

# THE LION'S ROAR

1ST QUARTER 02 JANUARY 2012

## 25TH SIGNAL BATTALION SPREADS THE HOLIDAY CHEER



*Sgt. Kamesha Adams records a storybook donated by Operation Support Our Troops, Inc. The organization donated storybooks, cards, and stockings for troops of the 25th Signal Battalion. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Melisa I. Foster)*

**Being away from** family on Christmas can prove to be one of the toughest times in a Soldier's deployment. With help from Nancee McAteer, Vice President of Operation Support Our Troops, Inc., or OSOT, the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion was able to keep morale high and spread the cheer during the holiday season. OSOT was established in 2002 by Mary Kay Salomone, a military wife and mother of four, two of her children being Army Officers. Nancee McAteer, also a military wife and mother of two Army Officers, joined Salomone in 2002 as the Vice President of the nonprofit organization. OSOT is dedicated to providing Soldiers with a taste of home while they serve overseas by sending goods that are not available in their respective locations.

Over 9 years, OSOT has sent about two-million pounds of goods to troops overseas. This past holiday season McAteer arranged for hundreds of recordable books donated by Hallmark and stockings to be

distributed among the Soldiers of the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion. McAteer explains, "When I was visiting (my daughter) this past summer she told me of a good friend of hers, Maj. David Taylor, that was deploying as the the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion S-3."

The books and stockings were sent to the S-3 shop on Camp Phoenix, Kabul and distributed to the other sites from Bagram. I sat down with Sgt. Kamesha Adams from Battalion S-1 as she recorded *The Night Before Christmas* for her children, Nyre, D.J., and Daimon. Sgt. Adams expressed her excitement to be able to record the book by saying "It's a great idea, it gives a personal touch. They can hear your voice, and they can even listen to it past Christmas."

The holiday spirit of giving did not stop with the 25<sup>th</sup>. After the books had been distributed, there were still boxes left over. Cpt. Krystal J. Thompson, incoming Commander for the 580<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, sent a Bagram-wide e-mail to give others the opportunity to have a book to send home to their families. Over the next couple weeks, over a dozen service members collected books for their loved ones from the Battalion S-3 shop, all thanks to the generous volunteers from OSOT.

*-Sgt. Melisa I. Foster  
Public Affairs Officer  
25th Signal Battalion*

### Wisemen's Wisdom

*Look at the nativity scene in Matthew with Mary and Joseph surrounding the central figure, Jesus. They were in a barn focused reverently on him, wrapped in cloth, sleeping in a feeding trough.*

*Generations in Israel longed for Messiah to rescue them, and now prophecy was fulfilled. All of this attention was on one baby, the theme of salvation. Yet there are still more figures to mention, such as the Wisemen, Arabian philosophers who studied the scriptures and found the star over Bethlehem and the Christ child. Their presence shows that the birth of Christ was a global event, not exclusive to the Hebrews only.*

*What made the wise men so wise? Was it their knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures, stately position, wealth, or charisma? If that were so, priests and scribes were expert scholars quoting Christ's place of birth in Bethlehem and Christ's mission, to rule Israel but there is no scriptural mention or even an honorable mention recommending them as wise.*

*Scripture identifies the wise men as wise because they were true worshipers of God. In contrast, priests, scribes, and Herod jealously affixed attention on the Messiah, not worshipping rather envying. Worship requires commitment to time, which the wise men spent lavishly on Christ with a very long and costly trip. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were fit only for the highest of honor.*

*Most importantly, these wise worshipers required faith. Studying the Hebrew Scripture required dedication, yet following a star took more — a living faith in God's Biblical promises.*

*What made ancient wise men wise makes modern men and women wise today. Modern faith leads you and me into a saving relationship that lasts eternally. We don't need to find a star in the east to worship in Bethlehem; rather, we find the presence of the Messiah everywhere and at any time; access to God has no geological, ethnic, educational, political or financial boundaries. As you go about your daily experiences, think of the Wisemen's focus.*

*Fame, fortune, or even mediocre profession winds up in a life like Herod, selfish and lonely. True faith-filled worship changes lives and makes us wise because it's not ours, it's God's. Worship God always; now that's wise.*

*-Chaplain (Cpt.) Kevin Daul  
25th Signal Battalion Chaplain*

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



**Happy Holidays!** I would like to extend my thanks to every Soldier, civilian, contractor, and family member that is part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion team. The efforts you put forward every day enable our organization to accomplish our very important mission here in Afghanistan. I constantly receive positive feedback from senior leaders in the CJOA-A, and throughout Southwest Asia who ask me to convey their gratitude for the work you do. Well done!

