

# NETCOM JOURNAL

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SUPPORTING  
THE WARRIGHTER



# VOICE <sup>OF</sup> THE ARMY

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## ON THE COVER

**Cover Illustration:** Signal Soldiers across the command are on point, Supporting the Warfighter. Special thanks to the 5th Signal Command (Theater), 11th Signal Brigade, 516th Signal Brigade, and the Joint Combat Camera Center for the images used to produce this cover. (Photo illustration by Eric Hortin, NETCOM/9th SC (A))



## NETCOM JOURNAL

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# CG's Corner

Welcome to the second issue of the NETCOM Journal. From the feedback received, the inaugural issue of the NETCOM Journal was a resounding success, and I want to thank everyone in NETCOM/9th Signal Command (Army) for making this publication a testament to the great men and women in this organization. Without your contributions to the Journal, this publication couldn't reflect the global mission and impact this command has.

This publication is for all the Soldiers and Civilians in NETCOM and I encourage everyone to contribute. If you have a story, photo, or a mission that you think everyone in NETCOM should know about, then you can submit it to the Journal. Right now the Journal is published twice each year, but that could change as the level of interest and commitment grows. Share your stories and share your lessons learned with everyone in NETCOM to help this command grow and continue to lead the Army in information dominance.

The focus of the second issue of the NETCOM Journal is supporting the Warfighter. On that note, I want to talk to the NETCOM/9th Signal Command Team about what the combined efforts of NETCOM's Soldiers and Civilians are doing to ensure the Warfighter has the information superiority needed to defeat our adversaries.

The Army's new Operations doctrine recognizes that units will be employed across the spectrum of conflict to conduct simultaneous offense, defense and stability operations. Information superiority that leads to situational awareness and understanding for Soldiers and commanders is vital for success in full spectrum operations.

We must respond to a changing environment; full spectrum operations have increased the types of missions required to counter the asymmetric threat; additionally operations occur in a much different setting than in previous conflicts – influenced by a pervasive information environment and affected by unpredictable threats in urban areas and among the people.

You need to know where you are and where you are headed. Currently NETCOM is working to deliver the Network Enterprise. The Network Service Center, or NSC, is the foundation for this enterprise and will synchronize capabilities across the Army and defend the network more efficiently. The NSC construct represents an evolution in how the LandWarNet operates today; one which takes a more holistic perspective on how we coordinate and leverage three main pillars – Global Connectivity, Area Processing Centers (APC), and NetOps.



Brig. Gen. (P) Susan Lawrence

This Operational Headquarters is also responsible for theater transformation on all levels of the Network Enterprise from transforming our Operating signal forces to JNN enabled units... to building Fixed Regional Hub Nodes and APCs capable of extending critical network services to the Warfighters.

The task we have been given is to create a signal network for all Army operations – from the White House to the Desktop to the Foxhole. The Network Enterprise must be available in all phases of Joint/Interagency/Multinational operations.

With the caliber of the Soldiers and Civilians we have in this command I am confident NETCOM/9th Signal Command (Army) will lead the way in attaining information superiority.

**Voice of the Army!**

# CSM's Corner

**H**i, and welcome to the start of another year. We, the Command Team, would like to say "thank you" for an outstanding past year of your dedicated hard work and support. The accomplishments we have achieved in a short time are amazing. As I travel throughout NETCOM's global footprint, it is great to hear the positive comments from all the Senior Leadership as well as all of you about our very positive contributions to this great Nation and our Army. I ask that as you'll continue to excel, remember we are truly one team.

Before I go too much further into this, I want to recognize two exceptional Soldiers:

➤ **Pfc. Robert Edwards Jr.**, from the 72d Expeditionary Signal Battalion, is NETCOM's 2008 Soldier of the Year. After a grueling week-long competition here at Fort Huachuca, Pfc. Roberts won out over six other young Soldiers to claim the title. Based on the feedback from the sergeants major at the U.S. Army Forces Command competition, he was an outstanding competitor who deserved to be recognized among the best.

➤ **Sgt. Lisa Morales**, from the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, is NETCOM's 2008 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Her amazing and historic journey didn't stop at NETCOM; Sgt. Morales also became the first NETCOM Soldier – and the first woman – to win the NCO of the Year title at FORSCOM. She recently competed at the Sergeant Major of the Army's Best Warrior Competition; and though she didn't win there, her relentless pursuit of excellence and tenacity against the best in the Army earned her respect from competitors and evaluators alike.

These Soldiers pushed themselves to exceed the standards. Congratulations to Pfc. Edwards and Sgt. Morales for their accomplishments.

**Another great achievement** – we have been recognized by the Army for the second year in a row as the top producing unit in the Army for keeping Soldiers and Families on the Team. NETCOM retained 2,021 Soldiers during FY08; the team reenlisted 1,847 great Warriors to remain on Active duty, and transitioned 174 Patriots into the Reserve components. NETCOM finished with a 133 percent overall retention rate.

Thanks to all for the above mentioned successes; we could not have done it alone. It was truly a great team effort, and I challenge you each to excel even more in the upcoming year.

We have many new challenges facing the command. NETCOM has been given the task to make the Army Enterprise Network completely seamless. (Thankfully, we have a Commanding General as well as a great Team who has the strength and drive to take NETCOM to the next level.) This will allow many of those programs we have all heard about – Area Processing Centers, Network Service Centers, and even the Warrior Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) – to come to fruition. We need to succeed in this mission, and it is the Soldiers, Civilians and Contractors on this team who will carry it through.

It's not going to be easy, because we are still fighting a Global War on Terror and transforming our beloved Army. We have many challenges and hurdles to overcome but we will; we have to. Many of you have been providing Commanders and the Warfighters access to the vital information they need. You have been there on the ground with them. You have been staffing the ground stations in the United States and abroad to connect the Warfighters with their home station, the Army's Senior Leadership, and their Families. Your professionalism and hard work will continue to help shape and eventually win the fight.

In closing, I ask that we all continue to support each other through these ever-so trying times, and keep all the deployed people in our prayers as well as their Families

We salute each and every one of you who strive to complete the mission.



Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Manley

**Voice of the Army! Army Strong!**

**PROVIDING  
CRITICAL  
MISSION  
CAPABILITIES**



**'TEAM  
WOLFPACK**

# *A unique Signal team provides an invaluable capability to the Cavalry Regiment they support*

**By Sgt. Lewis M. Hilburn**

*Task Force Thunderbird Public Affairs Office*

FOB NORMANDY, Iraq – Not far from the Iranian border lies Forward Operating Base Normandy. This is where the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Striker Cavalry Regiment (SCR) regularly patrols the outlying areas. Among these road warriors are four Signaleers helping them complete their everyday mission.

“Team Wolfpack,” as they are called, is an all-female team from the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, part of Task Force Thunderbird. The team supports the 3-2 SCR with signal support, including secure and nonsecure internet services.

Sgt. Lindsey Knowles, team chief, said it was challenge coming to a Cavalry squadron.

“One of the hardest things to do is move with a cavalry unit, because we are the last one to tear down our equipment because the commander needs to be able to send and receive reports up until the very last minute,” Knowles said. “This puts additional strain on us because Soldiers lives are on the line if we can’t get our systems up and working so the commander can receive reports and intelligence. We have definitely stepped up to the plate and shown this unit we can get the job done.”

The team and the unit had to adjust to working with each other.

“They didn’t know how to act and how to talk to us,” Knowles said. “Initially, we were in a corner of the building because that was the only space they had available. We would be in there working and they would just look at us in the corner. Eventually, things became more comfortable and we all work very well together.

**Previous page:** The 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion “Team Wolfpack”: from top clockwise, Spc. Tarina MacDonnell, Sgt. Emilie Lapioli, Sgt. Lindsey Knowles and Spc. Jahaira Best.

I would say it is a really good working relationship.”

Some of the team’s support is not signal related. Whenever the unit heads out on humanitarian relief missions, these missions include medical aid, school supplies and food; the Signaleers assist them in searching local nationals as they come through the lines. In keeping with local customs and traditions, the men can only search men and women search women. Having this capability greatly assists the 3-2 SCR.

Maj. Mark Read, squadron executive officer, said the signal team provides them with a great asset in signal communications.

“They provide us with tactical SIPR and NIPR, which helps us conduct our everyday missions,” he said. When the squadron got permission for the signal team to assist them on the humanitarian aid missions, Read said “Team Wolfpack” was very excited.

“We trained them up on what they need to do when searching women,” Read explained. “One of the unique things we have to deal with this in environment, particularly the Arab culture, is dealing with women out in the towns and villages. Communicating with them isn’t a problem because we have interpreters. If we have to search them, we need female Soldiers to help. We are an infantry squadron so we don’t have women as an integral part of our organization. They are important in bridging the cultural gap and challenges that we face.”

Spc. Jahaira Best, a signal operator analyst, said it was very interesting to switch from a signal



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Rob Martinez

**Spc. Jahaira Best, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, works on her equipment at FOB Normandy in preparation for the day’s mission.**

Soldier and perform duties of an infantry Soldier.

