VOICES OF THE 1ROK

1st Signal Brigade
Yongsan, Korea

Sling-load Training takes Signal Soldiers to new heights - pg. 10

Sept. 11th Memorial Ruck march honors fallen - pg. 14

Q1 - 2015

Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Lan Dalat

Command Team Foreword

First to Communicate Team, I want to take a moment to thank you and your family for your inspiring and dedicated service to our brigade over the past five months. You hit home runs and demonstrated your commitment to excellence with both the Ulchi Focus Guardian and Courageous Channel exercises. These successes solidified and further enhanced our sterling reputation. The Soldiers of this brigade are the backbone of this theater. You provide critical secure communications and award-winning services to our clients around the Pacific and Asia. Job well done by all!

We are now entering the holiday season and I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all of you as we celebrate this special time of the year. I ask that you take time to enjoy this special occasion with your family and friends, and reflect on the things that you are thankful for.

I look forward to the working with each of you on overcoming the challenges of the coming year and achieving continued successes together in 2015.

Happy Holidays to you all!

First to Communicate, Voice of the ROK

ARVESTA P. ROBERSON
COL, SC
Commanding

Soldiers, leaders and civilians of the mighty 1st Signal Brigade. It has been my sincere privilege and honor to be your CSM for the past six months. As I have traveled throughout the peninsula, I have been thoroughly amazed at the quality of the work you do as well as your professionalism.

As the primary providers of Signal Services to USFK and 8th Army, you have a huge mission that you make happen each and every day. As we move into the New Year, there are a few things I ask of you.

First, that you not only continue to provide the superior support that 1ST SIG is known for, but that you also seek out ways to improve your services and your foxholes. Second, for the Soldiers, continue to improve your Soldier Skills and fitness level so that you are always ready to "Fight Tonight," and so that you leave Korea better than you were when you arrived. Finally, please continue to look out for and take care of each other.

We are all in this together, and for me there is no other place I would rather be!!! First To Communicate

ANDY FRYE
CSM, USA
Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Greetings, Fellow Signaleers and the Army's best Technicians:

It gives me great pleasure to serve as the Senior Warrant Officer and Technical Adviser to the Brigade Commander and the 1st Signal Brigade. My primary duties are to ensure that systems matter expertise in all technical areas, is leveraged across the brigade to ensure efficiency of effort and little to no loss of performance time; fulfill the additional duties of the Command Chief Warrant Officer in support of career development and management for all Warrant Officers in the Brigade; and support the activities of all Staff Sections to enable establishing and directing strategy, policy, guidance, and mission planning.

The last 16 months has produced a great number of successful achievements by all of the Warrant Officers under my care. From an always successful Dragon University down at the 36th Signal Battalion, successful mission accomplishments by Warrant Officers in the Brigade S4 and S3 Engineer shops, to a Runner Up selection for the 8th United States Army General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award, by and outstanding WO1 in the 41st Signal Battalion; the Army's premier technical leaders are always shining through. This is only a few of the many reasons I'm proud to be a Warrant Officer in this prestigious Brigade.

Chief's challenge to all technicians, in all ranks, within our Brigade: Continue to rise to the top by mastering your craft and honing your leadership abilities. The South Korean operational landscape is an ever changing thing which can only be thoroughly controlled by utilizing our collective talents to be the best we can be by leveraging a total team effort to always be ready to "Fight Tonight."

Have a great Warrant Officer Day!

ROY RUCKER
CW4, SC
Senior Warrant Officer

Chaplain's Corner

The New Year is coming. With the New Year comes all kinds of New Year's resolutions. Many resolutions might have to do with diets and exercise plans for losing unwanted weight. Most of the plans start with the greatest of intentions. They last generally a week or even a month. The lack of discipline brings these resolutions to a fast halt.

Spiritual discipline is just as hard or even harder than physical exercise and diet. The writer of 1 Thessalonians 5:13 said, "Live at peace with everyone". The text did not say, "Live at peace with a few select friends", but everyone.