During this last quarter we have made remarkable progress toward bringing our sites to a fully mission capable state. Whether you were involved in the power projects, engineering, planning, logistics, or the operations end of the mission, the combined synergy has brought us to a point where our US and Coalition partners can now rely on the strategic backbone that we operate and maintain. While some of these large scale initiatives are more than two years old, every one of us stands to benefit from their completion. With the arrival of 2012, I challenge each of you to make a concerted effort to improve your foxhole. Stay plugged-in with your families, establish short and long term professional and personal objectives, and energize those around you with a good attitude. Finally, on behalf of the Command Sergeant Major and I, welcome to the newest members of our team, and Godspeed to those of you returning stateside.

*LTC EDWARD F. BOROWIEC, JR.*  
*Battalion Commander*

## LONG LIVE THE SIGNALEER



**Soldiers from the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion** flew down to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait for the 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade's Signal Week this past quarter. In attendance were Soldiers from the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 54<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalions. The week kicked off with a Brigade run and an organizational day. Soldiers participated in sporting events such as volleyball, relay races, dodge ball, and everyone's favorite, tug-o-war. The 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion placed third place, a significant achievement considering the small element present.

The next day was allocated for enlisted forums. It started off with opening remarks from 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade Commander Col. Maria B. Barrett and 335<sup>th</sup> Signal Theater Command's Brig. Gen. Kaffia Jones. Gen. Jones commended all the Signaleers present for their hard work and dedication, especially to the Signaleers that assisted with the closing down of Iraq, recounting the importance of their mission by saying "There is no show without commo." The rest of the day consisted of various classes about the future of Signal, self-development, and the hottest topic of all, the cutback of troops and retention. To end the day, five Sergeants Major, NETCOM Sgt. Maj. Lewis A. Brown, 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald L. Tyce, 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Edward J. Williams, 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade S-3 Sgt. Maj. Calvin R. Liburd, Jr., and 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion S-3 Sgt. Maj. Robert J. Beausoleil, sat on an open panel to answer questions for the enlisted Signaleers about topics ranging from leadership to the future of the Army. Command Sgt. Maj. Tyce expressed the importance of mentoring the Soldiers by saying, "All I can do is give back to you all. There's a lot of work I could be doing, but it's more

important for me to be here with you all."

On the last day of Signal Week, Soldiers attended a State of the Regiment brief by the Chief of Signal Maj. Gen. Alan R. Lynn in which he discussed the future design for the signal mission, a future in which Signaleers will have more capability with less people. He also discussed the combining of Military Occupation Specialties, the transition from "\$46,000 radios to \$200 smart phones", expanding the diversity of Soldiers, and revising the way we train Signaleers. "We're changing the way we're doing training," he said. "Instead of training on a box, Soldiers will learn the *theory* of satellite, will learn the *theory* of line of sight, and will learn the *theory* of tropospheric scatter."

Following the State of the Regiment, Soldiers witnessed the induction of 16 Soldiers into the Corp of the Noncommissioned Officer, including Sgt. Lukerra Luck, daughter of Ms. Patricia Lewis, Administrative Assistant for the Battalion Command Group.

Last, but not least, Soldiers of the 25<sup>th</sup> wrapped up the week with the 160<sup>th</sup>'s Dining In, a prestigious dinner complete with an entertaining impersonation of Command Sgt. Maj. Williams and a couple sips from the grog bowl.

*-Sgt. Melisa I. Foster*  
*Public Affairs Officer*  
*25th Signal Battalion*

## COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

**Greetings to the Mighty Mighty 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Team!** During the past year of 2011, serving as the 7<sup>th</sup> Command Sergeant Major of the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion has been the highlight of my career. In the year 2012 there isn't any other place I would rather be than to serve in Afghanistan with the Soldiers and Civilians of the best signal Battalion in the United States Army. I am proud to be here and ready to serve! In 2012, I charge you to be optimistic. Anyone can find the negative in any situation, but a true leader will find the positive in what appears to be a negative situation. I challenge all of you to take charge of your attitudes and never let someone else choose it for you. Our positive attitude this New Year will be contagious and I would like for it to spread throughout our ranks.

I want to thank you for your service, commitment to each other, to your country, and to the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Family. I thank you for being yourselves and making the best of everyday despite the conditions of a deployed environment. All I ask of you is to do your best every day and know your best is good enough and well appreciated by the Battalion Commander and myself.

