

NETCOM JOURNAL

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NEW & IMPROVED



VOICE OF THE ARMY

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ON THE COVER

Cover Image: There are more and more initiatives coming over the next couple of years, and they will transform the way the Army's networks will run in nearly all aspects. Everything from baseline services to network tools will be re-looked at and revised to save the Army, NETCOM and the customers money. (U.S. Army illustration by Lawrence Boyd)



NETCOM JOURNAL

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CG's Corner

People-not processes are the strength of the Army and our nation. Soldiers are a reflection of an America full of brave citizens, who survive everyday with a tough economy and harsh uncertainties in their lives. Sometimes they endure family separations, just like our courageous soldiers who selflessly leave behind loves ones, friends, and family as they deploy around the world to serve this great nation. The scenery may change, but the courage to keep surviving these realities of life is no different.

This kind of courage and “can do spirit” is no surprise. America has always been powered by the force of its people. So has the Army been powered by Soldiers dedicated to meeting the needs of the nation.

However, the Army also has a duty to meet the needs of our Soldiers and their Families. We must ensure they are properly trained and prepared as a Profession of Arms. Their Families should have the resources to help them succeed and feel secure in the fact they are not alone while they support our troops.

As an Army, we share the sacrifices of all Americans and are prepared as citizens to contribute positively to the communities our Soldiers live, work and raise their Families. All of us understand our national security obligations and the constraints to be good stewards of resources, as we prepare for the future of the Army.

The Network of 2020 is part of that future. This vision is how we will meet the future needs of the Army and the nation. One thing is for certain: these needs won't be met just by the deployment of the right processes at the right time. It will take the continued dedicated service of all our uniformed Soldiers, contractors and Army Civilian workforce to accomplish this mission.

In other words...a team. A team made up of the people, who will sustain and develop capabilities the Nation needs through prudent investment, modernization and transformation of the institutional Army.

That is how the men and women here at NETCOM have worked together to transform the Army's network systems into one cohesive and global unit. In February 2011, the Army began migrating Microsoft Exchange email users to the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Exchange. During this process there have been a lot of growing pains, but also a growing list of major success stories. I am extremely happy to report as of Nov. 15, over 240,000 users have been successfully migrated globally.

Now, we must move forward to the second focus that we have this coming year, which is to transform the way we deliver the capabilities on every post, camp and station globally.

To do this, we have built together a process we are calling Army Baseline IT Services (ABITS). With this process we can identify the kind of capabilities they need in the posts, camps and stations and the resources necessary to deliver that and to get down to one enterprise. Together, we will succeed in reaching this goal. If we had a bumper sticker it would be, “We are one team in the Army providing one network.”

Keep up the excellent work team! Remember; The Army is the strength of the Nation. Soldiers are the strength of our Army. Our families are the strength of our soldiers.



Maj. Gen. Jennifer L. Napper

Voice of the Army! Army Strong!

CSM's Corner

The strength of the Army is our Soldiers and their Families. America's strength is the Army and its citizens. Together, these bonds are woven in trust, shared sacrifice and unity. Our Nation relies on this intricate relationship for the safety, security and freedom of all Americans.

Over the last decade, our Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families have continued to excel and adapt with unparalleled resiliency during which time our ever-changing world has decentralized the nature of conflict in the 21st Century.

Our operational environment has become more complex and leaders at all levels must gain an appreciation for the big operational picture. This shifting balance of operational and tactical views, combined with decentralization, requires more leader involvement in the development of the future leaders of our Army.

The focus for developing agile and adaptive leaders represents the basis for how the Army leader development process will consistently deliver the right mix of education, training, and experiences to both our Soldier and Civilian leaders of the future.

As we shape the Army of 2020, our focus must remain steadfast on the path to excellence for this Nation and the Army as an institution. This means preserving our high-quality of Active, Guard and Reserves Soldiers, who are ready for today and prepared for tomorrow across a range of global operations.

That strive for excellence is what powers our mission here at NETCOM towards the Network of 2020. My responsibility as Command Sergeant Major is to ensure the well-being of our Soldiers, Civilians and their Families, by providing them with the best quality of life possible, as they go about the mission of meeting the needs of the Army and our Nation.

The men and women of this command have done an excellent job during the first phases of consolidating the Army's networks and migrating into the enterprise email system. I am proud of what they have accomplished so far and the success we've had in reaching our goals.

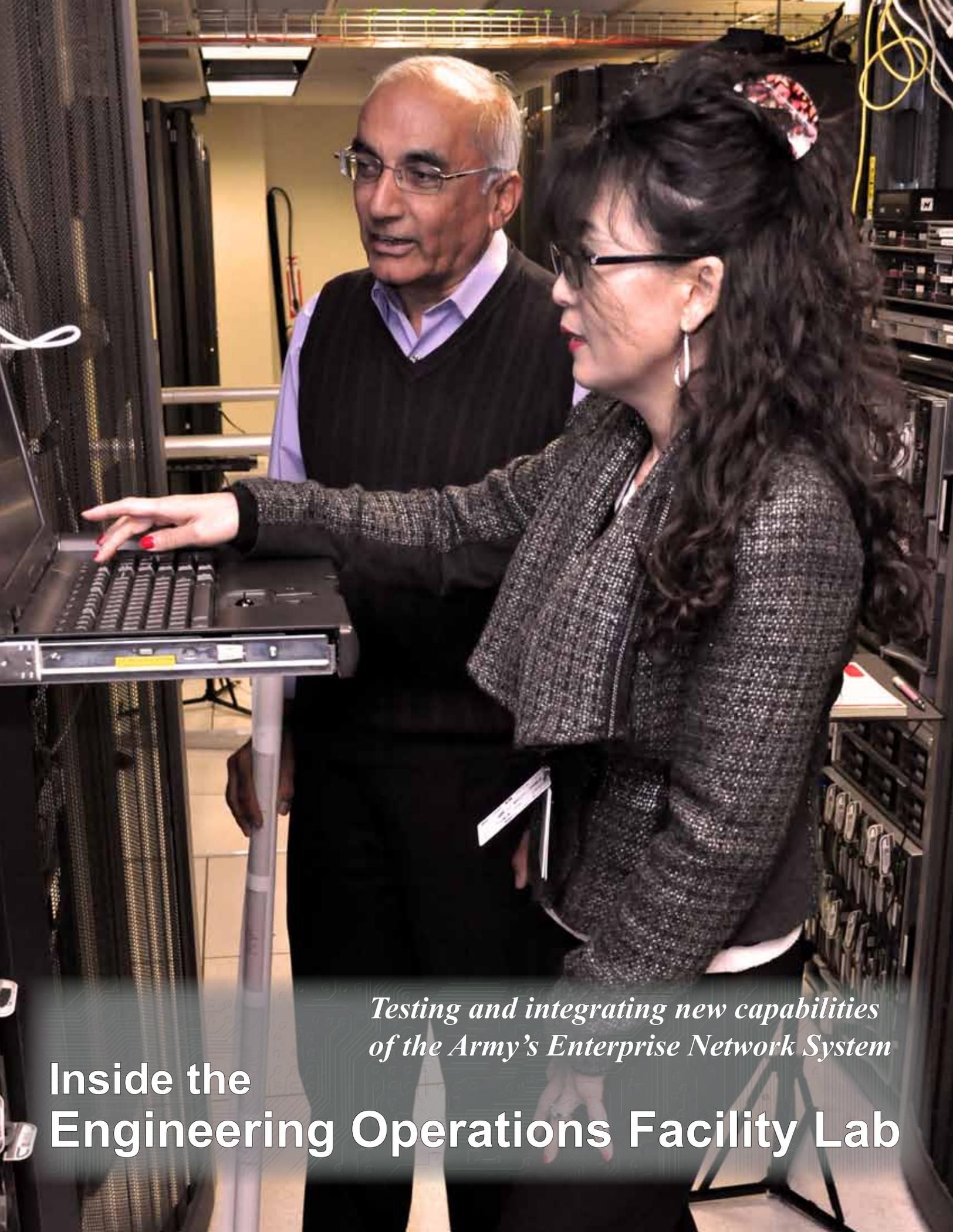
But excellence doesn't stop with past successes, it builds on them. As we charge forward to the next phases of our integrating processes, there is still a lot more to accomplish and goals to reach. However, I am confident our NETCOM Team and their commitment to excellence will continue to make us successful. To each of you, on behalf of this command, thanks for your hard work and dedication.

