

# PREMIER SIGNAL

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

## KEEPING PACE ACROSS THE INDO-PACIFIC THEATER

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VOLUME 14 | 2023 - 2024



# 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 from the 30th Signal Battalion conducts a radio check during a Tactical Radio Competition on the second day of Pacific Signal Regimental Week at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Feb. 27, 2024. Throughout the competition, Soldiers from various squads faced off by completing a series of tasks and undertaking a rigorous foot march.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but in this case, it only captures a fragment of what the Soldiers of the Theater Army Signal Command contribute to the U.S. Army in the Indo-Pacific. Turn through the pages of our 14th Volume to discover how Signaleers empower our forces and pave the way for the future.

As you delve into these stories, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for how, in an age of sophisticated technology, the dedication and expertise of our Soldiers are the true driving forces behind effective communication and mission success.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

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**T**heater Voice Teammates, Army Civilians, Army Families – thank you for who you are and what you do. It has been my highest honor to serve alongside you as the Commander of the 311th Signal Command (Theater).

I have witnessed many successes during my tenure, but what is truly important about the 311th SC (T) is its people. Despite the geographical separation of command elements, you share a distinct bond focused on striving for excellence because that is what our customers across the Indo-Pacific theater deserve.

You have accomplished a lot over the last two years, including modernizing our Expeditionary Signal Battalions, enhancing our Regional Hub Node in Guam, implementing the Army's Unified Network Plan, creating an in-depth cyber defense posture, improving the overall readiness of our strategic and tactical assets, and supporting the Theater Army Campaign Plan Operation Pathways. You have maintained a steady operational tempo in a fast-paced and ever-changing environment, while keeping our forces connected and informed.

Your commitment to conducting Army Department of Defense Information Network Operations ensures robust, reliable, and adaptable networks that align with the PACE plan set by U.S. Army Pacific. You are critical to the success of Multi-Domain Operations in the Indo-Pacific, and that has not gone unnoticed.

As I transition out of command, I urge you to never lose sight of the fact that you are an essential part of our Nation's defense. Maintaining PACE across the theater with reliable and secure communication helps us stay resilient and prepared. It is a testament to your commitment to excellence in network operations and your readiness to support our mission.

Although my time as your commander is coming to an end, the deep respect and admiration I have for each of you will continue long after I depart. I look forward to hearing about your continued successes in the years to come as you uphold the proud legacy of the only Army Theater Signal Command in the Indo-Pacific.

ONE TEAM – THEATER VOICE!



Kevin Meisler  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Commanding






In last year's magazine, I referenced our commitment and efforts to continue putting People First, through programs such as Command Sponsorship, Career Development, Retention, and Readiness.

I am proud to report that we have not only met those commitments and efforts but exceeded them, specifically in the areas of sponsorship, retention and readiness. This year brings new opportunities in area of career development as the Army announced changes to the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development System (NCOPDS). This realignment of NCOPDS now allows promotion of Specialist and Corporal to Sergeant without the Basic Leader Course, as well as several other changes.

The 311th Signal Command (Theater) has seen an influx in promotion-eligible Soldiers due to this change, but we are not just promoting inexperienced Soldiers; we are preparing our Soldiers for promotion with thorough leader-oriented Junior Leader Certification Programs. These programs, led at the Company and Battalion organizational levels throughout 1st Theater Signal Brigade and 516th Theater Signal Brigade, prepare our junior leaders to assume responsibility of our most precious resource...OUR PEOPLE.

I know that as Brigadier General Meisler and I near the completion of our tenures, we have prepared highly trained, motivated and caring leaders to continue moving forward with excellence!



*Jonathan DeHart*  
Jonathan DeHart  
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army

Aloha Team Pacific, with two years as the Command Chief Warrant Officer for the 311th Signal Command (Theater), I'm extremely proud of the work I've witnessed across the Indo-Pacific Region. Over the past year, we've continued to push the pace in our efforts toward a Unified Network built on zero-trust principles.

Our headquarters staff and key leaders ensured operational readiness through training, planning and orders-processing to lead and empower our downtrace.

The 1st Theater Signal Brigade established the Army Enterprise Data Center (AEDC), divested of legacy (ATM/TDM) infrastructure, crushed maintenance readiness with a rate of over 90%, and their 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced won the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence.

The 516th Theater Signal Brigade prosecuted a "War on Excess" shedding 1,776 items worth more than 27 million dollars. In addition, their 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced provided DODIN-A services in over 20 operations, across 12 time zones, covering 105 million square miles, enabling Army, Joint, and Multi-National Forces.

The Regional Cyber Center-Pacific and Korea led the enterprise with early adoption of Army Unified Directory Services (AUDS) as well as Unified-Security Information Exchange Management (U-SIEM) providing lessons-learned and TTPs for other theaters to follow.

These are just a few highlights of the innumerable efforts I see every day. I am extremely proud of our Service Members, DA Civilians, and Contractors as we provide Decision Dominance for our warfighting commands. I would be remiss to not also thank our family members who sacrifice and support all that we do. Mahalo!! And never slow down!!



Robert Christian  
Command Chief Warrant Officer, U.S. Army



# THE INDO-PACIFIC TH



**KHAAN QUEST**  
MONGOLIA



**YUDH ABHYAS**  
INDIA



**ULCHI FREEDOM SHIELD**  
KOREA



**YAMA SAKURA**  
JAPAN



**COBRA GOLD /  
HANUMAN GUARDIAN**  
THAILAND



**BALIKATAN /  
SALAKNIB**  
PHILIPPINES



**VALIANT SHIELD**  
GUAM



**TIGER BALM**  
SINGAPORE



**KIRIS STRIKE**  
MALAYSIA



**TALISMAN SABRE**  
AUSTRALIA



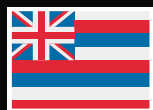
**GARUDA SHIELD**  
INDONESIA

# EATER

# WHO WE ARE



**NORTHERN EDGE**  
ALASKA



**RIMPAC**  
HAWAII



**311TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER)**



**HHC**  
HAWAII



**HHD**  
CALIFORNIA



**516TH THEATER SIGNAL BRIGADE**



**59TH SIG BN**  
ALASKA



**307TH ESB-E**  
ALASKA / HAWAII



**78TH SIG BN**  
JAPAN / GUAM



**30TH SIG BN**  
HAWAII



**RCC-P**  
HAWAII



**1ST THEATER SIGNAL BRIGADE**



**304TH ESB-E**  
KOREA



**41ST SIG BN**  
KOREA



**RCC-K**  
KOREA

# WHAT WE DO

Operating across 16 time zones and seven land masses, the 311th Signal Command (Theater) supports freedom of action in cyberspace for the U.S. and its allies. We participate in more than a dozen annual exercises to secure and defend Army, joint, and coalition networks for U.S. Army Pacific Operation Pathways.





PEOPLE





# PLE FIRST

**Spread:** U.S. Army Soldiers return from a formation run during Pacific Signal Regimental Week 2024 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on Mar. 1, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)



HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION, HAWAII

## ONE BATTALION COMMANDER'S REFLECTIONS ON SUCCEEDING AS A FEMALE LEADER IN THE ARMY

STORY BY LT. COL. IZABELLA LUNDY, 307TH ESB-E COMMANDER

There is a great deal of pressure on any leader within the U.S. Army to succeed, and not only be adaptive and agile, but to thrive in a complex and ambiguous environment. Now, add in additional pressure-cooker variables and bias that come based off individual gender, race or sexual orientation. Lessons are not only learned through training events or in combat, but through life experience with self-reflection. These are the lessons learned by one female Battalion Commander, lessons that can be applied to anyone seeking growth as a leader to thrive in any environment, adverse or otherwise.

I joined the Army in 2005 through the Officer Candidate School. This was a challenging year for our economy, and I found myself with a college degree, uncertain about what to do with it. Coming from a hard-working family of immigrants, I have always worked diligently and believed that the Army offered me the opportunity to achieve the American dream my parents fought for so fiercely. Almost nineteen years later, I realized I am living that dream, and my life has a sense of purpose and accomplishment. I did not have this revelation until I lifted my head up, looked around and engaged in a great deal of self-reflection, specifically during the Battalion Commander's Assessment Program. I asked myself "What makes me qualified?" and "How did I get here?" My sincere analysis

and deep reflection made me realize that I've developed various key traits and learned behaviors over the years due to personal lessons and thoughtful leadership feedback. I identified the most important as the ability to communicate with a direct approach, care about people and be a good person, be an expert in my craft and understand the geopolitical environment, choose effective and relevant mentors regardless of rank, and have a life outside of the Army.

Establishing a direct approach to any engagement can be beneficial, particularly in clearly addressing instances of sexual harassment or gender discrimination. I did not start out with a direct approach. Early experiences taught me that it was the only way to regain control. My first harsh reminder of sexism was during my time as an officer candidate at Fort Moore, Georgia.

During our final field exercise, I overheard an argument between a male and female candidate. A male cadre officer intervened to address the gender bias dispute. He said to the male officer candidate, "You should be grateful for women in the Army; they are slower and they take all the bullets for you in combat – they die and you get to live." Several female officer candidates complained to the only female cadre officer, but she dismissed it, saying "oh, that is just Captain [Name Omitted] being Captain [Name Omitted]." At the time, I did not say a word, for various reasons—shock, embarrassment, difficulty acknowledging the event took place, and a lack of understanding of how to report it. Nevertheless, that incident marked the last time I would let myself be a bystander.

In another incident as a junior officer, my supervisor told me

that he had never worked with a female before and that I was “actually” really good for being a woman. Very often you will find some leaders or Soldiers, who do not realize they are being offensive; educate them. You will know if they are genuinely sorry, and I encourage forgiveness and subsequent growth together.

Growth also comes in various stages of life, most often by caring for other people and nurturing the good person within yourself. Growing up in the Army, my priority was always the mission, with mission accomplishment driving my day. I cared about people and always had the best teams, but mission came first. When a woman is seen as caring too much, she can be viewed as soft or weak. However, the same care from a male counterpart is typically viewed as the embodiment of compassion and strength. The realization that “people first” is more than a slogan came to me during a critical point in my career.

When I was a company commander, I had a very intelligent, and hardworking supply Soldier. The unit required significant supply discipline, and a herculean effort was necessary to create shortage annexes and order against them. All the weight of this effort rested on my supply Soldier, a single parent of two beautiful boys who often found themselves sitting on the chairs of the supply office after dark. I pushed my supply Soldier daily until the mission was complete, and I was so ignorantly grateful to her. It was not until almost two years later when I had to be separated from my son at six weeks to return to work that I thought of the unbearable and



unfair expectations I placed on my supply Soldier. She had to juggle homework, dinner, and seek help from friends to cover for late pickups at the Child Developmental Center. Years later, I invited her to my office to apologize and seek her forgiveness, and she was kind enough to accept. It was during my first key developmental assignment as a captain and then as a major that I realized the people I cared for were always making the mission happen. If I invested more time in my people and the organization, they could focus on what had to be done because their leader was focusing on them. We bonded, we laughed and we truly cared for each other. Teammates made time for their families, showed up for birthdays, and made investments into each other personally and professionally.