“You know the Army trains us first to be an infantry Soldier and for me to get out of my element was a welcome change,” Best said. “At first, I was hesitant because of the obvious danger factor. I had to brush up on my tactical skills and be mindful of our battle buddies and the dangers we are surrounded by. Awareness is very important.”

Best recalls the second humanitarian mission she assisted the unit with.

“The second mission I went on was for medical aid,” Best said. “Sgt. Knowles and I were female searchers. I felt bad because some of the children would cry as we would search them. They asked why are we searching them and the mothers would have to tell them that it is okay and to let us do our

*...Soldiers lives are on the line if we can't get our systems up and working...*

job. Once we got into the motion of searching females and children it seemed as if the line wasn't going to stop,

but by the end of the day I was happy that the men, women and children were able to get all the medical attention they needed.”

The members of “Team Wolfpack” are not the only women on FOB Normandy. There are also mechanics, cooks, intelligence and laundry and bath Soldiers. The women on the FOB, Read said, provide the squadron with much needed assistance when dealing Arab women.

The 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion is from Fort Gordon, Ga. Task Force Thunderbird also comprises the 11th Signal Brigade from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion from Mannheim, Germany. ❖

## TF-Thunderbird Soldiers receive combat patches

By Capt. Cedar Wardle

Task Force Thunderbird Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of Task Force Thunderbird from both Headquarters Company, 11th Signal Brigade, and 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) gathered in the morning hours to receive public recognition for their service; and also, more importantly, to receive the combat patch to put on their right sleeve under the American Flag.

November 15, 2007, marks a significant event in Task Force Thunderbird history. It is the day for many Soldiers where they are now identified as combat veterans. Along with the aforementioned units, Task Force Thunderbird also consists of the 63d Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) from Fort Gordon, Ga.

“Some would be quick to point out that we are not the pointed end of the spear, and for the most part, that is true, but without the binding, the stiff shaft, and the strong arm to throw that spear, the pointed end is nothing more than a sharp rock,” said Col John B. Hildebrand, Task Force Thunderbird commander. “In other words, we must never assume our own self worth is directly proportional to our proximity to the target.”

Soldiers of the 11th Signal Brigade wear the 11th Signal Brigade patch, and those of the 44th ESB wear the 7th Signal Brigade patch.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. John Martinez

Task Force Thunderbird commander, Col. John B. Hildebrand, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Grigsby, places the 11th Signal Brigade combat patch on the right arm of Lt. Col. Geoffrey S. Mangelsdorf, Task Force Thunderbird deputy commander.

The combat patch will forever bond Soldiers of Task Force Thunderbird with a visible statement of their shared commitment, their value, and their hardship. It will remind both Soldiers and their families about the sacrifices at home and abroad. Most importantly, it will remind those who see the patch, that everything worth fighting for comes at a price and that members of all Armed Services have paid that price for our country. ❖



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Evan Marcy

**Spc. Hiram Reyes, Company B, 44th ESB, checks the spectrum analyzer of the Command Post Node at Patrol Base Summers. The spectrum analyzer monitors radio frequency noise to aid in the CPN giving the best possible communication signal to the base.**

## ***Signal Soldiers support patrol base***

**By Spc. Evan Marcy**

*44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion*

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Adding another spoke to the growing wheel of communications throughout Iraq, 5th Signal Command's 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB), recently set up communications to a remote patrol base near the city of Suwayrah, Iraq, just south of Baghdad.

Patrol Base Summers is home to a platoon of the 18th Military Police Brigade, headquartered in Mannheim, Germany, and B Co. 2-6th Infantry, 1st Armored Division. Command Sgt. Major Earl Allen, 44th ESB, went to visit the four signal Soldiers there who operate the Command Post Node (CPN) which provides the only non-secure and secure Internet and voice-over-Internet protocol phone services for the units.

"It's very important to provide the reach-back capabilities to the Warfighters out here so that

they can call their counterparts whether they are at another location in Iraq or back in the states," said Allen. "While a unit is out here doing patrols or kicking in doors, we provide them the communication necessary to call back to their headquarters for guidance."

The team first arrived March 15, 2008. The base was originally used by Iraqi forces as a military airport. After securing the area, Soldiers had to clear the complex of rubble, and reconstruct certain structures.

"Once the area was cleared, it took us about an hour to set up all our equipment and provide the base with Internet-based communications," said Sgt. Michael Zinkgraf, Company B, 44th ESB noncommissioned officer-in-charge, PB Summers CPN.

Since the system's inception at the base "the communications have been running flawlessly;

none of the issues that come up have been on our end,” said Sgt. Troy Rice, Company B, 44th ESB. “The (signal) shot’s always in, except when taken down for maintenance.”

Extensive training and qualifying on the specific equipment prior to deployment is a large contribution to the current success of the mission.

The great line of communication can also be contributed to “excellent support from the S-6 at the 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, who has operational control of the area, along with Chief (Warrant Officer James) Clemons, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, who runs the Joint Network Node at Forward Operating Base Kulsu, and is quick to give us a call to provide us with any and all information required, such as major network changes and any problems with the Hub (signal router),” said Rice.

“The units we’re supporting are very



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Evan Marcy

**Sgt. Michael Zinkgraf (right), Company B, 44th ESB, points out the motor pool to Command Sgt. Major Earl Allen, 44th ESB, during Allen’s visit of Patrol Base Summers.**

pleased with the communications our Soldiers are providing,” Allen said. “They gave them thumbs up and are happy to have our Soldiers working with them.”

Being stationed on a patrol base, Soldiers often times have to go without many amenities provided on larger FOBs.

“The team is doing an outstanding job, even with the conditions they’re in,” said Allen. “Their morale is high and they are able to do a great job without being under the watchful eye of the battalion.”

Looking forward to redeployment back to Mannheim, Germany with the battalion, the CPN team spends their downtime taking college courses online, and improving their physical fitness at the gym. ❖



U.S. Army file photo

**Soldiers clear out the eventual headquarters building for Patrol Base Summers. A team of 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion Soldiers provide the only Non-secure and Secure Internet and Voice Over Internet Protocol phone services for the patrol base.**

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*“While a unit is out here doing patrols or kicking in doors, we provide them the communication necessary to call back to their headquarters for guidance.”*

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# FOB Delta growth challenges Soldiers

Story and photos by Sgt. Daniel West

214th Fires Brigade Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq – “Running cable isn’t that interesting unless you stop and play with the puppy,” said Spc. Jennifer Dimitroff, a Lancaster, Calif., native assigned to Company B, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

The puppy Dimitroff mentioned was adopted by contractors living near one of the many manholes Company B’s Soldiers are working to refurbish.

Company B provides voice and data services for FOB Delta, as well as 12 sites away from the FOB, said Capt. Kelly McCay, commander of the company.

These Soldiers stay busy establishing and running a Technical Control Facility as well as 26 miles of fiber-optic cable through a series of manholes around the FOB. They work to ensure communications are available for all who need them, said McCay, a Central City, Ky., native.

Company B is also on the front line as FOB



Spc. Rebecca Greer, Company B, 44th ESB, runs cable in a conference room on FOB Delta

Delta grows, working to provide for all new units and personnel.

“As new buildings are raised, we work within the construction process to ensure they are wired for communications,” McCay said.

New construction is only half the mission. Company B must also service the existing cables. As the 41st Fires Brigade arrives from Fort Hood, Texas, and prepares to take charge of FOB Delta, the number of work orders jumped by 65 percent.

“One challenge has been dealing with the speed of growth on the FOB,” said 1st Lt. Michael Marrinan, a Wyckoff, N.J., native, and officer in charge of the TCF. “There’s an issue with resources and a lack of personnel. We have to manage who’s most important for the mission to keep up with how fast demand is growing.”

Morale remains high in the company despite the challenges, said McCay.

“Many times, people don’t see the impact of their work, they just work their shifts. ... The motivation level is high because they see the impact each day of what they’re doing,” he said.

The positive impact of these Soldiers is, in part, due to their flexibility, often working in jobs for which they never trained.

Specialist Blake Martin, a satellite communications tech said he has no regrets about coming to Iraq.

“I wanted to do my part,” he said. “I saw Soldiers on TV working over here, and wanted to do my part to help that. I joined to come over here. ... I feel I’ve done my part here.” ❖



Spc. Sharmayne Smith, Company B, 44th ESB, works on cable in an office on FOB Delta.

# U.S., Georgian militaries share communications

Story and photo by Spc. Crystal Abbott

*Southern European Task Force Public Affairs Office*

VAZIANI TRAINING AREA, Georgia – Communication between internal forces can sometimes be difficult, communicating between several different nations can add to the confusion, but setting up these coalition networks has become common in places where nations work together. Georgian soldiers will now be able to set up a coalition network with the knowledge they were taught by U.S. Soldiers.

U.S. Soldiers from the 509th Signal Battalion gave a lesson on the proper technique of preparing and laying network cables to set up a communication system to the Georgian soldiers from the 4th Infantry Brigade at the Vaziani training area July 15, as a part of the Immediate Response 2008 exercise.

