
78th SIG BN

★ GUAM
78th SIG BN

THE THEATER VOICE

Operating across 16 time zones, the 311th Signal Command (Theater) supports freedom of action in cyberspace for the U.S. and its allies by planning, installing, operating, maintaining, securing and defending Army, joint and coalition networks across the Indo-Pacific theater



★ **ALASKA**
59th SIG BN
307th ESB-E

★ **CALIFORNIA**
311th SC(T) HHD

★ **HAWAII**
311th SC(T) HHC
516th SIG BDE
-307TH ESB-E
-30th SIG BN
RCC-P

★ **KWAJALEIN**
30th SIG BN

2 EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALIONS (ENHANCED)

-  304th EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION (ENHANCED)
CAMP HUMPHREYS, ROK
-  307th EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION (ENHANCED)
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HI

4 SIGNAL BATTALIONS

-  41st SIGNAL BATTALION
CAMP HUMPHREYS, ROK
-  30th SIGNAL BATTALION
WHEELER AAF, HI
-  59th SIGNAL BATTALION
FORT RICHARDSON, AK
-  78th SIGNAL BATTALION
CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN

2 THEATER SIGNAL BRIGADES

-  1ST THEATER SIGNAL BRIGADE
CAMP HUMPHREYS,
-  516TH THEATER SIGNAL BRIGADE
FORT SHAFTER, HI

2 REGIONAL CYBER CENTERS

-  REGIONAL CYBER CENTER-KOREA
CAMP HUMPHREYS, ROK
-  REGIONAL CYBER CENTER-PACIFIC
FORT SHAFTER, HI

PEO



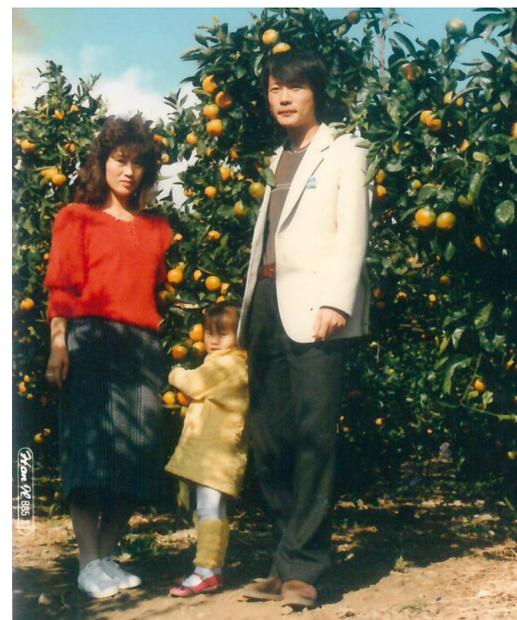
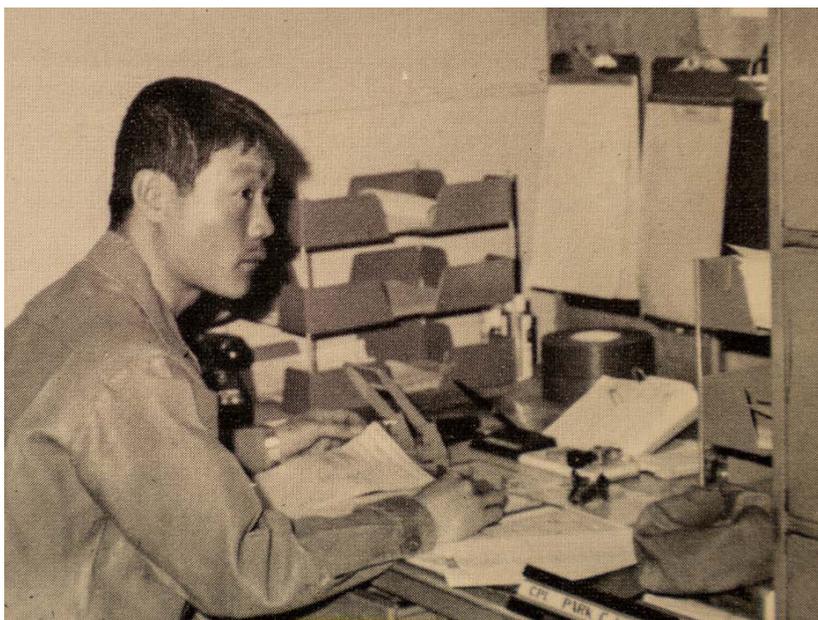
PEOPLE FIRST



CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN NATIONAL GIVES 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. NOAH SLADEK, 1ST TSB PAO



The average person experiences 12 different jobs in their life and a medium tenure of 6.8 years; this was far from Chang Park's experience. He would spend over 45 years serving as a supply technician.

Back in 1955, in the coastal city of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, Park began a long prosperous life. He joined the ROK Army and was selected as a Korean Augmentee to the United States Army in 1976.

KATUSAs hold a unique role working directly with U.S. forces stationed in the country building strong relationships with the people he worked with.

Park was assigned to the 1st Signal Brigade, 257th Signal Company as a supply technician a role he would perform for the next 45 years.

"I worked with a lot of the American Soldiers and had the opportunity to travel with them and learn their culture. We played a lot of volleyball — had the chance to make a lot of friends while I was serving."

- Chang Park

... A combination of positive experiences and strong relationships made it easy for Park to stay. The brigade commander at the time appreciated Park's hard work and asked him to continue working as a Korean National civilian employee as his military service end date approached.



“The people I worked with became a family to me,” Park said, reminiscing about his past. “So when I had the choice to stay with the 1st Signal Brigade as a civilian worker, I chose to stay.”

Park retired as a KATUSA in December of 1978 and immediately started working as a civilian. He married his wife Kim that same year, had a family and moved to Pyeongtaek, the city near Camp Humphreys.

Park and Kim have been together for more than 44 years and have two children together.

He has spent 45 years working for the 1st Sig. Bde., becoming the longest serving civilian employee in the brigade. Park has seen many things change after working there for so long; he said technology, infrastructure and people come and go.

“The buildings looked a lot different back then, we never had

two-story buildings, and we had to use typewriters instead of the computers,” said Park, who even recalls the brigade having security dogs patrolling. “Life was a lot different then.”

“When we’re looking for new ideas, he’s the one who brings that extra component to the table,” said Master Sgt. Christopher Lockett, 1st Theater Signal Brigade S-4 sergeant major. “Because of his knowledge and experience being here for so long. He brings a lot of value, brings that extra insight to the team.”

“I get a lot of satisfaction from working here, I have been able to learn about my job throughout the years,” Park said. “There was no reason to leave after forming such good relationships, and having a job that I love.”

Scheduled to retire in February of 2024, Park plans to spend much of his time traveling and climbing

with his wife. He says he is grateful to have been with the brigade for so long.

The 311th Signal Command (Theater) has thousands of Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians like Park, who have highly technical, specialized and professional skills and are proudly serving the nation across 16 different time zones around the globe. 🇺🇸

Above: Chang Park, a Korean National civilian at the 1st Theater Signal Brigade, poses for a portrait at Camp Humphreys in the Republic of South Korea.

Opposite Page Left: Chang Park served as a Korean Augmented supply technician for the 1st Theater Signal Brigade from 1976-1978 and continued his service as a Korean National civilian at the brigade for a total of 45 years at Camp Humphreys in the Republic of South Korea.

Opposite Page Right: Chang, Kim and their daughter pose for a photo at an orange grove in the Republic of Korea.

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

PACIFIC TEAM SIGNAL LEADS JUNIOR ENLISTED PROMOTION BOARD

THE PREMIER SIGNAL COMMAND CONTINUES
TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUNIOR SOLDIERS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARLOS D. RODRIGUEZ ORTIZ, 311TH SC (T) PAO

Soldiers of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) Headquarters and Headquarters Company participated in a junior enlisted promotion board, presided by Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart, 311th SC (T) command sergeant major, here, Oct. 25, 2022.

Soldiers who appeared before the board demonstrated self-confidence and learned that it is very challenging to control the nerves.

“I was nervous but confident at the same time. I studied for this moment and I want to become a noncommissioned officer,” said proudly Spc. Desiree





Meadows, 311th SC (T) HHC ordnance clerk for whom this was the first junior enlisted promotion board.

The promotion board consists of at least three voting members and the recorder as a non-voting member. The president of the board is the senior member. If the board consists of noncommissioned officers, then the president of the board is usually a command sergeant major.

1st Sgt. Ian Northrup, 311th SC (T) Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant, a member of the board, empathized the importance to bring career progression opportunities to junior enlisted Soldiers.

“It is crucial to provide career opportunities to junior soldiers,” said Northrup. “They are the future of this great organization as a whole and this is one of the ways to put people first, providing career progression opportunities.”

Having a great noncommissioned officer as a sponsor is a fundamental part for the Soldiers during the challenging process.

“As noncommissioned officers we should always aspire to lead and develop junior soldiers,” said Sgt.

Krystal Hernandez, a human resources specialist of the 311th SC (T) G1.

“We studied and conducted multiple mock interviews,” Hernandez said, “because it my responsibility to ensure a path of success for this event.”

Becoming a noncommissioned officer is a great responsibility but also a career goal for many Soldiers.

Events such as this promotion board demonstrate how the only Army signal command in the Indo-Pacific offers multiple opportunities for career progression with an inclusive environment, where everyone has an equal opportunity to excel.

“I felt nervous but I prepared for a moment like this one,” said Spc. Adam Ross Faldas. “My goal is to become a noncommissioned officer and help Soldiers to achieve like Sgt. Hernandez did with me during this board.” 

Above: U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Ian Northrup, 311th SC (T) Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant sits as a member of a promotion board at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Opposite Page: U.S. Army Spc. Desiree Meadows, 311th SC (T) HHC Ordnance Clerk listens to a board member during a promotion board at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

TURKEY BOWL BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

STORY BY STAFF SGT. NOAH SLADEK, 1ST TSB PAO



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY SGT. ALEX ESTRADA

Above: 1st Theater Signal Brigade, Brigade Commander Col. Christopher McClure, hands out the trophies at the Turkey Bowl football game on November 23, 2022, at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea. Headquarters Company took home the championship trophy that day.

Soldiers of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade held their annual Turkey Bowl to kick off Thanksgiving activities at Balboni Field, Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, Nov. 23, 2022. The prize, a championship trophy and bragging rights for the rest of the year.

Representatives of 41st Signal Battalion, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, and the 1st TSB Headquarters and Headquarters Company, squared off in the morning, with all Soldiers from each battalion cheering on. Each year, teams gather their best

players, and practice during their free time in the weeks leading up to the game. The atmosphere was tense as the teams got ready to play. The crowd was in a joyous mood as they were able to wear sports attire instead of their usual duty uniform and were looking forward to being released for their upcoming four-day weekend right after the game.

With the first game underway, the 304th ESB-E was able to defeat their challenger, the 41st Sig. Bn., and moved on to the next bracket where they went up against the HHC. Both teams were neck

and neck, but the 304th Sig. Bn. managed to increase their lead by two touchdowns in the start of the last quarter. Nevertheless, HHC pulled themselves together to win during the last minutes of the game, gaining the coveted trophy, and the right to talk some friendly “smack” till the next Turkey Bowl.

Pfc. Robert Morris, wide receiver for the HHC team, scored multiple touchdowns and was super excited about the outcome of the event.

“The game against the 304th was the hardest competition and they had the most talent, they matched well going up against us, but we were able to pull through in the end.”

- Pfc. Robert Morris

Morris said the element of teamwork was his favorite part of the competition, working alongside his friends and co-workers.

“It was fun to see a side of them that didn’t involve work or the



Above: Players begin to play at the Turkey Bowl football game on November 23, 2022, at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea. The Turkey Bowl is an annual football game held before Thanksgiving to help bring the brigade together.

uniform we wear every day," Morris said. "The competitive nature of the whole thing felt like home."

1st TSB Brigade Commander, Col. Christopher McClure, handed out the trophies as crowd gathered in to spectate the closing ceremony.

Events like the Turkey Bowl bring Soldiers together, and spur esprit de corps between the units. Most Soldiers here, are unaccompanied by their families during the holidays.