Investing in people of your organization should run hand-in-hand with investing in yourself. Be the technical

expert they need, regardless of your branch, job or designation. You cannot lead a group or formation unless you have a deep understanding of what your team does inside and out, and how you fit into the bigger picture. First and foremost, read Army doctrine, understand how the Army fights and how you help our Army’s fight to win our nation’s wars. We do not show up to play or try; we show up to win. Look beyond Army writing, consider professional journals, books, articles and blogs to help you understand and solve tough problems and develop solutions. Secondly, understand the political, geopolitical and social environment. Read or watch the news, follow elections and be aware of the candidate’s

**Above:** U.S. Army Lt. Col. Izabela Lundy, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced commander speaks with a Soldier during United States Land Forces Pacific Symposium at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, May 15, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)

platforms. All these factors affect our Soldiers at the lowest level. Politicians make laws, and these laws and political stances impact everything, from how we will handle sexual assault cases to why you may not be seeing any new general officers appointed to offices of critical importance. Ensure that you are not only connecting with impartial and unbiased platforms, but also use the right people as a sounding board.

It is essential to seek mentors who help you understand your struggles, and those who represent the ones you struggle to understand. I have always struggled with the word “mentor” but found less strife when I started seeing this position as an “advisor.” This perspective alleviated the requirement of a traditional rank and position structure. My mentors include command sergeant majors, senior warrant officers, civilians, senior executives, peers, and many senior officers. They come from diverse backgrounds, branches and experiences, and of various genders, races and sexual orientations. From my battalion Command Sergeants Major to leaders within the office of the Chief of Staff of the Army, my bench is deep, but most importantly, diverse. One memorable experience was when my packet was submitted to serve as the Aide to the Director of the Army Staff. Never having worked in the Pentagon or on the Army Staff, I googled the position, then the director himself. I realized I was up against a pool of candidates who were traditionally combat arms and male. I did not think I had a chance, but when asked to interview I happily did so without the slightest expectation of progressing, due in part to being a female signal officer. I was wrong. I failed to realize there are leaders in the Army who see diversity not just as healthy but as a requirement to find the most qualified candidates. In a time when the Army was losing credibility with its female base, this leader saw potential for growth and perspective for himself in hiring me. One of the strengths this Army senior leader attributed to my selection during my interview was my resume, which was filled with all the adventures and hobbies I shared outside of the military.

Having a life outside of the Army is not just important; it is critical. Be a spouse, friend, parent, pet parent, but most importantly just do “it,” and do so unapologetically. Pursue what brings you joy

outside of the uniform you wear and the boots that we all have to lace up every day. It compliments you, makes you whole, and allows you to lead without resentment. As a senior captain, I held a critical job designated as KD for a major. As our unit was preparing for deployment, I heard rumors the mission may be canceled. After nearly a decade of marriage, I had given myself countless reasons to postpone starting a family. The reasons were age-old: waiting until after my time as a lieutenant, completing a school, getting past a deployment, not while in command, and the list goes on. I realized the only person holding me back was myself. I took extreme measures and intercepted my brigade commander as he was exiting his office, a time in which he did not like to be interrupted, and approached him with a direct line of questioning on the viability of our deployment. Rightfully, he was naturally curious about my need to understand the deployment cycle, and I informed him that if we were not deploying I wanted to start a family and could not wait any longer! He chuckled and said, “Izabella, have your baby.” There is a lot to unpack here —the fact that I felt the institutional pressure of burdening the unit if I got pregnant, the fact that I felt like I had to ask for permission to have a child, and the fact that I had lost sight of a life outside of the Army.

With deep reflection, vulnerability, the assistance of strong leaders, and open dialogues with enlisted counterparts, and in the spirit of not being afraid of how I might sound or be perceived, I share my thoughts and reflections. I have come to realize that being a woman in the military is not a handicap; it is a privilege and opportunity. I have a story to tell, and if I can motivate one person to move forward, it is a story worth telling. I am honored to serve and even more honored to be entrusted with caring for America’s sons and daughters. Every recruit raised their right hand and vowed to dutifully serve their country. It is under our charge that we help them to execute that oath honorably. It is our responsibility to be our best selves as leaders and professionals, to lead intelligently, with purpose and understanding. We owe it to them to be the leaders they deserve, not despite our gender, race or sexual orientation, but because of the beauty and strength that lies within us. ☒



FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

# HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## SALUTING THEIR SERVICE

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

**I**n commemorating Women's History Month, a trio of remarkable Soldiers are shattering stereotypes and paving the path for future generations within the military.

Capt. Cierra Butler, a signal officer, is the G3 training and Readiness Branch officer in charge of the 311th Signal Command (Theater). With eight years of service, Butler hails from Fredericksburg, Virginia.

"As a female breaking barriers in the military service, I feel a profound sense of pride and fulfillment in my service to my country," Butler said.

"While there are unique challenges, I also find immense camaraderie and purpose among my fellow service members," said Butler. "Additionally, I recognize the importance of providing mentorship and representation for both women serving in the military and those who aspire to join."

Joining Butler is Sgt. 1st Class Lucy Lam, a network communications systems specialist currently serving as the Central Tasking Office noncommissioned officer in charge. With 12 years of service, Lam's roots trace back to Santa Ana, California.

"As a woman breaking barriers in the military, I draw inspiration from the remarkable strength and perseverance of the female leaders who came before me," Lam said. "Their legacy fuels my dedication to mentor and empower the next generation of Soldiers, especially during this Women's History Month."

These exemplary Soldiers of the 311th SC (T) G3 staff include Capt. Meagan Clay, a dedicated chemical officer raised in Raleigh, North Carolina, with 11 years of service and currently serving as the Protection Chief for the Theater Army Signal Command. Together, these women exemplify dedication, resilience, and leadership in the face of adversity.


"It is overwhelming being considered someone who breaks barriers as a woman in the military," Clay said.



"I am grateful for the women before me that paved the way."

Beyond their contributions, these Soldiers represent a broader narrative of women's roles in the military. Their relentless commitment to duty and service honors the legacy of those who paved the way and set a precedent for future generations of female Soldiers.

"Despite challenges, joining the Army Reserves has been one of the most rewarding decisions I've made," Clay said. "I've had the privilege to collaborate with and learn from countless inspiring women, and I eagerly anticipate encountering many more in the future."

Like Butler, Clay, and Lam, women assigned to the Theater Army Signal in the Indo-Pacific have tirelessly served, fought, and contributed to the security and prosperity of our nation for years, continuing their dedication today. 

**Above:** U.S. Army Capt. Cierra Butler, Meagan Clay and Sgt. 1st Class Lucy Lam pose for a photo outside of the 311th SC (T) Headquarters at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, March 8, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)

TUSTIN, CALIFORNIA

## FROM REFUGEE TO ARMY OFFICER

STORY BY CAPT. CHRISTOPHER KIM, 311TH SC (T) HHD PAO

**P**erseverance is one of the greatest attributes of any Soldier in the United States Army. This rings especially true for Lt. Col. Phidel Hun, G3 Plans Officer in the 311th Signal Command Support Unit, who looks back at his journey from escaping the Cambodian genocide to where he is today.

Born into the Khmer Rouge Regime, which led to the death of 1.5 to 3 million citizens, Hun had to fend for himself to survive ever since he could remember.

“During the Pol Pot regime, my parents were executed when I was 6 months old because of their educated and scholarly background,” said Hun. “I can recall swimming through a rice field in the middle of the night without shoes to escape and even though I stepped on bamboo thorns, I could not cry or yell because I would be left behind or be discovered and killed by the soldiers.”

After Hun escaped Cambodia during the genocide, he would spend time in an orphanage in the border of Thailand and Cambodia to survive to see another day.

“I remember being so hungry I would eat anything and that is when I had to learn to trap and hunt for food,” Hun recalls. “Since I had burnt hands from a childhood accident, kids in the orphanage teased me calling me a cripple and was bullied growing up.”

In the midst of living this difficult and challenging life, a glimpse of hope appeared as his grandmother who was in America made a valiant effort to save him and bring him to the United States. She specifically identified him as the boy with the burnt hands from childhood accident.

“My family in Cambodia was wealthy and when they saw the beginnings of the communist regime, they escaped to Vietnam and then to the U.S.,”



said Hun. “My grandmother came to the U.S. in the mid-70s before Cambodia fell to communism and she made a rescue attempt to save me by identifying me as a boy with burnt hands.”

The horrific childhood accident that left Hun’s hand in critical condition was the sole way of identification and through that tragic incident, he was able to be rescued and escorted.

“After she saw me, she took my story to Senator Alan Cranston and Senator Diane Feinstein. They pushed it to Congress, and they passed a law enabling me to come to the U.S. on a Humanitarian Assistance effort and then my grandmother became my sponsor.”

As Hun would be relocated to Bellflower in Southern California, assimilating to a new culture and new life was challenging. Through the resilience that he has exemplified time after time, he ended up earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cal State University, Fullerton after 10 years of hard work. It was also during this time he received his commission to be an Officer in the United States Army.

“It took 10 years to graduate from college and ROTC and received my commission in 2004 and I pursued my passion to be an Army Officer,” said Hun. “I always





had this fascination ever since I was younger to be a knight to defend the weak.”

Even after 20 years of honorable service, which includes deployments overseas, in the U.S. Army, Hun’s passion to serve this great nation has not diminished but only grew stronger.

“The Army saved my life and the more I served, my appreciation for the nation and military grew more,” said Hun. “They took a broken boy and gave him the opportunity to what he is now, and I am still incredibly grateful for the Army because it saved my life. I have been serving for over 20 years and I still love it.”

Despite the life of challenges and turmoil, Hun refuses to allow his past to haunt him but uses it as fuel to help others. He uses his traumatic childhood and upbringing as a tool to recalibrate his perspective daily.

“In the past, what motivated me to live another day was vengeance and hatred, but the vengeance I want to take is to rebuild,” said Hun. “I want to help others become educated and build opportunities because this

is the reason why my parents were executed.”

Hun’s “American Dream” is not materialistic or the proverbial house with a white picket fence, but it is fulfilling the potential of what this great nation offers. Instead of making a built-in excuse blaming his troubled upbringing, he takes advantage of everything that life offers.

“In Cambodia I suffered through genocides, hunger, and hatred and the U.S. gave me the opportunity to what I want to be,” Hun said. “Our country is the best country on the face of the earth because it gives us the freedom to pursue opportunities. The American Dream is being able to help others help achieve greatness and being a great person and to do that you need to help yourself.”

Growing up with no family and constantly hungry, hope was seldom for Hun, and he would have never imagined the amazing life he has now. As a proud husband of 18 years and a father of four sons, he attributes his success to his grit and willingness to live a life of substance.



“We all have been through suffering, but I won’t let my past determine my future because I am constantly seeking happiness for my family and myself,” said Hun. “It’s not about our past and where we come from but it’s about how we play the hand that we’re dealt.”

After decades of reflection of why he had to endure such a traumatic childhood, Hun uses this experience to showcase the will of the human spirit and how tragedy can be transformed into triumph.

“I’m lucky to be able to survive the genocide and I have the freedom to be somebody,” said Hun. “Don’t give up and persevere. If one door closes, another opportunity will open up. If you need help, always reach out because there are good hearted people who are willing to help you.”