Staff Sgt. Melinda Gardner, the cable team noncommissioned officer in charge, and Sgt. Rashad Jenkins, the helpdesk noncommissioned officer in charge, lead the class.

“I know that these soldiers are about to go down range,” said Gardner. “Their being able to hook up a communication system will save lives on the battlefield.”

“This training will make the Georgian soldiers self-sufficient,” agreed Jenkins. “When they learn this training they won’t have to rely on anyone to get the things they need.”

The Georgian soldiers who participated in this training program really enjoyed the class and found the training very helpful.

“The U.S. has the most developed equipment and technology,” said Sgt. Irakli Aleqsandria, a Georgian soldier. “This training will help us become the best we can be.”

Their interest in the subject matter and the desire to make the most of their training has been evident in the way the soldiers participate in their classes.

“[The Georgians] are great learners,” said Jenkins, “I just give

them the instructions once and they got it! Seeing their appreciation of the class and how quickly they catch on is very exciting.”

Georgian company commander, Capt. Archil Korganasvili, is thankful for all the training the U.S. has offered his Soldiers.

“It is important for us gain experience in working with other nations, especially NATO members. We are going to deploy to Iraq so it is important to get to work with the Americans in these training environments,” said Korganasvili. “The first experiences working with the U.S. Soldiers have been very good and we are looking forward to the rest of this exercise.”

More than training, the U.S. and Georgian soldiers have begun to build strong bonds.

“This training is helping both Georgia and the U.S. build closer relationships as allies,” said U.S. Army Capt. Adolph DuBose, the C4 Information Systems Cell officer in charge. “We are really becoming friends; the Georgians are very hospitable.”

Immediate Response is an annual, bilateral security cooperation exercise conducted between U.S. and coalition partners. The exercise is focused on interoperability training and is designed to promote understanding and cooperation between military forces of the United States and our allies. ❖



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Melina Gardner shows Georgian Army Sgt. George Tsikolia, Cpl. Zaza Macharoghvili, and Sgt. Irakli Aleqsandria the proper order of wires for a straight network cable.

# NETCOM bids farewell to DCO

Story and photos by Gordon Van Vleet

NETCOM/9th Signal Command (Army) Public Affairs Office

ARLINGTON, Va. (NETCOM/9th SC(A)) – After nearly 30 years in the United States Army, another great American is hanging up his hat and leaving an institution he has dedicated three decades of selfless service.

Col. John M. Blaine, the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command (Army) deputy commander for operations, was officially recognized during a retirement ceremony held in the Pentagon Oct. 10. The Army's Chief Information Officer/G-6, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, who presided at the ceremony, presented Blaine with the Legion of Merit for his 29 years of service to the country.

Blaine graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1979 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant of Signal. Blaine, a career Signal Officer, has had a diverse career with assignments in Germany; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Gordon Ga.; Fort Hood, Texas; Kuwait; and Washington D.C., to name a few.

Blaine and his wife Anke, who have been married for 21 years and met during Blaine's first tour to Germany, have two sons; John IV, a 19-year-old sophomore at Virginia Commonwealth University, in Richmond, and Zachary, a 7th grader with a passion for baseball.

Serving in uniform was a desire he had since he was a young boy.

"While I did not grow up in a military family, many of my family members had served in the past, or were serving during my impressionable years," said Blaine. "My father served in the Navy with duty in the South Pacific during World War II; one brother-in-law served in the Navy during the mid 1960s, with duty in Vietnam; two cousins served in the Navy, one a helicopter pilot and the other a Doctor; and a third cousin served a tour with the Army."

It was the stories told him by his father and brother-in-law that impressed him the most said Blaine.

"My father, who was extremely proud of his service, was a radar operator serving aboard a



Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson (left), Army Chief Information Officer, imparts a few kind words about Col. John Blaine.

transport ship that moved troops, supplies and prisoners throughout the theater during the last year of the war.

"My brother-in-law, Pete, served as a navigator/bombardier on a Navy A6A Intruder flying off the carrier USS Independence during VietNam," said Blaine. "Within 30 days of the carrier arriving on station, Pete and his pilot were forced to eject from their aircraft over enemy territory, and spent five hours evading the Viet-Cong before being rescued. That story has always had an impression on me."

Even with all the Navy stories pushing him, it wasn't the Navy Blaine ended up joining.

"During the summer before my senior year in high school a close friend's father, who ran the town's local college ROTC program, talked me into applying for West Point." A year later, in July 1975, Blaine found himself walking through the gates of Michie Stadium at West Point starting a new chapter in his life. "I distinctly remember thinking that I would leave the military after my initial five-year commitment, but here I am 29 years later retiring from the military," said Blaine. "You never just know how events will play out," he added.

Blaine's career was full of good times and

some bad. The good times included graduating from West Point; marrying his wife, Anke; and the births of his two sons; and all the Soldier promotions he had the honor of presiding over. The bad included a crash of an F-16 fighter jet into Green Ramp at Fort Bragg, NC, which killed a number of paratroopers preparing for a training jump; and being in the Pentagon during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack, he said.

The baritone-voiced, steely-eyed colonel was quick to point out that the good times vastly outnumber the bad when it was all added up. When looking back on his career, Blaine said he didn't have a single mentor, but had many instead.

"I had some incredibly great bosses to work for over the years that demonstrated through their actions a positive form of leadership and a keen sense of keeping a Soldier focus," he said. "The ones that come to mind are Maj. Gen. Gerald Brohm, Lt. Gen. Dave Kelley, Lt. Gen. Mike Ackerman, Maj. Gen. Dave Bryan, Maj. Gen. James Hylton, Lt. Gen. Stephen Boutelle, Maj. Gen. Carroll Pollett, and my current bosses, Brig. Gen. Susan Lawrence, and Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson." Blaine said each of these generals he worked with had their own unique leadership style that junior officers, like himself, emulated.

"Over time you began to figure out what you liked and adopted it to your style of leadership. Even today I continue to learn new approaches or techniques that hone my leadership style."



Brig. Gen. Susan Lawrence (left) presents Col. John Blaine a framed letter and coin during Blaine's retirement ceremony.

If asked what his greatest accomplishments were, the colonel would be quick to say "my family!" But if you ask others who have served with the colonel, then you might hear about how the colonel set the stage for incorporation of IT technology into Army Ground Combat Platforms, during his command of the 124th Signal Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. Another accomplishment might be when Blaine commanded the 160th Signal Brigade in Kuwait and was responsible for the largest communications commercialization effort ever undertaken by the Army in a combat zone.

Or it could be said his greatest feat was standing up an entire Signal Brigade in an active combat zone, starting with 12 people and in ten months, growing to 1,200 Soldiers and Civilians on the ground supporting ongoing operations in six different countries.

Whatever the accomplishments, it is clear Blaine's career has had a lasting effect on the Army and on the country he has dedicated his life to serve.

Now, at the end of this chapter of his life, Blaine's ambitions are not finished. "I plan to transition to the industry side of the communications business and stay in the Northern Virginia area for now," said Blaine. "I do want to add that I also plan on spending more time with my family... and maybe pick up playing golf again on a more regular basis," he added with a smile.

At the end of the retirement ceremony, with his family, and many of his close friends in attendance, Blaine said he owes his successful career to the people he has worked with during his many years in the Army, and that is why even though he is leaving the service, he will not forget his service and all the Soldiers and Civilians he has met and worked with during the greatest years of his life.

"The Army that we have today is a highly professional Army consisting of highly dedicated Soldiers, Civilians, and Contractors," said Blaine. "And I know that one of the many reasons I stayed in the military for 29 years was because of the professional workforce that we have." ❖

# NETCOM welcomes new deputy

By Eric Hortin

NETCOM/9th Signal Command (Army) Public Affairs Office

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. (NETCOM/9th SC (A)) – Members of the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command (Army) welcomed the newest members of the NETCOM family in a retreat ceremony Oct. 2, in front of Greely Hall. Brig. Gen. Susan Lawrence, NETCOM/9th SC (A) commanding general, was the first to welcome Col. (Promotable) LaWarren Patterson to his new job, and welcome him and his wife, Jule, back to the NETCOM team.

“For the last two years, you’ve been leading the way in Signal transformation,” Lawrence said. “First as the Special Assistant to the U.S. Commander, U.S. Forces Korea, and then to the Pentagon where you worked for the Army’s CIO (Chief Information Officer)/G-6 as the Chief, Portfolio Management Division. Your work and initiatives these past few years will be felt throughout the Signal Corps for years to come as we continue to transform our Signal forces.”

Lawrence mentioned Patterson’s lineage of working with NETCOM units. He was the operations officer and executive officer of the 304th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade in the Republic of Korea. Several years later, Patterson returned to 1st Signal Brigade as the commander. Those experiences and others have prepared him for his new job, Lawrence said.

“There is no question that Warren possesses



U.S. Army photo by Gordon Van Vleet

The official party – (left to right) Brig. Gen. Susan Lawrence, Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Manley, and Col. LaWarren Patterson – salute the colors as they arrive at the beginning of Patterson’s welcome ceremony.