Finally, once again the holiday season has quickly come upon us. To all of the Soldiers and Civilians who serve this great nation across the globe, enjoy you well deserve time off with Family, friends, and loved ones. Most of all, be safe! Happy holidays!



Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Williams

Voice of the Army! Army Strong!



*Testing and integrating new capabilities
of the Army's Enterprise Network System*

**Inside the
Engineering Operations Facility Lab**



U.S. Army photo by Eric Hortin

(Left to right) Jim Bullock, Gene Zastera and Dave Winiesdorffer Sr. prepare one of the server terminals for testing a new application on their system. The system mimicks the Army's enterprise networks, allowing for a more realistic testing process.

Solving the Cyberspace Puzzle

By Jonathan Hicks

NETCOM Public Affairs

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. – During the mid 1970s, a television series entitled *Star Trek* captured the imaginations of both kids and adults with its futuristic glimpse into 23rd Century. The show took viewers on exotic adventures through space onboard a spacecraft called the Starship Enterprise. The Enterprise not only explored far off galaxies but also introduced many neat gadgets. One of its highlights was the uncanny ability to seamlessly communicate with other spacecraft, aliens, Star Fleet headquarters and just about anyone else or thing they encountered in the universe.

Now let's "warp-speed" back to the 21st century, the one we actually live in today. Unlike the Starship Enterprise, we explore the world through a domain known as "cyberspace." Over the past decade the United States Army has developed and utilized this boundless domain to create its own enterprise. Their enterprise is not a spacecraft, but a universal communications network known as the Enterprise Network and Technology System. The headquarters of the Army's "enterprise" is not Starfleet, it is the Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) located here at Fort Huachuca. And for the record, NETCOM is not commanded by Capt. James T. Kirk, but is under the leadership of Maj. Gen.

(Preceding page) Yong Skomro (foreground) and Mohammad Ashraf discuss environment settings for a proposed tool for enterprise use.

Jennifer L. Napper, commanding general of NETCOM.

Also unlike the starship, the Army's enterprise communication system is not always seamless. It must have continuous sustainment support to include problem troubleshooting and change testing. This mission is performed in the Engineering Operations Facility (EOF) Lab, which is also located here as a part of NETCOM Plans Unit (G-5). The EOF is a unique laboratory and the only enterprise operational information technology (IT) testing facility within the Army.

"The EOF lab has an extremely vital operational mission that supports NETCOM and the network systems it controls," said Jim Cook, chief of the Army Federated Lab Branch. "We support the Army's enterprise network system to help keep it secure and operational. Every software and hardware system capability must be tested for flaws and compatibility with all aspects of the Army's network. Our operational engineering support includes three specific elements: system integration testing, tier III troubleshooting support, and service validation and change testing."

These three functions enable the EOF lab to test enterprise systems the Army utilizes throughout the entire world.

"The reason we can accomplish this massive task is because the Army enterprise network is standardizing and consolidating all the systems the Army uses," added Cook. "Before this integration, it was nearly impossible to do these types of comprehensive analysis and testing to determine how the systems all worked together."

To support the enterprise architecture, which was first introduced nearly a decade ago, the EOF lab operates with approximately seven Department of the Army civilians (DACs) and seventeen contract engineers. They operate and maintain the core



U.S. Army photo

Prior to the lab's current state-of-the-art servers, workstations and storage, the lab was a collection of computers, external storage devices, shelving and wiring. A multi-million dollar upgrade of the facility now allows for more in-depth testing of equipment, devices and applications.

laboratory infrastructure but are only a piece of the overall testing program.

"The Federated Lab branch is one of four branches that make-up the Operational Engineering Division (OED)," said Jim Shifferd, branch chief of LandwarNet. "The other three branches include engineering teams, who support and test various functions of individual systems. OED consists of more than 49 DACs and 123 contractors. They test the intricate components of approximately 60 major systems that make up the Army enterprise network, which also utilizes more than 70 different technologies.

Each system may contain dozens of actual computers, software, and hardware."

"However, we make sure the network is protected from the infiltration of software that could do harm to it or bring it down," added Lemont Powell, senior IT specialist for the Federated Lab Branch. "So before anything is placed on the Army operational network, it is tested for operational functionality and security."

This high level of testing and security also comes

Every software and hardware system capability must be tested for flaws and compatibility with all aspects of the Army's network.

*-Jim Cook,
Army Federated Lab Branch*

See "Lab," next page



U.S. Army photo by Eric Hortin

Gina Martin (right) and Dale Paulson run network cabling through some of the many servers in the Engineering Operations Facility Lab.

Lab, from previous page

at a high price. Thus far more than \$30 million in hardware and software has been invested in the facility. Currently, plans are underway to expand the laboratory and increase its testing capabilities.

“This expansion will help us meet the growing number of requirements we have. As of right now we are configured only to test unclassified systems; however with the new lab a dedicated area is planned to test classified applications and software,” said Cook.

Unfortunately, as technology grows so does the price tag. This new expansion will cost millions of more dollars, but it appears all the money invested has been well spent. The lab was recently awarded an outstanding on their Inspector General (IG) inspection and was so highly praised for their security procedures; they will be used as an example for other laboratories throughout the Army.

What else does the future hold for the EOF lab?

“Soon we will become a part of a Federation of Labs along with other private industries, government agencies and educational institutions across the country,” said Cook. “This is a great opportunity because all of us will be connected to the Defense Research Engineering Network (DREN), which will enable everyone to share resources and information. It also keeps us from falling into the trap of just working inside an isolated bubble.” ❖



Maj. Gen. Jennifer Napper, Lt. Gen. Rhett A. Hernandez, Lt. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence and Maj. Gen. Alan R. Lynn, the Army's senior network and cyber commanders discuss the network strategic vision moving toward 2020 at the LandWarNet 2011 conference in Tampa, Fla., Aug. 24, 2011.