**Opposite Page:** Lt. Col. Phidel Hun shares words of wisdom during his promotion ceremony in Tustin, CA, Oct. 22, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nicolas Cholula)

**Above Left:** Lt. Col. Phidel Hun poses for a photo with his four sons, Henry, Harrison, Hunter, and Hayden during his promotion ceremony in Tustin, Calif, Oct. 22, 2023. (Photo courtesy of the Hun family)

**Above Right:** Lt. Col. Phidel Hun’s parents Hong Hun and Lang Hun on their wedding day in 1970. (Photo courtesy of the Hun family)



FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

## PACIFIC SIGNAL WARRANT OFFICER: EXEMPLARY, STEADFAST ARMY PROFESSIONAL

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SSG. REBECCA PETRIE, 516TH TSB UPAR



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Wallace, a network management technician assigned to the 516th Theater Signal Brigade and originally from Ballston Spa, New York, has significantly impacted the signal community and set the path for future warrant officers to follow.

"Wallace is one of the most technically gifted and motivated warrant officers within the theater," said Maj. Joseph Ramaglia, the 516th TSB S3 engineering officer in charge. "He truly exemplifies what it means to be a silent professional while at the

same time guaranteeing mission success inside and outside of the organization by spearheading solutions and mentoring junior technicians."

Wallace grew up as the second-youngest of ten children. He initially joined the military to pay for school, earning a degree in computer information systems with a concentration in networking. He went on to complete a graduate-level advanced degree certificate in cyber operations.

Although his initial motivation was self-improvement, Wallace's experiences as an enlisted Soldier gave him a unique perspective

among his graduate peers. "I wanted to be able to make significant changes," Wallace said of his decision to become a Warrant Officer.

Two of Wallace's most impactful mentors were Lt. Col. Sean McNichol, and Department of the Army Civilian Todd Redenbaugh.

"He sent me, as the most junior NCO, to lead a deployment to Afghanistan," Wallace said of McNichol, commander of the 2nd NATO Signal Battalion Deployable Communication Module-Charlie, who played a significant role in Wallace's career development.

McNichol gave Wallace opportunities early on to test his mettle. The risk he took sending Wallace to lead the mission helped build Wallace's confidence and left an indelible impression.

"He showed a lot of faith and trust... a lot," Wallace said.

At the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Redenbaugh provided the foundation that would set Wallace up for his career as a warrant officer.

"He afforded a lot of opportunities for personal and professional development," said

Wallace. “He gave me time for tests, and to obtain certifications.”

Each one of Wallace’s duty assignments expanded his knowledge and skills. They helped him develop and succeed as a Soldier. As a warfighter for the U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Campbell, Wallace learned the importance of completing the mission.

“You gotta get it done,” Wallace said. “Whatever it takes.”

As an installer at his next assignment at Fort Belvoir, Wallace learned the signal standards and became proficient at knowing what right looks like. As a recruiter, Wallace learned planning and time management – skills that have proved invaluable throughout his career. At NATO, he learned cultural diversity and the advantage of being able to work with people with so many different backgrounds, ideas, and beliefs, and at SWCS, Wallace learned enterprise operations – building on skills developed previously and emerging as one of the most highly-specialized experts in his field.

All of these lessons have groomed Wallace for his current assignment as a network engineer with the 516th TSB.

“Over the past 16 months working with Wallace, he has served as officer-in-charge for the battalion regional network operations security center and brigade S3 network technician,” said Ramaglia. “He has played a critical role in assisting our subordinate battalions during circuit and service outages while directly leading communication support initiatives for U.S. Army Pacific and I Corps during theater exercises. During exercise



Talisman Saber '23, he worked diligently with U.S. Army and foreign technicians on Mission Partner Environment transport, data, and voice engineering to ensure command and control was established between forward-deployed, home station, and coalition entities.”

Wallace sums up everything he’s learned into one lesson, “make your time matter. We have a finite amount of time to leave our mark – to make a difference.”

“There’s a problem that needs to get solved,” Wallace said, “so you just help everybody.” He exemplifies this by living according to his leadership philosophy of helping everyone, regardless of rank or status.

With the time he has left with the 516th TSB, Wallace hopes to stand up an Installation Campus Area Network core in Guam, modernize licensing systems and business practices at the NEC

battalions, and finish building out a dynamic dashboard for 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion – Enhanced to articulate readiness and work flow.

“Chief Wallace embodies the best of what makes our Warrant Officer Corps great,” said Lt. Col. Donald Pratt, 516th deputy brigade commander. “He is a technical expert and superb leader who invests heavily in mentoring and developing others. His work ethic and capability are unmatched. Put simply, he makes the units he is in and those around him better.” ☒

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**Opposite Page:** Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Wallace's name tape at TechNet 2023, Nov. 8, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)

**Above:** Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Wallace speaks to leaders during TechNet 2023, “As the Theater Army Signal Command for the Indo-Pacific, we operate and defend the Army’s portion of the DoDIN-A... extending the network to the tactical edge.” Nov. 8, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)

# TRIUMPH IN RETENTION

## THEATER VOICE RECEIVES USARC, NETCOM AWARDS

STORY BY CAPT. CHRISTOPHER KIM, 311TH SC (T) HHD

**T**he demands and requirements of a Soldier transcend any ordinary job and is not for the faint-hearted.

Despite the massive demands of the Army, according to the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army led the retention rates compared to all other branches with a rate of 71.7%. This is a direct reflection and testament to Soldiers fulfilling their duties and answering the call of service once again.

The 311th Signal Command (Theater) was recently awarded retention awards from both the United States Army Reserve Command and the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command during fiscal year 2023. Winning both retention awards for the Active and Reserve components is a direct reflection of the 311th SC (T)'s versatility.

The 311th SC (T) is a unique organization because it is a multi-component unit with Active-Duty Soldiers,

Department of Defense contractors and Reserve Soldiers with full-time civilian jobs. Each component plays a vital role in the mission's success and offers its own contributions.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart, Senior Enlisted Leader of the 311th SC (T), humbly acknowledged the honorable distinction but was not surprised due to the robust system he and his team have implemented to retain such talent.

"Retention is not an event but a process that starts on day one," said DeHart. "In the past, we used to talk about retention during the 12-month window, but now we engage with Soldiers on day one of being assigned to an organization."

Headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, the command benefits from a close-knit community forged by the shared experience of island life. This bond fosters a sense of family among Soldiers and civilians alike, enhancing cohesion and camaraderie within the unit.

"The culture in the 311th revolves around the fact that it is nearly impossible to fly back to the mainland to see our family and friends, so it brings us closer together than any other traditional organization," said DeHart. "We rely on each other for that family strength and bond. In doing so, it brings us closer together, and we have a shared interest in each other."

Despite the geographical distance, the reserve detachment in Southern California adds another layer of expertise and professionalism to the mission's success. Soldiers there bring a diverse skill set and career experience that enriches the command's capabilities.

"Our reserve Soldiers continue to amaze me, from both our support unit and HHC units," said DeHart. "The Soldiers carry immense knowledge and skills because of their civilian occupations... We have a few Soldiers with PhDs and a specialist with a Master's in engineering. We can mobilize





these Soldiers as signal Soldiers, but they have additional skillsets that may be very useful to the mission.”

Another key component to successful retention rates are the career counselors who exemplify professionalism and customer service. Staff Sgt. Kyle F. Lakin won the 2023 NETCOM Career Counselor of the Quarter consecutively, and he shared that his strategy was simple: leave no stone unturned to accommodate the Soldiers and their Families.

“As career counselors, I believe we all have our own unique ways of running our programs, but as career counselors for the 311th, we are driven by putting the needs of the Soldiers and their Families first,” said Lakin.

Every Soldier in the 311th, wherever the footprint, possesses and contributes to mission

success. Soldiers are the greatest resource, and the leadership constantly fosters a culture and climate that shows appreciation and gratitude to every single Soldier in the Indo-Pacific theater.

“Winning the FY 23 USARC and NETCOM retention of the year award is a result of years of cultural change,” DeHart said, “As the Senior Enlisted Leader of the 311th, it weighs heavily on me that the Army prioritizes people.”

From day one, DeHart made it his goal to empower Soldiers and his vision has been to bring out the best in every Soldier.

“What Soldiers really want are engaged leaders that care about them. They want to be needed and want to be exercised,” said DeHart. “Talk to them about their roles and responsibilities and how they own it and they are part of something bigger

than themselves and not just an independent wheel in a big machine.”

The culture that the 311th has embraced since its inception was to create a lifelong family for all teammates no matter where their military journey takes them. “It makes them feel like a 311th member for life and proud to have served in the organization,” DeHart said.

“They will talk about their experience and will force multiply and Soldiers will want to come here; which will increase our talent pool,” DeHart said. “It’s not just the island life that makes the Soldiers want to stay, it’s how we treat them.”

**Above:** U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kyle Lakin, 516th TSB, poses for a photo with Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler and Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart, 311th SC (T), during an awards ceremony at Ft. Shafter, Hawaii, Mar. 2, 2023 (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula)



CAMP HUMPHREYS, SOUTH KOREA

## ARE YOU ON ORDERS TO 304TH ESB-E OR JUST ARRIVING?

### CHAPLAIN EASES TRANSITION TO SOUTH KOREA

STORY BY UNIT MINISTRY TEAM, 304TH ESB-E



**Left:** U.S. Army Chaplain Joshua Kwak, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, briefs Soldiers before a tour around Pyeongtaek, South Korea, as part of his in-processing training, dubbed 'Culture with the Chaplain.' (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 304th ESB-E)

Becoming acquainted with the local area can be quite intimidating; this is an experience that Chaplain (Capt.) Joshua Kwak has shared with many Soldiers. Kwak conducts in-processing training to ease the transition for Soldiers on temporary duty with the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced and for those just arriving.

Born in Korea, Kwak's return to his homeland in September 2021 should have felt like a homecoming. However, he stepped off the plane only to be struck by an unexpected wave of culture shock. Everything seemed so familiar, yet strangely foreign after the 30-plus years he had spent in the States. As he navigated the streets of Korea, memories flooded back alongside the realization that Korea had

changed so much. This, in turn, sparked empathy in Kwak. If he, a Korean-born individual, felt this disorientation, how much more bewildering must it be for those who have never been overseas?

Determined to ease the transition for all the young Soldiers under his care, Kwak started a program called "Culture with the Chaplain," which the Ready Battalion now includes as part of in-processing. At least twice a month from 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., newcomers and their families are given an introductory tour where they can learn more about local customs and courtesies, how to exchange U.S. dollars to Korean won, and how to navigate public transportation. Kwak's program also provides these newly arrived Soldiers with guided experiences



at the Tongbok local market and downtown shopping scene.

“Culture with the Chaplain is one of his many initiatives to improve our Service Members’ quality of life,” Maj. Adam Robitaille, 304th ESB-E said. “His selfless engagement within our military and local community has enabled READY Battalion Soldiers and Families to quickly integrate and enjoy all that service in Korea has to offer.”

Soldiers participating in the introductory tour ride the Camp Humphreys shuttle from their junior leader quarters to the Camp Humphreys walking gate. Immediately outside base, the Soldiers exchange U.S. dollars for Korean won and purchase public transportation cards. They then ride public transportation to Pyeongtaek Station to experience

local dining and shopping before returning to Camp Humphreys.

“All of Kwak’s events embrace the culture of Korea and introduce families to locations, food and activities they might otherwise not be aware of,” Staff Sgt. Mark Thompson said.

“Culture with the Chaplain” has succeeded greatly in bridging the gap between the Soldiers and their new community and contributes to many Soldiers’ desires to extend their tour in Korea and with the Ready Battalion.