U.S. Army photo by Eric Hortin

Col. LaWarren Patterson, incoming deputy commanding general, speaks Oct. 2, during his welcome ceremony.

the characteristics required for this position, and has the precise experience necessary,” Lawrence said. “His extensive background has prepared him for any challenge and there is no doubt in my mind that with the leadership Col. Patterson brings to NETCOM, we will move forward aggressively to meet the challenges of war and transformation.”

“Thank you, Brig. Gen. Lawrence, for your kind words, for your trust in me, and thank you for getting me out of Washington, D.C.,” Patterson said, raising laughter from those assembled.

“I am humbled by this challenging opportunity to serve our nation and this command as your deputy, and to be given the chance to once again help lead the Signal Soldiers and Civilians of NETCOM/9th Signal Command,” Patterson said, as he humbly accepted the reins of the deputy commanding general.

The ceremony ended with the Retreat ceremony, and all stood in respect as the colors were lowered and folded by a detachment of senior noncommissioned officers. ❖

# TF-Thunderbird supports joint force

By Capt. Cedar Wardle

Task Force Thunderbird Public Affairs Office

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Task Force Thunderbird has a large role in Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.

Task Force Thunderbird exercises command and control of all Signal assets assigned to the Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I). As such, they maneuver signal forces, plan current and future operations, and set the conditions for effective communication support to the MNC-I campaign plan. This mission set includes supporting units from division all the way down to section-level formations, such as Military Transition Teams and Combat Outposts.

“Task Force Thunderbird CNOSC (Corps Network Operations and Security Center) is responsible for monitoring the Corps communications network, providing a network common operating picture to the MNC-I commander and staff, and directing network actions to ensure that all Coalition Forces that support III Corps in the Iraq Theater of Operation maintain voice and data communications of all classifications,” said Capt. Joseph Kachmar, CNOSC Watch Officer.

Another CNOSC responsibility is to provide support to the division G-6 offices when they request assistance in trouble shooting their division’s tactical networks. Supporting MNC-I provides many challenges for the Task Force Network Operators.

“We face several unique challenges which include working with and supporting joint customers and their equipment (i.e., Marines and Air Force) providing communication support for US Coalition Partners (i.e., British, Polish, Georgian, and Iraqi to name a few), and transitioning from a tactical satellite-based network to a commercial terrestrial-based network,” Kachmar stated.

Challenges prepare Soldiers to become better leaders and provide an environment to learn how to adapt to continuously changing situations. The challenges faced now will become the knowledge, maturity, and experience that will bring success in



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Cedar Wardle

**Chief Warrant Officers Omar Lopez (left) and Curtis Newkirk (right), Task Force Thunderbird, ensure ‘fly-away data packages’ are working to standard before distributing them to the unit.**

the future.

Some of the new equipment brought into theater by Task Force Thunderbird’s two Expeditionary Signal Battalions makes the Corps network extremely flexible. The Joint Network Node (JNN) allows more customers to be supported and provides more redundancy than the Army’s previous Tactical Satellite Systems.

“With each division having their own hub and connecting all of their JNN assets together through the Victory Base hub, the network is more efficient with its bandwidth ‘on-demand’ capability and also allows for dedicated bandwidth for links that have a constant flow of traffic,” Kachmar explained.

The main challenge faced by Task Force Thunderbird is that this is only the second time the unit has used JNN equipment out of the classroom – the first being their Mission Readiness Exercise conducted at Fort Huachuca prior to deployment.

“We are all learning how to use this equipment while implementing it in theater and most of our knowledge is coming straight from the book with very little practical application experience.” Kachmar stated.

However, through the rigors of operating a network in combat during their fifteen month tour, Task Force Thunderbird will gain plenty of experience that they will be able to impart to follow on units. ❖

# UFG '08

## Signal Soldiers work to provide comms

By Sgt. Mark Miranda

1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of the 1st Signal Brigade prefaced the August Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2008 exercises by conducting one of its own called Warrior Storm.

Warrior Storm began with movement and emplacement of the different units within the brigade. The 304th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion (ITSB) moved from Camp Stanley to locations throughout the peninsula, all the way down to Busan, where a detachment of Company B would work with the USS Blueridge for the exercise.

Mail, extra ammunition, life support tasks, planning for logistic re-supply and countless other tasks kept even the rear detachments of every unit busy.

In past years, this preliminary exercise was known as RSOI for the different stages: reception, staging, and onward integration.

"This year is different; the Republic of Korea is heading it, making decisions on how it wants to operate," said Capt. Maria Curtis, commander of Headquarters Company, 1st Signal Brigade. "The ROK will pose a lot of 'what if' scenarios and coordinate our reaction if North Korea were to initiate hostilities."

"We had four KATUSAs that trained on different switches," said 2nd Lt. Eileen Guerra, executive officer of Company B, 304th ITSB. "They're invaluable – the more I work with them, the more I see the need to have them around. They are technically competent."

Once UFG 2008 was underway, the brigade took on the task of maintaining communications vital to support of the exercise.

"Our task is setting up the signal communication piece, tactical phones, and satellite communications," said Staff Sgt. Derrick Nash, Company B, 304th ITSB.

Nash said that these exercises take Soldiers



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Mark Miranda

Soldiers with Company B, 304th ITSB maintain a Phoenix communications system.



U.S. Army photo by Kim, Seung-kwon

Pvt. 2nd Class Choi, Dae-hoon, 251st Signal Detachment, checks the identification of a person approaching the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan gate during an Aug. 16 base defense exercise.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Mark Miranda

**Pfc. Robert Armstrong and Sgt. Jason Goldberger, both from Company B, 304th Signal Battalion, maintain a Phoenix system at Camp Walker.**

out of the garrison environment and provides great opportunities.

“Our NCOs have the job of providing their knowledge. The Soldiers who will fill in my shoes, I hope they not only learn more about the job; I hope they understand why it is they do what they do.”

“Comms is one of the most important aspects of the Army,” said Pfc. Shaun Gilbert, Company B, 304th ITSB. “Without it, you don’t know where anyone is.

“Learning how to test and effectively operate this equipment well would be my measure of success,” Gilbert added. “I hope to gain experience doing this, because it’s something I’ll need to pass on.” ❖



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Lajuan Hickman

**Yun Song-ku, an electronics technician with 41st Signal Battalion’s Maintenance Support Team, fixes an Armed Forces Network AM/FM radio transmitter at Camp Long.**

# Twenty-eight year journey ends with historic

By Sgt. Lewis M. Hilburn

Task Force Thunderbird Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have naturalized more than 37,250 members of the U.S. Armed Forces since the beginning of the War on Terror. On April 12, 2008, the USCIS added over 200 service members to this number in an early morning ceremony held at the Al Faw Palace, in the center of Baghdad.

Three "new citizens" (Soldiers) from the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB), out of Mannheim, Germany, took part in this ceremony. 44th ESB is part of Task Force Thunderbird, which is led by the 11th Signal Brigade, from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and also includes the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion from Fort Gordon, Ga.

Staff Sgt. Luis Diaz, retention noncommissioned

officer for Headquarters Company, 44th ESB said after the ceremony that it took him nearly three years once the he submitted his application. This however, is not what makes Diaz story interesting. What is interesting is for the past 28 years Diaz has lived in the U.S. as a legal resident, and always felt like a U.S. citizen.

At three months old, Diaz and his family moved to U.S. from the Dominican Republic. Diaz attended the same schools as everyone else. He went to the same sporting events as everyone else. Diaz even enlisted into the U.S. Army to serve a country that he was not a citizen. As far as being an American, Diaz was doing everything an American citizen would do, except vote.

"At home we lived like a traditional Dominican family, nothing changed," he said, noting how

## Our Soldiers' stories ~

### 9/11 attack postpones naturalization plans

By Sgt. Lewis M. Hilburn

Task Force Thunderbird Public Affairs Office

Everyone was affected in some way on Sept. 11, 2001. Some lost loved ones in the attacks, while others were in shocked at what they were witnessing. The whole world watched as terrorists tried to bring one of the greatest countries on Earth to its knees. Most people distinctly recall where they were when the planes hit and the towers fell. For Spc. Tarina MacDonnell, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, that day will forever live in her mind.

On the morning of the attacks, MacDonnell skipped school. Not because she wanted to play hooky, but to become a U.S. citizen. She was born in Canada, and spent a better part of her childhood there before moving to the U.S. with her mother. She was living in Conway, Ark.

"My mother and I were in a car on the way to the government building in Memphis, Tenn., where the ceremony was to be held," MacDonnell said. "We had left home before 8 a.m. that morning and weren't really listening to the radio. It wasn't until we arrived at the government building in Tennessee that we found out what had happened to the twin towers. They informed us that the ceremony was cancelled

for the day and that we would have to reschedule. I was shocked. I mean, what were the chances of that happening on the day I was going to become a U.S. citizen?"

The ride back was a rather somber one for MacDonnell and her mother.