Army leaders discuss network strategic vision

By J.D. Leipold

Army News Service

TAMPA, Fla. – The top generals tasked with bringing the most innovative and current technology into the Army's communications network held a press and bloggers session at the annual LandWarNet conference here Aug. 24, to discuss the network strategic vision moving toward 2020.

Lt. Gen. Rhett A. Hernandez, commander of Army Cyber Command, which just stood up in December 2010, first briefed that his global organization of more than 21,000 Soldiers and civilians was already heavily engaged in operational planning.

The general said the command has already executed realistic cyber integration into major exercises and is currently growing a cyber brigade to serve as the operational arm for full-spectrum capability to fighting commanders.

Hernandez said the three major lines of effort in Cyber Command's work include operationalizing cyber, growing Army cyber capacity and capability, and recruiting, developing and retaining the right "cyber warrior force."

Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 Lt. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence said 80 percent of the Army is now based in the continental U.S., or CONUS, and that means an increased focus on stateside-network infrastructure.

"We must have the network empower that CONUS-based Army so they can be better trained and train as

they fight," she said adding that the key is having a "single, secure, standard-based network" that is trusted by Soldiers.

"The problem we have today: 15,000 different networks out there. You can't share information across those environments – it has to be a single environment," she said.

Lawrence said the Army would be testing two regional suitcase-sized satellite terminals later in the year – one at Camp Roberts, Calif., and the other on Guam in the western Pacific.

Lawrence said the process of looking to 2020 includes cleaning up applications, determining which applications are relevant, and pinpointing the services and data most needed by Soldiers.

"Access at the point of need, whether in a training environment or operational environment, touching the network is what we're seeking to do," she said.

Maj. Gen. Jennifer Napper said her organization, Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command, was in the middle of implementing all the global network enterprise initiatives such as enterprise email and data consolidation. She said NetCom was also focusing on transforming the way the Army delivers its capabilities globally.

"We've put together a process we're calling Army Baseline IT (information technology) Services by which we can identify what kind of capabilities and resources

See "Vision," page 9

Signal senior enlisted leaders want Army space Soldiers input

Story and photo by
D.J. Montoya
1st Space Brigade

PETERSON AFB, Colo. – The Soldier ‘signaliers’ of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command got a special visit by the Army’s Signal Corps senior enlisted leader Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Pflieger, regimental command sergeant major, U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence, Fort Gordon, Ga., Oct. 24-26.

Accompanying Pflieger was Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Williams, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, and Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Hatchett from the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, Fort Gordon.

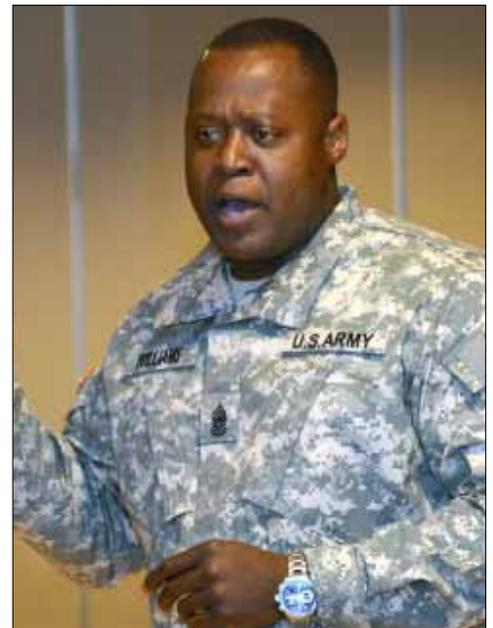
The visit, sponsored by the 1st Space Brigade, covered briefs and tours of the command’s Directorate of Training and Doctrine and the 1st Space Brigade. The highlight of the visit came on Tuesday with a luncheon and meeting with Soldiers at the Peterson Club.

Pflieger has been on the job only 90 days, and is already making changes. “We are taking the Signal Corps in a different direction.” He stated.

“When you look across at what the Army asks the Signal Corps to do right now, based on our strength, the way our equipment is laid out, and the way we are designed we can only support 34 percent of that requirement – in anybody’s eyes that is a non-starter.”

“Nothing that they do here in SMDC/ARSTRAT can be successful if they cannot connect to the network. They can talk about us, but they cannot talk without us. And you guys are the backbone to allow the mission of SMDC/ARSTRAT to be successful.

Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Williams
Network Enterprise Technology Command



The answer, according to Pflieger, is micro-cyber, “Basically this is a re-look as to how we want to train, procure and use equipment.”

“You have got to give us some feedback. We don’t want to change the Signal Corps in a vacuum. We need ideas from you guys out there in the field.”

Williams addressed the Soldiers by adding, “You, as Soldiers (signaliers), represent every member of your regiment and you need to be the best damn Soldier that they have ever seen.”

“I challenge each and every one of you not to ‘drag your duffle bag’ as you go through the required series of training and certifications in your field.

“The things you do in space impacts the freedoms that we share each and every day as American citizens.

“Our Army is downsizing – you all know that. But I will tell you

your mission here in Army Space and Missile Defense Command is increasing tremendously. So never take light of what you bring to the table as an individual.

“Nothing that they do here in SMDC/ARSTRAT can be successful if they cannot connect to the network. They can talk about us, but they cannot talk without us. And you guys are the backbone to allow the mission of SMDC/ARSTRAT to be successful.”

After the group departed on Wednesday Command Sgt. Maj. Marcus Campbell, 53rd Signal Battalion, reflected on the visit by saying, “The Soldiers of this command are charged with an awesome responsibility.”

“It was good to see the senior enlisted leadership of the Space and Missile Defense Command and the Signal Corps work together to enhance our ability to train the Soldiers of the 1st Space Brigade.” ❖

NETCOM chooses Career Counselor of Year

PHOENIX – During the annual Network Enterprise Technology Command's Retention Training Seminar and Career Counselor of the Year competition in Phoenix, Ariz., a 1st Signal Brigade Soldier was named NETCOM Career Counselor of the Year for fiscal year 2012.

Staff Sgt. Ayla L. Higgs, 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Sig. Bde., Korea, earned the title of CCOY 2012. Higgs, a Quartermaster and Chemical Equipment Repairer, is a Career Counselor for Signal Soldiers in Korea.

Her assignments include: Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Benning, Ga., and; two deployments in support of

Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2008, Higgs volunteered for the Corporal Recruiting Program, graduating from the Recruiting and Retention school in Oct. 2008, and was assigned to the Zanesville Recruiting Station, Columbus Recruiting Battalion, Ohio.

Higgs earned the Recruiter Ring in a short 22 months, earning a meritorious promotion to staff sergeant in November 2010. In April 2011 she returned to the Recruiting and Retention School and graduated as a Career Counselor in June 2011.

Higgs next step as the NETCOM Career Counselor of the Year is to compete at Army level in Washington, D.C., early next year.