“Kwak is the most engaged Chaplain I have met during my tenure in the Army,” 1st Lt. Matthew Gilliam said. “His beliefs and teachings are modeled by his actions demonstrating integrity and passion. He is the real deal and always finding

ways of strengthening Soldier’s spiritual well-being.”

For those interested in going on the tour or developing a similar program on their installation, please feel free to reach out to Kwak. Welcome to your new home away from home, and remember, the Ready Team is here to support you every step of the way.”

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**Above:** U.S. Army Soldiers with the 1st Theater Signal Brigade, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, taste food during a tour around Pyeongtaek, South Korea, as part of in-processing, ‘Culture with the Chaplain.’ (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 304th ESB-E)



## JACK'S LIFE SHINES ON

### ARMY FAMILY RAISES TEEN SUICIDE AWARENESS

STORY BY CAPT. CHRISTOPHER KIM, 311TH SC (T) HHD PAO

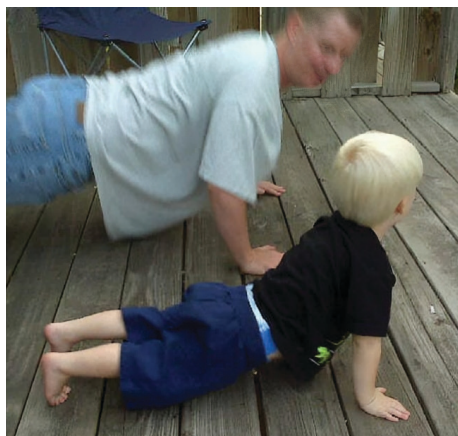
**W**hile many people around the world celebrate the holiday season with loved ones, some do not have the luxury of all being together, which can make this time of year feel cold and dark.

“Losing a child, especially your youngest child, has been a level of grief that is hard to put in words,” Elizabeth Martin said. “We are coping with the support of a very large community of friends, family, and what we call our military family whom we have developed close relationships through the past 25 years.”

Master Sgt. Paul D. Martin, a former NCOIC for the 311th SC (T) finance section, and his spouse, Elizabeth Martin, will spend the holiday season spreading suicide awareness to teenagers in honor of their fallen son, Jack Martin, who died by suicide, Jan. 7, 2020. He was 13-years-old.

“We are all trying to adjust to what life looks like without Jack in it,” Elizabeth Martin said.

Jack’s passing was the darkest moment for the Martin family and they knew that the best way to honor Jack and his legacy was to be the brightest light for teenagers

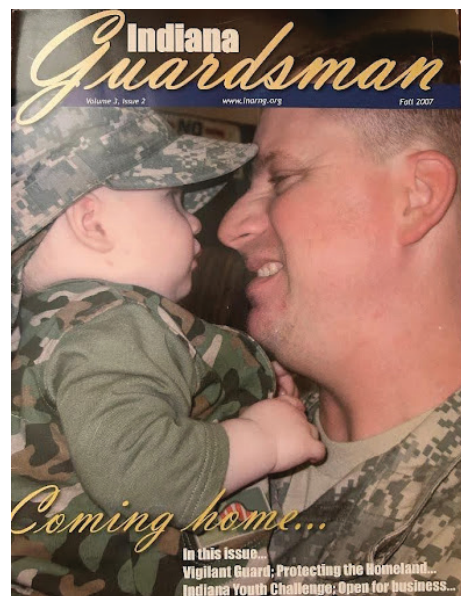


experiencing their darkest moments in life.

“In the first few weeks following Jack’s death, we received several alarming letters from other kids,” Elizabeth Martin said. While this initially added to their sorrow, it ultimately propelled them into positive action.

They saw the need for a program to combat mental illness and spread suicide awareness for teenagers and started Operation Jack’s Village. The heart of Operation Jack’s Village, a non-profit organization designed to uplift and support youth who are suffering in the same way, focuses on a comprehensive approach to adolescent suicide awareness and prevention.

According to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and



Prevention, suicide is second to unintentional injury as a leading cause of death for teenagers aged 10-14 and, as many as 8% of adolescents have attempted suicide.

They were shocked to hear from an overwhelming amount of teens who confided their suicidal thoughts and ideations with them. Over the past 25 years, data shows

**Left:** Master Sgt. Paul D. Martin and his son Jack Martin perform push-ups on the patio deck of their house.

**Above:** Master Sgt. Paul D. Martin and his son Jack Martin on the cover of the Indiana Guardsman magazine after his return from deployment.

that the rate of teen suicide has risen by 300% and the Martin family wanted to combat this harrowing change.

Operation Jack's Village shares coping tools for adolescents to survive, thrive, and once again soar. The Martin family is dedicated to providing tools and resources for parents and caregivers to have a robust skillset and knowledge of teenage suicide prevention. Their all-volunteer force works with the community to support events such as suicide prevention summits, a climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro, zip-line Veterans Day events, and other activities in the Tampa area.

Jack's legacy continues to live on as the organization reaches out to teens and adolescents who are struggling with suicidal ideation. His legacy also lives on through his selflessness, which allowed several fortunate recipients a second chance at life.



Days after their tragedy, Jack gave life to six other people, when seven of his organs were donated.

"Jack continued to give life even beyond his time here on Earth; he was an organ donor and we were contacted by the mother of the little boy who received Jack's heart," Elizabeth Martin said. "The heart recipient is an 8-year-old boy in Virginia. The recipient of his lungs is a 13-year-old boy in Texas, and the liver recipient is a 5-month-old girl in Georgia."

Jack's parents find comfort in the fact that his light will always shine bright through Operation Jack's Village, and through Jack's selfless act of being a donor.

"Grief is the most damaging emotion that exists, it can steal your mind and the beauty of life," Paul Martin said. "Our memories of Jack will always be of an affectionate, energetic and intelligent boy who still liked to

cuddle with mom and read; always presenting ways to light up the room." 🐛



**Left:** Master Sgt. Paul D. Martin and his son Jack Martin pose for a photo with The Tampa Bay Lightning mascot ThunderBug, Tampa, Fla.

**Top:** Mr. and Mrs. Martin pose for a family photo during the renewal of their vows. This was also their last photo as a family with Jack Martin.

**Above:** Elizabeth Martin holds and kisses Jack Martin in the days following his birth.

— YOU'RE THE LIGHT IN SOMEBODY'S LIFE —

TALK WITH US, THERE IS HOPE

CONUS

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE





# READING





# ESS

**Spread:** U.S. Army Soldiers from six squads competing for the title of Best Squad pose with Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan DeHart and cadre during the 311th SC (T) Best Squad Competition at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on Apr. 19, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula)





FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

## SERVING TOGETHER FATHER-DAUGHTER SUSTAINERS LEAD

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



**F**or 1st Sgt. Nicholas Kizzie and his daughter, Spc. Anaya Kizzie, serving in the same military command was a welcome surprise upon assignment to the 311th Signal Command (Theater) in Hawaii.

Nicholas has spent 15 years in the U.S. Army. As the first sergeant for the 311th SC (T) Headquarters and Headquarters Company, he's a senior logistician

overseeing logistics, training and discipline.

"Service is a calling," Nicholas said. "It's about more than just wearing the uniform; it's about committing to something greater than yourself, leading and mentoring others to achieve greater things for our nation."

Inspired by her father's dedication, Anaya joined the Army to create her own legacy. She serves as a supply clerk

with the 30th Signal Battalion, ensuring operational readiness by maintaining crucial supplies.

"Growing up, I saw the impact my father had on his Soldiers and the difference he made," Anaya said. "So, when I joined, I wanted to become an Automated Logistical Specialist, 92A, like him, but I couldn't, so I enlisted as a unit Supply Specialist."

The Kizzies' roles are crucial in the Theater Army Signal Command, which maintains communication networks across the Indo-Pacific. Their work ensures that vital supplies and logistical support are always available, directly affecting the command's ability to keep communications uninterrupted and secure.

Nicholas's experience ensures that logistical needs are met efficiently. "This theater brings unique challenges for sustainers due to the geographical dispersion," Nicholas said. "Every move has to be through air or sea, unlike in other regions where you can use all domains."

Anaya's job involves managing and distributing supplies critical



for communication systems. “Accountability is crucial in everything we do, especially in my job,” she said. “We must be proficient in maintaining property books to enable commanders to fulfill their mission.”

Serving together brings both challenges and rewards for the Kizzie family. While maintaining professionalism and adhering to the chain of command, their bond strengthens their ability to support one another.

“There’s a sense of pride in seeing Anaya grow and develop as a Soldier,” Nicholas said. “It’s also a reminder of the importance of family, even within the military structure.”

For Anaya, having her father nearby provides motivation. “I am

thankful that he’s here, not just as a leader, but as family. He helps me not only as a father but as a leader, motivating and pushing me to strive for excellence,” she added.

Anaya is also breaking stereotypes with her service. “I want to continue growing in the ranks and become a non-commissioned officer, continue leading, and breaking stereotypes as a black African female in service,” she said. “I want to show my peers that we are the only limit to our service.”

The Kizzie’s story serves as an example of how family and duty can intertwine in military service.

Like them, thousands of Families and Soldiers within the Indo-Pacific’s Theater Army

Signal Command and across the U.S. Army continue their service by breaking down barriers and shattering stereotypes to serve the nation. 🇺🇸

**Opposite Page:** U.S. Army Spc. Anaya Kizzie, 30th Sig. Bn., performs inventory and maintenance checks on signal equipment, May 10, 2024, Wheeler Army Airfield, HI. Anaya is a Supply Specialist under the 311th SC (T) and same command as her father 1st Sgt. Nicholas Kizzie. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)

**Above:** U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Nicholas Kizzie, 311th SC (T) HHC senior non-commissioned officer, takes on the role of first sergeant during the Headquarters and Headquarters Company change of responsibility, Oct. 21, 2023, Fort Shafter, HI. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

## SIGNAL SOLDIERS MEET TODAY'S CHALLENGES DURING PACIFIC SIGNAL REGIMENTAL WEEK

STORY BY SGT. SEAN McCALLON, 311TH SC (T) HHD PAO



Command Sgt. Maj. Linwood Barrett, 25th regimental command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Signal skill competitions, such as the High-Frequency Signal Competition and the Tactical Network Node Challenge, provided opportunities for signal Soldiers to test their current knowledge and gain instruction in challenging scenarios with newer technology.

Guest speakers were brought in for informational sessions to answer questions and discuss the current state of the signal climate. Guests included Brig. Gen. David Zinn, operations commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division and Brig. Gen. Mark Miles, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command J6 director.

"We are an Army in transformation," Zinn said. "We are changing, and I think the Army is counting on everyone here in this room to embrace that change."

Many of the events from the week encouraged signaleers to be proactive about learning new technologies and processes.

"Ask the tough questions, learn your own professional

**H**undreds of Indo-Pacific signal Soldiers came together in Hawaii for Pacific Signal Regimental Week, Feb. 26 -March 1, 2024.

"This week we celebrate 164 steadfast years of the United States Army Signal Corps," said Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 311th SC (T) commanding general. "From Alaska to Guam, commanders could not operate without your seamless support."

Pacific Signal Regimental Week is an annual event that

allows signal Soldiers, leaders, and civilians from across the Indo-Pacific theater to learn, grow and build camaraderie with one another.

This year's Signal Week focused on equipping signal Soldiers with the skills to fulfill their mission of maintaining cyber domain access for the Indo-Pacific theater and growing them into leaders capable of perpetuating a self-sustaining Signal Corps.