Staff Sgt. Bryan Quijano, captain of the HHC team, said the game is one of the best times for this brigade to truly come together.

"With a brigade of this size, the Turkey Bowl gives us a chance to get everyone together to compete or cheer for their unit," said Quijano. "To compete with these young boys out here, and getting a chance to coach and continue to mentor outside of an office setting feels really good."



Shortly after the closing ceremony, Soldiers were released to enjoy Thanksgiving and their extended weekend.

"Getting together like this is important because it shows that we are a team and a family outside of the uniform, and that builds trust within the formation," said Morris. "My favorite part is seeing everyone together, trying to build a home away from home." 

Above: Headquarters and Headquarters Company came out victorious at the Turkey Bowl football tournament on November 23, 2022, at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea. Each battalion in the brigade formed a team to compete in the football game.

Top Right: Command Sgt. Maj. Jay High, former 1st Theater Signal Brigade command sergeant major, prepares to throw a pass at the Turkey Bowl football game on November 23, 2022, at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea. The Turkey Bowl is an annual football game held before Thanksgiving to help bring the brigade together.

QUANG BINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY REPATRIATES MISSING SERVICE MEMBERS

SEARCH OF FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS IN VIETNAM CONTINUES

STORY BY SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA, 311TH SC (T) PAO



More than 1500 American service members are still unaccounted for from the war in Vietnam, according to data gathered by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. The agency aims to bring closure to the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the conflict by locating and identifying their remains.

This year a team of U.S. military personnel and civilians embarked on a mission to locate the remains

of a missing U.S. Marine Corps pilot, last seen before flying a combat mission during the height of the Vietnam War.

Both experts and volunteer laborers from various branches of the Armed Forces arrived in a small farming village outside of the city of Dong Hoi. There, they would begin to identify potential excavation sites narrowed down by examination of archival records and historical data.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lucy Sanh Lam, a Telecommunications Operations Chief with the 311th

Signal Command (Theater), jumped at the opportunity to take on the volunteer mission. She would not only be able to step away from her office duties yet also take part in something greater than herself.

“Being Vietnamese, this was an opportunity to get in touch with my roots and a challenging change of pace,” Lam said. “I wanted to go outside of doing the normal day-to-day tasks in the Army, while still serving my country.”

For Lam, the role was not simply to try and locate the remains of her missing comrades but also to honor the sacrifice of those who gave their life during the war.

The U.S. has a deep and complex history with Vietnam and still, the country actively assists in the search for missing service members year after year. The effort to locate and repatriate their remains continues to be of the highest importance to both countries.

Once the sites were identified the team painstakingly excavates the locations. The team adheres to strict protocols to ensure the proper handling and recovery of any remains found. Later, they transport what they are able to locate to a laboratory in the U.S., where they diligently work to



identify and match the remains with missing service members through DNA analysis.

During her time in the country, Lam and her team were able to

locate a dog tag, credit card, piece of flight suit zipper and a possible human molar.

The joint effort reflects a spirit of reconciliation between the

two countries, who have steadily strengthened ties over the years since the war's end in 1975. Since 2015 the DPAA has identified over 1000 service members' remains returned from more than 45 countries. 



Above: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lucy Lam, Telecommunications Operations Chief with the 311th Signal Command (Theater) participates in a repatriation ceremony in Da Nang, Vietnam, June 27, 2023.

Left: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lucy Lam, assigned to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency rolls up a hose during a recovery mission in Da Nang, Vietnam, May 15, 2023.

Opposite Page: U.S. Civilians and Military personnel work along side Vietnamese nationals to excavate and search for the remains of missing service members in Da Nang, Vietnam, June 13, 2023.

FIFTEEN SOLDIERS SERVE COMBINED 300 YEARS OF SERVICE

STORY BY CAPT. KEVIN KIRK, 311TH SC (T) PAO



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA

Left: Fifteen Soldiers pose for a photo in front of an audience during a retirement ceremony at Historic Palm Circle in Fort Shafter, Hawaii, June 9, 2023. Their combined service amounts to more than 300 years of sacrifice to their nation.

Celebrating more than 300 years of combined service to the Nation, the 311th Signal Command (Theater) hosted a retirement ceremony for Hawaii Soldiers at historic Palm Circle, here, June 9, 2023.

"You have been charged with defending the nation and have fulfilled your mission with honor," said Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 311th SC (T) commander and ceremony officiator. "These Soldiers' careers are hallmarked by their decades of dedicated service not only to the Army community but, more importantly, to those Soldiers to their left and right. The

men and women they served with, whom they led to war, and back home again – that's why we serve, so don't hold your emotions back."

The ceremony honored 15 Soldiers from multiple units across Oahu, including U.S. Army Pacific Command, 25th Infantry Division, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, Tripler Army Medical Center, Special Operations Recruiting Battalion and the 311th's own Staff Sgt. Jonathan Jones.

Jones served with the 311th for nearly five years, first as a Future Operations NCO with the 516th Signal Brigade and later as a Maintenance Team Chief in the 311th's G-4 section.

During his military career, he held various assignments at many levels including Installation NCOIC for Camp Madison, South Korea, and a stint as a recruiter. In 2010 he deployed with the 50th Signal Battalion out of Ft. Bragg in support of Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

"I was only planning on staying in for four years but here I am 20 years later," Jones said. "I will miss Soldiering, working with enlisted Soldiers, teaching them, and just sharing the knowledge I've acquired." Other retirees also shared what they will miss about their time in the Army and reminisced on the adventures and roads their service took them on.

A few Soldiers also shared bitter moments of distance, years lost and time spent away from family. "I may not have been the best father for you growing up," said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Ramirez with Special Operations Recruiting Hawaii, speaking to his daughter with a newborn on the way. "Still, I



promise you I will try to make that time up and promise to be a hell of a grandfather.”

During his remarks, Meisler also recognized that the Army is celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the all-volunteer armed forces. After ending a divisive and painful

era of the Vietnam war, the Nation moved from a mandatory draft to the all-volunteer force in place today. Meisler also pointed out that “an entire generation of volunteer Soldiers has now passed through the ranks – from privates to command sergeants major; from

lieutenants to four-star generals; from warrant officers to chief warrant officer fives.”

“May God bless you in the years ahead. Always remember, you are a Soldier for life – a part of something bigger than ourselves,” Meisler said. “As you step off to your next great adventure, we wish each of you and your families good luck, Godspeed, and as we say here in Hawaii, Malama Pono a Hui Hou! - take care until we meet again.”



Above: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan Jones is saluted by Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler as he holds a flag to his chest during a combined retirement ceremony at Historic Palm Circle in Fort Shafter, Hawaii, June 9, 2023. Jones served the Army for 20 years dedicating his life to his career in Logistics.

Left: 311th Signal Command (Theater) Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler gives a speech during a Celebration of Service ceremony at Historic Palm Circle, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, June 9, 2023.

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF MINISTRY

UNIT MINISTRY TEAM PROVIDES JOY
THROUGH SERVICES

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. NOAH SLADEK, 1ST TSB PAO



Left: The 1st Theater Signal Brigade Unit Ministry Team hosted “Jog for the City” for the unit’s Soldiers to pick up trash around Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea, Sept. 14, 2022. City officials also helped coordinate and joined the Soldiers’ cleanup efforts.

Soldiers of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade’s Unit Ministry Team provided military service members a variety of trips and tours around the Republic of Korea during the past year.

The Unit Ministry Team plays a critical role in every military organization. It is the beacon for Soldiers looking for spiritual and religious support, and performs a unique role as counselors and advisors for both Soldiers and Civilians. Maj. John Lee, 1st TSB Chaplain,

and Staff Sgt. Alonzo Johnson, Religious Affairs non-commissioned officer, led UMT efforts to create an environment that fosters peace and a welcoming culture to all individuals assigned to the mercury brigade.

“I wanted to give Soldiers as many opportunities as possible,” said Lee. “When you see a new country and different culture it really opens your eyes and expands your worldview. By exploring new places, we see that people are different yet in their own way

beautiful, and we learn to respect that.”

The Republic of Korea is often a first duty station for young Soldiers who are also familiarizing with military life. By providing opportunities to travel, the UMT seeks to help those new to the peninsula better familiarize with serving in a partner nation. In addition to cultural tours and traveling to unique destinations, the UMT also hosts frequent discussions on resilience, spirituality and other hot topics.



Above: The 1st Theater Signal Brigade Unit Ministry Team leads Soldiers on a trip to Naejangsan National Park, Republic of Korea, Nov. 10, 2022.

“It helps me gain a sense of security knowing the Soldiers in the unit are being well taken care of. I know these trips mean a lot to them, whether it's being able to get away from the office for a day or building camaraderie between each other — I know it is a good thing for them to take these trips.”

- Staff Sgt. Alonzo J. Johnson

Together, Lee and Johnson hosted 12 trips throughout fiscal year 2022, allowing Soldiers to tour popular tourist sites including the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea and the famous Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul.

The UMT also hosts quarterly “Warrior Quests” which include activities such as river rafting in the summer and skiing in the winter.

“My belief is if you spend your day well, you are preparing for a better tomorrow,” said Lee. “If we

can have a day off with peace, joy and fulfillment with our trips and programs, we are helping Soldiers with their tomorrow.”

The UMT also provides volunteer opportunities in the community, such as “Jog for the City,” in which Soldiers pick up rubbish along roadways around Camp Humphreys, and “The Orphanage Ruck” to collect donations from mercury team mates and share gifts and supplies with the local orphanage.

These UMT events build morale among Soldiers, Civilians and their families to sustain individual and collective readiness of the units within the 1st TSB and the 311th Signal Command (Theater), the forward-deployable signal command designated to provide strategic and tactical support to all U.S. military services across the Indo-Pacific region. 🇺🇸

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

FACES OF CYBER WARFARE

A YEAR IN THE PACIFIC'S STRATEGIC MISSION

STORY BY STAFF SGT. KRISTIE CRIST, RCC-P G2



U.S. ARMY PHOTO COURTESY OF THE REGIONAL CYBER CENTER-PACIFIC

Above: U.S. Army Soldiers and Civilians of the Regional Cyber Center-Pacific participate in Unit PT, Aug. 26, 2022. Training consisted of a few friendly basketball matches where everyone had the opportunity to showcase their varying degrees of hoop skills...some varied more than others!

Soldiers and Civilians of the Regional Cyber Center – Pacific conduct Department of Defense Information Network Operations and Defensive Cyberspace Operations for secure network users to ensure freedom of action in cyberspace across the Pacific.

The RCC-P is an organization composed of specialized teams focused on DoDIN Ops, DCO, Intelligence, Compliance, Cyber Security, and Risk Management.

Director Lt. Col. Tabber Mintz and Senior Enlisted Advisor Sgt. Maj. Kevin Cadungug, lead the RCC-P and it's five divisions:

Theater Operations, Networks, Systems, Defensive Cyber Operations and Sustainment.

The RCC-P's Sustainment Branch led by Mr. Raymond Koshi, facilitates outward mission execution through administrative resourcing, logistical planning and execution, cyber security and policy implementation. Within Sustainment lies the Cyber security Branch, which is responsible for vulnerability management, compliance and the Risk Management Framework.

“Joel Fernandez has spearheaded Compliance efforts for the DoDIN-A throughout the theater by creating Power BI

dashboards, used by NECs and IMOs from Alaska to Japan, that streamlined identification of non-compliant systems and expedited remediation actions,” said Koshi of the significant contributions to the branch. “Joel also worked directly with NETCOM's Tychon engineers to replace archaic quarantine methods with automated solutions which reduce manpower, while increasing efficiency.”

The Networks Branch, led by Maj. Michael McConkey operates and maintains the Top-Level Architecture for the Army's portion of the DoDIN in the USINDOPACOM's Area of Responsibility.

“Bastian Schoonover is an incredibly talented Network Engineer that made a huge impact on the RCC-P Networks Branch and the overall network architecture in FY23. Bastian was the lead engineer and implementor for RCC-P's MPLS network,” said McConkey. “His efforts led to a more resilient and stable Army NIPR network in the Pacific Theater.”