Staff Sgt. Ayla L. Higgs

Vision, from page 7

are needed in a post, camp or station,” she said.

Napper said she was also focused on how to recruit young talent to help move toward 2020, recognizing that she expects an average of 34 percent of her force to be retirement eligible in the next five years.

Maj. Gen. Alan R. Lynn, commander of the Army Signal Center of Excellence, addressed a future vision for the Signal Corps and its role in the network. He said signal doctrine until recently was of the Desert Storm era, where support was just down to the battalion level.

He said that's changed and support the center needs to provide – including communications – is now down to the company level and below. The caveat is that the Signal Corps will not grow, but will instead have smaller, more capable teams – much like those the special operations forces use.

“That means smaller, more capable systems off-the-shelf as well, so we're looking at small handhelds, including iPhones and Droids that will allow us to cover more area with smaller teams,” he said.

“The other thing we're looking at is the way we train the force, because as these systems come in they're going to be multiple different kinds of systems a Soldier will have to operate,” Lynn said. He said the plan is teach the theory of satellite, line-of-sight and troposphere scatter, so Soldiers will understand

the theory of the systems. Applications are also being developed by the center that will help Soldiers learn how to operate the systems.

“If you give them a proctor and show them a Power Point slide, they'll just look at you like ‘are you kidding me?’” he said.

Lynn said Soldiers like to learn by doing – and teaching systems can be designed to let Soldiers learn virtually – allowing them to have the touch and feel of a particular system on a screen.

“Soldiers are interested in gaming, so several of the centers are working at virtualizing some of the training,” Lynn said, adding that Soldiers really care about their avatar.

“If they go out and shoot marksman at the range, that score is put into the gaming systems, so that's what their avatar will shoot and when they're out playing on the virtual gaming environment, they don't do as their buddies, so their buddies are yelling at their avatar,” he said.

Lynn said the same thing with physical training tests -- the avatar only reflects the performance reality and their buddies encourage them to get their scores up, to be a better teammate.

“It's a new paradigm; a new way of thinking, a new way of training and it's pretty exciting,” he said. ❖

160th Signal Brigade supports USF-I withdrawal plan

Signal Soldiers work to provide internet, phone services as part of drawdown support

Christopher Dunne

160th Signal Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – The Dec. 31 deadline for the drawdown of American military personnel from Iraq has led to a surge in activities for 160th Signal Brigade Soldiers. The need for new tactical operations centers for U.S. Forces-Iraq (USF-I) personnel redeploying to Camp Buehring, Kuwait has Signal Soldiers working to provide stable and secure communications platforms.

The Signaleers are setting up Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router, Secure Internet Protocol Router and Defense Switched Networks giving customers a full range of telephone and internet communication services.

“The mission we’ve been tasked with is to provide NIPR, SIPR and DSN capability to tactical operations centers in support of USF-I,” said 581st Signal Company project officer 2nd Lt. Adam Wheeler. “USF-I will be utilizing these TOCs in order to continue their mission while withdrawing from Iraq.”

The 581st is installing communications service to as many as four TOCs a week, but needs to complete 40 TOCs in a five-month period to accommodate personnel coming from Iraq.

“Soldiers have installed more than 600 SIPR ports, 600 NIPR ports and 150 DSN ports so far,” Wheeler said. “They’ve also run over 15,000 feet of fiber optic cable and 15,000 feet of copper cable.”

It’s a big job, and Signal Soldiers from across the region have volunteered to help. “We have Soldiers from 25th Signal Battalion, 820th Signal Company, 1st [Theater Sustainment Command], [Army Central Command G6 and 108th [Air Defense Artillery],” said Staff Sgt. Quintrell Becton, project NCOIC.

“We have Soldiers from different units, and all different MOSs in the Signal world-- we have 25Ls (cable systems installer-maintainers), 25Us (signal support systems specialists), 25Bs (information technology specialists); I even have one noncommissioned officer that is a cook. They’ve all



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Alexis Otero

Spc. Kevin Johnson, 820th Signal Company, terminates cables as part of a Tactical Operations Center installation in Kuwait.

been cross-trained, all been brought up to speed very quickly for the mission at hand.”

Preparing for incoming USF-I personnel isn’t the only mission keeping the 581st Signal Company busy. With the growth of Camp Buehring, a number of facilities need to upgrade their communications capabilities.

“My platoon has also been tasked with upgrading all the comms in the MWR facilities on post,” Wheeler said. “We’re doing a new install for the Warrior Leader Course and the new Pass and ID facility outside the gate, among many other installs that are in support of Operation New Dawn.” ❖

Signaleers provide communications support to Operation Steppe Eagle

Christopher Dunne

160th Signal Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, A Company, 50th Signal Battalion deployed to Kazakhstan July 31-Aug. 23 to provide Third Army/Army Central Command with the tactical communications equipment and technical expertise needed to operate and maintain voice, internet and data communications during Operation Steppe Eagle 2011.

The Ft. Bragg-based Signal platoon, forward-deployed to 54th Signal Battalion at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, ran nearly a mile of cable, locked the Satellite Terminal Trailer onto the satellite, configured the Command Post Node and began providing communications support to customers within 72 hours of their arrival at Illisky Base Camp in eastern Kazakhstan.

The Signaleers set up Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router and Secure Internet Protocol Router networks, giving customers access to a full range of telephone and internet services.

“We installed cable to all of our end users and everybody had the capability to come up on the SIPR/NIPR voice and data networks,” Spc. Anthony Mineer said. “Normally it would take about 24 hours to get everybody set up, but we had a few difficulties.”

The CPN team followed standard procedures in order to troubleshoot equipment problems.

“We independently tested each component, wire, and cable on our tactical satellite in order to identify the problem,” 1st Lt. Ryan

Operation Steppe Eagle is an international peacekeeping exercise between the U.S. Army, Kazakhtan, the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The exercise focused on interaction, combat compatibility, cooperation and interoperability during international peacekeeping operations.

Dolak, a member of the CPN team, explained. “Once the problem was isolated and resolved, our tactical satellite immediately linked with the distant satellite to provide reach back to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.”

Establishing end-user connectivity to the networks also presented some challenges for the team.

“We had 36 users on the NIPR side and all of them came from completely different areas of the United States,” Mineer said. “All of them had different admin rights. So we had to figure out the admin rights for all the computers, and set up user names and passwords for everybody on the network.”

Issues with proxy servers and printer connections also kept the team busy during the early days of the exercise, but once technical issues were resolved the CPN team shifted their focus to operating and maintaining the network.

The team was also able to spend some time interacting with their counterparts in the Kazakhstan Army, despite some communication challenges.

“We worked closely with a Kazakhstan Army signal team and gave them a brief overview of signal flow and signal theory,” Dolak said. “I taught a Kazakh army sergeant about operation

orders; specifically the Command and Signal portion of the operation order and how to write it. He was interested, and it was something his chain of command wanted him to learn.”

The sergeant was fluent in English, Dolak said—but that wasn’t always the case.