"If you need to go do one of those jobs, you should have enough skills to go out there and accomplish the mission," said



development,” Miles said. “If we’re not doing that in the high-tech field, then no one else is.”

Soldiers looking to advance their careers could attend any event that would benefit them.

“We attended the Warrant Officer brief that they had on Wednesday morning,” said Spc. Jacob Moyes, a signaleer with the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, Charlie Company in Alaska, and a winner of the Network Node Challenge. “It was very insightful to see where [the Signal Corps] plans on being in the next three to five years.”

Building relationships with fellow Soldiers was key to being comfortable enough to ask for help. A wide variety of activities

kept participants engaged. Signaleers could choose from a motorcycle ride along the Hawaii coast, sports tournaments, a tour of the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii and a number of social events.

On the final day, all units came together for the traditional Pacific Signal Regimental Run, led by the 311th SC (T) commanding general. A formal ball ended the week, providing a venue to celebrate the accomplishments of some of the Soldiers.

“Just to sit down and discuss where we’ve started and where we’ve come,” Moyes said. “It was nice to be included. I’m excited for next year.”

Pacific Signal Regimental Week taught everyone how to be

self-motivated and in charge of their own development. With the knowledge they gained this week, Soldiers will be able to return to their home stations more capable of leading and inspiring Soldiers in their units to continue to grow. 🇺🇸

**Above:** U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, 311th SC (T) commanding general leads a formation of signal Soldiers in a run through Schofield Barracks, Hawaii during Pacific Signal Regimental Week 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

**Opposite Page:** U.S. Army Cyber Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Nichols speaks with signaleers from across the Indo-Pacific at an NCO panel during Pacific Signal Regimental Week, Feb. 29, 2024, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

## SIGNAL & CYBER OPERATORS DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE DURING INDO-PACIFIC SIGNAL COMPETITION

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



Signal and cyber teams from across the Indo-Pacific theater convened for a competition at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter Flats, Hawaii, during Pacific Signal Regimental Week, Feb. 26 -March 1, 2024. The competitions showcased the technical skills and physical readiness of warfighters, contributing to ongoing efforts to

enhance operational capabilities and preparedness in the region.

Joe Murrey, an organizer of the event, expressed hope for its continuation, stating, “We hope to continue this tradition to perfect our craft and bolster our commitment to the Signal Corps.”

Hosted by the 25th Infantry Division, the tactical high radio frequency competition took place at Schofield Barracks. This event

challenged tactical communicators to enhance their skills, creating a more lethal fighting force capable of executing mission sets across the Indo-Pacific theater. Featuring four lanes of signal tasks spread across a challenging six-mile ruck march, the competition aimed to increase tactical communication readiness.

Maj. Andrew Delucio, 25th ID, 2nd Brigade S6, stated, “We



tested and evaluated teams across a six-mile ruck march to assess their technical competencies, contributing to enhanced tactical communication readiness.”

Involving over 15 Soldiers, the competition demonstrated the readiness and capabilities of U.S. Army Soldiers in the Pacific region. Deployable forces and citizen Soldiers alike emerged as crucial components of the total force, embodying the warrior spirit essential for success in dynamic operational environments.

Meanwhile, the Tactical Network Node Challenge, hosted by the Regional Cyber Center-Pacific at Fort Shafter Flats, Hawaii, tested 16 Soldiers in a timed competition focused on resolving discrepancies within a secure network. This challenge underscored the importance of ongoing training and preparedness

in bolstering cybersecurity resilience.

“Our challenge was to replicate a tactical node in a virtualized environment,” Sgt. 1st Class Ken Witzen said, “ensuring participant safety while maintaining mission capability.”

The competitive spirit and dedication exhibited by participating signal teams highlight the U.S. Army's commitment in the Pacific to maintaining peak operational readiness and staying at the forefront of communication technologies. As cyber threats evolve, events like the Tactical Network Node Challenge provide invaluable opportunities for Soldiers to refine their skills and confront emerging challenges effectively.

Pacific Signal Regimental Week fosters camaraderie among signal professionals while showcasing

the expertise and dedication of the U.S. Army's signal forces in the Indo-Pacific region. Through continuous training and innovative approaches, these Soldiers remain prepared to execute missions with precision and effectiveness.

The successful conclusion of the competition underscores the ongoing efforts of the U.S. Army in the Pacific to uphold readiness and adaptability in the evolving landscape of modern warfare. 🇺🇸

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**Opposite Page:** Soldiers of the 30th Signal Battalion adjust a high frequency radio antenna during day two of Pacific Signal Regimental Week Tactical Radio Competition at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Feb. 27, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

**Above:** Soldiers of the 59th Signal Battalion (Arctic) and 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced go head-to-head at the Tactical Network Node challenge during Pacific Signal Regimental Week, Fort Shafter Flats, Hawaii, Feb. 27, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sean McCallon)







**Spread:** Soldiers from the 30th Signal Battalion conducted a radio check during a tactical radio competition at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Feb. 27, 2024. The competition aimed to push and refine tactical communicators, enhancing their ability to lead a potent fighting force ready for diverse missions across the Indo-Pacific theater as part of Pacific Signal Regimental Week 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)





CAMP HUMPHREYS, SOUTH KOREA

## "READY BATTALION" SETS THE STANDARD FOR TACTICAL THEATER MISSION SUPPORT

STORY BY MAJ. ADAM P. ROBITAILLE, 304TH ESB-E, G3



**T**he 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced achieved a milestone in mission readiness and theater support in March 2024 by deploying more signal teams in a single month than any other ESB-E.

The "Ready" Battalion dispatched 32 Scalable Network Node teams across Korea to support the Freedom Shield 2024 theater exercise and ongoing missions, demonstrating its ability for rapid and widespread deployment in contingency operations.

During the theater exercise, the Ready Battalion simultaneously utilized 22 SNN teams, four Phoenix terminals, and two Secure Mobile Anti-Jam Reliable Terminals-Tactical at 10 different locations on the peninsula. These operations highlighted the

battalion's capability to provide essential command and control services to key military commands, including United States Forces Korea, Combined Forces Command, Eighth U.S. Army, and others.

Freedom Shield 2024 allowed the Ready Battalion to demonstrate expeditionary deployment and command post operations by utilizing a battalion Main Command Post, Rear Command Post, and alternate Network Operations Center at three separate locations. The battalion headquarters conducted a 125-mile ground movement and established a tactical MCP at Camp Carroll while managing Command and Control of all battalion operations, showcasing adaptability in challenging environments. The RCP at Camp Humphreys coordinated centralized logistic and maintenance






support and provided redundant C2 capabilities. At a third location, 304th ESB-E network engineers collaborated with the 41st Strategic Signal Battalion to establish an alternate network monitoring capability, showcasing the battalion's commitment to innovation and interoperability in ongoing operations.

These complex operations were enabled by key Ready Battalion training and maintenance initiatives that reflect a proactive approach to readiness. The unit training plan includes quarterly platoon validations consisting of MCP operations, company and platoon alert procedures, platoon and team deployment, and external validations of network extension and tactical radio capabilities. This training resulted in 90% of signal teams validated on digital gunnery table VI, despite high Soldier turnover. Maintenance initiatives - including on-site cable repair and fabrication, detailed maintenance schedules, and standardized recovery operations - led to a consistent 95% operational readiness rate and the receipt of the ARCYBER

Army Award for Maintenance Excellence despite a high operational tempo. The Ready Battalion's training and maintenance initiatives were reinforced and supported by frequent engagements and collaboration with Communications-Electronics Command trainers and maintainers, as well as with numerous industry partners.

The 304th ESB-E's accomplishments not only demonstrate their exceptional capabilities in providing critical communication support but also establish them as a benchmark for mission readiness and theater support within the signal community. 

**Opposite Page:** U.S. Army 41st Sig. Bn "Ready Battalion" Bravo Company, Headquarters and Higher Headquarters Command Soldiers pose for a group photo to conclude operations during exercise Freedom Shield 2024, Camp Carroll, South Korea, Apr. 5, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Megan Gaston)

**Above:** U.S. Army 41st Sig. Bn. Major Command Post and Higher Headquarters Command Soldiers provide Command and Control and field maintenance, Camp Carroll, South Korea, Apr. 5, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Megan Gaston)



CAMP HUMPHREYS, SOUTH KOREA

## MAINTENANCE SUPPORT TEAMS

KEEP THE KOREAN PENINSULA CONNECTED

STORY BY SGT. SHAWNEE VERCAMMEN, 1ST TSB PAO



Signal capacities are key to the success of everyday military operations, and the 41st Signal Battalion's maintenance support teams keep the signal operations running on the Korean peninsula.

Only two of these teams cover this vast area, and they are tasked with maintaining signal towers that enable Army communications. The team based at Camp Humphreys maintains

the northern part of South Korea, while the team at Camp Walker covers the southern part of the country.

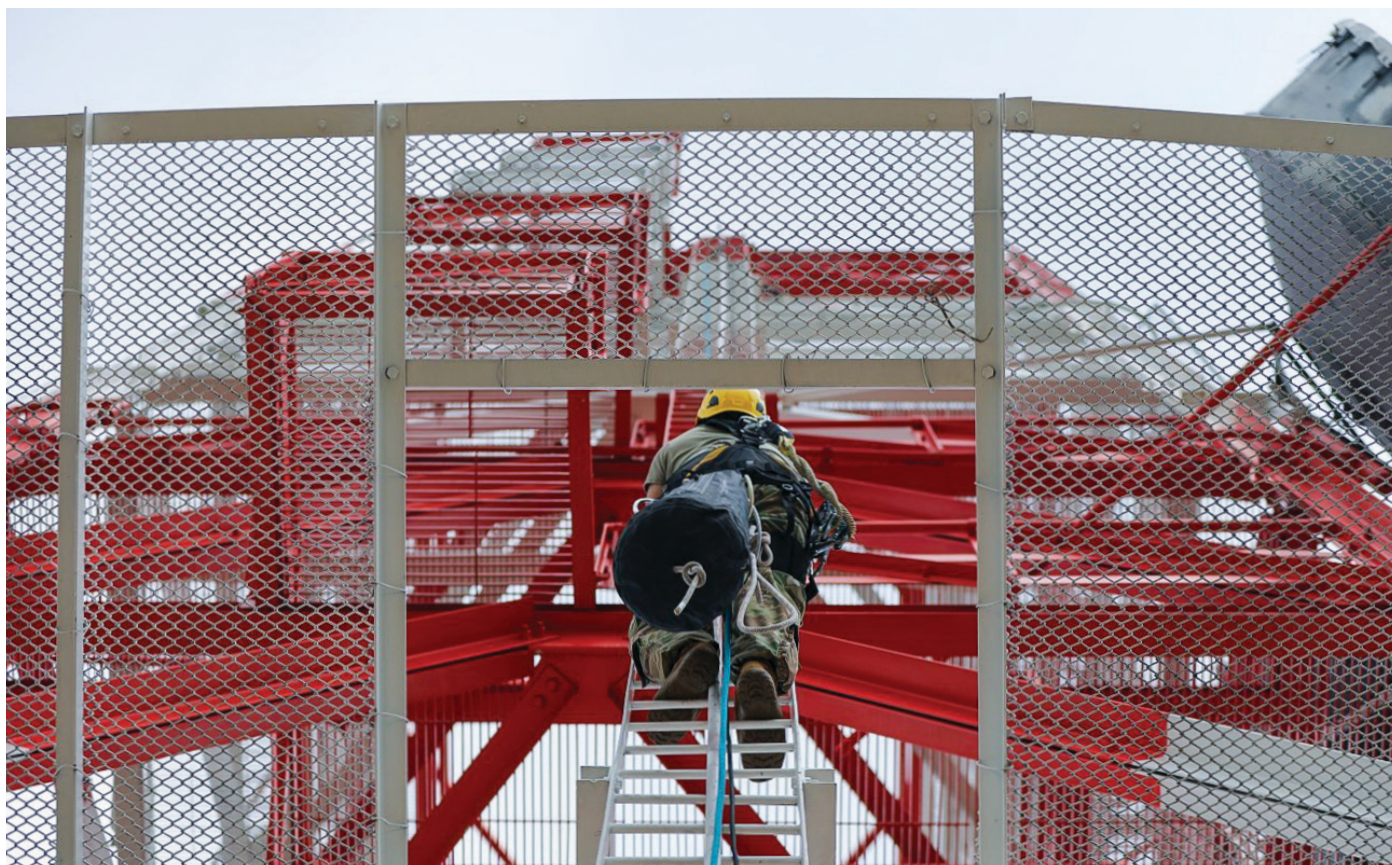
The teams maintain different types of signal towers, such as microwave towers.