The Systems Branch, led by Maj. Suhan Kim of the RCC-P conducts DoDIN Operations functions for day-to-day operation and management of NIPR and SIPR networks. They do this by conducting systems configuration and security management, boundary security enforcement,



compliance and a number of different enterprise services.

“As our Systems Branch NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Morse has been instrumental in providing exceptional enterprise services across the Pacific theater during FY23,” said Kim. “He served as a focal point for Systems by coordinating, deconflicting, orchestrating and synchronizing with external customers, providing technicians time and space to dedicate their effort solely on O&M of the enterprise systems and applications.”

“His unwavering dedication to mission success has resulted in achieving over 98% compliance on various mission and named-operations, including Operation Oriel Decimal and Operation Caught Wicked.”

The Theater Operations Division, led by Maj. Mike Martinez provides operational mission tracking, future operations planning, network and enterprise service monitoring and unity of effort to defend the DoDIN-A. Theater Operations consists of three subsections, the Action Request Center, Plans and Exercises and the Intelligence Support Element.

The ARC conducts 24 hour operations, authorized service interruption scheduling, information technology service management, and DoDIN-A website unblock requests. PLEX is responsible for future planning, mission analysis and orders publication and distribution. The ISE is responsible for providing direct intelligence support to

on-going network defense and driving operations.

“Staff Sgt. Kirstie Crist has been a critical asset the past two years or year in the Theater Operations Division of the RCC-P,” Martinez said.

“She stood up the Intelligence Support Element within the RCC-P in order to provide intelligence support to the DODIN-A in the Pacific Theater. Crist provided real threat based guidance and analysis in order to enable leaders to make educated decisions and drive operations within the organization.”

Above: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Denison, speaks to Soldiers and Civilians of the Regional Cyber Center-Pacific during a Change of Responsibility at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, Feb. 24, 2023.

REA

ADINESS



Readiness

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

PACIFIC SIGNAL REGIMENTAL WEEK HONES SKILLS, SETS THE THEATER

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS RON KEENAN, 311TH SC (T), HHD

“The name of the game is operational flexibility — through this conversion, we have smaller, lighter and faster equipment, which rapidly decreases our deployment timeline in supporting missions throughout the Pacific.”

—Lt. Col. Andrew Chaffee

Signaleers from across the Indo-Pacific converged in Hawaii for Pacific Signal Regiment Week, Feb. 13-16, 2023.

“This week is for signaleers to get together to learn and understand what is happening in the signal community,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 311th SC (T) Commanding General. “This is your week to learn more about your craft.”

An annual event which brings together hundreds of signal Soldiers, leaders and civilians to train together, exchange ideas and increase interoperability to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

“We’re pursuing forward deployed and deterrence in depth, we’re doing that to defend our homeland and protect our values and the rights of others within the

Pacific,” said Meisler. “When we protect democracies, everything advances.”

The 311th SC (T) is responsible for enabling mission command and continuous access to the cyber domain while competing for a

free and open Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific theater spans from Alaska to India.

With recent events developing throughout the Indo-Pacific region, the theater remains a strategic area for the U.S.

“The four most populous nations and three of the world’s largest democracies are in the Indo-Pacific,” said Meisler. “This is a viable, strategic area that means a lot to the United States of America.”

During signal week, signal leaders showcased their unit’s capabilities in multiple forums. The forums provide an opportunity to showcase ways the 311th SC (T) is improving tactical operations in an effort to compete against emerging threats.

In addition, leaders held candid discussions to better understand emerging issues in the signal world that are important to junior Soldiers.

“We’re having conversations this week to discuss the problems of today and the problems of tomorrow and how, collectively, our team of teams is getting after solving those problems,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart, 311th Signal Command (Theater) senior enlisted leader. “If we’re going to solve problems it’s going to be us having conversations with one another, sharing best practices, learning from one another and building those relationships.”

Relationship building was another priority during the week.

Infantry Division, G6. “I hardly know anyone on the boat, but it was fun working with and competing against signal Soldiers from other units.”

On the final day of signal week, Soldiers flexed their unit pride and shouted cadence as they participated in a formation run. The Pacific Signal Regimental Run is a time honored tradition led by the commanding general of the 311th SC (T).

“I appreciate the effort that everyone has put out,” said Prevatt. “It was a great run, and we were motivated throughout.”

As Pacific Signal Regiment Week came to a close and Soldiers returned to their home stations, they brought with them new ideas, tactics and a heightened sense of comradery. These new tools enhance their effectiveness

At the forefront of Army Pacific signal operations are the 304th and 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, a rapidly deployable unit which recently was outfitted and validated on a host of new tactical signal equipment designed to increase deployment speed and functionality.

Beginning with a 5k fun run, to outrigger canoe paddling and culminating with a formal ball, Soldiers from more than 10 units participated in activities designed to bring them together and build comradery.

“It was a really unique event, this is a lot more about team building,” said Pvt. 1st Class Christopher Prevatt, a signaleer with the 25th

as signaleers, as they compete against emerging threats throughout the Indo-Pacific and beyond. 

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 311th SC (T) Commanding General leads signal leaders and Soldiers from across the Indo-Pacific in a formation run throughout Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on the final day of Pacific Signal Regimental Week 2023.



WHEELER AIR FIELD, HAWAII

FIRST IN THE PACIFIC 30TH SIG. BN. TAKES 1ST PLACE DURING NOBLE SKYWAVE 2022

NOBEL SKYWAVE BRINGS TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR
A COMPETITION TO BE CROWNED BEST HF OPERATOR IN THE WORLD

STORY BY 1ST LT. DANIELLA CAUGHLIN, 30TH SIG. BN. USANEC

What Is Noble Skywave?

Noble Skywave is an annual High Frequency Radio Competition hosted by the 21st Electronic Warfare Regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces. It began in 2013 and since then has brought hundreds of teams from dozens of nations together to test, strengthen expertise and compete in a friendly atmosphere every year. Noble Skywave has been dubbed the most Prestigious military-led HF competition in the world.

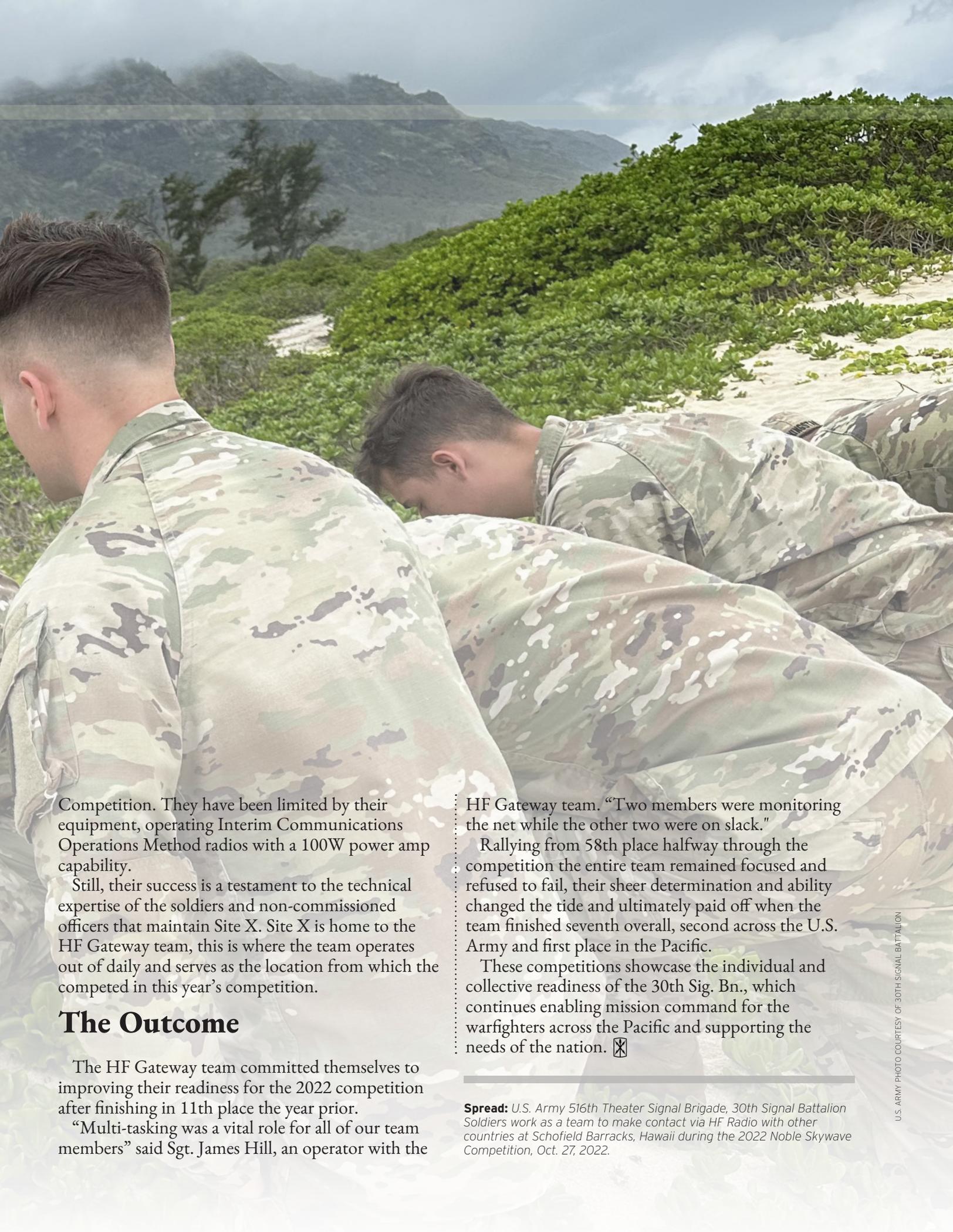
During the annual event from October 25 to 27, 2022, the participating teams were made up of

Amateur Radio Operators, Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio System, Military Auxiliary Radio System and Military Radio Operator teams around the globe.

The competition portion of Noble Skywave is broken down into four phases or challenges: establishing the net, free play challenge, team contact challenge and back to the future challenge.

Past Competitions

The 30th Signal Battalion HF Gateway team has traditionally placed within the top 50 teams out of nearly 300 participants in the global Noble Skywave



Competition. They have been limited by their equipment, operating Interim Communications Operations Method radios with a 100W power amp capability.

Still, their success is a testament to the technical expertise of the soldiers and non-commissioned officers that maintain Site X. Site X is home to the HF Gateway team, this is where the team operates out of daily and serves as the location from which the competed in this year's competition.

The Outcome

The HF Gateway team committed themselves to improving their readiness for the 2022 competition after finishing in 11th place the year prior.

“Multi-tasking was a vital role for all of our team members” said Sgt. James Hill, an operator with the

HF Gateway team. “Two members were monitoring the net while the other two were on slack.”

Rallying from 58th place halfway through the competition the entire team remained focused and refused to fail, their sheer determination and ability changed the tide and ultimately paid off when the team finished seventh overall, second across the U.S. Army and first place in the Pacific.

These competitions showcase the individual and collective readiness of the 30th Sig. Bn., which continues enabling mission command for the warfighters across the Pacific and supporting the needs of the nation. ☒

Spread: U.S. Army 516th Theater Signal Brigade, 30th Signal Battalion Soldiers work as a team to make contact via HF Radio with other countries at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii during the 2022 Noble Skywave Competition, Oct. 27, 2022.

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

WARRIORS FORGE UNBREAKABLE BONDS

STORY BY CARLOS D. RODRIGUEZ ORTIZ, 311TH SC (T) PAO

MORE THAN 4,000 SOLDIERS ACTIVE AND RESERVE, MAKE UP THE 311TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER). ALL ARE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED WITH BASIC ARMY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS; ONLY A SELECT FEW ARE CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL COMPETITION.