“The night shift had a 24-hour guard posted on our operations center,” said Pvt. Kenneth Wright. “We tried to get past the language barrier and talk to them. They spoke maybe 10 words of English, so we had to do a lot of hand gesturing.”

Dolak explained that only Kazakh officers and cadets are taught English.

The CPN team also had an opportunity to fire weapons used by their counterparts in the Kazakhstan Army.

“Our main job was obviously to manage communications,” Mineer said. “But we had a chance to fire an AK-47, AK-74, RPK machine gun, RPG rocket launcher and the Dragunov sniper rifle.”

“Their military works a lot different than ours does as far as command structure is concerned,” Dolak said. “But we learned a lot about their culture, and it was a great mission for the team in terms of both signal familiarity and cultural awareness.” ❖

Guam Regional Hub Node op

Story and photos by Liana Mayo,
311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs Office

NAVAL COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS STATION, Guam – A brief silence falls across the group of about 20 Soldiers and Civilians as they fix their attention on a large barbecue grill wrapped in yellow construction tape and their two comrades standing poised above it with a giant pair of scissors.

With a coordinated snip, the tape falls away and applause fills the small, crowded room. The grill is a gift to the 311th Signal Command (Theater) team of Soldiers assigned to the newly-completed Regional Hub Node here, and signifies several magnanimous milestones: the completion of the team’s capstone exercise, held Sept. 15-27; the Guam RHN’s achievement of being Fully Operationally Capable, and; global reach for the Army network.

The GRHN, the fourth to be built worldwide by Project Manager Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, was designed to extend the Global Information Grid to deployed tactical organizations and provide them with immediate access to services critical to executing battle space operations, regardless of their location.

“We are able to see parts of the world that we did not have visibility of before,” said Brig. Gen. William Scott, commander of the 311th SC(T), headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. “The RHN in Guam allows us to literally wrap the earth.”

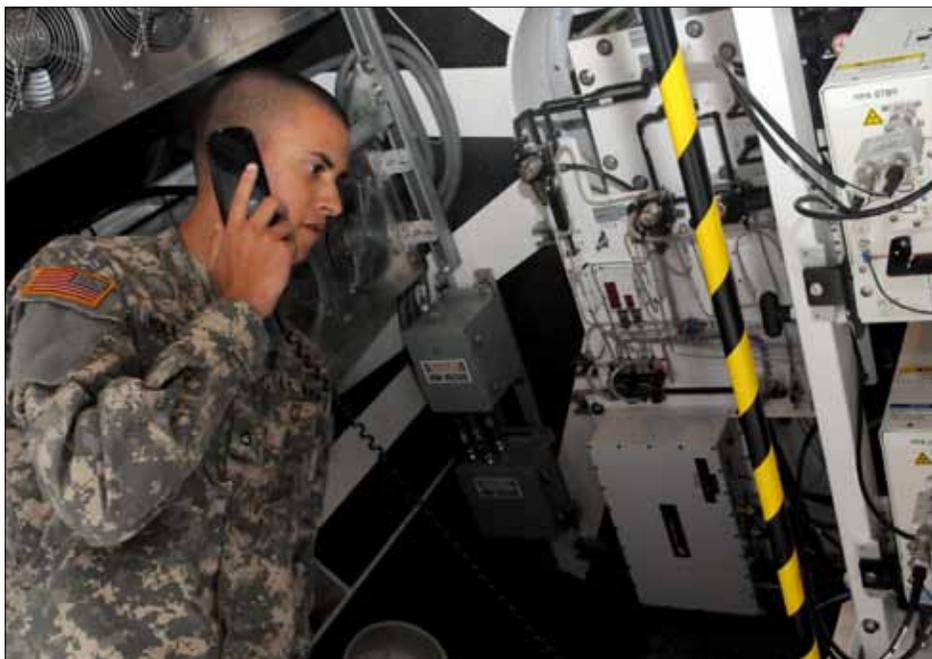
Services the GRHN provides include the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network, the Secure Internet Protocol Router Network and the Defense Switched Network. According to Joe Vano, PM WIN-T’s technical lead for RHN building and training phases, the hub node mission is often mistakenly thought of as non-tactical because the system’s two large, dish-shaped antennas are situated on a fixed platform. He said on the contrary, this upper-most level of the tactical network is indeed a tactical entity inside a strategic building.

The Capstone Exercise, designed to bridge the gap between the mindsets of training and actually operating an RHN, culminated skills learned during New Equipment Training which began onsite June 6 for the team of 23 Soldiers who staff the facility. Led by

Chief Warrant Officer Steven Rojas, they embody a detachment of the 333rd Signal Company, which is assigned to and co-located with the 58th Signal Battalion, headquartered at Fort Buckner, Okinawa.

“The most challenging achievement of the exercise was bringing every region; Alaska, Hawaii, Korea and Guam, into a Time Division Multiple Access network through the use of multiple spot beams,” said Pvt. 1st Class Joseph Daniels, a Satellite Communications Operator/Maintainer for the 333rd Sig. Co. “This was very beneficial to operations here, as we learned more in depth about how the system works and how to run the RHN.”

The RHN in Guam is the Army’s first to be operated by Soldiers. Theirs



Pvt. 1st Class James Holloman, assigned to the 333rd Signal Company, makes a test call on the satellite terminal of the Regional Hub Node in Guam, during the team’s capstone exercise Sept. 15-27.



Opens for business

Army's first Signal
Centers in Guam
complete capstone
exercise, expand global
reach for LandWarNet



“The RHN in Guam allows us to literally wrap the earth.”

Brig. Gen. William Scott
311th SC(T) commanding general

is the complex mission of providing voice, data and video services that directly support Warfighters with command capabilities access to the Pacific LandWarNet.

“The scope of services these Soldiers are providing is pretty impressive,” said Capt. Dawn Titus, 333rd Sig. Co. commander. “Not every Soldier gets to provide direct support to network users throughout an entire region.”

Another unique characteristic of the GRHN is that it is the only one on earth using multiple spot beams to connect users in Guam, Hawaii, Alaska and Korea to a single tactical entity. While this conserves power and maximizes resources, it also presents unique

engineering challenges for all involved.

“Through the use of spot beams, we are able to disperse more power to geographically dispersed areas, such as the Pacific region,” said Jeff Budd, Satellite Systems Instructor/Technician for the Information Technology Field Sustainment Branch of Communications and Electronics Command, Fort Campbell, Ky.

The new tasks involved in using spot beams required the team to create a standard operating procedure, to guide operators on how to prioritize tasks and maximize time, during the capstone exercise. This is an arduous task even for the most experienced professionals in the field. Some of the Signal industry’s best and brightest who were on site to train and support the team were amazed at the technical skills, professionalism and determination of the Soldiers, many of whom had just joined the Army and completed initial training.

See “Hub Node,” next page

Hub Node, from page 13

“I’m proud of them; they went from basic to expert in 13 weeks, which in the civilian world would take about two years of advanced college-level training,” said Troy Francisco, one of six CECOM instructors who conducted the New Equipment Training for the team and returned during the exercise to provide over-the-shoulder support in network management and Information Assurance.