THANK YOU, and May God continue to bless us all.



*CSM EDWARD J. WILLIAMS III*

*Battalion Command Sergeant Major*

## CSM PATTERSON: RESILIENCY AND SELFLESS SERVICE

**Regardless of location,** Soldiers of the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion still found the time to come together and celebrate Thanksgiving. On October 26, 2011, the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Chaplain, Cpt. Kevin Daul hosted a Thanksgiving prayer breakfast for the Soldiers and civilians of the 25<sup>th</sup> on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

335<sup>th</sup> Theater Signal Command Sgt. Maj. Royd Patterson spoke to the 25<sup>th</sup> that morning about the importance of resiliency and selfless service during the holiday season when morale can become low. Command Sgt. Maj. Patterson explained that giving back in selfless service is key to making it through the tough times. He explained "If we start focusing on alleviating the pain of others, we will no longer dwell on our own pain and suffering." He also stressed that one of the main keys of resiliency is maintaining emotional, physical, and mental fitness.

The prayer breakfast ended with Command Sgt. Maj. Williams handing out coins to the choir that performed during the breakfast and Command Sgt. Maj. Patterson awarding coins to selected Soldiers of the 25<sup>th</sup>.



*Command Sgt. Maj. Royd Patterson, Command Sergeant Major of the 335<sup>th</sup> Signal Theater Command, spoke at the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on Bagram Airfield Afghanistan on November 23rd, 2011 about resiliency and the importance of selfless service. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Melisa I. Foster)*

*-Sgt. Melisa I. Foster  
Public Affairs Officer  
25th Signal Battalion*



## GUARD STANDARDS TO CHANGE

**The command sergeant major** of the Army National Guard made a special stop on Kandahar Airfield Oct. 20th to visit with deployed soldiers.

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch's visit was more like a visit from an old friend than a very distinguished leader.

A medley of National Guard soldiers collected on the back deck of the 550th Signal Company headquarters here. They were from different units and different parts of the United States, and all here for different missions, but they were united for that brief moment by the words that were spoken by their leader. A leader who cared so much about his soldiers, and the upcoming changes to be implemented, that he came to deliver the message and field questions in person.

"I really liked that," Staff Sgt. Ryan Bates, a member of the 230th Signal Company said. "That's 'The Guard' way, we're more of a family oriented, tight-knit group from hometowns. It felt like a family setting."

"Due to the [operational tempo] over the past 10 years, complacency with the standards has slowly crept in because we had to fill positions," Burch said with candor and honesty as he looked into the eyes of each soldier. "Now that our troops are drawing down in Iraq and Afghanistan, we don't have the need for such a large force."

Cuts will be made and restrictions for height and weight will be tightened up, ensuring the soldiers are fit to fight when their country and their communities call on them to serve.

"He told us how it was, and he didn't sugarcoat anything," Bates said. "If you can't pass a [physical training] test you will be put out of the Army. I think it's great; I think it will make the military more efficient with less people."

"As a young NCO it was important to me that we're getting rid of complacent leadership in the National Guard," said Staff Sgt. Ricky Lutz, the public affairs officer with the 580th Signal Company out of Bagram Air Field. "It gives me hope and forward momentum; it gives me a reason to work harder," he said.

After Burch's informative speech covering upcoming changes in funding, procedures and personal accountability to include promotions, Army performance fitness test standards and deployment schedules, he took questions from the soldiers.

"What's important to you, is important to me," he said as he opened up the floor to questions.

"What it meant to me is that the National Guard command sergeant major came down to tighten up our shot group," Lutz said. "We need to tighten up our weight program; we need to tighten up our PT program, and those who can't conform to those standards will be thanked for their service and then sent to the house," he said.

After questions were answered, and the crowd fell silent, Burch concluded his visit with a few special mementos.

"I think it's about time to give out some coins," he said as he looked around the group for soldiers to honor with his coin.

Leaders from each of the units stood and gave names, and Burch posted those soldiers. He asked the leaders not to tell him why their soldiers should receive a coin because he wanted to hear the reasons from the soldiers themselves.

Spc. Kimberley Espey, a member of the 230th Signal Company, lit up as she showed off the small, round, prized possession clutched in her hand, "This is my very first coin," she said as she looked down with a smile.

As Burch packed up to deliver his message to other Guard units here and its surrounding areas, the soldiers expressed their gratitude for his visit.

"It shows a lot about his character, to offer his time to make a trip out here," said Bates.