Participating Teams

• 1st Theater Signal Brigade

- Staff Sgt. Robert Smith V
- Sgt. Juan Ortega Rosario
- Pfc. Jose Mijangos
- Pfc. Justin Ung
- Pfc. Curtis Hart

• 78th Signal Battalion:

- Sgt. 1st Class Michael Pineda
- Sgt. Alejandro Ramos
- Spc. Erik Baltazar
- Spc. Riley Hippert
- Spc. Jaylon Lewis

• 307th Signal Battalion:

- Staff Sgt. Lennin Leon
- Sgt. Vhincen Agreda
- Spc. Isaac Lopez
- Pvt. Yael Ocampo
- Pvt. Jonah Rogers

Participating Soldiers

• 311th Signal Command (Theater):

- Sgt. Joshua Tsang

• 311th Signal Command (Theater) Support Unit:

- Sgt. Gerard Garcia
- Spc. Dolores Gamino

• 516th Theater Signal Brigade:

- Pfc. Yairelise Rivera Piñeiro



Soldiers of the 311th SC (T), 516th Theater Signal Brigade and 1st Theater Signal Brigade competed for the Best Squad and Best Warrior of the premier signal command at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, May 21-25, 2023.

“The Soldiers competing in this event are highly proficient warriors and they come from multiple locations to include Alaska, California, Korea and Japan to proudly represent their unit during this challenging event,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart, 311th SC (T) command sergeant major.

During the event, Soldiers spend a week competing in challenges including firing weapons, land navigation, the Army Fitness Combat Test, a mystery event, a Leaders Reaction Course, among others to test their capabilities and combat readiness.



“I felt this competition was a great growing opportunity after just graduating a month ago from Advanced Individual Training,” said Pfc. Curtis Hart of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade. “I’m a very competitive person and like to challenge myself to showcase my capabilities.”

The Best Squad Competition and Best Warrior Competition are used to select the U.S. Army Best Squad of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year. Groups of five soldiers from specialist to sergeant form a “Squad” and compete in a series of collective and individual tasks to earn the title of the 311th SC (T) Best Squad and the opportunity to represent the command at

U.S. Army Pacific Best Squad Competition and compete for the title of Best Squad of the Pacific.

The 516th TSB, 78th Signal Battalion squad from Camp Zama, Japan composed of Sgt. First Class Michael Pineda, Sgt. Alejandro Ramos, Spc. Erik Baltazar, Spc. Riley Hippert and Spc. Jaylon Lewis became the 311th SC (T) winning squad.

“I came to this competition not knowing much about my teammates but this experience showed me I can really trust my squad and leaders with anything,” said Spc. Riley Hippert of the 78th Sig. Bn. “I’m proud to represent my unit and to be a member of this incredible squad.”

Sgt. Gerard Garcia was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer of

the Year and Pfc. Yairelise Rivera achieved the Soldier of the Year.

“I heard about this competition two weeks prior to the start of the

Opposite Page: U.S. Army Pfc. Yairelise Rivera (Soldier of the Year) performs first-aid on a trauma manikin at the 311th SC (T) BSBWC at Area X-Ray in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, May 22, 2023.

Top Left: U.S. Army 516th Theater Signal Brigade, 79th Signal Battalion Squad are presented with Hawaiian paddles after being awarded the title of 311th SC (T) Best Squad at AMR Chapel, Hawaii, May 24, 2023.

Top Right: U.S. Army Sgt. Gerard Garcia (Noncommissioned Officer of the Year) plots on a topographic map during the Land Navigation event of the 311th SC (T) BSBWC at the 25th Infantry Division Lightning Academy, Hawaii, May 21, 2023.

Top Center: Participants of the 311th SC (T) Best Squad / Best Warrior Competition pose for a photo at Area X-Ray in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, May 19, 2023.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY PFC. ANDREW QUEVEDO



competition and I was very nervous because I didn't know what to expect," said Pfc. Yairelise Rivera Piñeiro, a paralegal specialist with the 516th TSB. "But besides the challenges this competition ended up being rewarding experience."

From approximately 4,000 Soldiers of the 311th SC (T), Rivera, 19, a recent graduate from Advanced Individual Training has become the second female in the history of the command to win the competition.

“I cannot describe the feeling of winning this competition — This is a huge accomplishment in my young career and I know my family is really proud of this moment.”

- Pfc. Yairelise Rivera

Competitions like this one enable experiences and training that continue to solidify and increase the readiness of Soldiers within the command.

Each winner was recognized with an Army Commendation Medal for their accomplishment and a special Hawaiian paddle trophy.

The 311th SC (T) is a multi-component command with highly proficient Soldiers operating across 16 time zones essential to the total strength of the U.S. Army to support the needs of the nation.



AREA X-RAY

Soldiers competing in the 311th SC (T) Best Squad Best Warrior Competition work together in an escape room scenario that tests their critical thinking and signal skills at Area X-Ray in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, May 23, 2023



Soldiers of the 79th Signal Battalion work together as a squad to cross an obstacle course at Schofield Barracks' Leader Reaction Course during the 311th SC (T) Best Squad Best Warrior Competition in Hawaii, May 20, 2023.



“I came to this competition not knowing much about my teammates but this experience showed me I can really trust my squad teammates and leaders with anything possible.”

- Spc. Riley Hippert

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE BUILDS STRENGTH THROUGH COLLABORATIVE TRAINING

STORY BY SPC. SEAN MCCALLON, 311TH SC (T), HHD

Soldiers of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) Headquarters and Headquarters Company, combined forces with their Headquarters Detachment for a five day Field Training Exercise, here, July 12-16, 2023.

The 311th SC (T) is a multi-component command with both active and reserve Soldiers assigned here and in Tustin, California. In the event of a mobilization or deployment, HHD would mobilize to Hawaii and supplement HHC Soldiers in

more forward locations as needed. Located at a small Army Reserve center, HHD has fewer available training resources than HHC has due to being co-located with the 25th Infantry Division and other major commands on the island of Oahu.

As a solution both command teams planned a collaborative Annual Training event for the Reserve Soldiers, who routinely only train together for 38 days per year. More than six months prior, both teams began their planning, which was critical to ensure success.

Full-time personnel set the stage for the event by scheduling ranges, coordinating food, acquiring various training sites and gathering available gear.

“It’s one thing to do training on your own,” said 1st Sgt. Arturo Guerra, 311th SC (T) HHD first sergeant, “But when you combine training, you learn new avenues of completing tasks in different areas, using the resources that other units have that you may not.”

This exercise provides comprehensive and realistic training to prepare Soldiers for



the job they would perform in time of conflict, far more valuable than a regular home-station AT to meet the two week per year Army Reserve requirement.

Training events included an M4 and M17 weapons qualification, tactical land navigation, a leader reaction course, water survival training, medical simulations training and tear gas chamber, all of which were tailored to prepare Soldiers for real life scenarios.

“A lot of times reserve Soldiers don’t have these unique opportunities,” said 1st Sgt. Ian Northrup, 311th SC (T) HHC, first sergeant, of the impact this collaborative training has on HHD Soldiers and on the command’s overall readiness.

“If we have Soldiers who can’t go forward, we can ask HHD, ‘Hey, look, we’re short a Chaplain’s Assistant,’ which gives an opportunity for Sgt. Garcia to support forward,” said Northrup.

Like all skills, proficiency in Army tasks is perishable, and for some Soldiers, it had been several years since they trained in the events conducted this year. Northrup believes Reserve Soldiers can be just as good as active duty but simply need the repetitions.

The training provided Soldiers with mission-critical skills, taught by experienced peers who they will ultimately be working with. Nearly all the events were taught by subject matter experts within the organization, which is important as the knowledge can now be passed down to incoming Soldiers on a regular basis. This also means that teams going out on missions will have subject matter experts with them, capable of sharing their knowledge during the mission.

After the FTX, reserve Soldiers of both elements spent several days



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY PFC ANDREW QUEMADO

working with their staff section and counterparts at the headquarters. This reinforces the fact that they are better together and part of one team, prepared and equipped to accomplish the same missions.

“Leadership requires presence,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart, 311th SC (T) command sergeant major. “And that presence, compassion, and care was evident among our leaders and Soldiers during both the staff exercise and field training exercise events.”

This engaged presence DeHart spoke of was demonstrated by the way the leaders structured the FTX events. Both elements were merged into squads, forcing them to meet and get to know each other to solve difficult scenarios or accomplish physical tasks. Squads consisted of one officer, two or more sergeants, and two or more junior enlisted Soldiers. After receiving instructions, each member of the squad had an opportunity to learn as well as lead.

For Pvt. Journey Rosa, a utilities equipment repairer who just joined the unit from Advanced Individual Training, this type of field training

is important because it familiarizes Soldiers with the standards to which these events should be conducted; and provides an early introduction to performing her duties alongside her peers in the field.

“Water survival training was my favorite; I never knew you could use your pants as a life vest,” said Rosa. “I learned more about my unit, more survival techniques and more ways to prepare yourself if you ever get activated. I’m looking forward to seeing what drills are like outside of field training.”

Leaders of the 311th SC (T) aim to make these kinds of field training exercises the new normal going forward, using this year’s FTX as a model for success. 🇺🇸

Above: Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart, 311th SC (T) command sergeant major assists Pvt. Journey Rosa with her mask during the unit’s Field Training Exercise at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, July 15, 2023.

Opposite Page: Col. Tonri Brown, 311th SC (T) deputy commander, jumps off a 5 meter platform during Water Survival Training as part of the unit’s Field Training Exercise at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, July 13, 2023.

MODERNIZ



IZATION



Hawkeye III

Modernization

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

HQ G1 TEAM LEVERAGES IPPS-A

STORY BY CAPT. DANIEL FRIED, 311TH SC (T) G1

The Army's Integrated Personnel and Pay System went live earlier this year, ushering in a new era of Army human resource and talent management capabilities, "a remarkable accomplishment for a highly complex business network," said Col. Alan Munro, assistant chief of staff G-1, 311th SC (T).

IPPS-A brings the Army's three components: Active force, Army Reserve and Army National Guard, onto one platform to manage its most important asset - people.

"For multi-component organizations such as the 311th, this is a revolutionary step forward in managing our human capital," Munro said.

IPPS-A's go-live sequence began in November 2022 by placing the

legacy human resource systems in a brownout state. In the following months, the system assimilated the base data to build a record for nearly 1.1 million Soldiers across the Total Force.

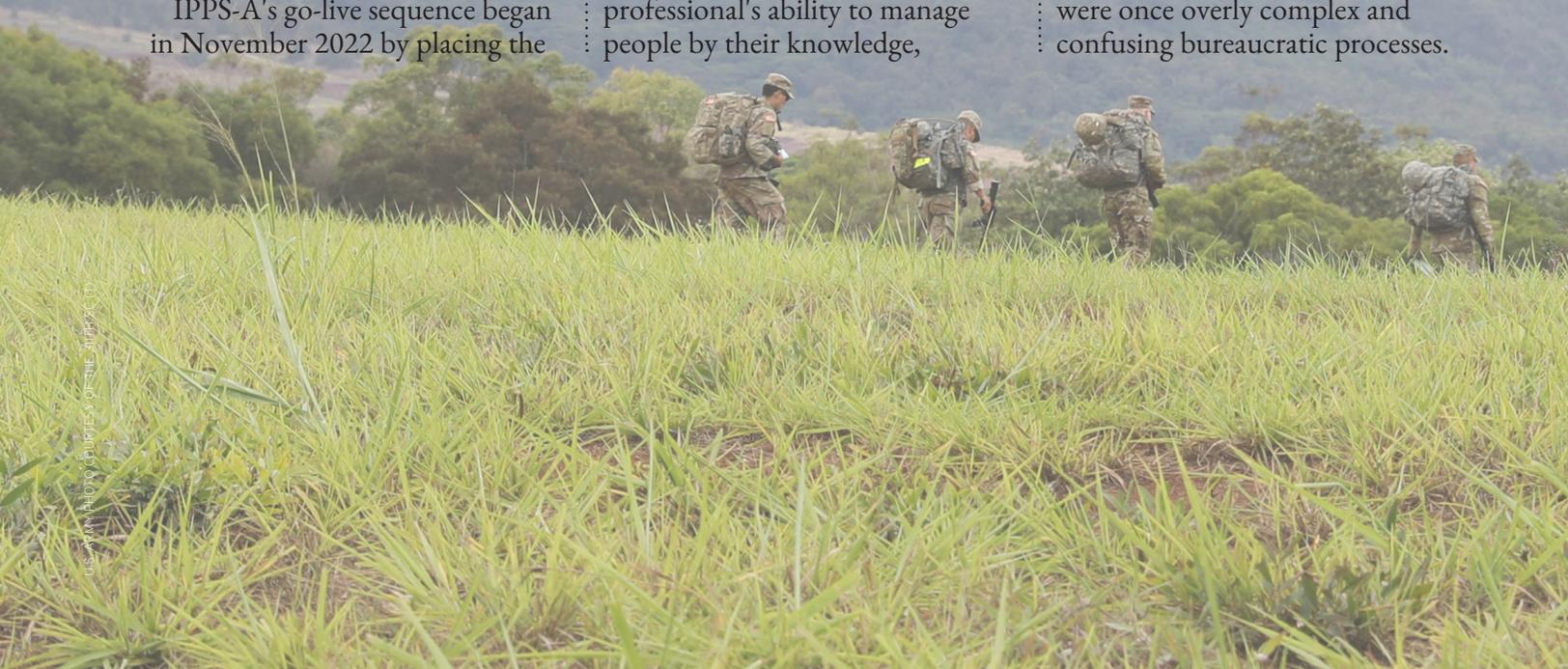
"Getting to this point took work and is the culmination of nearly a decade of planning and years of development," explained Chief Warrant Officer Siliana Joseph, Strength Manager for the 311th SC (T). From the beginning, one of IPPS-A's goals has been to consolidate dozens of separate, often highly-isolated IT systems and paper-based processes into one electronic system; to that end, it has achieved its goal.