"The primary means of communication is the fiber backbone, but the microwave towers are the secondary means set up in case the fiber fails. Those are the big drums," said Sgt. Nathaniel Barrett, 41st

Signal Battalion maintenance support team non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

Another type of antenna they service is the tactical antenna, which can be attached to the same towers as the microwave antenna but serves different purposes. "As an example, all air traffic control communications use tactical antennas," said Barrett. Finally, they also maintain AM and FM antennas, which are used by the Armed Forces Network,





providing a radio station for service members in Korea.

The teams are tasked with conducting Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services on all these towers and antennas. “We climb the towers, do PMCS, check the lights, the condition of the drums, the antennas, and the grounding. We also check the condition of equipment inside the tower control facilities, the little building next to the tower. And we make sure all the signal flow is good,” said Barrett.

Climbing towers can be a perilous task with many different factors affecting the climbing conditions for soldiers. It takes meticulous checks of their climbing gear, which serves as their lifeline when climbing. They go through a weekly routine to maintain the communication towers as safely as possible.


“Training and safety are always like the number one priority,” said Barrett.

“Monday is the PMCS day, just like for most of the Army. We PMCS the vehicles, but we also do our PMCS of all our climbing gear. We put on our harnesses, ropes, and lines, check over every piece of equipment, and we follow our PMCS checklist. We make sure everything is good to go,” Barrett said.

On Tuesday, they plan the climb and tower maintenance for the next day. They check the weather conditions, assess the needs of the specific location they will maintain, and go over the maintenance checklist one more time to create the best climbing conditions.

“Wednesday, we go out to the tower site, and we PMCS the tower. We have our checklist, we

check all the climbing conditions and proceed to climb the towers,” said Barrett. “Climbing is part of the appeal of the job. It makes it a lot of fun.”

When the conditions do not allow for the teams to climb, they conduct training on new equipment or plan the decommissioning of old equipment, in order to maintain readiness across the Korean Theater of Operations. 

**Above:** U.S. Army Soldier assigned to 41st Sig. Bn. performs maintenance checks on a communication tower to keep strategic signal operations running on the Peninsula, July 3, 2023 at U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys, South Korea. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Noah Sladek)

**Opposite Page:** U.S. Army Soldier with the 41st Sig. Bn. repels down a communications tower during maintenance day at U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys, South Korea. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawnee Vercammen)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

## SIGNALEERS PAVE THE WAY FOR TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS THE INDO-PACIFIC

STORY BY CAPT. SARA ALBERTSON, 307TH ESB-E BRAVO COMPANY



Just last summer, the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion – Enhanced transitioned to the Scalable Network Node model, leaving behind traditional Warfighter Information Network – Tactical signal equipment. Throughout this shift, the battalion maintained theater-level support globally,

participating in exercises like Cobra Gold 2023, Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center, Yama Sakura 83, and providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief support for Typhoon Mawar in Guam during 2023.

Amidst this transition, the battalion encountered invaluable lessons. The new equipment

streamlined deployment and offered enhanced transport options, crucial in today's rapidly changing battlefield environment.

“The pace of change is increasing, and there are no signs of slowing down,” noted U.S. Army Pacific Commanding General, Gen. Charles Flynn during Land Forces Pacific Symposium 2023, emphasizing the

need for adaptability in the face of evolving information dynamics.

In response, the 307th ESB-E bolstered its coordination with global organizations, enhancing communications support within the Indo-Pacific theater. This transition provided soldiers with opportunities to experiment and expand network monitoring capabilities.

“The new SNN systems have significant advantages over legacy equipment,” remarked 1st Sgt. Ruben Torres, emphasizing the scalability that enables rapid deployment in forward support of customers.

However, challenges persisted, notably in equipment ruggedization. Adverse climates frequently impacted equipment durability, and flying with gear proved more complex than anticipated, given weight restrictions and security protocols.

To address these challenges, the 307th ESB-E team is exploring solutions to balance equipment shipping with maintaining immediate connectivity to mission partners.

Soldiers praised the user-friendly nature of the SNN equipment, highlighting its expedited services and data capabilities compared to previous systems. Despite hurdles, the 307th ESB-E's teams sustained mission success across diverse environments, collaborating with counterparts to swiftly replace non-mission capable components.

“A lot of other countries want to steal our secrets,” remarked Gen. James Rainey, emphasizing the critical role of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps in accomplishing mission objectives.



The need for resilient, deployable, and technically proficient teams remained paramount. NCOs and team chiefs assumed responsibility for deploying with necessary equipment, ensuring proper care, and employment of soldiers while navigating new environments.

Lt. Col. Izabella Lundy, 307th ESB-E battalion commander, lauded the NCOs' role in cultivating relationships with joint and partner forces, underscoring their pivotal role in mission command across the Indo-Pacific area of operation.

The transition to SNN systems was bolstered by the assistance of the 44th ESB-E and 50th ESB-E, enabling enhanced support to mission partners.

Moving forward, the 307th ESB-E remains committed to leveraging relationships with mission partners, refining systems,

and prioritizing the development of impactful mid-level leaders to ensure continued success across the Indo-Pacific.

As the most forward-deployed signal battalion in the Indo-Pacific theater, the 307th ESB-E continues to support multinational exercises and missions, enabling multi-domain operations for the Theater Army and Joint Force. ✕

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**Opposite Page:** U.S. Army Cpl. Vidal from the 307th Expeditionary Battalion-Enhanced performs checks on a Scalable Network Node during exercise Cobra Gold 2023 at U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield, Thailand, March 30, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nicolas Cholula)

**Above:** U.S. Army Pfc. Alexis Ellis and Sgt. Thomas Cubbedge monitor the network during a training simulation at Helemano Military Reservation, Hawaii, April 11, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nicolas Cholula)



# SIX SQUADS, ONE WINNER

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII



## 1st Theater Signal Brigade

Pfc. Vernard Terrery

Sgt. Gabriel Meyers

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Hailer

Spc. Daevell Palmer

Pfc. Nicholas Yang



## 41st Signal Battalion

Pfc. Charles Chimbo

Sgt. William Evans

Staff Sgt. James Ballard

Spc. Jared Cartas

Pfc. Evan Ludwig



## 59th Signal Battalion

Spc. Rayshon Ross

Sgt. Christopher Seabaugh

Spc. Anahi Patino

Staff Sgt. Alexa Rodriguez

Spc. Brandon Floyd







## 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced

Pfc. Yael Ocampo

Sgt. Vhincet Agreda

Staff Sgt. Christopher Derouen

Spc. Isaac Lopez

Pfc. Gary Spain



## 311th Signal Command HHC

Spc. Tiara Fetui

Sgt. Jonathon Galvan

Staff Sgt. Ruben Chagolla

Spc. Joalys Rodriguez

Spc. Andrew Quemado



## 311th Signal Command HHD

Spc. Giovanni Alvarado

Sgt. Gerard Garcia

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hickman

Spc. Benard Njuki

Spc. Miguel Pasamonte











# MODE





# RNIZATION



**Spread:** U.S. Army Soldiers with the 1st Theater Signal Brigade demonstrate their signal capabilities to Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert Christian, 311th SC (T), during a field training exercise at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st Theater Signal Brigade)



FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

## PACIFIC DODIN OPERATIONS CENTER

# A CENTER OF GRAVITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL D. SMITH, 311TH SC (T)

When one thinks of strategic Army signal operations, a traditional Network Enterprise Center may come to mind; however, the Pacific signal team is innovating the ways of communication to provide customer service and technical support effectively.

The Theater Army Signal Command in the Indo-Pacific is redefining strategic Army signal operations by innovating communication methods, ensuring efficient customer service, and delivering technical support beyond traditional Network Enterprise Centers, here at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

“Having all the key players in one location allows us to flatten our lines of effort,” Lt. Col. Frank Trinidad, PDOC officer in charge said, “creating a holistic understanding of the operational environment and the impacts that are affecting the Indo-Pacific area of operations.”

These departments cover a wide range of functions from strategic

to tactical for the Army’s Department of Defense Information Network. However, a newer concept, the Pacific DoDIN Operations Center, serves as a central data collection point by combining information from NECs operated by the 1st and 516th Theater Signal Brigades and Regional Cyber Centers throughout the Indo-Pacific Theater of operations.

The 311th Signal Command (Theater) began the development of a PDOC in October of 2022 during Warfighter 23-1 to serve as the Joint Network Operations Control Center and to facilitate the coordination between tactical and strategic communications. The PDOC begins to resemble a spider web, receiving reports and network issues from across the Theater, packaging that information, and distributing it to the appropriate entities that decide how to proceed or action to resolve the problem.



“The PDOC core competencies are from a sensor to shooter perspective, getting techs on the target, and communicating what is happening in the environment to leaders and customers,” said Maj. Michael Martinez, RCC-P Theater Operations officer in charge.

At any given time, a serious issue could arise that might result in customers calling to submit tickets or get information on the situation. It can be very overwhelming for one individual to address if they don’t know or understand what is happening.





The PDOC established a Common Operational Picture through mission command tools such as Command Post Computing Environment and network monitoring tools. These tools are utilized by all three organizations to capture and inform the current situation, fostering a complete shared understanding of the DoDINAP environment. This initiative has drastically increased reaction time to real-world situations and has created a unified effort led by a single entity of roughly 30 Army officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians.

“The PDOC is very much a responsive entity supporting the U.S. Army Pacific in day-to-day operations to meet the demands of their mission,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nathaniel Prawdzik, PDOC battle captain.

There could be a network outage due to a tactical node

being unable to establish a link, trouble tickets being created to resolve issues on the network, or requests for Authorized Service Interruptions possibly taking network systems offline for extended periods of time. However, PDOC watch officers on shift now collect this information and execute or direct them to the appropriate team.

The PDOC enforces regulatory guidance for network use, as published by Army Network Enterprise Technology Command and Army Cyber Command. “With the USARPAC OPORD pending publication, it will make our services more available to other units in the Pacific and those integrating to our network to utilize,” said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Lonix, 516th Theater Signal Brigade PDOC battle noncommissioned officer.