This message having only one point for my Sunday sermon is good in so many ways. It seems like inner peace with oneself and with others is a fleeting thing in many people's lives today. With all the media and social media bombarding us 24/7, peace is a difficult to thing to attain, find, or keep. This great biblical teacher admonishes these recipients to be at peace with everyone. In other words, they must decide in their minds and act out in their behavior to make peace and to be at peace. It is a decision of the mind and an act of the heart.

Personally, there are things that cause my inner peace to fly away. I will mention a few. There was a time not too many years ago when one could only receive four TV channels and there was only one phone in the house. There was even a time when one lived in the country and two short rings on the house phone meant the phone call was for the neighbors and one long ring was for the Smith house. Oh for those days when life was simple and the distractions or interruptions were so much fewer than today. Sometimes we must find that fleeting peace by limiting those interruptions.

Thirty years ago I lived in Los Angeles County, in the City of Pomona. On the way to work I would listen to a local radio station to find out the weather and traffic report. The slogan for the radio station was, "If you give us 22 minutes, we'll give you the world". I'm not so sure if our finite and feeble minds are capable of such a feat. I can barely handle a wife, two kids and one toy poodle, let alone the world. I really doubt most people can keep up with 1209 friends on Facebook. Someone said, one truly only has six friends, and you can only count on three of them in a crisis. If you can keep up with 1209 friends, God Bless you.

Yes, we have to control what disrupts our lives and our peace. We have to make conscious and deliberate decisions to limit the distractions of life. There is nothing more disruptive when trying to counsel a soldier than when his phone pings, and someone has texted him. We will begin the conversation again and the cell phone will ping again. I end up asking the soldier to turn his phone off for the remaining duration of the counseling.

People's lives are filled with pinging phones, pinging friends, and pinging fantasies. When was the last time you picked up a good book and lost yourself in the pages of peace. Peace in your life is possible, you may have to turn off the pinging to find it.God Bless,

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Smith

Voice of the ROK

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Photo by Spc. Gregory Summers

Col. Arvesta P. Roberson, 1st Signal Brigade Commander, stands in front of the Brigade alone in front of his formation at the Change of Command Ceremony at USAG Yongsan's Knight Field July 16, 2014. Roberson became the 30th commander of the 1st Signal Brigade, the backbone of all things Signal in the Republic of South Korea.

New Commander for the Voice of the ROK

Story by Spc. Gregory Summers
1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN, Korea -- The 1st Signal Brigade held its Change of Command ceremony at USAG Yongsan's Knight Field July 16.

Families, Soldiers, Brigade leaders and civilians of 1st Signal Brigade and United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, the Republic of Korea Army and Eighth Army bid farewell to outgoing commander, Col. Paul H. Fredenburgh III, and welcomed Col. Arvesta P. Roberson as the 30th Commander of the "Voice of the ROK."

Fredenburgh and Roberson took their positions on the ready line in front of the staff and formation. With Lt. Col. John K. Harris, Deputy Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, the inspection of the troops began. Once the commanders completed their inspection, it was time for Fredenburgh to pass the colors onto Roberson. Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux, Commanding General, Eighth Army, oversaw the passing of the colors for the change of command ceremony.

Champoux said, "Today marks a brilliant and defining moment of the career of a brave Signal Soldier and leader. Col. Fredenburgh bids farewell to those who he has faithfully and selflessly served here on the Korean peninsula."

"Not only did you make a significant difference and earn the respect of all of those you served, but your selfless and humble service has strengthened Eighth Army and the greatest alliance in the world," Champoux said. "We wish you and your family the very best."

Roberson, born in San Diego, Calif., is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of West Florida. He holds a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Master's of Arts in Telecommunication Management and Information Systems from Webster's University.

His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Commander's Course, the Signal Corps Transition and Advanced Courses, Mobile Subscriber Equipment Systems Controller Course, COMSEC Custodian Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Roberson has served at The Pentagon, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Bosnia, Fort Hood, Texas and a deployment to Kuwait. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Bronze Order of Mercury.

"Col. Roberson brings a wealth of experience to the team," Champoux said. "As an integral part to the mission, given the uncertainty to the North, your leadership is key to leading us into the future. You come to us with a great reputation for selfless service and leadership. You are a great addition to the team and we know you will continue to strengthen the alliance."