As it matures, IPPS-A will enhance the Army HR professional's ability to manage people by their knowledge,

skills, behavior, and preferences facilitating proper talent management; getting the right people in the right place at the right time.

"In addition to allowing leaders better insight into personnel data to inform crucial decision-making, the system provides more power to Soldiers," said Mr. Boobie Simeona, 311th SC (T) HR Specialist.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart, 311th SC (T) command sergeant major, believes that IPPS-A is a tool to drive desired behavior. Having all personnel functions in a single system with self-service capabilities allows Soldiers to see transactions that affect their careers, granting unparalleled transparency to what were once overly complex and confusing bureaucratic processes.



“For the 311th G-1, IPPS-A is a starting point to envision the commands' HR professionals not as reactive administrators but as proactive human capital managers and experts, who are better able to anticipate command decisions.”

- Col. Alan Munro

“The system still needs improvement, there are still some technical and cultural growing pains, but HR professionals worked tirelessly to ensure that all the data made a clean transition,” Joseph said. System updates and corrections are ongoing.

“It’s a work in progress, but it’s working,” Simeona said.

When 311th Signal Command HR professionals we were getting ready for the brownout, in synchronization with HQDA G-1, priorities of work were established based on the transactions they knew would have to be done first, such as promotions, awards,

absences, as well as the arrivals and departures of Soldiers.

Currently, HR professionals are busy learning new processes and working out gaps related to data quality and system performance. According to Munro, IPPS-A has raised some longer-term questions about the role of HR professionals in the 311th and Army more broadly.

Previously, under the legacy systems, HR professionals spent a significant amount of time manually transferring data from one system to another, navigating a labyrinth of PDF and Microsoft excel based processes and tracking

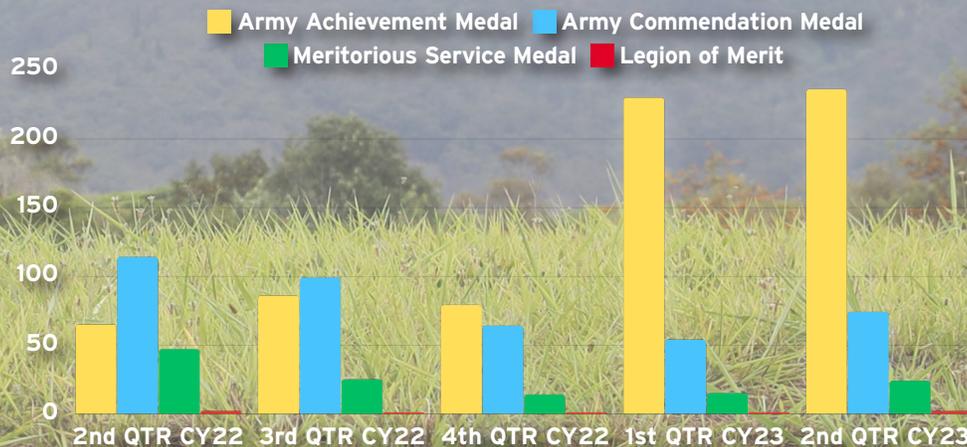
metrics. As IPPS-A matures, many of those tasks will be phased out.

Workforce implications are still developing, bringing an orientation away from metric tracking and rudimentary administrative actions toward true HR and human capital management.

“Ultimately, IPPS-A empowers proactive decisions related to personnel,” Munro said. “This is where the 311th G-1 sees itself in the coming years.”

Below: A graph depicts the amount of awards generated quarterly by the 311th SC (T); showing a big increase in awards generated after the implementation of IPPS-A.

311th SC (T) Awards by Quarter



FORD ISLAND, HAWAII

DRAGONS SURF THE TROPOSPHERE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA, 311TH SC (T) PAO

Every day, Americans rely on satellites to use GPS, the Internet and cell phones. Imagine returning to a time when that wasn't possible, when you had to pull over and find where you were on a physical map or meet in person to conduct business. How would you make a call without a cell phone; most pay phones in strip malls and gas stations are gone, and fewer than 40% of households still have a landline.

People seldom think about this in a place like the United States and for good reason; these systems have improved immensely in the last two decades and are now much more reliable.

Still, the impact of this proposed thought brings to light many significant impacts for the U.S. Army and military community. Many lives could be at stake if satellites fail.

The U.S. Army has been putting satellites into orbit since the 1960s and has continued improving on them since. Army signaleers specialize in utilizing these satellites to allow commanders to communicate, providing a secure line that enables command and control of the battlespace.

Still, what if a foreign nation targeted these

satellites during a conflict? This possibility has only become real as developing nations invest in weapons capable of taking out satellites.

In the last twenty years, both India and China have successfully destroyed one of their own satellites in orbit; neither act was a direct threat to the U.S., but this begs to question how the country would operate if this possibility became a reality.

The 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced out of





Helemano Military Reservation, Hawaii, was one of the units tasked with training and experimenting with equipment that would likely mitigate this danger.

“These are Next Generation Tropospheric scatter systems,” said James Montano, project manager for Raytheon. “They require no satellite and utilize the troposphere to send messages from point A to B with no latency.”

This method of communication was developed in the 1950s and was widely used during the second world war. TROPO scattering utilizes particles within the troposphere to bounce information.

These systems provide a secure method of communication because it utilizes only a narrow bandwidth, whereas traditional microwave radio signals use a wider range of frequencies. Because the military community has been highly focused on SATCOM for many years, the utilization of TROPO scattering has atrophied.

The Army’s PEO C3T team coordinated for multiple companies including Raytheon and

Comtech to present products for testing as the Army explores which equipment will best fit their needs.

“These systems are important to the Army because of our current threat level,” said Maj. Raquel Jimenez, a test officer with the TROPO Scatter Program for the Operational Test Command out of Ft. Hood, Texas.

Jimenez plans and coordinates with units to create an operationally realistic environment for testing products. Much like how she coordinated for Soldiers of the 307th to test TROPO scatter systems.

“We need to be able to provide a communication solution for the warfighter during a satellite-denied environment,” Jimenez said. Each system tested provides a different variation of capabilities, whereas legacy systems only provided a one-size-fits-all solution.

Jimenez said it is the Soldiers’ job to push the products to the limit. Cpl. Matthew Whillhite with the 307th is one of those Soldiers.

“These systems would help the Army keep our communications going at a steady rate in case a

satellite drops out so that we never lose communications over a long distance,” Willhite said.

Willhite believes these systems would be an excellent addition to signal units’ primary, alternate, contingency and emergency plan if they cannot get SATCOM up and running during an emergency.

Like the desired endstate of the TROPO system itself, the Army’s response to a satellite-denied environment will not be solved by a one-size-fits-all solution. Other means such as High Frequency enabled the Army to communicate before satellites existed, and will continue to do so in the future.

The PEO C3T team continues running these systems through tests to decide which equipment will replace the Army’s current TROPO system. 

Above: U.S. Army Soldiers with the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced race to build and employ TROPO scatter systems during a test exercise at Ford Island, Hawaii, Jan 27, 2023.

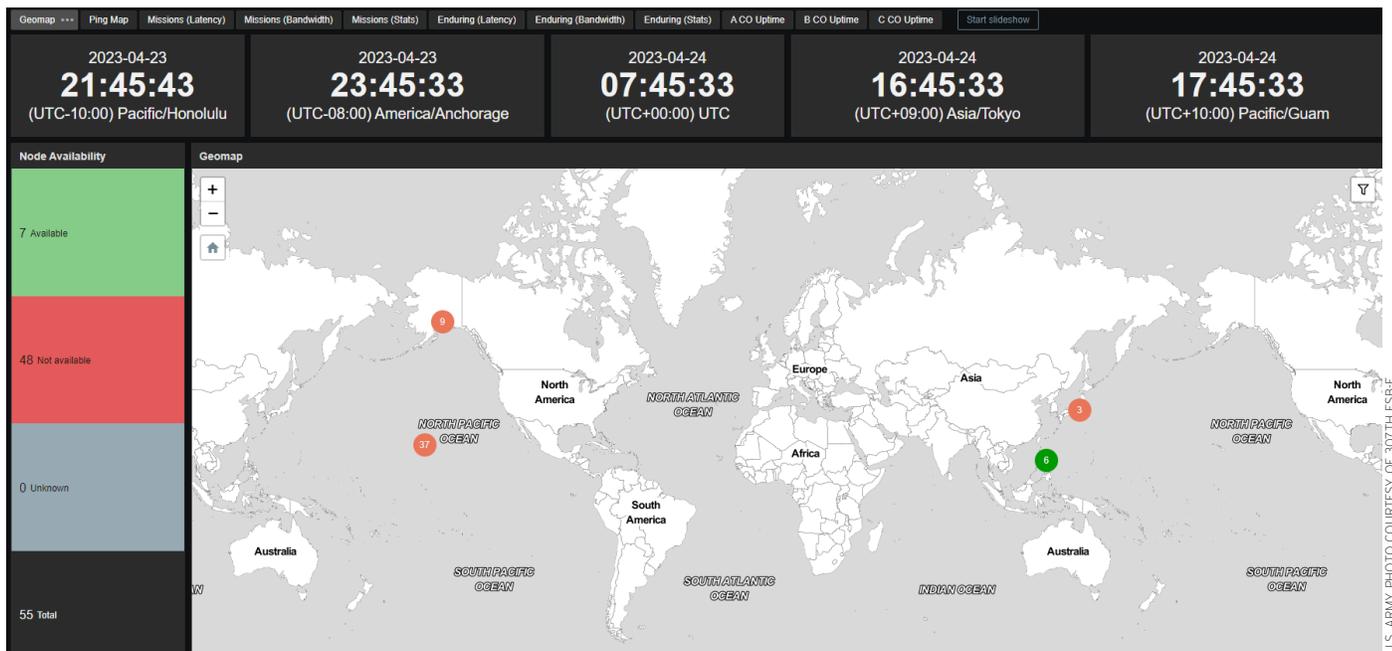
Opposite Page: U.S. Army Soldiers with the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced work in teams to test new technology that sends messages via troposphere at Ford Island, Hawaii, Jan 27, 2023.

HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION, HAWAII

FIELD INGENUITY

TSS ENABLES THE TACTICAL EDGE

STORY BY CAPT. NOAH OGRYDZIAK, 307TH ESB-E S3



U.S. ARMY PHOTO COURTESY OF 307TH ESB-E

Above: A Zabbix Geomap graphic taken from a program that provides real-time information that allows Soldiers of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced to track and manage communications while supporting multiple missions across the Indo-Pacific.