Even when faced with an unanticipated configuration change which left the team with fewer resources, less bandwidth and two additional sites to provide services to, they did not submit to defeat.



Private 1st Class Kristen Myers and Private 1st Class Kelsey Richer provide help desk support to a unit in Alaska from the newly-completed Regional Hub Node in Guam.

“What worked was that all of us, both Civilian and Soldier, pooled our collective knowledge of the concepts and applied it to our situation,” Budd said. “This speaks highly to the quality of Soldiers here. They have a good understanding of how the systems work, which enables them to analyze situations and remedy them.”

Another first for the Army, this detachment of the 333rd is the first team of Active Component Signal Soldiers to be stationed in Guam.

“The most impressive thing about this RHN is that until now, the Army had no Active Component footprint in Guam,” Titus said.

What does this mean for her as a commander? She has the unique challenge of managing and caring for a team of Soldiers who are stationed on a different body of land more than 1,000 miles away. She said having a strong leadership team in place makes this effort manageable.

“Our leadership team here, Chief Steven Rojas, Sgt. 1st Class Kristoffer Hart and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Cadungug, really stepped up to the plate and led their detachment in doing something that has always been difficult,” Titus said. “They reached out to the community and established relationships to build a solid foundation for the RHN in Guam.”

Titus said the team receives assistance and support as needed from key leaders at U.S. Naval Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base, which is critical to the team’s success despite being separated geographically from higher headquarters.

During their After Action Review of the exercise, Rojas told the team they had exceeded the expectations of the capstone exercise, relayed feedback from the 311th, the 516th Signal Brigade, and the 59th Sig. Bn., and encouraged them to make the most of their time in Guam.

“There is a lot of professional pride to be found in taking something conceptual to its realization,” Rojas said. “Of all those who will man this post, nobody else will come here and say ‘I was the first one at the Guam Regional Hub Node.’ Only you can, and that’s something special.” ❖

Pvt. 1st Class James Holloman, assigned to the 333rd Signal Company, prepares to climb down from the satellite terminal of the Regional Hub Node in Guam after receiving a test call during the team's capstone exercise.



Signal soldiers receive AFCEA award

By Sgt. Brian Rodan

5th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Maj. Hugh P. McCauley and Sgt. Jason M. Queen, were presented prestigious awards in Washington, D.C. May 19.

McCauley, the 7th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade operations officer, was awarded the Joint Officer Communications Award for establishing the joint network control center in Afghanistan, as part of his first deployment of a theater tactical signal brigade.

Queen, a Command Post NCOIC assigned to 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, received the 2011 Army Enlisted Leadership Award. Both awards were presented by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association International for their hard work during their deployments in support of the transition from Operation Enduring Freedom.

AFCEA International is a non-profit membership association serving the military, government, industry, and academia as an ethical

forum for advancing professional knowledge and relationships in the fields of communications, IT, intelligence, and global security.

“I deployed a team of nine soldiers to Ar Ramadi replacing 54 Marines to run the Technical Control Facility, Help Desk, and Line crew which provided communication to Ar Ramadi and five outlying posts,” said Queen, a native of Owensville, Indiana. “My team and I installed and maintained 299 (Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router and Secure Internet Protocol Routers), and six core routers and ran miles of single mode fiber during Operation Iraqi Freedom,” he said.

The mission would not have been possible if it wasn't for other members of the team that participated and helped Queen.

“I had a great team of Soldiers with me at Ar Ramadi, and none of the mission success would have been possible without them present,” said Queen.

Queen was temporarily assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division as an augments



AFCEA photo

Sgt. Jason M. Queen

for signal operations.

“The Soldiers of 1st BCT, 82nd ABD, also allowed me to work and plan the network how I was trained by 72nd ESB allowing a great partnership between us,” said Queen. “My augmentation to them allowed me to truly understand the importance of ensuring the Soldier in the fight always had a way to communicate between elements. This mission has truly changed my Soldiers and myself forever,” said Queen. ❖

Baumholder breaks ground for \$7M high-speed infrastructure project

By Ignacio Rubalcava

Baumholder Public Affairs

A ground breaking ceremony symbolizing the start of a \$7 million project was held Oct. 14 on Smith Barracks. The Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program, or I3MP as it is known, will develop Baumholder's information infrastructure, putting the garrison on the information highway fast lane. The project will upgrade the capacity and reliability of voice and data communications to state-of-the-art technology. The

project is expected to take one and a half years to complete.

Cable installation will be concentrated on Smith Barracks and Quartermaster Kaserne. The official name of the project is Germany 4A Baumholder.

I3MP will provide support for installation communications during readiness, training and mobilization and for tactical and strategic systems that operate within the confines of the installation. It will also enhance connectivity between deployed and rear detachment forces. ❖



Sgt. 1st Class Karina Solis, Army Cyber and Master Sgt. Robert Meredith, Network Enterprise Technology Command, examine personal documents submitted by Maj. Mary Williams, former Women's Army Corps Soldier.

Army Cyber NCOs take professional development to Army Women's Museum

Story and photo by Mike Milord

Army Cyber Command Public Affairs

Army Cyber Command noncommissioned officers from Forts Meade, Md., and Belvoir, Va., undertook professional development Sept. 30 at the U.S. Army Women's Museum, Fort Lee, Va.

The museum honors women's contributions to the Army from the Revolutionary War to the present, telling their stories with interactive exhibits and videos throughout the gallery.

Master Sgt. Kristen Anderson, the Army Cyber project officer, arranged for the museum staff to provide a presentation and walking tour of the only museum in the world dedicated to Army women.

"This is an opportunity to understand and appreciate the contributions that women have made to the Army, and also the sacrifices and challenges," said Anderson. "As an institution of change, the Army has provided important opportunities for women to serve in a diverse

organization."

Tracy Bradford, museum education specialist, welcomed the Soldiers and talked about the Army women prominent in the signal and intelligence specialties.

She told the story of the "Hello Girls."

"These were some 150 women who were contracted as telephone operators in Europe during World War I," said Bradford. "Gen. John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing, commander, American Expeditionary Force, appealed for bilingual telephone-switchboard operators in newspapers throughout the United States. More than 7,000 women, primarily employed as switchboard operators for Bell Telephone Company, applied for positions in the U.S. Army Signal Corps."

During a "hands-on" portion, Army Cyber Soldiers handled protect numerous original artifacts and

See "NCOs," page 24

Historic Donnersberg signal site bids farewell

By Kristopher Joseph

5th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs

DONNERSBERG, Germany – Donnersberg, or the “Thunder Mountain,” is the highest hill in Rheinland Palatinate at 2,200 feet high. After World War II, the U.S. constructed the largest radio station in Western Europe. This site was a primary hub of American military communications with its 153-foot tower.

As communications have transformed in Europe, the time has come to bid farewell to an important part of 5th Signal Command history.

Members of 5th Signal Command held a small ceremony that also included local German national colleagues to honor the closing of the Donnersberg site.