*Spc. Kimberly Espey of the 230th Signal Company holds up her very first coin with pride to show off the special commendation she received from Command Sgt. Maj. of the National Guard Richard Burch .  
(U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Nicole Newton)*

- Spc. Nicole Newton  
Public Affairs Officer  
230th Signal Company

## Promotions

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

1LT Jeremiah Clark  
1LT Carlos Cortez  
1LT Kyle Gates  
1LT Henry Greenberg  
1LT Chauncey Husted  
1LT Zafar Iqbal  
1LT Jon Messer  
1LT Ryan Mulhall  
1LT Larry Keith  
1SG Kenneth Trigg  
SFC Anthony Pracchia  
SSG Charles Barela  
SSG Horacio Garcia  
SSG Matthew Godin  
SSG Richard Lutz  
SGT A. Anderson  
SGT Gadiel Barreto  
SGT Christopher Blocton  
SGT Daniel Caruth  
SGT Kaitlynn Crossno  
SGT Cory Fox  
SGT Travis Granger  
SGT Jamal James  
SGT Frederick Johnson  
SGT Justin Henley  
SGT Raymond Kharleed  
SGT Brent Leverette  
SGT Tiffany Reid  
SGT Dykeshia Stribling  
SGT Benjamin Swallow  
SGT Jefferey Valentine  
SGT Denzel Washington  
SGT James Wilkinson  
SGT Chelsey Williams  
SGT Odie Williams  
PV2 Johnross Youngblood  
CPL Keila Rosado  
SPC Yoandri Franklin  
SPC Earnest Jackson  
SPC Charles McMurtry

## Promotions

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

SPC Andrew Moore  
 SPC Zachary Smith  
 SPC Roy Wilson  
 PFC J'mori Beaupierre  
 PFC Andre Bishop  
 PFC Thomas Miller  
 PV2 Trevonnus Harbin  
 PV2 Johnross Youngblood

### NCO OF THE QUARTER



SGT Ebony D. Penton

### SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER



SPC Jeffery Valentine

## SGT HARRIS JOINS THE ELITE



*Sgt. Anastasia Harris of the 550th Signal Company was inducted into the Audie Murphy Club for exceptional performance as a Noncommissioned Officer on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.*

*(U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Melisa I. Foster)*

**For over 20 years,** Noncommissioned Officers have been selected to be part of an elite organization known as The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, a club consisting of members that emulate a character similar to that of Audie Murphy himself- a fearless, honorable, and dedicated leader. 550<sup>th</sup> Signal Company's own Sgt. Anastasia Harris joined the ranks of the elite in a Sergeant Audie Murphy Club induction ceremony on October 12, 2011 on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Harris is the Information Management Officer instructor for all of Kandahar Airfield. Sgt. Harris has served a short three years in the Army and at only 21 years old, has already demonstrated a quality of leadership that exceeds the standard. Sgt. Harris was introduced to Audie Murphy by the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Edward J. Williams, III and studied for about four months before making the board.

Sgt. Harris explains that her success was pure willpower. She said "Nothing is going to get handed to you. You have to go out there and get it. You have to be a better Soldier, get those certificates, get that education. You have to be

motivated to get somewhere." Sgt. Harris challenges all the Noncommissioned Officer of the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion to exceed the standard and become a part of one of the most elite clubs in the Army, the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. She did it, can you?

*-Sgt. Melisa I. Foster  
 Public Affairs Officer  
 25th Signal Battalion*

## MILITARY TRIVIA OF THE QUARTER

**Question:** Can you name the 12 Generals that became President?

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ANSWER**

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To Sgt. 1st Class Hoxie and his wife, Jana Hoxie, on the birth of their daughter:  
 Gia Marie Hoxie

## 550TH OSP SUPPORTS THE WARFIGHTER



*Pfc. Anthony Stateman of the 550th Signal Company runs cable on top of one conex to another in support of the Persistent Ground Surveillance Systems hub on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Melisa I. Foster)*

the day's work.

As soon as they surveyed the area, they went straight to work. Stateman, Torres, and Leftrick worked with a determination to run the cable as efficiently and neatly as possible. Stateman, being the smallest, jumped on top of a conex to run cable down one side, across a wire, and down the side of the next conex. Leftrick guided Stateman through the whole process, helping him secure all the cable. Without even flinching,

**“WE’RE  
THE EYES  
FOR OUR  
GUYS WHEN  
THEY’RE  
OUTSIDE  
THE WIRE”**

Stateman jumped from the conex to a neighboring t-wall to get down, climbed a ladder, and jumped onto the next conex to continue running the cable, unphased by the dust and soot that covered him.