As the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced continues to provide short-notice expeditionary communication support across the Pacific Theater, its engineers develop ways to better enable decision-making dominance to the commander.

"Its transition to an ESB-E yields a more mobile force and increases the battalion's capabilities in the number of teams it can employ," said Maj. Jasmin Hickman, 307th ESB-E battalion executive officer.

With this increase in its ability to operate in Large Scale Combat

Operations, the battalion needed a more dynamic way to enable Command and Control while widely dispersed and one that affords the commander to do so from any geographic location.

After extensive research, 307th's Network Engineering team developed a solution that lessens the limitations.

They deployed a series of web applications that can be readily accessed across the Tactical and Strategic networks by any leader in 307th, and named it the Tactical Service Stack.

"The TSS is a set of services geared to deliver modern,

open-sourced, web-based tools," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nathaniel Floyd Jr, 307th ESB-E information systems technician.

These applications are regularly maintained, currently used within private industry, accessible to anyone, well known and documented and only require a web browser.

"By utilizing Linux and Docker containers, the TSS only requires a life-cycled laptop and electricity," said Staff Sgt. Jordan Berry, 307th senior SATCOM planner. "The code is freely available on GitHub and, most importantly, can be replicated for use by other units."



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SGT. NICOLAS CHOLUILA

Above: U.S. Army Sgt. Matthew Washington of the 307th ESB-E shows a program which facilitates tracking and managing systems that keep multiple areas of operation connected during exercise Cobra Gold 2023 in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, March 29, 2023.

The Zabbix network monitoring tool aims to poll and collect data via SNMP, ICMP, and other protocols.

"Aside from showing whether a node is up or down, Zabbix can graph any collected metric and put it in a dashboard. Guacamole is an SSH and remote desktop tool," said Staff Sgt. Kent Witzens, 307th ESB-E Network Technician. "It allows Battalion Network Operations to remote into any team's network devices from a web browser on the garrison strategic network."

Rocket Chat enables operators to send messages, files, and images to other nodes and BN NETOPS.

"Although similar to Microsoft Teams, Rocket Chat is necessary because it overcomes high latency and lack of Office 365 licenses by delivering services at the edge of the tactical network," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sonny Burk, 307th ESB-E senior network technician.

For software, the team utilized a headless Linux server and Docker

containers to get the most out of limited hardware.

"Docker is the application that runs all of the TSS' services. Docker is like a hypervisor but maintains containers instead of virtual machines," Burk said.

Linux is an open-source OS that dominates the server environment. For the distribution of Linux, the team chose Ubuntu Server, one of the most used OS' in the industry.

Containers are the next evolution in delivering applications. They are faster and more efficient than virtual machines because they do not need to virtualize a complete operating system. Instead, they deliver an application using the underlying host kernel and virtualize the required libraries.

Using Linux and containers, 307th can deliver remote web-based services even on older hardware.

The TSS supports users from strategic and tactical networks.

The NETENG team worked with the Regional Cyber Center-Pacific

to fulfill requirements for strategic users. Authorized users from tactical nodes, strategic garrison, or remote VPNs can now monitor and manage the tactical nodes.

The TSS enhances C2 for commanders by serving as the bridge between the tactical and strategic networks. It aims to provide readily deployable and free-to-use code for modern web applications highly amongst both tactical and strategic networks.

The TSS gave Soldiers more capabilities to monitor the network from their desks or in the field.

"Utilizing technical knowledge and open-source software, Soldiers of the 307th NETENG team created a much-needed network monitoring solution at no monetary cost," said Lt. Col. Andrew Chaffee, 307th ESB-E former battalion commander. "Their highly motivated and technical skills in the workplace resulted in the ingenuity of the TSS, an invaluable tool that now solves complex problems." ☒

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREA SIGNALEERS BLAZE THE SNN TRAIL

STORY BY STAFF SGT. NOAH SLADEK, 1ST TSB PAO



After completing their conversion in July 2021, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion became-Enhanced, modernizing to the military's new methods of tactical communication. The storied battalion with more than 100 years of service now has the capability to transport quicker, equip faster, and maneuver smarter across the battlefield like never before, said a 1st Theater Signal Brigade key leader.

The Army has been pushing to reconfigure the mobility of tactical communications by fielding multiple ESB units with the ESB-E Capability Set 21.

With these new capabilities of the set, the new Scalable Network Node units (including 304th ESB-E) are finding their transportation requirements reduced by 60%.

Before the switch to enhanced equipment, the main source of communications was the Joint Network Node and the SATCOM Transportable Terminal which have been phased out. Not having to haul, pull, and maneuver larger communication equipment has been the key to modernizing the unit.

"The ability to deploy rapidly with smaller equipment that does not take as much logistics is really beneficial in this environment," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ashton Warrington, the senior network technician at 304th ESB-E, 1st Signal Brigade. "We don't have to worry about sling loading, or how much logistical work it would take if we were using Humvees and trailers. It is a lot easier to deploy."

As the only Expeditionary Signal Battalion on the Korean Peninsula, the 304th ESB-E must be able to support virtually all units which include the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, and Eighth Army.



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY SGT. ALEX ESTRADA

They were the third battalion to be converted under the plan to modernize brigades with the Capability Set 21 fielding equipment. As the Army aims to keep on track with its modernization process it will soon unveil Capability Set 23 and eventually CS 25 and CS 27 for those fiscal years.

The SNN is capable of using commercial networks to operate. There are even signal units now using Starlink, operated by SpaceX. This has allowed them to communicate faster than previous equipment.

“The biggest differences with SNN that we did not have with JNN is the ability

to use commercial assets,” said Warrington. “You could not use a Wi-Fi or any commercial asset to establish communications, but we have that capability now as it comes with the devices we use today.”

All these new devices make the Soldiers’ job more simple and easy to move with. The applications being employed make the new devices and processes more accessible for commanders.

As the Army continues the momentum on modernizing equipment, the 304th ESB-E is one of many units to support at innovating the tactical edge.

“From the experience I have had with the equipment, the SNN

is very simple to use,” said Spc. Jamarius Battle, nodal network system operator for Charlie Company, 304th ESB-E. “You can log right in and make any adjustments you need, and the setup is what makes it very easy and accessible.”

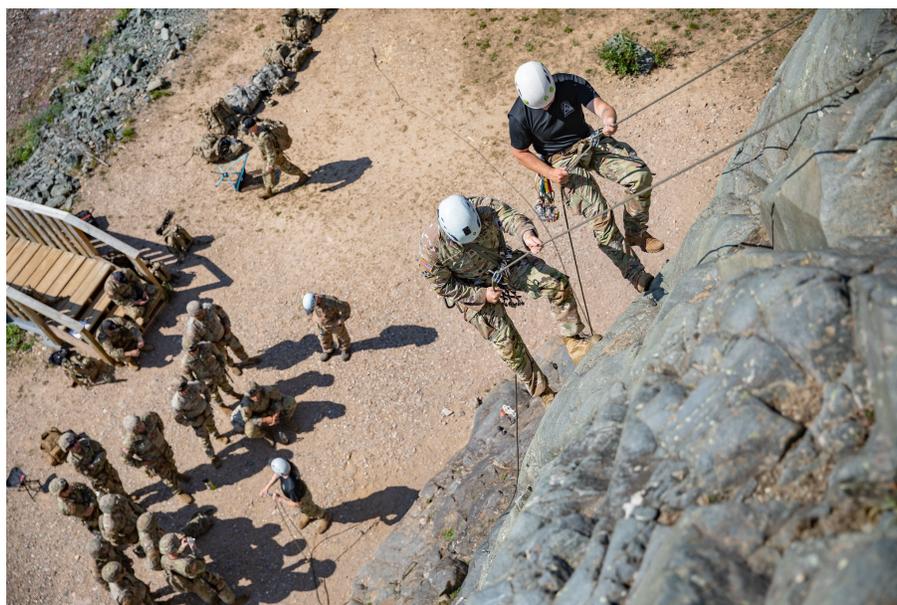
Above: Soldiers from Charlie Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, are hard at work constructing and maintaining signal equipment in order to connect the units positioned all throughout the peninsula successfully.

Opposite Page: Soldiers of the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced set up signal equipment for operations that provide secure and reliable communication between multiple organizations. Jan 17, 2023.

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA

BRINGING IoT SENSORS TO THE TACTICAL EDGE

STORY BY MAJ. BRENT RICHEY, 11TH ABN DIV



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER DENNIS

During a frigid 14-degree afternoon with ice and snow at the Alaska training area five Low Power/Long Range Wide-Area-Network, Internet of Things sensors were delivered to 1st Sgt. Celeste Aust, 17th Combat Sustainment Support, Headquarters and Headquarters Co. first sergeant in support of their company's command post exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

What Aust did not know was that her company would participate in the first U.S. Army experiment to send and pull real-time and recorded positional data over Amazon Web Services, the "Cloud"

through an aggregation of 4G/LTE, IoT and Edge technologies in a tactical training environment.

This collective team of people from 11th Airborne Division and AWS not only validated IoT sensing capabilities at the tactical edge in arctic conditions, but successfully extended the LoRaWAN® technology beyond goals set prior to the experiment.

"LoRaWAN has tremendous potential to better enable command and control of high-value assets," Aust said, "especially during a heavy airdrop or resupply mission."

Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth provided a vision for a data-centric and data-driven Army during her February 2022 "Message to the Force."

Several months later, the U.S. Army Chief Information Officer's office laid out the strategic road map to achieving this vision in the 2022 Army Cloud Plan.

BigBear.ai was chosen to build enhanced data capabilities on the Army's Global Information Management cloud platform for hosting automated tools supporting decision making by streamlining business processes.

Moving toward a data-centric and data-driven force is the Secretary's second objective, her first objective is to use innovation and experimentation to develop new capabilities and processes essential to conducting multi-domain operations.

The 11th ABN DIV and AWS experimentation with hyper-scalable technologies like LoRaWAN® sensors, AWS Snowball Edge and the AWS Cloud are three synergetic technologies that have potential to bring to reality Secretary Wormuth's vision while enabling strategic objectives within the 2022 ACP.

The integration of cloud, edge and IoT technologies with other proven technologies from the Army's portfolio has the potential of making the force more agile, resilient, elastic and effective in the Information Domain today.

PEO C3T's Capability Set 2021 includes two solutions capable of

integrating AWS IoT Core for LoRaWAN® and AWS Snowball Edge capabilities to better enable commanders and warfighters.

Those two technologies are TSI's TAK service and the Tactical Radio Integration Kit.

TRIK can be used to share information locally between ATAK-enabled devices and TAK servers within the operational area over the organization's Integrated Tactical Network.

LoRaWAN® devices using data collected within the operational area can be transported via LTE, Low-earth Orbit or Tactical Network Transport and securely stored in the AWS Cloud for access anywhere in the world.

According to Sec. Wormuth's vision, LoRaWAN® sensors are inexpensive and space in the cloud is rapidly elastic, which gives commanders incredible flexibility in deciding how sensors are distributed and/or utilized.

For example, a commander might choose to issue a LoRaWAN® sensor to every paratrooper and piece of equipment participating in a large airborne operation or series of operations across a vast area.

Now commanders can observe movement in real-time anywhere in the world at low cost and gains the ability to review those movements and associated metrics via cloud-hosted data on TAK servers pushed to an ATAK application installed on their mobile device.

In the future, tools powered by machine learning might rapidly provide the commander with recommendations based on a wide range of mutable operational



U.S. ARMY PHOTO COURTESY OF 11TH AD

variables that now take a traditional staff weeks to generate.

The 11th ABN DIV and the 59th Signal Battalion continue to seek opportunities for collaboration between industry and military partners to experiment innovative solutions to operating in the harsh Arctic environment.

"One condition of providing mission command in the Arctic is that we already operate in a Delayed/Disconnected, Intermittently-Connected, Low Band with scenario simply because of the environment conditions," said Lt. Col. Jason Miller, 59th Sig. Bn. commander and first 11th ABN DIV G6. "This introduces challenges and complexities in building a survivable network before we even introduce enemy disruptions."

A common vision of mission objectives bonds the U.S. Army with professionals who invest their time innovating to make visions become realities.