"We really did not say much on the way back," she said. "We stopped a few times to get gas and people were huddled around their television watching everything unfold. It was surreal."

What really hit her most is when she had to go back to school to grab books she had left the day prior.

"I remember looking into classrooms and people were glued to the television," MacDonnell said. "The



U.S. Army photo by Spc. John Martinez  
Spc. Tarina MacDonnell

Continued page 23

# Iraq ceremony

interesting it was growing up in New York City. “Everyone on my father’s side of the family migrated to New York in the 70’s and early 80’s. All of them moved to Queens, New York. Everyone on my mother’s side still lives in the Dominican Republic.”

The family kept in touch once they moved to Queens. Diaz spoke of how close they all lived to each other.

“My oldest uncle became the ‘Super’ (superintendent) of a seven-story apartment building,” Diaz said. “That is where the whole family lived. Each had their own apartment of course. So growing

*Continued page 23*



U.S. Army photo by Spc. John Martinez

**Lt. Col. Kris Kramarich (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Allen (right), 44th ESB commander and command sergeant major, congratulate Staff Sgt. Luis Diaz after becoming a U.S. citizen.**

## *the long path to citizenship*

# In search of a better life, opportunities

**By Sgt. Lewis M. Hilburn**

*Task Force Thunderbird Public Affairs Office*

Everyday people apply for citizenship to the U.S., people who came to the U.S. in search of better life for themselves and their families, and to chase the “American Dream.” Members of the U.S. military have a benefit because they have chosen to defend the U.S. despite being born in another country.

Spc. Jahaira Best, Panamanian by birth, is now serving in the Army with the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. She spent the first year of her life in Panama before her parents moved to Maryland.

“We moved to America because it was the land of opportunity and a way to start over,” she said. “To make the transition easier we moved in with my father’s mother until we could find a place of our own.”

Best said the move was a tough decision her father had to make; but it would provide a better life for his family.

“My parents were bilingual. They could speak Spanish and English so it was easy for them to communicate with Americans and there was no language barrier,” Best said. “It was a huge decision for him to uproot his family and move to the states. But since his mother was already here it was an easy

transition for us.”

Having only spent a year in Panama, growing up as a U.S. citizen is the only thing that Best knew. Her high school life was much like any other high school student. She took all the same standardized test that students needed in Maryland to graduate from high school. It was during this time that Best and her family applied for citizenship.

“I don’t remember how long the process was but it seemed fairly quick,” Best said. “We would go in and take civics tests, much like the ones I took when I was high school.”

In late September 1993, the family went through the ceremony together, held at Oriole Stadium, home to the Baltimore Orioles.

“We were told it was a record number of people being naturalized and that’s why they had it at the stadium,” she said. “The only thing I can really remember was once we were official U.S. Citizens is my mother and father hugging everyone and crying.”

In August of 2002, Best joined the Maryland National Guard to help pay for her college. After she graduated from college she transferred from the National Guard to active Army where she is now a Signal Soldier. ❖



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Paula Taylor

(Left to right) Maj. Gen. Dennis Via, commanding general, Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command; Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, commanding general, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon; and Brig. Gen. Susan Lawrence, commanding general, NETCOM/9th SC (A), speak during a panel at the LandWarNet Conference.

## *Record turnout at 2008 LWN Conference*

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Despite blustery weather brought on by Tropical Storm Fay, the opening conference of the 2008 LandWarNet Conference at the Broward County Convention Center was filled to capacity, leaving dozens of people to stand along the wall.

Attendees from around the globe – both military and industry – attended the opening of a conference that focuses on information technology capabilities. The LWN Conference has grown significantly over the past couple of years, with the registered number of attendees growing to more than 6,400. Members of the Army's Signal Regiment, from brigades, battalions, commands and directorates arrived from around the globe to attend this professional development opportunity.

"This is a conference that has taken a lot of other conferences and put them all together," said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, Army Chief Information Officer/G-6.

The focus of much of the conference, Sorenson said, was to see what the Army is going through in information technology, and what it means to the Warfighter. The conference itself was comprised of several plenary sessions, different track sessions, panels, and key speakers canvassing a vast array of IT issues within the Army. Senior leaders from

a number of organizations – Army, Joint, Defense and industry – played key roles in the sessions intended to give attendees more information, provide feedback, and make contacts to assist them in their IT missions.

This aspect of Army operations has become a "front-and-center" issue, with incidents in the Republic of Georgia, Sorenson said. More than a few media outlets reported the cyber attacks on Georgian web sites and servers preceding the ground attack.

It was also an opportunity for attendees to interact with exhibitors, and gain knowledge on new and emerging technologies that may have practical applications in Army systems. Sorenson recalled when his own sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Desjardins, was walking through the exhibits on the show floor and discovered a piece of technology that would assist deployed Soldiers in staying in contact with their families back home; it is now a feature of Army Knowledge Online.

Sorenson emphasized at the end of his remarks that the Soldier must remain at the forefront of people's minds.

"Everything we do today is to improve situational awareness for the Soldiers." ❖

# HHD, 41st sets supply standard

**Story and photo by Sgt. Mark Miranda**

*1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office*

YONGSAN ARMY GARRISON, South Korea – Hardly a year ago, Sgt. Jose Sanchez was in Iraq with his National Guard unit working as a combat engineer, helping explosive ordnance disposal teams to clear travel routes. When he made the decision to go active duty, Sanchez reclassified his military occupational specialty to come in as a unit supply specialist.

Sanchez's first assignment in his new career field is with Headquarters Detachment, 41st Signal Battalion. Since arriving in May 2008, he has already made a strong impression by beating out more than just the 16 other units within 1st Signal Brigade to be recognized as the best supply operation; Sanchez's unit was recently recognized as having Network Enterprise Technology Command's best supply section, and will represent NETCOM at the Department of the Army (DA) level of competition later this year.

"At this point, we're just waiting for a date for inspection from DA," Sanchez said. "We're competing against two other units; one from California, one from Hawaii. It's been a lot of hard work involving extra hours, coming in on the weekends and asking for help from people, but we got all the support we needed.

"Between us, the commander, property book office, logistics section we all worked together to make this [top recognition] happen," Sanchez said.

"When Sanchez arrived, I told him I really wanted to win this," said Capt. Robert Heatherly, detachment commander. "He was up to the challenge; he simply said, 'OK, sir.' Sanchez and his crew easily worked hundreds of hours combined to prepare for this on top of their day-to-day operations."

Assisting Sanchez in the supply room are Mr. Ma, Pu-il, an Army civilian, Cpl. Lee, Sang-il, Pvt. John Blossom and Pfc. Crystal Gonzalez. On any given day, the supply section serves 30-40 people to process supply requests, equipment turn-ins, purchases and in-processing among their duties.

Sanchez said that the checklist he used as a guide for preparing was 18 pages long.

"As soon as I got here in May, I had to make

things happen," Sanchez said. "There was stuff I had to track down. We had to fix the storage room, make it more organized."

He added that the inspectors from NETCOM would be looking at areas such as storage procedures, arms room security measures, property book accuracy and government purchase card usage. The supply section had to ensure records were correctly maintained for inventory, and for uniforms and equipment issued to Soldiers.

"I'm guessing when it comes time for DA to visit us, they'll be judging us in a lot of the same areas," Sanchez said. "It's my first time competing in something like this. Since I'm still new to this job, it's been great because I've seen every area that I'm responsible for, and I feel like there's still a lot I need to learn."

"Supply is one of those unspoken heroes," Heatherly said. "To be able to recognize them is a great opportunity, and just one of the reasons we wanted the win." ❖



**Sgt. Jose Sanshez, Headquarters Detachment, 41st Signal Battalion, loads boxes of protective masks onto a dolly.**

# MARS supports

## Volunteer radio operators provide vital comms links

By **Bill Sexton**

*Army MARS Public Affairs*

In weather as in war, the first hours of an emergency so often prove crucial to organizing effective response. The task of the 2,800 amateur radio operators in Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) – all volunteers spread across the country – is to ensure delivery of the initial flow of information that responders require.

Critically important information like:

Is I-10 open? Galveston Causeway intact? Baton Rouge Metro Airport accessible? Port Arthur rail line cleared? Jackson hospitals operational? Our government needs to know.

Case in point: Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in September 2008.

MARS confronted this summer's tropical storm assault with a brand-new configuration. It had been three years in the making, ever since Hurricane Katrina exposed government-wide lack of readiness in 2005.

Now, Army MARS regional commands were in place, positioned to coordinate operations across state lines in sync with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. State directors have reported to 10 relatively autonomous region directors since January 2007. With 18 months to organize, adjust and exercise, the realigned chain of command was ready.

Meanwhile the Army MARS WinLink messaging system, introduced in 2006, had been fully implemented and was redefining interagency traffic patterns with its e-mail-over-radio capabilities.

This year, in a sharp reversal of tradition, Army MARS was poised with quick-response mobile radio teams for dispatch into areas lacking other communication. Much of Katrina's turmoil had resulted from lack of "ground truth," that is, real-time intelligence updates on the disintegrating situation. The Army MARS Emergency Response

Team (ERT) offers a fix.