Fredenburgh took the podium and addressed the audience as the outgoing commander. "To begin, I want to recognize the men and women in formation behind the colors. They are a representation of the over 2,000 Soldiers, Department of the Army and Korean National civilians, and KATUSAs who build, operate, defend and extend the cyber domain to enable mission command in this theater," Fredenburgh said.

"I take away from this assignment an extreme sense of team accomplishment, great experiences, memories and friendships that I will cherish for a lifetime," said Fredenburgh. "The members of this Brigade are the most dedicated and determined group I have ever seen and they represent the best our nation has to offer. It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve with you as your commander."

Roberson, as the new commander of the 1st Signal Brigade said, "First, I am grateful and honored to be standing here before you. In the rich history and importance of this brigade, I am truly humbled. I know of no other place I would rather be serving than with the 1st Signal Brigade."

"General Champoux, thank you for the opportunity to serve as a commander under your leadership. I look forward to leading and learning under your mentorship. Col. Fredenburgh, I truly appreciate your briefings, the superb staff engagements, and the tremendous war-fighter capability you've turned over to me," Roberson added. "To the members of the 1st signal brigade, I challenge you to live beyond your values, exude the warrior ethos, and always be ready to fight tonight. As a team, I am confident we will confront challenge, conquer adversity, and soar to excellence."

Photo by Spc. Gregory Summers

Col. Arvesta P. Roberson, incoming 1st Signal Brigade Commander receives 1st Signal Brigade's colors at the Change of Command Ceremony at USAG Yongsan's Knight Field July 16, 2014. Roberson became the 30th commander of the 1st Signal Brigade, the backbone of all things Signal in the Republic of South Korea.

Change of Responsibility welcomes new senior NCO

Story by Spc. Gregory Summers
1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN, Korea -- The 1st Signal Brigade held its Change of Responsibility Ceremony at USAG Yongsan's Knight Field June 25.

Soldiers, brigade leadership, civilians and family members bid farewell to their outgoing command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Darris Curry, and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Andy G. Frye as the new command sergeant major of 1st Signal Brigade. The Eighth Army Band supported the ceremony providing music for both South Korean and American national anthems as well as ceremonial numbers.

"Serving as the command sergeant major of the largest and only theater tactical signal brigade consisting of more than 2,000 Soldiers, civilians and Korean Augmentations to the U.S. Army (KATUSAs), Command Sgt. Maj. Curry directly supported over 20,000 personnel of the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, as well as the Eighth Army during armistice in the Republic of Korea," Fredenburgh said.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Frye brings a wealth of knowledge and tactical experience to this brigade."

- Col. Paul H. Fredenburgh
Former commander, 1st Signal Brigade

"Command Sgt. Maj. Curry, as the senior enlisted advisor, my right-arm, my battle buddy, provided candid advice, guidance and counsel which greatly strengthened our team," Fredenburgh added. "As you enter the next chapter of your Army career, I want you to know that you had an undeniable impact on the Korean theater of operations and you've been a great battle and will be missed."

Fredenburgh then went on to speak about Frye. "I would now like to welcome an equally talented leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Frye," Fredenburgh said. "Command Sgt. Maj. Frye brings a wealth of knowledge and tactical experience to this brigade. He is a proven leader and I have no doubt that he will continue to build upon the foundation laid by his predecessors. Soldiers of the 1st Signal Brigade can rest assured that you are getting a command sergeant major with a track record of success who is ready to take on new challenges."

Curry took the podium next and said, "Today marks a significant day in my life as I complete the most challenging and rewarding assignment of my career. It has truly been a great and humbling experience. Just 24 months ago, I accepted the responsibility to totally commit myself to the men, women, families and civilians of this great organization. Today marks the end of my tenure, but not of my commitment."

Photo by Capt. Traun Moore

Command Sgt. Maj. Darris Curry, outgoing command sergeant major, 1st Signal Brigade, Col. Paul H. Fredenburgh III, commander, 1st Signal Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Andy G. Frye, incoming command sergeant major, 1st Signal Brigade stand at the ready line at the change of responsibility ceremony at USAG Yongsan's Knight Field June 25, 2014

Curry then addressed his commander. "Col. Fredenburgh, it has been a great ride over the last two years," Curry said. "Thank you for having the confidence in me to serve as the command sergeant major. Thank you for always supporting me, being a true friend and a great mentor. I look forward to serving with you in the near future."