Throughout the year, the PDOC supports USARPAC

with its “Operation Pathways” by aiding organic and integrating units in preparation for missions, training and exercises. The Theater Army Signal Command’s modernization efforts focus on enhancing telecommunication infrastructure and network security, aiming to bolster the region’s operational readiness and resilience. In response to that effort, the PDOC will continue expanding its capabilities to focus on assisting and maintaining the warfighting network and to support operations throughout the Indo-Pacific. 🇺🇸

**Opposite Page:** Graphic representing the new U.S. Army Pacific Department of Defence Information Network Operations Center, with their motto “there can be only one.”

**Above:** U.S. Army Soldiers and civilians with the 311th SC (T) pose for a photo during a standard workday at the new Pacific DoDIN Operations Center, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, Jun. 18, 2024. (Pacific DoDIN Operations Center courtesy photo)



CAMP HUMPHREYS, SOUTH KOREA

## KOREA TEAM HOSTS U.S. ARMY PACIFIC'S THEATER SYNCHRONIZATION REVIEW

STORY COURTESY OF KOREA INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



**A** U.S. military base in Pyeongtaek, held the U.S. Army Pacific Theater Communications Synchronization Evaluation meeting at the U.S. Army data center, Dec. 12-14, 2023.

The meeting included Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, commander of the 311th Signal Command (Theater); Deputy Commanding General Patrick Dedham of the U.S. Army Network Technology Command; Col. Eric Wellcomb, J-6 chief of staff, U.S. Forces Korea Command;

and Col. Alston Johnson, G-6 chief of staff, U.S. Army Pacific Command.

More than 90 people attended, including Brig. Gen. Christopher McClure of the 1st Theater Signal Brigade and other major officials from around the world.





The purpose of the meeting was to bring together U.S. military communications and cyber executives to discuss and build a common understanding of U.S. Army communications innovation and network updates.

The focus was on reorganizing the Pacific theater and addressing communications complexity in the region.

The primary goal was to identify theater requirements for updating communication networks in the Indo-Pacific region and to establish priorities for infrastructure investment and issues.

Senior communications and cyber military executives also discussed ways to integrate Pacific

region requirements, select overall business priorities, and innovate U.S. Army communications and network modernization to address communications complexity in distributed theater areas of operations.

“I believe that keeping the door of communication open and talking is the best way for [ROK-U.S. combined forces] to move forward together. Through this, we will strengthen the ROK-U.S. joint readiness posture against the enemy,” Meisler said.

The 311th SC (T), a communications command in the U.S. Army's Pacific theater, has specialized strategic and tactical communications capabilities that enable multi-domain operations

for theater armies and allied forces.

They provide effective strategic communications, infrastructure establishment, and information security on the front lines of the Indo-Pacific region.

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**Opposite Page:** U.S. Army Pfc. Theo Bishop, 41st Sig. Bde. speaks with senior leaders about the communication towers on the Peninsula of Korea during U.S. Army Pacific Theater Synchronization Review Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Dec. 14, 2023. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st Theater Signal Brigade)

**Above:** U.S. Army NETCOM Deputy Commanding General Patrick Dedham speaks with media during the U.S. Army Pacific Theater Synchronization Review Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Dec. 14, 2023. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st Theater Signal Brigade)



# STRENGTHENING OPERATIONS

## THE RCC-K's MISSION AT CAMP HUMPHREYS

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



**T**he Regional Cyber Center-Korea is bolstering cybersecurity operations with a strategic relocation from Camp Walker to Camp Humphreys, scheduled for completion by summer 2024.

The RCC-K's relocation to Camp Humphreys signifies a significant step forward in its mission to fortify cybersecurity

capabilities in the region. This move underscores RCC-K's commitment to defending and securing the Department of Defense Information Network, crucial for supporting key military commands across Korea.

"Supporting the ground commanders from cyberspace remains enduring," said RCC-K Director Lt. Col. Karensa Thomas.

With the transition, the new communication center at Camp

Humphreys will house a joint operations center, positioning RCC-K at the heart of an integrated network infrastructure. Ensuring network-enabled mission command and crisis management remains at the forefront of RCC-K's operations.

The center's top priorities encompass enabling decision and information dominance within cyberspace, supporting ground commanders through enterprise-level solutions and delivering freedom of movement in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

"We are working diligently with the Regional Cyber Center Pacific in engineering a solution that creates a Unified Pacific Network enabling freedom of movement throughout INDOPACOM," Thomas said.

Collaboration with the Regional Cyber Center Pacific underscores RCC-K's commitment to engineering a Unified Pacific Network, starting with the NIPR network under the Army Unified Network Plan.

Through continuous improvement activities and



robust threat analysis platforms, RCC-K is accelerating the development of cloud infrastructure capabilities, laying the groundwork for enhanced cybersecurity across the Indo-Pacific region. Recent milestones include the successful testing of the U.S. Army Pacific Seamless Movement initiative at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

“This achievement signifies an interim operating capability to support the USARPAC commander with freedom of movement through INDOPACOM,” Thomas said. “Furthermore, this milestone sets the conditions to support command and control, continuity of operations, reception, staging, onward movement and integration and other enabling activities within the theater.”

The RCC-K took steps to implement NIPR Comply-to-Connect ahead of schedule, demonstrating its proactive approach to enforcing a zero-trust environment and bolstering network security. The team is now actively working towards Phase I of the Army Unified Network Plan, which focuses on the establishment of a standards-based security architecture built on zero-trust principles.

In addition, efforts are underway to divest legacy equipment and accelerate the movement of capabilities into cloud infrastructure. “We have divested 62.4 percent of legacy equipment since July 2022,” Thomas said.

Among their other efforts, IP Address Management across



the peninsula is undergoing transformation after receiving a solution that centralizes and automates IPAM.

“IPAM across the peninsula is currently decentralized and inefficient. It is a manual process lacking the capability to identify, label, and track all the subnets that are currently in use through the Korean DoDIN-A network until recently,” Thomas said.

With this change, the RCC-K aims to enhance visibility within managed networks and improve responsiveness to network activity.

Looking ahead, the RCC-K remains committed to improving readiness, enabling combatant commanders and supporting the warfighter.

“By the end of Fiscal Year 24,

the RCC-K will become the cybersecurity service provider for the war fighting network, Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System-Korea,” Thomas said, further solidifying its position as a central hub for cybersecurity operations in the Indo-Pacific region. 🇺🇸

**Opposite Page:** U.S. Army RCC-K Director Lt. Col. Karensa Thomas reads a message to Soldiers during the opening ceremony of their new communications center. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st Theater Signal Brigade)

**Above:** U.S. NETCOM Deputy Commanding General Patrick Dedham and U.S. Army RCC-K Director Lt. Col. Karensa Thomas pose for a photo during the symbolic cake-cutting ceremony. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st Theater Signal Brigade)



KADENA AIR BASE, JAPAN

## THE THEATER ARMY SIGNAL COMMAND LEADS INDOPACOM's LMR Strategy Summit

STORY BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CATHERINE DANIEL, 18TH WING



The 311th Signal Command led the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Land Mobile Radio Strategy Summit hosted by the 18th Communications Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan from April 9 – 11, 2024.

The summit aimed to chart a course forward for LMR in the Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility, focusing on

enhancing seamless emergency communications across diverse geographic locations. This will ensure cost-shared efficiencies, establish agreed governance structures, and outline plans for system modernization and sustainable life cycle management.

Army, Air Force, Navy, and the Marine Corps share LMR system infrastructures and interoperable capabilities across the Pacific theater to ensure first responders

and emergency/safety personnel get the information they need to execute their mission. As a shared system, in addition to being able to coordinate and respond across branches, the costs of maintaining and administering the system are divided up and are lower for each branch.

One of the key challenges looming over the Indo-Pacific is the need to modernize LMR systems and extend their life





cycle beyond the next decade; the system is inter-service so, coordinating upgrade funding between the branches is key. One of the purposes of the summit was to align efforts across the branches with the mission needs of Indo-Pacific installations and to reinforce the efficiencies of an inter-service emergency response.

“We were honored to host the INDOPACOM summit, recognizing our pivotal role as a core site and prominent user of the IP2LMR network,” said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Ward, 18th CS flight chief. “Our commitment is clear: unconditionally delivering seamless LMR support to critical operations.”

Richard Lapierre, Air Force Installation Mission

Support Center LMR Product Management Office chief, emphasized the importance of establishing governance and upgrading the system to achieve sustainability.

“Coming to Okinawa offered a glimpse into the challenges faced by our counterparts,” said Charles Saunders, LMR action officer with the 311th SC (T) on behalf of the LMR Executive Agent U.S. Army Pacific.

“Having poured our efforts into building IP2LMR, it’s time to renew our partnership, streamline governance, and engage our commanders on budgetary needs,” Saunders added. “By doing so, we ensure the system remains modern and sustainable, enhancing our operational capabilities.”

All participants collectively acknowledged the critical role of LMR communications across the Department of Defense, including its inner-agency utility for first responders.

**Opposite Page:** Attendees of the Land Mobile Radio Strategy Summit pose for a photo at Kadena Air Base, Japan, April 9 - 11, 2024. The summit aimed to chart a course forward for the Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility, focusing on enhancing seamless LMR communications. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Catherine Daniel)

**Above:** U.S. Army Sgt. Jonathon Galvan, 311th Signal Command (Theater), calls in a 9-line Unexploded Ordinance report during the 311th SC (T)’s 2024 Best Squad Competition, Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, Apr. 17, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula)





**Spread:** U.S. Army Soldiers with the 41st Signal Battalion and part of their Maintenance Support Teams pose for a photo with Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert Christian, 311th SC (T), in South Korea. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 41st Signal Battalion)

# PART





TNERSHIPS



CLARK AIR BASE, PHILIPPINES

## NETWORK OPERATORS ENSURE MISSION SUCCESS DURING EXERCISE BALIKATAN 2024

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



Every year, the 311th Signal Command (Theater), plays a pivotal role in supporting freedom of action in cyberspace for the U.S. and its allies. Responsible for defending coalition networks throughout the Indo-Pacific

theater, the 311th SC (T) ensures that communication channels remain open and secure, enabling efficient coordination and execution of military operations.

This year, U.S. Army Sgt. Maye Qadeera and Spc. Darrien Duckworth, network communication systems specialists

with the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, were deployed to Clark Air Base, Philippines, to support Exercise Balikatan 24.

Their expertise was crucial in operating and maintaining a Scalable Network Node to service the robust communication infrastructure necessary for the exercise.

“Communication is one of the most crucial aspects for success during any operation,” Sgt. Qadeera said. “As signal operators, we realize the critical role we have on this mission and work to ensure services are secure, stable, and effective for those we are supporting.”

The team’s mission was to provide uninterrupted communication capabilities, which included setting up secure lines for real-time data exchange between U.S. and Philippine forces.

“Working with 38th ADA and 1-1 ADA was a great experience. My team and I were able to learn a lot about what they do and why their job is so important,” Sgt. Qadeera said. “Being able to travel





to different places in the Pacific to do our job is always an amazing opportunity that my team and I enjoy.”

The 311th SC (T) and its brigades are instrumental in providing reliable communication support for the Indo-Pacific Theater and the multitude of exercises that take place every year in the area of operations.

U.S. Army 38th Air Defense Artillery Lt. Col. Catalina Rosales and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Boyles, recognized the SNN team for their exceptional work.