So even before Gustav's Sept. 1, landfall, Army MARS – at Texas National Guard request – deployed four ERTs with National Guard refueling units posted along main evacuation routes. That was a precaution learned the hard way three years ago when broken-down vehicles blocked speedy escape from coastal areas.

Similarly, after Ike blasted ashore

barely two weeks after Gustav, Army MARS operator Lewis Thompson (AAR6UK) deployed from Austin, Texas, with the first Guard unit to enter Galveston Island.

His mission was backing up military communications in case of any breakdown. That was one problem that happily didn't occur in the shattered island city. Thompson was busy anyway updating the State Operations Center on local conditions and keeping his Joint Task Force apprised of the mainland situation.

Gustav and Ike turned out to be no Katrina. The low-key jobs like those just cited won little public attention. But even if limited in scope, the involvement yielded much valuable information for Army MARS headquarters at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., home of the Army's Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command (Army) (NETCOM/9th SC (A)) to which MARS reports.

"This is what's really significant," Army MARS Chief Stuart Carter said. "Our new strategies got a severe test under real conditions, and they passed the test. And so did the members."

By very rough estimate, at least 200 Army MARS members, primarily operating from home, manned the regional emergency nets during hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Texas alone counted 57 stations on the air – an awesome response. Numerous other members offered connectivity from as far away as the West Coast and New England.



As for the actual traffic load, Texas MARS director Dave Martin (AAA6TX) had one indication. During Ike alone he counted 195 WinLink messages processed at his Fort Worth station including situation reports, information requests and weather data.

“It is not the volume of messages passed that is important, but the availability of the Army MARS system to federal agencies to pass every critical message they need passing when it is needed,” Carter said. “That means Army MARS resources need to be ready to move traffic when and if needed.”

As soon as the National Hurricane Center puts a name on a tropical storm, two Army MARS regions snap-to automatically. Region 4 in the Southeast covers the coast from Mississippi to North Carolina – eight states in all. Region 6 covers Louisiana and Texas, along with inland Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Response planning is the responsibility of the region directors, who themselves are volunteers from the amateur radio community. The two regional staffs stay in close touch.

In one crucial decision, Region 4 director James Hamilton (AAA4RD) in Orlando, Fla., moved to forestall an overload on Gulf Coast stations. He switched responsibility for coordinating on-air operations to Georgia state director Larry Lowe (AAA4GA) and Georgia’s experienced team of net control stations (NCS), located outside Gustav’s predicted path.

That was an apt illustration of initiative in the field, and it paid off.

“GA performed NCS duties and did a great job,” messaged Tennessee’s Paul Drothler (AAV4DJ) whose deployment team depended on high-frequency contact en route from Tennessee into Louisiana, in Region 6.

Veteran operator Drothler, a retired AT&T manager, was leader of a four-man backup team requested by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.



*Courtesy photo*

**Army MARS member Lewis Thompson (AAR6UK) operates on the WinLink net from hurricane-battered Galveston, Texas, with the mobile command post of the Texas Military Forces Standing Joint Interagency Task Force.**

From their Cumberland County, Tenn., homes, the four hauled a fully-equipped comms trailer first to Jackson, Miss., then across the Mississippi River to Alexandria in central Louisiana, and finally downriver to Baton Rouge. On the 1,536-mile, four-day journey, they had to dodge torrential rains, fallen trees, traffic jammed by fleeing coastal populations and several tornados – but transmitted status reports throughout.

Everybody’s endurance and operating skill and the initiative and agility of leaders weren’t the only qualities challenged by this pair of storms. Interoperability – the capacity of different agencies and systems to move messages back and forth under emergency conditions – this came in for a big play.

“This was the first opportunity we’ve had to put all our new tools to use under what I’ll call combat conditions,” Carter said. “I’m really impressed with the results. The WinLink system lived up to its promise, as we knew it would, and the deployment teams certainly proved their value in reaching out to serve our partners. I want to salute all the individuals who put their talents to these two tasks. ❖

# Warrior Training Center makes it very real

By Pfc. Jennifer Grier

55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

*(Editor's Note: The following is a first-person account of a Soldier attending this training.)*

FORT LEE, Va. – Imagine sitting in a classroom, waiting to begin. You are relaxed in your seat, sitting in a familiar environment and socializing with your friends about the weekend you just had. Suddenly your world gets dark, you're getting screamed at by unfamiliar people, your heart rate is rising and your hands are tightly roped behind your back as you're led throughout an empty building clueless as to what's going on. This experience sounds like that of a Soldier from the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera) who came to Fort Lee, Virginia to train.

The Warrior Training Center (WTC) is a five-day training program built to enhance Soldier abilities to react and attack combat situations proficiently and effectively. Training at WTC also gives a Soldier the opportunity to learn and certify in the Modern Army Combative Program (MACP) Level 1, which would qualify participants in a collaboration of Martial Arts and defensive close hand-to-hand combat techniques.

The first day began with a serious wake up call. The introduction takes place as Soldiers are thrown around to simulate a realistic and surprising experience of what it might be like to become a

detainee in a hostile environment.

The isolation and rules of Engagement are rules of "What you can and cannot do," as a Prisoner of War. First Aid involved treating bleeding Soldiers, which is the number one cause of death in combat. In addition, a new and improved First Aid Kit was introduced for use on quick traumatic wounds caused in combat. It weighs approximately one pound; items include a tourniquet and pressure bandages for bleeding and a nasopharyngeal airway tube (a small device inserted into the nostril or throat) to aid in breathing.

Soldiers simulated a nine line Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) request. In combat, the accuracy of this communication for safely evacuating the patient is very important in saving lives on the battlefield.

Assembling and disassembling weapons were also part of the training. These weapons included the M-9 pistol, .50-caliber machine gun, M-240B machine gun, Squad Automatic Weapon, and MK-19 grenade launcher. The purpose of this training was to learn how to take each weapon apart and reassemble it within a three minute time limit.

Army Combative Training (ACT) was some of the more challenging training. ACT uses techniques from basic wrestling and grappling moves to boxing. During the Level 1 training, the goal is to learn the basics techniques well enough to be able to instruct others. There are 13 core

maneuvers and three basic drills. Each drill contains types of moves that concentrate on using certain body parts and movements to gain dominant control over an attacker.

Day two was Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer. It portrays a virtual simulation of being a team member in a convoy. With Grid coordinates, real driving equipment, operational weapons and a landscape that is like Afghanistan or Iraq this "video game" is the most realistic you can get without actually being in a convoy.

The second system is the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000. A movie screen plays in



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Antonio Nakhid

Soldiers react to simulations while training on the EST 2000.

front of Soldiers creating scenes of either enemy fire or situational awareness issues. During this simulation, Soldiers either lie in position or stand with their weapon in front of the screen and shoot according to what the situation calls for. These systems were both practical and fun, although some complained of poor realism; a virtual experience like this one can only help the Army's development.

The third day's training focus was the High-Mobility Multipurpose Vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer. This training was conducted in full battle attire with weapon, helmet, individual body armor, and protective eye gear. Four occupants were seated with seat belts fastened; the instructors controlled the simulator by rolling it twice at a 180 degree angle to become familiar with a roll over situation in combat. The objective was to exit the overturned vehicle with all gear intact under 20 seconds.

Day four was the Clench Drill. This drill emphasizes a Soldiers grasp of techniques used to defend oneself against straight punches

to the face. The goal is to maneuver to avoid being struck and clench your hands around the attacker's body, forcing them to raise their arms so they can no longer strike. Luckily, the instructors were all MACP Level 2 certified, using 16 ounce boxing gloves. There were four, one-minute rounds with progressively increasing intensity.

The final day's training culminated with a collaboration of everything we had learned throughout the week. One big Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT) encompassing First Aid, ACT and weapons assembly. The 55th participants were put to the test as they walked through obstacles to eventually complete a mission with their designated teams. After the final training exercise was completed, we cleaned up, said goodbye to our trainers, and turned in our mandatory evaluation report.

WTC proved to be an excellent experience for anyone in search of what the Army is all about. Although we hadn't showered and slept regularly, the training was worth every bit of it, it embodied the Army core values. ❖

### **Diaz, from page 17**

up, I was always close to family."

The family kept with the traditions of Dominican Republic but adopted some American traditions as well.

"We kept traditions from Dominican Republic alive in Queens, like preparing special dishes on certain times of the year, and celebrating the Dominican Independence day, family gatherings, and picnics," he said. "We even adopted some of the popular American traditions. We would go to the uncle or aunt who had the biggest apartment and eat there for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years."

Diaz graduated from Beach Channel High School in 1997. Growing up Diaz was limited in who he could hang out with.

"I was only allowed to hang out with my cousins," Diaz said. "My parents had to meet the friend first if I wanted to go to his or her house to get a sense of what kind of influence the friend was going to be on me and my sister."

Diaz decided to join the Army shortly after high school and found it would be the first time that his residency hindered him.