This hub on Kandahar Airfield is responsible for manning the aerostat surveillance blimps, also known as the “eyes in the sky” in RC-South. These “eyes in the

sky” provide the military with just that, an all-seeing view of the locations they float above, surveying possible threats for forces that conduct routine patrols and convoys. Operation Enduring Freedom PGSS Government Lead, Navy Cpt. Paul Shaw, described the blimp’s purpose by saying “We’re the eyes for our guys when they’re outside the wire.” So, next time we see a cable dawg, let’s not overlook their hard work and dedication by remembering that the mission these Soldiers perform is not just running cable, it’s supporting the warfighter by getting it in and getting the job done.

**When you see a Soldier running cable**, telephone wire, or fiber, you often think- big deal, they’re running cable, so what? Unfortunately, this is the first thought that comes to many people’s minds when they see a Soldier on a cable mission. What they don’t stop to think is what are these Soldiers supporting, who are they supporting, why is this mission so vital?

This is certainly the case for the 550<sup>th</sup> Outside Plant, or OSP. For the average person, the OSP runs cable, and the buck stops there. The bigger picture- these Soldiers help reduce the number of casualties, by actually supporting the people who do it.

On October 27, 2011, the 550<sup>th</sup> OSP’s Spc. Aasim Torres and Spc. Benjamin Leftrick from the 230<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, and Louisville, Ky. native Spc. Anthony Stateman from the 550<sup>th</sup> Signal Company set out on a mission to run cable from one office to another to set up two new workstations. Little did they know, they were supporting something more important than they could ever imagine. They arrived at the hub of the Persistent Ground Surveillance Systems, or PGSS, for Regional Command-South, or RC-South, with CAT IV cable in tow, ready to begin



*Pfc. Anthony Stateman of the 550th Signal Company jumps off a conex onto a neighboring t-wall while running cable on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Melisa I. Foster)*

*-Sgt. Melisa I. Foster  
Public Affairs Officer  
25th Signal Battalion*

**Trivia Answer:** Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison ,Dwight D. Eisenhower, George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Andrew Jackson, Franklin Pierce, Andrew Johnson, Chester A. Arthur



## CABLE DAWGS: WHY WE'RE DIRTY



*Soldiers of the 580th Signal Company on Camp Marmal, Afghanistan pull cable through leaky corrupted manholes. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Lutz)*

**From basic training**, it was pounded into our brains that a clean unit is a disciplined unit, and not to argue with my former drill sergeants, whom I still admire, but in certain jobs I'd fight to have the dirty guy. Having been deployed with a signal unit for the last half year, I'm always drawn to the cable dawgs. They have blue collar work and what can I say— my camera loves the dirt. We've been digging trenches in the rain, pulling cable through asbestos – filled attics, almost flipped a ditchwitch, and pulled cable through collapsed conduit in a leaky manhole system.

The underlying theme is that if you're a cable dawg and you're not dirty, you're not a cable dawg. You cannot be knee deep in a trench, with rain water hardening the dirt, pick axing away so you can get two feet lower, and worry about the status of your boots. It's just going to drive a Soldier crazy.

They often try to combat the dirt with a pullover uniform, but after three or four swings of an axe, you are going to shed it for mobility if the heat doesn't get to you first. 580th Signal Company has outstanding cable dawgs on Bagram, Marmal, and Kunduz- and that all get it in, and they all get it dirty. Guys, it has been a blast covering all your hard work. So, keep it up, but mainly— keep it dirty.

- Staff Sgt. Richard Lutz  
Public Affairs Officer  
580th Signal Company



*Sgt. Travis Granger of the 580th Signal Company pick axes a trench after a heavy rain. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Lutz)*

## 25TH SAVES THE DAY



*Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Frazee takes the lead on changing a tire of an M-RAP outside of Camp Blackhorse, Kabul Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Melisa I. Foster)*

**On October 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 RNCC-Capital** team members Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Frazee, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeffery Hyre, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donald Kaake, civilian David Wade and the Battalion Visual Information team, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Moses and myself all took a trip to Camp Bala Hissar, a camp on the outskirts of Kabul Province in Afghanistan. The team set out to discuss future cable runs with Soldiers of the 26<sup>th</sup> Yankee Brigade on the small camp. To get to the camp, we traveled by rhino, an armored bus that departed from Camp Phoenix, Kabul. We arrived at a small camp surrounded by picturesque mountains lined with houses and ruins.