Curry then said his final good byes and spoke highly of Frye. "The only easy part of leaving the mighty 'Voice of the ROK,' 1st Signal Brigade is knowing that I am leaving the Brigade in the absolute capable hands of Command Sergeant Major Andy Frye," Curry said. "You are the right leader at the right time and I have no doubt you will lead the brigade and build on the many significant accomplishments already achieved."

Curry will become the next command sergeant major for 311th Signal Command in Hawaii.

Frye, a Rich Valley, Va. native, enlisted in the Army in 1985 and attended Basic Training at Fort Dix, N.J. He was awarded the 31K military occupational specialty, Combat Signalman, after completing Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon.

Working in every enlisted leadership position from assignments at Fort Lewis, Wash., Bamberg, Germany, Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, Ky. and multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Frye brings plenty of experience and wisdom to the 1st Signal Brigade. He has completed all levels of the Noncommissioned Officers Education System and holds a bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Troy University. Frye's awards and decorations include three Bronze Stars and Meritorious Service Medals.

"Words cannot express how deeply honored I feel to assume this responsibility," Frye said. "The 1st Signal Brigade has a proud history and an impeccable reputation throughout the Signal Regiment and the entire Army and I am thrilled to now be a part of it. This is a privilege that I do not take lightly. I promise that I will do my best to uphold the standards and traditions."

Photo by Spc. Gregory Summers

Photo by Spc. Gregory Summers

Command Sgt. Maj. Andy G. Frye, command sergeant major, 1st Signal Brigade, accepts the Noncommissioned Officer's Sword from Col. Paul H. Fredenburgh III, commander, 1st Signal Brigade, accepting responsibility as the top enlisted advisor at the change of responsibility ceremony at USAG Yongsan's Knight Field June 25, 2014.

1st Signal Brigade hosts "All Things Pacific"

As part of the focus on the Pacific, the 1st Signal Brigade hosted an "All Things Pacific" week Oct. 7-9 at USAG Yongsan to review the current and future state of signal capabilities, practices and projects in the region.

Senior leaders from across the signal world were in attendance to participate in the project status review (PSR) hosted by Maj. Gen. Lawrence Brock, commander, 311th Signal Command, and Col. Arvesta Roberson, commander, 1st Signal Brigade. Maj. Gen. John Morrison, commander, Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM), Maj. Gen. Alan Lynn, Vice Director, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), and various senior signal leaders with vested interests in the acquisition and prioritization for communications capabilities gathered at the Dragon Hill Lodge to discuss the way ahead for the Pacific Theater.

The "All Things Pacific" event was the first of its kind held in the Pacific and Maj. Gen. Brock chose to host the event in South Korea. His goal was to assemble the major stakeholders that had the ability to identify solutions, re-prioritize assets from other theaters, and commit to a synchronized and phased solution. The group was able to walk away with a better understanding for the transformation efforts taking place on the peninsula and how critical the communications architecture is to the 'warfighting" commander's objectives and priorities. The added benefit of hosting the PSR in South Korea was the Combined Forces Command (CFC) C6, Brig. Gen. Song, presented a discussion on the current Combined Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) challenges impacting the Korean and U.S. warfighting networks.

Photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Various senior signal leaders gathered on USAG Yongsan at the Dragon Hill Lodge to discuss the acquisition and prioritization for communications capabilities concerning the Pacific Theater Oct. 7-9.

1st Signal Brigade Retention

Reenlistments

1st SIG BDE would like to congratulate the following Soldiers for making that great commitment to reenlist and continue their career in this great Army.

SGT POWELL, KEVIN	36th SIG BN
SSG JACOBSEN, GLENN	41st SIG BN
SGT DAVIS, ANTHONY	304th SIG BN

Retention Update Brief

The following messages will be effective 31 October 2014
MILPER Message 14-303 – Selective Reenlistment Bonus Program (SRB)
MILPER Message 14-304 – Update to Reclassification IN/OUT Calls

Calling all Soldiers who are within 15 months of their ETS date, please see your servicing Career Counselor so you can discuss your Reenlistment options. Don't wait until it is too late to start planning your future.