"When I decided to join the Army was the only time I felt limited to get certain jobs because I was only a resident," he said. "I couldn't do any

job dealing with signal, law enforcement, military intelligence, becoming an officer, etc., even though I had the scores to qualify," he said.

Even though he is happy with his chosen profession of food service, he now wants to pursue a career in the Career Counselor field.

"There is nothing that satisfies me more than to help a Soldier receive money, assignments and new jobs," he stated.

Now, being a naturalized citizen, Diaz can pursue anything in the Army. ❖

### **MacDonnell, from page 16**

days following 9/11 were slow motion for me. I went to school, but it was not the same."

It would not be until a year later that MacDonnell finally became a citizen of the United States.

"On the day of the ceremony, I was happy," she said. "The process itself was painstaking and long and to finally call myself a citizen I was happy and so was my mom."

After graduating from high school MacDonnell went to beauty school. She spent some time there before deciding to join the Army.

"I am very patriotic... I felt I was not doing anything important," MacDonnell said. "When I finally decided it was the right time, I dropped out of beauty school and enlisted in the Army." ❖

# 63rd Soldiers aid Iraqi school children

By Sgt. Lewis M. Hilburn

Task Force Thunderbird Public Affairs Office

Looking back on the past five years of Operation Iraqi Freedom there are images etched in the minds of the personnel who served previously in Iraq, and those currently here. These images vary from the statue of Saddam Hussein falling and being drug through the streets, to the first election of the Iraqi president. The images vary with both good and bad.

Staff Sgt. Peter Stodgel, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, and his Soldiers will always remember the smiles on the faces of Iraqi children.

Soldiers of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, serving at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, conducted a humanitarian aide mission May 22, 2008, to two schools in Iraq with the assistance of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. The Soldiers brought much needed supplies to help the school get back on track. This is the second time the group of Soldiers have conducted a mission like this since they arrived to Warhorse, according to Stodgel, the signal team noncommissioned officer in charge.

The coordination for this event took two months of planning and help from churches and families from back home in the United States he said. "Our biggest sponsor right now is the Crossroads Regional Midwest Churches. In our team of 11 Soldiers, I know that eight of the Soldier's Families have kicked out about a thousand dollars to buy us the supplies we gave to these schools," according to Stodgel. The signal Soldiers learn about the community needs by going out on patrols with the infantry Soldiers. They find out what schools are opening up and who needs the most help. From there they gather a list of supplies the schools need and send it back to their families. "The aid we provided today will keep this school going for a very long time," he said.

Spc. Jeremiah Jones, a 63rd ESB Soldier, spent days before the mission sorting and separating all the supplies they received. He was sorting them so each child would have the appropriate amount of school supplies he or she would need for the school year and also additional supplies the classrooms would need. "You try to think back to what you needed when you were going through school. I did not realize the amount of stuff I needed. We tried to make sure each student got enough pencils, pens, paper and other school supplies. This will not last for the entire school year but it is more than what they had. We also made sure the teachers had all the supplies they needed to teach; like pens to grade with and additional paper for students when students run out of it," he said.

First Lt. Ryan Hand, a 63rd ESB officer, said the local leadership appreciated what the Soldiers did for the community. "A local citizen was saying for a hundred years to come, after this his children and their children, they would talk not about the Iraqi government that actually was fixing their roads or helping their village, but the humanitarian effort by Soldiers," he said.

This was the first time

Hand was able to go out and interact with the local nationals. "I had the opportunity to sit down and interact and talk with the children, even though I don't speak very much Arabic. You think about if the role was reversed how important it would be if someone brought you something to write with or write on."

As the team was finishing up for the day and preparing to leave, Pfc. Brandon Jones, 11th Signal Brigade Chaplain Assistant commented, "You see smiles on these children's faces and you know that you are making a difference in their lives. They get excited for things we take for granted, like crayons and markers. After I am finished with my tour I will always remember the smiles." ❖



U.S. Army photo by Spc. John Martinez

**63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Task Force Thunderbird unload school supplies to hand out to the school children later in the morning**



Participants of the Run for the Fallen await the start signal to begin their 4.2 mile run around Camp Victory, Iraq.

# 44th ESB runs for fallen comrades

Story and photo by Spc. Evan D. Marcy

44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq (Aug. 24, 2008) - In a show of remembrance for each fallen servicemember in Iraq, Soldiers from the Mannheim-based 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion volunteered, coordinated and participated in the Run for the Fallen on Camp Victory, Iraq. The event on the Baghdad post marked the last day of the run held simultaneously in the U.S. Both runs had the same mission: to run one mile for every American servicemember lost in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The over 4,000-mile stateside run began Jun. 14 at a place called Painted Rocks, just outside of Fort Irwin, Calif., and ended at the Arlington National Cemetery, Va., Aug. 24. The Baghdad run had over 1,050 people running a 4.2 mile course, ensuring at least one mile was run for every one of the fallen. Team members marked each mile with an American flag and a signed card in an apolitical reflection of remembrance of each servicemember.

"It's a good way to show that the Soldiers' sacrifice does not go unseen," said Spc. Laurence Juarez, 44th ESB.

Along the stage near the starting point of the Baghdad run, a list was displayed with the names of every American Soldier killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. A special runner's bib was provided to participants so they could individually honor a departed Soldier by writing in a servicemember's name, and wear it during the run.

"Since the day they said they were having the run, I wanted to run for my friend Cpl. Victor M. Langarica," said Staff Sgt. Efrain Baez, 44th ESB. "I went to basic training with him -- he was one of us," he added. Langarica was assigned to the 86th Signal Battalion, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and died in Baghdad on Jan. 20, 2007, when the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter he was in crashed.

"I know people who have passed too, so it's a great memorial for me to celebrate what they've done. To be a part of it is a big thing for me," said Spc. Andrew Sage, 44th ESB. "I look at this run as a remembrance of those who have fought for their country, and died for their country. I saw a lot of names of people from Basic, Advanced Individual Training, and even some from my hometown high school, listed on the banner," he said.

Sage volunteered to be the event coordinator for the run, after enjoying his experience organizing the 44th ESB 4.4-mile run on Camp Victory last May.

"It was fun organizing the event and making sure everything fit together," said Sage, who was able to get the 10th Mountain Division rock band to play at the start/finish area. Along with setting up the route, helping to get volunteers, making sure people were informed and getting paperwork done, Sage also drove the lead truck to ensure safety for the runners.

For more information on the Run for the Fallen, visit the web site: [www.runforthefallen.org](http://www.runforthefallen.org) ❖

# Think Safety

## ENGAGED LEADERS, SAFETY CULTURE, AND CONTROLLING HAZARDS

By Jeff Speer

NETCOM/9th Signal Command (Army) Safety Office

Over the last 18 months the Combat Readiness/ Safety Center (CR/SC) has promoted the theme “engaged leadership” which lays the foundation for a cultural shift and that – in conjunction with Soldiers and Civilians taking personal responsibility for their own safety – will further drive down accidental losses. These are important imperatives as NETCOM/9th SC (A) continues to establish its own safety culture as it transforms to operate and defend the Army Network Enterprise.

All Leaders are engaged, responsible, accountable, and in a solid working engaged relationship with Soldiers and Civilians. Engaged Leaders are not detached, but rather are able to communicate effectively with their Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members, which leads to an in-depth understanding and better develops their knowledge. This allows Leaders to recognize Soldiers’ and Civilians’ behaviors and influence their attitudes; clarify standards and ingrain habits of adherence to standards; infuse confidence in personnel; and most importantly, instill personnel with the confidence in their Leaders’ abilities to enhance mission success.

Who are our engaged leaders? Every member of our NETCOM/9th SC (A) team is a Leader. Each person makes a difference in preventing accidents, engaging in safety practices both on and off duty, and mentoring and bridging the gaps in knowledge for others by sharing their knowledge or experiences. The key to safety success in reducing our accident/ incident losses starts with you via “engagement” – each one of you stepping up, engaging, and sharing from the lowest level to the top.

An organization’s safety culture reflects the attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, and values that personnel share regarding safety. Research studies agree that to optimize safety performance, organizations must transition from a ‘dependent’ culture to an ‘interdependent’ one. Organizations must leave behind the notion that managing safety primarily involves the issuing of rules and ensuring compliance (‘dependence’). Instead the organization’s safety culture must promote a sense of shared responsibility for safety through genuine empowerment. As NETCOM/9th SC (A) establishes its safety culture, which truly values safety, everyone

in the organization will feel responsible for other’s safety as well as their own (‘interdependence’). Further, this culture will encourage individuals to act on that feeling of responsibility by taking action to prevent injuries to themselves and others.

To reduce injury, we must reduce hazards and at-risk behaviors. This first requires identifying the hazards. Identifying hazards requires a combination of employees, supervisors, commanders, unit safety personnel and safety professionals knowing what to look for and regularly observing and auditing. Once hazards are identified they should be reduced or eliminated. This can be done by either removing the hazard completely or designing engineering controls to prevent people from coming into contact with the hazard. However, when it is not possible or practical to remove the hazard completely, lower level controls should be considered, such as warnings, administrative controls, training, and lastly personal protective equipment. Combining the lower level hazard controls may provide additional protection. However, even combined, the lower level controls will not be as effective as eliminating the hazard, thus allowing the probability of eventual injury.