After the visit, the rhino came back to Camp Bala Hissar and the team headed back to Camp Phoenix. The rhino takes many stops before arriving to Camp Phoenix. Upon entering one of the camps, the rhino and the M-RAP in the lead accidentally ran over tank tracks directly outside the street leading to the camp, resulting in flat tires on both vehicles. As soon as the convoy stopped, the RNCC- Capital team and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Moses jumped off the rhino, opened the back door, and began strategizing to retrieve the M-RAP tire that was wedged behind the last seat.

With help from the team and the transportation crew, Chief Frazee took the lead on removing the flats from the rhino and replaced one of the M-RAP tires. Later on, as the gun trucks left, Chief Frazee and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hyre took initiative to ensure the passengers' safety by organizing a perimeter. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hyre recalls "We were locked and loaded in the rain. We just wanted to get the personnel out of an unsafe situation." The 25<sup>th</sup> Soldiers that were on the convoy that day not only portrayed themselves as exceptional leaders, but also as exceptional Soldiers by taking the initiative to fix the situation, disregarding rank or position. They truly emulated the motto **"Never Unprepared, Always Ready"**

-Sgt Melisa I. Foster  
Public Affairs Officer  
25th Signal Battalion

*Do you know an exceptional Soldier that should be recognized in The Lion's Roar? E-mail [melisa.i.foster@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:melisa.i.foster@afghan.swa.army.mil).*

## FAMILY READINESS GROUP



*Spc. Jonathan Cosme from the 580th Signal Company and Chaplain (Cpt.) Kevin Daul, 25th Signal Battalion Chaplain, help the FRG stuff stockings for 25th Soldiers all over Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Melisa I. Foster)*

*Hey 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion,*

*All good things must come to an end for you to truly have new beginnings. I'm Sgt. Tiffany Autumn Reid and I am your new FRG leader. I have pretty big shoes to fill but so far so good. This year has been outstanding and the 25<sup>th</sup> has stood tall through it all. Recently, to end it all we had the first annual 25th tree lighting and started our own tradition, adding our own touch to the many great events on the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion timeline. Then, a wonderful Christmas party, which was a huge hit and breath of fresh air with games, fun, and just a time to sit back during the holidays and step away. Let's not forget "Operation Stocking Stuffer" which brought a little Christmas spirit to all of the 25<sup>th</sup> no matter where you were. There's so much more for us to experience together in the upcoming events planned in the New Year.*

*As we take this journey into the New Year, please, let's remember what we have learned from the years before. Take the time to think of the different things you would like to accomplish in 2012 and maybe even make some type of resolution. A resolution I've made and will try to keep is this: To rise above the little things. Bringing in the New Year together with change is always a good thing. So here's to NEW beginnings! As we say farewell to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Riggins and Cpt. Bryant of the 580<sup>th</sup> and good luck on your future endeavors, we say hello to Cpt. Thompson and 1st Sgt. Trigg. So let the fun begin!!!!*

*Check out a few websites to send a little piece of home to a Soldier or if you are a soldier go enroll in one of the many organizations that support us while deployed.*

*<http://www.anysoldier.com/>*

*<http://www.sistersoldierproject.com>*

*<http://www.ustroopcarepackage.com/>*

*- Sgt. Tiffany Autumn Reid  
Family Readiness Group Leader  
25th Signal Battalion*

## EDITOR'S CORNER



**This past quarter has proven** to be quite an adventure thanks to all you Soldiers of the 25th Signal Battalion. I can truly say I have one of the best jobs in the Army, not necessarily because of what I do, but because of the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. It's amazing following dedicated Soldiers around, living in their shoes for a day, then telling their stories to the rest of the world. This past quarter I supported the warfighter and became a cable dawg with the 550th Outside Plant, changed M-RAP tires with Chief Frazee of RNCC-Capital, got inducted into Audie Murphy with the 550th's Sgt. Anastasia Harris, and learned about the future of Signal with hundreds of Signaleers on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait for the 160th Signal Brigade's Signal Week. It's been such a privilege to learn about every single Soldier and civilian I have come in contact with. I look forward to living in some more shoes for the duration of my tour and telling the 25th's story.

*- Sgt. Melisa I Foster.  
Public Affairs Officer  
25th Signal Battalion*

## PHOTO OF THE QUARTER



*Pfc. Blake Heater from C-44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion receives the Bronze Star Medal for a successful tour in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo)*