"Experimenting with LoRaWAN and Edge technologies reinforce the necessity of the Army and industry partnerships," said Dr. John DeRosa, program manager for AWS' Secure Connection Services. "This will stretch the limits of technologies to ensure decision dominance in a multi-domain fight." 

Above: Two-person teams from across the 11th Airborne Division competed in the annual Arctic Angels Winter Games, near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Feb. 2, 2023.

Opposite Page: Mountaineering Instructors Staff Sgt. Jordan Weeg, right, and Garrett Phillips, left, rappel down a rock face during Advanced Military Mountaineering Course, 8 July at Black Rapids Training Site, Alaska.

Modernization

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

PACIFIC SIGNAL UNIVERSITY OFFERS ITN CLASS

STORY BY MAJ. JUSTIN JAMES, 25TH ID



U.S. ARMY PHOTO COURTESY OF 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION 2ND INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

Above: A 25th Infantry Division 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, squad leads their mission carrying a PRC 163 Soldier Leader Radio and ATAK during a training exercise.

Below: A Variable Height Antenna attached to a tethered drone acts as a radio that can extend TSM much further than ground based antennas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BSS HOLLAND

Mesh, bubbles, BU and MUOS may not be words that come to mind for most people; yet for signaleers, they hold the keys to the Army's latest Information Technology fielding, the Integrated Tactical Network.

"Implementing ITN systems is a game changer for the Division and provides us with multiple options to extend C2 capability to our leaders at the echelon and out to the tactical edge," said Sgt. Maj. Daniel Costello, 25th Infantry Division G6 sergeant major.

The Pacific Signal University is one of eleven regional signal training sites where students can learn.

The PSU mission is to train, educate, and develop multi-disciplined Signal Soldiers and Civilians across the Pacific theater to support the full range of signal operations.

PSU offers courses such as Security+, Certified Information Systems Security Professional, Cisco Certified Network Associate, Fiber Optic

Right: Sgt. Leticia Raya, unit supply noncommissioned officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID inventories and signs for NETT Warrior and Integrated Tactical Network equipment at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Bottom Right: Tactical Radio Integration Kit that allows Battalions to operate on a Secure but Unclassified network.

Installer, and various IT-related courses, including tactical radio systems.

The PSU is located on Helemano Military Reservation in Training Area Four, with panoramic views of Mt. Ka'ala and KoleKole Pass.

These and other courses are physically facilitated on campus at HMR and other Outside the contiguous United States locations, such Republic of Korea, Japan and Alaska.

The ITN approach injects new commercial components and network transport capabilities into the Army's tactical network environment to provide smaller, lighter, faster, and more flexible communications systems.

The approved ITN components from the critical design review include single-channel commercial radios with advanced networking waveforms, high-capacity line-of-site radios, voice and data gateways, tactical cross-domain solutions, small aperture satellite terminals, expeditionary servers, and variable height antennas.

ITN capabilities include mobile user objective system, secure but unclassified, and the TSM waveform.

The Harris PRC-158 or MUOS radio will push narrowband UHF capability down to the squad level, which was traditionally reserved for much higher echelons. The Android Team Awareness Kit operates on the new SBU network,



which allows Soldiers access to commercial 5G cellular service.

Lastly, variable height antennas are tethered UAS, which can extend an IP networked radio.

"Providing up-to-date and relevant training on what the service members currently use within the theater of operations is imperative," said Michael Grimes, PSU director.

Additionally, Grimes said that keeping up with the times and offering the latest training in technology allows the service members to stay up-to-date with industry standards while establishing and maintaining high-speed lines of communication in the garrison and the field.

"Students understand the capabilities of each radio and how the radio fits into the bigger picture," said Brian Aguigui, a tactical radio instructor.

According to Aguigui, students begin to see the ITN radio capabilities as tools available to meet mission requirements. Theses, students build confidence in their abilities to set up and operate key components of ITN radios and equipment from the operator level.

"ITN allows our Soldiers to work on advanced equipment that is easier to operate and maintain than anything previously fielded to their formations," Costello said, "and it is an absolute force multiplier for the 25th Infantry Division and its Soldiers."



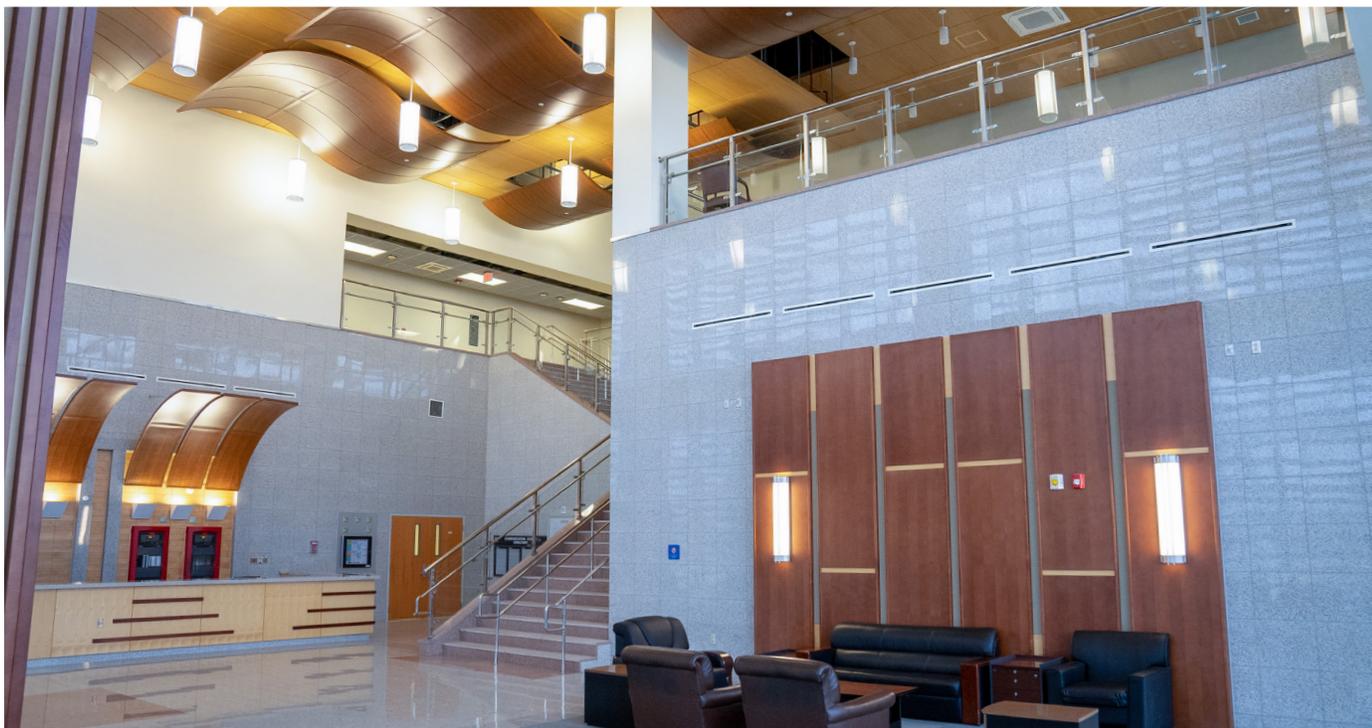
PHOTO COURTESY OF KLAS GOVERNMENT, INC.

Modernization

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

MERCURY BRIGADE GETS NEW COMMUNICATION CENTER

STORY BY STAFF SGT. NOAH SLADEK, 1ST TSB PAO



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY PFC. MINJO CHEON

The packing boxes were never ending, shipping containers almost overflowing, and the anticipation had reached its peak in early January, 2023. It was finally time for 1st Signal Brigade to move into their new communication center.

After fifteen years of construction, negotiations, and constant changes to perfect the pieces, the brigade would finally make its long awaited transition to its new building.

“The planning took an unusual path, it presented challenges and it

presented opportunities,” said Maj. William Choi, the 1st TSB project manager, and lead on the move.

As the Army is now focused on consolidating the many data centers across the globe into 10 larger Army Enterprise Data Centers, the 1st TSB had the responsibility of assembling and operating just that.

The thinking behind this specific AEDC had been around for close to twenty years as U.S. forces strategically positioned itself onto Camp Humphreys. A centrally located communication center which could bring together the most important signal entities,

and provide support pacific-wide was exactly the potential seen in creating this, but that did not mean it was going to be easy.

“By having a communications center not only can you better utilize the physical equipment, but you are able to tap into the people’s resources, now the experts will be working side by side,” Choi said.

The contracting process began in 2007, with the contract being awarded in 2012, and projections for an end date, and move in date in 2017. With a building of this magnitude, however projections are just that, projections, and the actual

move in date would come much later.

“When you are creating an AEDC you are looking at a very small pool of people who can create that,” said Choi on the creation of such a unique building. “The building was conceptualized twenty years ago, the way we maintained things then is very different from how we maintain things now.”

“The communication center went through many design changes, the initial framework was great back then, without having the cost go over there was very limited things we could implement,” said Choi.

Construction would be a very tedious process. It needed to be resistant to threats, isolate itself when everything else failed and most importantly, keep communications up.

“It is a hardened facility,” said Tony Beck, deputy of operations. “Not only are we protecting the systems and the data, but also protecting and consolidating the operational arms of cyber domain operations”

Everything had to be just right for this new type of building to work. Finishing at more than 600,000 square feet with close to 900 rooms for 730 personnel, plus containing over 50 telecommunication rooms just meant to power the servers, it is not your average signal center. More than 14



different organizations have been consolidated here, creating the ability to be faster, and ultimately cover a wider geographic area with secure communications.

“This communications center will provide current and future needs to conduct military operations in the cyberspace domain,” Choi said.

With boxes now unpacked, shipping containers unloaded and the anticipation settled the 1st TSB team is officially moved in, maximizing and exploring the new capabilities their new home has to offer. 🇺🇸

Opposite Page: The front entrance foyer of the new communication center at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea. The communication center has over nine hundred rooms in the entire building.

Above: The front entrance lobby of the new communication center at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea. The communication center has over nine hundred rooms in the entire building.

Below: View of the new communication center at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea. 1st Theater Signal Brigade officially moved in January 2023.





PARTNER

HEADQUARTERS
7TH INFANTRY DIVISION
PHILIPPINE ARMY



SHIPS

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR- HICKAM, HAWAII

SIGNAL ON THE MOVE

STORY BY CAPT. WILLIAM CLOSE, 311TH SC (T) G4



Left: Soldiers enter U.S. Naval Ship Bob Hope the as Sailors load the ship with Army cargo in preparation for Talisman Saber 2023 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jun 6, 2023. Talisman Saber is the joint exercise carried out by the Australian Defense Forces, United States Military Forces and other allied nations across multiple locations in Australia.

Champine, naval logistical officer at Joint Base PHH.

The 307th ESB-E mission is to provide secure and reliable communications for the duration of the event. The goal for these teams is to keep the communication lines open for all warfighters and staff members so they can effectively and concisely command and control operations.

Teams were spread out over a vast area of the Australian continent, each with its own specific mission to make the exercise successful. Areas of operation included Brisbane, Townsville and Melbourne. Operations of this size and scale require more logistical effort and mean that there are more pieces in play.

“We must ensure that shipments arrive at their final destination in a timely manner, efficiently and most cost-effective,” said Edwin Ancheta, 311th SC (T) G4 command traffic management

Port operations in support of Pacific Theater Expeditionary Operations kicked off here, Jun. 5, 2023. This joint Army and Navy effort moves 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced from Hawaii to locations in Australia for Talisman Saber 2023.

Talisman Saber exercises the Australian Defense Forces, U.S.

Military Forces and other allied nations across multiple locations in Australia on crisis planning and contingency response against regional threats. The exercise also helps to build the bonds to strengthen relationships in the region.

“This is an excellent chance for units to see just how complex an operation of this size can be,” said U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Justin



specialist whose section oversees logistic support for TS23.

“It is critical for this mission that every logistic operation is in compliance with transportation laws.”

“We are here to support the team so they can execute and enable mission command during this joint and combined multinational exercise,” said Ancheta, “to continue to build strong bonds and increase relations with our allies and partners.”