Although few would argue with the need to follow the standard hierarchy of hazard control listed above, its use depends on first identifying the hazards and risky behavior. There are many methods of hazard identification. Traditional auditing and inspections can be particularly useful. When Mishap Risk Management (AR 385-30)/Composite Risk Management (FM 5-19) processes are done correctly, they help identify hazards, consequences, at-risk behaviors, and contributing, causal, or influencing factors.

It is also important to ask people their perception of the most important hazards and their causes. The Army Readiness Assessment Program is a formal tool that commanders can utilize as diagnostic tool to help identify issues negatively impacting their organization’s safety culture/climate or which may serve as an obstacle to improvement efforts.

We tend to find the hazards we look for. Therefore, we need to make sure we take a comprehensive approach to hazards and injury reduction. Changing our safety culture requires everyone’s buy-in and participation.

**Army Safety Is Army Strong!**

# Historical Perspectives

## NETWORK SUPPORT FOR THE WARFIGHTER – GENESIS

**By Vince Breslin**

*NETCOM/9th Signal Command (Army) History Office*

The start of the American Civil War, combined with Chief Signal Officer Albert J. Myer's personal vision of networked communications and its application to large scale Army field maneuvers, spawned the birth of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. In 1861, Myer submitted draft legislation to Secretary of War Simon Cameron, "for the organization of a signal corps to serve during the present war, and to have the charge of all the telegraphic duty of the Army." Myer proposed that every officer of the corps be trained in both aerial and electrical signals. His plan, based on an Army of 500,000 men, called for a force of seven assistant signal officers, 40 warrant officers, and 40 signal enlisted soldiers who would serve as line builders and repairmen. Myer intended that each division, "be accompanied by its corps of telegraphists or signal men, and that it be equipped with suitable apparatus and the appurtenances for both fixed and movable field telegraph and for the use of aerial and electric signals."

Under his signal corps concept, Myer divided his officers and men into sets (as he called them) of two officers and four enlisted men. He planned to have one set serve with each regiment and a signal officer on duty at each divisional headquarters. Early in the conflict, Myer sent signal parties, consisting of several sets, to occupy stations along the Potomac.

A pioneer of Army network communications, Myer had introduced a wigwag system (flags by day, lanterns by night) at the start of the Civil War to permit forward observers to relay intelligence on enemy movements to field commanders. On a more "hi-tech" scale, he was already knowledgeable about electric telegraphy when he became signal officer in 1860 because of his pre-war experience as a telegraph operator in Buffalo. Indeed, Myer's Aug. 1, 1861, proposal to the Secretary of War for the organization of a signal corps had specified that the corps have control over all telegraphic duty within the Army, both aerial and electrical.

On Aug. 6, Myer again wrote to Cameron, this time requesting a, "Telegraphic or Signal Train to accompany the Army on the march." This train (of horse drawn wagons) would carry all the equipment needed for both aerial and electric signals and would include among its personnel, "selected electric

telegraphists." Myer's plan received favorable endorsements from Generals Irvin McDowell and George B. McClellan. On Aug. 14, Assistant Secretary of War Thomas A. Scott authorized Myer to purchase a small telegraph train.

By design, these wagon trains carried the telegraph sets and necessary items, such as reels of insulated copper wire and iron lances, for stringing temporary field lines-called "flying telegraph lines." Each train was to be equipped with five miles of wire and two wagons, each with a telegraph instrument.

The telegraph train received its first field test during the Peninsula campaign in 1862. Signal Corpsmen primarily employed visual signals during that campaign, but they used the telegraph train on a limited basis to connect general headquarters with the field. Messages received at the field telegraph from visual stations were transmitted to headquarters, providing coordination between the visual and electrical systems.

Despite Myer's continuous campaigning for Senate and War Department approval, it was not until February 1863 that a bill emerged providing for the organization of a formal Signal Corps to replace the small, part-time signal force Myer had already organized. This bill created the position of chief signal officer, with the rank of colonel, who would be assisted by two clerks in the Washington office. Additional officers included a lieutenant colonel, two majors, a captain for each army corps or military department, and as many lieutenants (not more than eight) per corps or department as the president deemed necessary. The bill provided for one sergeant and six privates for each officer. The legislation also required entrance examinations for both officers and enlisted men in order to establish high technical standards for the branch.

The bill passed the Senate without debate and then moved to the House, where its provisions were incorporated into a sundry civil appropriations bill. After approval by a conference committee and reconfirmation by both houses, President Abraham Lincoln signed the appropriations bill into law, with the signal provisions intact, and on March 3, 1863, the U.S. Army Signal Corps materialized. Elements of the Signal Corps have supported the communications network technology needs of the U.S. Army ever since. ❖

# Sharp-Shooters



Top left: Pfc. Robert Edwards Jr., 2008 NETCOM/9th SC (A) Soldier of the Year, receives his land navigation equipment from the evaluator during the NCO/Soldier of the Year Competition. (Photo by Eric Hortin, NETCOM/9th SC (A))

Above: Sgt. Lisa Morales, 2008 NETCOM/9th SC (A) Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, disassembles an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon during the NCO/Soldier of the Year Competition. Morales made history as the first woman to win the Army Forces Command competition. (Photo by Eric Hortin, NETCOM/9th SC (A))

Left: A re-enactor from the National Museum of Civil War Medicine discusses the history of the Signal Corps with visitors Aug. 2, at the Antietam National Battlefield, Md. (Photo by Pfc. Enoch Fleites, 21st Signal Brigade)

## Calling all amateur and expert photographers!

*If you have a unique image you want to share with the rest of the global NETCOM/9th SC (A) organization in the next edition of the NETCOM Journal, send it via e-mail to [netcom.pao@us.army.mil](mailto:netcom.pao@us.army.mil), not later than Feb. 1, 2009.*

*The only condition: the subject(s) must be in focus. All activities – military or civilian – are accepted. Soldiers, Civilians, Family Members and Contractors may participate.*

*The image must be at least 4"x6", high resolution – no less than 200 dpi (for best quality). The image must include the name and rank (if applicable) of the photographer; organization, and a full description of the activity in the image, to include full identification of the subject(s) if possible. Please ensure your images are in good taste, and don't contain classified information/activities.*

*Your image, if chosen, will appear in the next edition of the NETCOM Journal on the "Sharp-Shooters" page.*

# Army & Defense News

## Public law changes; saluting the colors

Army Retirement Services/Army G-1

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congress has put Still Saluting into law for Retired Soldiers and other veterans. The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181) changed Sect. 9, Title 4, U.S. Code, which covers “Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag.” Following is that section of the U.S. Code, as reworded by the law change.

“During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.

“All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.”

*The above article appeared in “Army Echoes,” a newsletter for retired Soldiers and Families. For the full newsletter, go to <http://www.army1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp>.*

## Army announces 2009 OIF unit rotation

Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of the Army has

confirmed the Department of Defense’s announcement for the next rotation of major units scheduled to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The announcement involves a corps headquarters, a division headquarters, and seven brigade combat teams consisting of approximately 22,000 people. The deployment window for these units will begin this winter and continue into summer 2009.

The Corps and Division Headquarters confirmed as part of the regular rotation to Iraq are the I Corps (America’s Corps), Fort Lewis, Wash, and the 1st Cavalry Division (First Team), Fort Hood, Texas.

*For full story, go to <http://www.army.mil/newsreleases/2008/09/30/12834-army-prepares-for-2009-rotations-in-operation-iraqi-freedom/>.*

## Afghan Army’s Growth Important to Progress, Marine Officer Says

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Continuing to build the capacity and the strength of the Afghan National Army is strategically important to progress in Afghanistan and eliminating the insurgency’s influence over the population, an official there said yesterday.

If the Afghan army can provide security on its own, it would help to remove the relationship between the insurgents and the populations they still influence, Marine Corps Col. Jeffrey Haynes, commander of Regional Corps Advisory Command Central, said in a teleconference with bloggers.

“As we continue to drive the wedge between the population and the insurgents, it will be harder and harder for [the insurgency] to operate,” Haynes said. “That’s one reason I continue to emphasize the Afghan National Army owning the problem and owning the battle space and being seen by the people ... as being able to deliver security.”

*For full story, go to <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=51381>.*

## Corps waives fees during mid-, post-deployment leave

Army Corps of Engineers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced it will waive day-use and camping fees for service members and DoD civilians who are on mid- or post-deployment leave from duty in a hostile fire zone supporting the Global War on Terror.

The Corps began waiving recreation fees for service members on leave, or “rest and recuperation” from duty in Iraq in 2003. The current announcement expands the waiver to cover DoD civilians and active-duty servicemembers on leave or returning from all deployments in support of the Global War on Terror, to include Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other GWOT deployments.

*For full story, go to <http://www.army.mil/news/2008/09/30/12835-corps-waives-recreation-fees-during-rr-redeployment-leave/>.*



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