The team’s dedication and technical expertise in the communication system were essential to the mission’s success, and their efforts to ensure that operations ran smoothly and

efficiently were rewarded with 38th ADA brigade coins.

Exercise Balikatan 24 aims to enhance war fighting readiness and improve tactics, techniques and procedures, a key initiative for promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Ensuring that the exercise not only focuses on military training; but also reinforces the strong bond and trust between the two nations. The professionalism and dedication of Soldiers like Qadeera and Duckworth make these exercises successful and showcase the expertise within the organization.

Their mission underscores the importance of communication systems in modern military operations and the value of international cooperation.

Their participation in Balikatan allows the command to support Philippine allies and defend shared values.

The knowledge and experience Soldiers gained from the exercise, better prepare the 311th SC (T) to support future missions and uphold the security and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. ☒

**Opposite Page:** U.S. Army Sgt. Maye Qadeera and Spc. Darrien Duckworth, 307th ESB-E, pose for a photo with Lt. Col. Catalina Rosales and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Boyles, 38th Air Defense Artillery, after receiving coins during Exercise Balikatan 24, Clark Air Base, Philippines, May 1, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Trevor Wild)

**Above:** U.S. Army Sgt. Maye Qadeera and Spc. Darrien Duckworth, 307th ESB-E, conduct checks on a SNN during Exercise Balikatan 24, Clark Air Base, Philippines, May 1, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Trevor Wild)



## DRAGON TOWER: ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY FOR HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION

COURTESY STORY BY ARMY GARRISON HAWAII PAO



**T**he Helemano Military Reservation recently celebrated the completion of the Dragon Tower, a new cellphone tower significantly enhancing communication capabilities for service members and their families.

In his keynote address, Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, commander of the 311th Signal Command

(Theater), highlighted the importance of the new infrastructure in supporting the community's needs. He emphasized the tower's role in ensuring reliable communication for military personnel, a critical factor for mission readiness and family connection.

Lt. Col. Izabella Lundy, commander of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion - Enhanced (ESB-E), in her closing remarks, underlined the






significance of the tower in the realm of communication. “This infrastructure will provide our Soldiers and their Families with reliable access to emergency services, facilitate communication with loved ones, and support the seamless conduct of daily business,” she said. Lundy also praised the joint efforts that made the project successful, calling it “truly inspiring.”

Col. Jason Beck, Exchange Pacific Region commander opened the event by expressing gratitude to the various organizations involved in the project. He recognized the

collaborative efforts between AAFES, Boingo, AT&T, and Verizon in bringing the project to fruition. Beck noted the project's focus on improving quality of life for military families and enhancing mission readiness by ensuring strong homefront connections.

Dragon tower is part of a broader initiative involving 12 other similar projects across the Hawaii Garrison. Beck thanked Boingo for their decade-long partnership and expertise, as well as the Exchange team for their dedication to the project.

The completion of the Dragon Tower stands as a testament to the commitment of the Helemano community and its partners in supporting the well-being and operational effectiveness of its service members. 

**Opposite Page:** Sign for Dragon Tower, featuring a crest with a dragon, flames, and the motto 'Optime Merenti' ('Providing the Best'), outside of the new Dragon Tower, located at Helemano Military Reservation, HI, on July 2, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)

**Above:** New U.S. Army Dragon Tower at Helemano Military Reservation, HI., March 2, 2024, enhances cellphone service for troops and families. Built with AAFES, Boingo, AT&T and Verizon to improve emergency access. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)



MAUI, HAWAII

## 311TH SC (T) TEAMS PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF

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



**Left:** U.S. Army Capt. Daniel Fried of the 311th SC (T) supports emergency relief efforts in the aftermath of the Maui Wildfires, Sept. 19, 2023. Fried collaborated with the guard, active and reserve military to coordinate the distribution of water and supplies to the people of Maui. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Lianne Hirano)

Capt. William Close, a logistics officer for the command, played an essential role in the task force's Joint Operations Team, or J3, coordinating the distribution of resources to communities in need. His role as a liaison between the state and vital resources on other islands allowed him unique insight into the areas affected and to see relief arrive in real-time.

His team's primary responsibility was to ensure a stable water supply for the residents still in Maui, many of whom were left without access to drinking water due to contamination caused by the fires.

"The state would create a request, the Hawaii National Guard would send that request to U.S. Army Pacific, who would then task that request out to one of their units," said Close. "So, in the case of water, it would have been someone from a sustainment brigade at Schofield Barracks in Oahu. Our mission was to facilitate them getting in

In the aftermath of the devastating fires that swept through Lahaina, state guard, active and reserve military personnel stepped up to provide support as part of Joint Task Force-50, aiding the people of Maui. Soldiers of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) did their part in coordinating vital logistics support services where needed.

As residents slept, the Lahaina fires unprecedentedly erupted in the early hours of Aug. 8, reducing communities to ashes and leaving essential resources scarce. More than 100 people died in the following days. Nearly a thousand remain missing.

Soldiers of the 311th SC (T) mobilized in two iterations, each hailing from a different occupational field.





as quickly as possible in the most efficient manner so they can provide water to the people.”

Beyond water distribution, the two teams also offered coordination support for the Defense POW/ MIA Accounting Agency, whose mortuary specialists worked respectfully, dignity and compassionately to honor those who tragically lost their lives in the disaster, providing services that acknowledge each individual's profound loss and dignity.

“It was a humbling experience to see what the people went through and hearing first-hand stories of families having to leave their home in the middle of the night,” said Close. “The disaster reminded me of black and white documentary reels of the aftermath of bombs dropping where everything was just gone.”

Capt. Daniel Fried, a human resource officer, was part of the second iteration to maintain coordination efforts as the first

team returned home. Fried and his team continued to ensure that supplies and personnel were where they were needed most. His expertise as personnel management officer for the 311th SC (T) G1, proved invaluable in the dynamic and challenging environment of post-fire Lahaina.

“Serving on domestic soil definitely made it more personal and really demonstrates that duty is first and foremost to our fellow citizens,” said Fried. “It’s a tragedy what happened; federal, state and local entities coming together to help citizens and taxpayers is our job. It’s what we signed up for.”

Soldiers of the 516th Theater Signal Brigade, 311th SC (T), also provided strategic signal support for the affected areas of Maui.

“Staff Sgt. Eddy Reyes and Maj. Jason Grams were indispensable in their role providing Help Desk and Communications Planning support to USARPAC’s Theater Joint Force Land Component Command J6 in Maui,” said Maj.

Brittany McCroan, an operations officer for the 516th TSB. “They worked directly with FEMA and the Hawaii National Guard to ensure robust and reliable communications for the relief efforts.”

Residents of Lahaina began to return home last week; many are uncertain as to what they will encounter.

“The best thing people can do right now is provide food and clothes through a local church or outreach shelter going to Lahaina or volunteer time with the Red Cross if possible,” said Close. “They will continue to need our support.”

**Above:** The 204th Airlift Squadron of the Hawaii Air National Guard transported approximately 100 Hawaii Army National Guard Soldiers and supplies to aid the wildfire response in Lahaina, Maui, on August 15, 2023. These Soldiers will support the new Combined Task Force Hawaii-50 in various missions. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)



WAIKIKI, HAWAII

## LAND FORCES PACIFIC 2024: ADVANCING SIGNAL OPERATIONS

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



**Left:** U.S. Army Soldiers with Alpha Company, 307th ESB-E, discuss their role and mission with military leaders during LANPAC 24, Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, May 15, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)

The Theater Army Signal Command for the Indo-Pacific showcased and discussed signal operations and modernization efforts at the Association of the United States Land Forces Pacific Symposium at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, on May 14-16, 2024.

The LANPAC Symposium & Exposition, hosted by the Association of the United States Army, highlights the crucial role of land forces in the Indo-Pacific theater. The symposium brings

together military leaders, government officials, industry experts and scholars to discuss regional security challenges, military technology advancements and strategies for enhancing interoperability among allied nations.

Soldiers with Alpha Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion—Enhanced, spoke with leaders, allies and partners about their role and mission in the Indo-Pacific during their time at the event.

The 311th Signal Command (Theater) is the most, dispersed

signal command in the region responsible for enabling warfighters with secure and reliable communications.

Its Enhanced Expeditionary Signal Battalions have been key in supporting emerging missions, and incorporating cutting-edge technologies to meet modern warfare demands. These advancements include improved satellite communications, more robust cybersecurity measures, and the ability to establish secure networks quickly in remote locations.

During the symposium, Soldiers with the 307th ESB-E showcased some of the upgrades to their communication systems which have significantly enhanced their ability to rapidly deploy and provide necessary infrastructure in various environments, including during multinational exercises in the region.

“The new technologies we’ve integrated allow us to establish secure networks faster than ever before,” said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Wooley, 307th ESB-E



A-Co. platoon sergeant. “This means we can support command and control operations more effectively, even in the most challenging environments.”

“Participating in LANPAC has been an incredible experience,” said Sgt. Luis Ortiz-Rubio, 307th ESB-E A-Co. SNN team chief. “It’s given us the opportunity to showcase our capabilities and share our successes with a wide audience, including our military leaders and international partners.”

During the event, Brig. Gen. Kevin Meisler, commanding general of the 311th SC (T), met with Jen Judson of Defense News to discuss the critical communication challenges and the ongoing modernization efforts within the organization’s network.

“Our biggest challenge within the region is the ‘tyranny of distance,’ which is the extensive geographical dispersion of military units and their competing demands for efficient communication planning, execution, and maintenance of the network,” Meisler said.

The premier signal command’s workforce continuously operates, defends, and maintains the Army’s portion of the Department of Defense Information Network. This network extension is vital to ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific and reaching the end user with reliable and secure communications.

“To manage that, our teams pursue three key objectives,” Meisler said. “Redundancy, reliability, and speed across the Indo-Pacific theater. We continue extending the network with an enduring footprint across the



region as part of ongoing efforts to expand command and control.”

Meisler discussed the Army Unified Network Plan’s implementations and investments in the theater, highlighting the constant change of technology and mission complexity in the operational environment.

“We are creating a unified network that operates on zero-trust principles and will deliver a survivable, secure, end-to-end capability,” Meisler said. This effort contributes to joint and coalition forces across all operational domains—sea, land, space, cyber, and air—during competition, crisis, or conflict.


The command often faces the challenge of needing to adapt and innovate to keep pace with technological advancements and evolving threats.

“The landscape of warfare is constantly changing, and so must our approach to communications and network security,” he added. “Our modernization efforts are not just about staying current but anticipating future needs and

potential challenges to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

The Soldiers play a key role in the Indo-Pacific region, where strategic communication capabilities are vital for operational success. Their efforts ensure that U.S. forces and their allies remain connected and coordinated, enhancing their ability to respond to any contingency or operational need.

“The importance of a secure, reliable, and resilient network cannot be overstated,” Meisler said. “It is the backbone of our operations and a critical enabler of our mission’s success in the Indo-Pacific.”

Soldiers within the 311th SC (T) have become essential to the total force, with streamlined, deployable teams that embody the warrior mindset and spirit. 

**Above:** U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) David Snipes speaks with Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Wooley, 307th ESB-E A-Co. platoon sergeant, during LANPAC 24, Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, May 15, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Carlos Rodriguez)





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## 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.pao@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.shafter.311-sig-cmd.list.pao@army.mil)