Back in the day when most communications were relayed through radio and line-of-site microwave relays, the Donnersberg site also housed the Automatic Voice Network (AUTOVON) switch (one of only two “Army” AUTOVON switches in Europe), 16 relay systems and a technical control facility.

Throughout its existence, Donnersberg has gone through many transitions as communications have improved and expanded. Various 5th Signal units served in Donnersberg to include Wiesbaden’s 102nd Signal Battalion.

Donnersberg and the several other towers throughout Europe were part of what was known as the Digital European Backbone or DEB. With the implementation of a new fiber-optic network backbone and the onset of Dense Wave Division Multiplexing, just to name a few, historic towers such as these have been slowly phased out.

“The Soldiers and civilians that worked at the site will go down as important contributors to the modern



Photo by Darren Ward

A 5th Signal Command color guard team out of 2nd Signal Brigade stands at the base of the Donnersberg facility and radio tower during a ceremony marking the closing of the site since its birth after World War II. Donnersberg is the largest U.S. Army radio tower in Western Europe and served as the main hub of radio and microwave communications for decades.

bandwidth infrastructure that we benefit from today,” said Keith Ingram, 5th Signal Command’s Global Information Grid program manager. “We learned lifelong lessons here while also learning, developing, polishing and evolving our technical skills. For this reason we are here at our Alma Mater to honor it for its service and say goodbye. We may no longer be stationed or work here but we’ll always have some special moments we shared here.

“The ‘Thunder Mountain’ will always have a special place in our hearts.” ❖

72nd ESB partners with German Signaleers in training exercise

Story and photo by Jonathon M. Gray

5th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs

WILDFLECKEN, Germany – Disasters can happen at any moment. When lives are in danger, military forces need to be able to quickly coordinate efforts to help people. One unit in 5th Signal Command was given a great opportunity to train with the German Army to prepare for quick reactionary force operations with the host nation.

5th Signal's 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, headquartered in Schweinfurt, conducted a two-day field exercise with the German Army Air Mobile Division (DLO) and the DLO Signal Battalion using a real-world scenario to train.

Named Exercise Express 11, the scenario is that a river begins to flood a village. The Germans request help from U.S. forces to provide heavy machinery to rebuild broken levees and banks and provide emergency and disaster relief.

The German Army established a disaster relief command post in the town of Wildflecken. The German unit paired with the 72nd ESB to set up and leverage communications for the command post.

“Our purpose here is to bridge communications with the U.S. heavy machinery groups and German support forces. We’re working together to better understand each other’s signal equipment,” said Pfc. Jonathan Amoros, 72nd ESB.

“With different kinds of equipment working together, finding a solution is a nice challenge,” said German Army Master Sgt. Nico Bode, DLO Signal Battalion.

The established command post would be responsible for coordinating the disaster relief in this situation. They would also establish a supply line to help the local population with drinking water, food, shelter and fuel. ❖



Pfc. Jonathan Amoros (right), 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, explains the Command Post Node capabilities and exercise interoperability to German Army Brig. Gen. Ernst Berk (left), deputy commander, Air Mobile Division during Exercise Express 11. The exercise is a demonstration of the German Army Air Mobile Division's ability to execute disaster relief and build partnership capabilities between German and American armed forces.

Overconfidence Can Kill

Risky, unsafe behavior most likely displayed by overconfident individuals

By Jeff Speer

NETCOM Command Safety Office

Mark Twain famously once said “You can be safe a hundred times, but you only die once.”

As we perform our everyday procedures, we too often take for granted that everything will work smoothly. Because the system generally works, we do not realize that danger is ever present. And we do not feel the consequences of the danger until something does in fact go wrong.

Many accidents happen to people who are very confident of what they are doing. We have seen this when: 1) people fail to shut off the power while making electrical repairs – and are electrocuted; 2) they have been burnt in explosions when they allowed an ignition source in a flammable atmosphere; 3) they have been killed in falls when they failed to hook up fall arrest systems; 4) they have become disabled in vehicle crashes while driving familiar routes, and 5) they slipped on slippery floors and fractured bones.

In each of these examples a contributing factor was **overconfidence**, which can be found in many Army accidents. When dealing with matters of SAFETY, we can take NOTHING for granted.

Confidence is a natural product of competency and, in most situations, is a good thing. However, **overconfidence** can also be an “*at risk*” **behavior** that can cause inattention to critical details within a process or activity.

The overconfidence phenomenon has been defined by social psychologists, Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, as the tendency to be more confident than correct, or to overestimate the

accuracy of one’s beliefs in their own abilities and judgment. It’s sometimes manifested in the form of a “*it can’t happen to me*” attitude. This can lead to improper methods of doing your work, using the incorrect procedures or sometimes the wrong tool, showing deliberate disregard for safety procedures, or forgetting about hazards. Any one of these of these items can place the individual, co-workers, production or mission at risk of death or serious injury and directly affects safety in the workplace.

Recent safety research has identified that individuals who are overconfident are more likely to display risky and unsafe behavior. Furthermore, confirmation bias, a tendency to search for

information that confirms one’s preconceptions also *reinforces or leads to overconfidence*.

This is reflected when a person in a particular job may think of all the times they have done the job correctly without following the rules, but they may not recall the times in which there were ‘close calls.’

Unfortunately, this can and often does result in many serious - but preventable – injuries.

Organizations are vulnerable to overconfidence too.

Once overconfidence sets in, risks are discounted as being less likely than they are, unrealistic risk assessments are performed, and warning signs are ignored. Incidents are ignored in the belief that everything is under control. This overconfidence leads to an environment conducive for accidents to happen.

Reducing overconfidence is a key step to increasing safety. Here are some suggestions:

- *Implement and execute composite risk*



See “Safety,” next page

Army launches new accident reporting software program

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

Fort Rucker, Ala. – The Army released a new web-based tool today that is designed to be more accurate, timely and complete by combining several existing Army accident reporting systems.

The streamlined program, tested at select Army installations, including Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Campbell, Ky., Fort Sill, Okla., and the Army National Guard,

Washington, D.C.; will assist leaders in monitoring accident data and identifying trends across the force.

“This tool will give our leaders, at all levels, a better picture of the Army accident landscape,” said Brig. Gen. Bill Wolf, director of Army safety and commander of the U.S. Army Combat



Readiness / Safety Center. “It empowers them to better understand the types and circumstances surrounding accidents so that they can develop preventative measures.”

Prompt accident reporting is critical in order for Army Leaders to promptly address accident trends that may develop anywhere in the world, and take steps to address them.

ReportIt now contains modules to address aviation and ground accidents. Future modules will guide initial notification actions, unmanned aerial systems accidents, civilian reporting, smartphone applications, and offline capability, among others.

For additional information on ReportIt, go to <https://safety.army.mil/> and click on the ReportIt icon. ❖

Safety, from previous page

management process and its tools - Job Hazard Analysis, Job Safety Analysis, and Global Risk Assessment Tool. Think about what could go wrong.