The shipment of equipment by naval vessel is not something that

the 307th ESB-E does every day. The Soldiers have embraced how operations work, the processes and the required documents to execute future transportation movements at port.

The equipment was loaded onto the U.S. Naval Ship Bob Hope, a non-combatant roll-on roll-off

vessel and the lead ship of its class. The load consisted of multiple tri and quad containers as well as several pieces of communications gear.

“Operations of this size don’t just happen overnight,” Champine said. “It takes months of planning and coordination.”

Top: U.S. Navy Seabee directs a crane operator as they lift tri container of signal equipment aboard U.S. Naval Ship Bob Hope at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jun. 6, 2023. The equipment will allow Soldiers with the 307th ESB-E to establish secure communications for the duration of Talisman Saber 2023.

Right: Soldiers with the 307th ESB-E watch as U.S. Navy Seabees move about U.S. Naval Ship Bob Hope at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jun. 7, 2023.



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA

Partnerships

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

BECOMING A KATUSA SOLDIER INSIGHTS FROM THOSE WHO SERVE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. MINJO CHEON, 1ST TSB PAO

The Republic of Korea is a unique experience for service members stationed in “the Land of Morning Calm,” common favorites include the mountainous terrain, flavorful cuisine, vibrant culture and diverse people. In the U.S. military community, a distinctly unique aspect is the presence of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army program.

The KATUSA program, which began after the Korean War in 1950, has become a symbol representing the longstanding history of the US-ROK alliance.

While the program initially aimed to supplement the shortage of personnel during the war, KATUSAs are now crucial colleagues who not only fulfill formal duties such as interpretation and support for joint exercises, but also help solve diverse issues that U.S. Soldiers encounter while serving here.

In the ROK, there is mandatory military service for all able-bodied men for a period of 18 months. Those with a physical condition suitable for normal military service receive an enlistment notice and be assigned to a regular army unit. Alternatively, they may apply to serve in the Navy, Marine Corps,

or Air Force, allowing them to perform their duties with another service. Among these options, the KATUSA program, within the Army, is one of the most sought after due to the opportunity to work alongside the U.S. military.

To become a KATUSA, those who apply must obtain a minimum score on the English test, to be placed in the randomized selection process. Generally for every ten applicants only one is chosen. Those fortunate enough to be selected, receive five weeks of basic military training at the Nonsan Army Training Center. Each week consists of learning various skills, including education on military etiquette, grenade throwing and marksmanship. The culmination event is a field exercise which lasts two days and includes a 12-mile ruck march that starts before dawn.

After completing the rigorous and busy five weeks of basic military training, they move to the KATUSA Training Academy at Camp Humphreys for an additional three weeks. During this period, they learn basic military English and U.S. Army ranks to be prepared to work alongside U.S. Soldiers.

On the last day of training, trainees have an important moment in which their assignments and units are randomly decided. Although they may express their





interest in specific roles through an interview process, even those positions are chosen randomly between different nominees. After being placed in their designated jobs, the KATUSAs are sent to the units where they will serve the duration of their military service commitment.

"I decided to start my mandatory military duty after I graduated from the university in Switzerland," said Pfc. Eo IlSon, S1 clerk, 1st TSB. "I was concerned that I might lose English skills during my service in Korea, as I wanted to continue a career abroad."

IlSon feels grateful to have been selected as a KATUSA and said,

"by working with U.S. Soldiers, I have been able to polish my English speaking skills and use it more naturally than before."

Serving as a KATUSA with a U.S. Army unit provides opportunities to not only improve English skills, but also experience the cultures of the other partner nations.

"The experience of serving as a KATUSA is very special to me. I think working with U.S. Soldiers and KATUSA colleagues from various backgrounds are valuable opportunities that I could not have anywhere else," said Pfc. Seok Nuri, S6 clerk, 1st TSB.

"Everyday KATUSAs contribute to challenges by providing valuable

help and guidance," said Staff Sgt. Noah Sladek, public affairs NCOIC, 1st TSB. "The work they accomplish is invaluable to the missions we perform here and we don't take that for granted." 

Opposite Page: Promotion ceremony to Private 1st Class was held for Korean Augmentation To the United States Army Soldiers of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, January 3, 2023. Because KATUSAs serve for 18 months it takes only two months for their first promotion to Pfc.

Top Right: Korean Augmentation to the United States Army Soldiers of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade salutes regional commander during Senior KATUSA appointment ceremony at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, March, 24, 2023.

Bottom Left: Pfc. Lim and Pfc. Lee attended a golf scramble event during the 1st Theater Signal Brigade Korea Signal Week at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, April 20, 2023.

FORD ISLAND, HAWAII

SETTING THE THEATER FOR ARMY 2030

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA, 311TH SC (T) PAO



Left: U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jacqueline Brown, director of architecture, operations, networks and space, U.S. Army Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff G6 speaks during Spring 2023 Pacific TSR, May 2, 2023.

Opposite Page: Soldiers and Civilians pose for a group photo in front of USS Missouri at Ford Island, Hawaii, May 2, 2023. Leaders from across the theater meet biannually to discuss issues, changes and solutions that will pave the way for the future of the U.S. Army.

Soldiers and Civilians of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) hosted the spring Theater Synchronization Review at the Defense Information Systems Agency here, May 2, 2023.

This biannual event provides the opportunity for cyber leaders and planner from across the theater to discuss issues, modern concepts and changes within the region that directly affect secure signal operations.

"The benefit of this is event, is to share critical information between peers who are typically disbursed

across the theater," said Col. Alton Johnson, assistant chief of staff for United States Army Pacific G6.

As the only Army Signal command in the Indo-Pacific, 311th SC (T) provides the theater with a secure, reliable and robust Army Department of Defense Information Network.

DoDINs are comprised of many owned and leased communication and computing systems, services and software that create a globally interconnected and on-demand network for the warfighter, as described by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

During this TSR more than 20 organizations with a vested interest in providing the U.S., partners and allied nations with the same network had the opportunity to speak. Each presented their major priorities which varied from topics of finance and infrastructure to policies and modernization.

"Let's look at what we need to compete with future adversaries during a conflict to get in front of the problem," Johnston said, "so that we can be redundant and resilient in the event of a crisis."

The U.S. Army Cyber Command was one organization discussing modernization topics. ARCYBER is the U.S. military's premier force charged with the responsibility of informing and enabling data centric operations for Army and joint force commanders to achieve information advantage.

During the TSR, ARCYBER stated their priorities for fiscal year 2023 and reaffirmed their commitment to move forward with the Army Unified Network Operations which was built on principles of Zero Trust.



"Right now, the Army is actively implementing Comply-to-Connect, as well as asset inventory, which are foundational capabilities for a ZT environment," said Lt. Col. Michael Denison, director for the U.S. Army Regional Cyber Center-Pacific. "Adhering to tenants of ZT, we cannot blindly trust endpoints that connect, and we must know what is authorized to connect to our networks."

These concepts would evolve the Army from a network-centric approach to a more data-centric approach and would help with the delivery of the right data to the right person at the right time to enable critical decisions.

"As the Army's journey towards zero trust continues to evolve," Dennison said. "I see this providing a converged environment with U.S. and partnered nations able to collaborate more efficiently and more securely."

Brig. Gen. Jacqueline Brown, director of architecture, operations, networks and space for the U.S. Army Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff G6 reinforced her belief that Army UNO and ZT will pave the way forward for the Army of 2030.

"The Pacific is a priority theater," said Brown. "Getting towards a

centralized system that securely connects warfighters is the way of the future."

The U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command shares the same objectives but adds a third line of effort; to provide a Remote Capable Workforce Program. This RCWP objective looks toward improving loss prevention through Data Tagging, and solving accessibility gaps with efforts like Bring Your Own Device.

The region is highly contested and unlike in Europe, countries in the Indo-Pacific are not bound by a unilateral alliance like NATO and between each archipelago chain lies the tyranny of distance and a vast geographic dispersion.

TSR's like this one are meant to give leaders the opportunity to unify and realign to efforts that allow them to compete in this domain. Studies, like one published by Stanford University entitled *The Rise of Digital Authoritarianism*, have shown that many smaller countries find themselves pressured into digital authoritarianism experiencing extensive censorship and surveillance.

"We need to know what the issues are so that we can address

them now, not six months into a conflict," said Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 311th SC (T) commanding general. He then emphasized the importance of being prepared and ahead so that the Indo-Pacific theater can support the nation in averting future conflicts.

Among some of the modernization efforts mentioned in the small conference room, many other representatives shared their organization's needs and initiatives:

To include experiments with Augmented Reality, secure 5G bubbles, workforces trained in Artificial Intelligence and machine learning focused on supervise-able completion of services.

"There are other competitors in the race, they have a vote in this and they can decide to make a move at any time," said Meisler. "There may not be a six month build up, it may just happen overnight and we have to be prepared."

In this contested environment Signal and Cyber is more critical than ever in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific. "We can't operate without signalers," Meisler said. "We haven't ever done it without them." 

WAIKIKI, HAWAII

LANPAC 2023 SHOWCASING CAPABILITIES, TO COMBAT CHANGES IN WARFARE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARLOS D. RODRIGUEZ ORTIZ, 311TH SC (T)



Left: U.S. Army Sgt. Qadeera Maye of the 516th Theater Signal Brigade speaks with Royal Brunei Land Force Col. Mohammad Shanonnizam Sulaiman at the 2023 Land Forces and Pacific Symposium, May 18, 2023.

Soldiers of 311th SC (T) met with key leaders, allies and partners from across the Indo-Pacific for the Army Association of United States Land Forces of the Pacific Symposium and Exposition at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, May 16-18, 2023.

During LANPAC Soldiers of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, 516th Theater Signal Brigade, described their battalion tactical mission along with senior leaders, which helps ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

“This event is a great opportunity to meet with our allies and partners

across the region to reaffirm our commitment and strengthen our relationships,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 311th SC (T) commander.

LANPAC is a land forces symposium and exposition in the region bringing together government, academia, industry and allies. It also provides a forum for interactive professional military development.

“Land power in this region is absolutely critical and it has been for a long time. The connections we form aren't just between our armies,” said Gen. Charles Flynn, U.S. Army Pacific commander.

“Our relationships are at the root of it, as individuals. And my relationship with so many of you is proof of that bond.”

Twenty-five international delegations, including 13 Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs, attended the three-day AUSA conference, which Flynn said will lead to strengthening Indo-Pacific planning.

During the exhibition, Soldiers of the 311th displayed the Scalable Network Node and also took the opportunity to explain their unique capabilities and the Department of Defense information networks in their area of operation.

The 311th SC (T) is a multi-component the only Army signal command in the Indo-Pacific region in the Indo-Pacific theater with a combined force of active and reserve Soldiers and Civilians conducting DODIN-A operations across 16 time zones around the globe.

“This event is a great opportunity to meet military members of other nations and know their capabilities,” said Sgt. Qadeera Maye, 307th ESB-E. “It was also, a great experience to showcase what we do as a unit.”

IN MEMORIAM

A Heartfelt Farewell to a Visionary Signal Regimental Leader



**Major General
James T. Walton**

August 18, 1954 - July 19, 2023

The Signal Regiment and community give a heartfelt farewell to Maj. Gen. James T. Walton who served as the commanding general of the 311th SC (T) from 2012 to 2014. His dedicated military service in the Army Signal Corps spanned 41 years from 1977 until his retirement in 2018. Maj. Gen. Walton will be remembered for his commitment to the mission and believing in the talents of the Soldiers under his command.

You will be truly missed.

"While change is constant in our line of work, the one thing that remains the same is the dedication of our excellent and dynamic team of Soldiers and Civilians to achieve our vast mission throughout the Pacific region."

- Maj. Gen. James T. Walton



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

A mission of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs Office is to tell the stories of all our Soldiers, Civilians and Families in our command throughout the Indo-Pacific theater. We continually seek stories, new perspectives and new voices that may be of interest to our readers. Story ideas, written articles, photos or questions may be sent to the 311th at: usarmy.shafter.311-sig-cmd.list.311-sig-cmd-pao@army.mil



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