- *Stay aware of the hazards. Remain alert and focus on doing the job safely. It's why you use the composite risk assessment process.*
- *Execute Solider Risk Assessment Questionnaires.*
- *Provide feedback to individuals at time overconfidence is observed.*
- *Follow safe work practices at all times. Do not take shortcuts.*
- *If you are an experienced professional, lead others by setting a good example.*
- *Pay attention during safety meetings – a reminder never hurts.*

- *You don't have to pretend to know it all. Don't be too cool to ask questions.*
- *Take advantage of any opportunities to upgrade your safety training. This will increase your knowledge of new information about hazards and ways to protect yourself.*
- *Perform all the activities to 'the standard', which includes the safe way because someone may be watching and learning from you.*
- *When you see something go wrong that you can't fix, don't accept it – REPORT IT so it can be corrected.*

Leaders at all levels must reinforce composite risk management process to ensure that a balance of safe execution and work execution exists in work assignments and mission accomplishment. Never let overconfidence comprise your safety or health – at work or during home repair projects. ❖

Think Safe. Act Safe. Be Safe.



FOCUS ON PEOPLE



Photo by Deborah Ward

Maj. Gen. Jennifer Napper, Commanding General of US Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, celebrates the new communications facility grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony with Rich Garrett and the Fort Greely, Alaska, Network Enterprise Center Team March 28. When Napper cut ribbon the 59th Signal Battalion, Fort Greely and NEC celebrated the completion of an eight year communications renovation initiative that started in 2003 with the complete replacement of outside plan infrastructure. The renovation projected included a dedicated communications manhole and duct system, fiber and copper cable to all installation facilities.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Crista Yazzie, 311th Signal Command (Theater)



U.S. Army photo by Liana Mayo, 311th Signal Command (Theater)

Welcome Home

Above- Spc. Brandon Lairscey, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, holds his son for the first time after a year deployed to Afghanistan supporting the Signal mission in Operation Enduring Freedom. Left - Sgt. Tim Flowers, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, is welcomed home by wife Tiffany and children, 17-month-old Tatiana and 3-year-old Tayshaun, after a year deployed to Afghanistan.



U.S. Army photo by Jonathon M. Gray, 5th Signal Command (Theater)

Lt. Col. Anselm Stark (right), commander, German Army Signal Battalion for Air Mobile Division, places a unit pin onto Capt. Richard Hagner, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, during Exercise Express 11. The exercise is a demonstration of the German Army Air Mobile Division's ability to execute disaster relief and build partnership capabilities between German and American armed forces.



Courtesy Illustration

By Vincent Breslin

NETCOM Command Historian

Beyond the physical battlefields of Southwest Asia, Signal forces engaged in a great Cyber war, a strategic battle for control over the digital networks, the Internet, and the worldwide web. For most of the 21st Century's first decade, the vast majority of Army communications took place on some form of government email, and

much of it was sensitive or classified. It therefore fell to NETCOM to ensure the security and integrity of all Army network elements. To accomplish that goal, NETCOM units employed a global network of operations and security centers (NOSCs), strategically positioned around the world. These NOSCs formed the regional communication hubs of the Army's Global, Internet-based digital network, providing the Army a LandWarNet (LWN) Cyber defense capability.

NCOs, from page 17

documents ranging from early model telephone sets to bugles to personal documents.

"I was very impressed to see so many original equipment items," said Sgt. 1st Class Mary Stephens, a current operations NCO. "The impact that women made on World Wars I and II was tremendous, allowing for women to undertake duties traditionally performed by men."

During the walking tour, Soldiers learned about the early roles women played, from reloading rifles for their husbands, and even impersonating men, as Cathay

Williams did, enlisting under the name William Cathay in 1866. Commonly known as the Female Buffalo Soldiers, Williams was the first documented enlisted African American female.

The exhibits traveled through time, including the roles of African and Native American women, concluding with a life-size scene of Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, 617th Military Police Company, Kentucky Army National Guard, who became the first woman to receive the Silver Star for direct combat. She and her team repelled an enemy ambush during Operation Iraqi Freedom March 20, 2005. ❖

Army & Defense News

President announces jobs initiatives for veterans

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.

– President Barack Obama announced executive orders today to give tax credits to employers who hire post-9/11 veterans and wounded warriors, as well as enhanced career counseling and related services for veterans.

The president, flanked by veterans association representatives in the White House Rose Garden, expressed concern that unemployment continues to increase among post-9/11 veterans, despite the skills and attributes they have to offer.

Today's 9/11 generation has performed heroically in some of the world's most dangerous places, he said, and "done everything that we've asked of them."

"We ask our men and women in uniform to leave their families and their jobs, and risk their lives to fight for our country," he said. "And the last thing they should have to do is fight for a job when they come home.

"And that's why we're here today," he continued, "to do everything in our power to see to it that America's veterans have the opportunities that they deserve and that they have earned."

To incentivize employers to hire them, the president announced a new Returning Heroes Tax Credit that will provide companies up to \$5,600 in credits for each unemployed veteran they hire. Similarly, a new Wounded Warriors Tax Credit offers employers up to \$9,600 for each veteran with service-connected

disabilities they hire.

For full story, go to http://www.army.mil/article/69010/Obama_announces_jobs_initiatives_for_veterans/.

MilConnect is new online portal for DOD beneficiaries

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A range of information about Defense Department benefits information and eligibility is now available online, the director of the Defense Manpower Data Center said yesterday.

Two new online efforts – milConnect and eCorrespondence – give beneficiaries 24/7 access to personnel information; the ability to update information related to health, education and other benefits; and email notifications about changes in benefits, Mary Dixon told American Forces Press Service.

"At the Defense Manpower Data Center, one of our many responsibilities is to be the interface with beneficiaries, especially on benefits and eligibility for benefits," Dixon said.

MilConnect, available online and through a mobile application for the Android smart phone, was known for a year as the mydodbenefits website.

The revamped milConnect site is available online, around-the-clock, to all DOD beneficiaries and their spouses and children age 18 or older.

For full story, go to http://www.army.mil/article/69930/MilConnect_is_new_online_portal_for_DOD_beneficiaries/.

Real Warriors Campaign Helps Wounded Veterans

Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The struggle of a wounded warrior, knocked unconscious in Iraq and awaking in Germany or the United States with serious injuries – in some cases amputations – can be hard to understand.

Retired Army Maj. Ed Pulido, a wounded warrior who faced serious bouts of depression and considered suicide while recovering from his injuries, joined a DoD Live Bloggers Roundtable to discuss issues he and other wounded warriors face, and the help he's received from the Defense Department-sponsored Real Warriors Campaign.

The Real Warriors campaign uses video and multimedia projects to raise public awareness of veterans' issues and help service members returning from deployment to reintegrate into civilian life.

Pulido said that without the help provided by Real Warriors, he wouldn't be the same person he is today.

"I just can't tell you how grateful I am that there is a campaign out there that can talk about early intervention and about, more importantly, the support systems and having someone that you can talk to right away," Pulido said.

For full story, go to <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=66038>.

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MODERNIZING THE FORCE
BUILDING RESILIENCY
ADAPTING OUR INSTITUTIONS
MAINTAINING OUR COMBAT EDGE