- FY15 establishes a 15 month Reenlistment Opportunity Window; however the 90 day window is still in effect.
- AC/RC 365 Program – Reserve Component Career Counselors are now able to counsel and contract Regular Army Soldiers from installations worldwide, into the Reserve Component 365 days prior to ETS. This will provide Regular Army Soldiers sufficient time to prepare themselves and their Families for the next phase of their career.

"The Strength of our Nation is our Army, The Strength of our Army is our Soldiers, The Strength of our Soldiers is our Families, This is what makes us Army Strong!"
--- GEN Raymond T. Odierno
38th Chief of Staff of the Army

1st Signal Brigade Career Counselor Team

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Photo by Pfc. Byun, Jae Hyuk
Sgt. Joseph W. Hatcher, a cable system installer and maintainer, A Co. 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade attaches the satellite equipment to a Black Hawk on taxiway D, Camp Humphreys, South Korea on Oct. 16 during sling load training.

Signal Soldiers conduct Sling Load training

Story by Pfc. Byun, Jae Hyuk
1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs

USAG HUMPHREYS, Korea -- Soldiers, Leaders, and Korean Augmentees to the United States Army gathered to participate in sling load training that was conducted by Soldiers of the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade at taxiway D, here on Oct. 16.

The Training was designed to enhance overall military readiness, by learning the basic concepts of team-based deployment of communication equipment during battle.

"If something happens here, We can deploy our assets anywhere, regardless of road conditions," said Lt. Col. Vanessa K. Ragsdale, battalion commander, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade. "You know the Korean traffic is pretty bad, but this gives us the ability to airlift some of our critical communication equipment to support critical command posts around the South Korean peninsula."

"This makes us much quicker and gives us the ability to rapidly deploy our own critical signal equipment."

- Sgt. Joseph W. Hatcher
a cable systems installer with 304th ESB

"We did the earlier one this summer, with the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, and this is the second time in which they're doing with one of the satellite equipment," said Ragsdale. "The soldiers who are participating in this training can learn the basic concepts of Sling Load Operations. The team is learning how to get airlifted to the locations together. Obviously it's enhancing their morale. It keeps us to be ready to fight tonight."

The mission of the 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade during the sling load training was to ensure the safe packaging of the equipment and attaching it to the Black Hawk.

"The importance of the event is to train up our soldiers on sling loading and deploying our signal equipment to anywhere so we can prepare if anything should happen in the peninsula," said 2nd Lt. Eric R. Thorsen, 1st platoon leader, A Co., 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade. "By sling loading signal equipment, we can re-establish communication anywhere and anytime. It's a really good opportunity for soldiers to get some training and have fun. The training like this is conducted three times a year. We're planning another one for this December."

"It's vital training for communicating, but it's fun as well," added Thorsen. "Actually our battalion is an expeditionary signal battalion, so we need to deploy our signal resources to support command posts around the peninsula. As communication is everything that matters in battle field, if you have communication outage, such as internet, for a day or two, that's a big problem. So we need to get the resources as quickly as possible, and the fastest way to do that is sling loading it to a helicopter."

After participating in the sling load training, Sgt. Joseph W. Hatcher, a cable system installer and maintainer, A Co. 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade, shared his thoughts of the training.

"It's very important for our signal components to be able to move the equipment that we have, so we don't have to rely on another unit to move it," said Hatcher. "This makes us much quicker and gives us the ability to rapidly deploy our own critical signal equipment."

Photo by Pfc. Byun, Jae Hyuk
Soldiers of the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion observe the flight as pilots of a U.S Army Black Hawk land the satellite equipment on the air strip at taxiway D, Camp Humphreys, South Korea on Oct. 16 during sling load training.

Fiber University strengthens signal capability

Story by Spc. Gregory Summers
1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs

Photo by Capt. Traun Moore
Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Rutley, the noncommissioned officer in charge for outside plans, 501st Signal Company, 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, shows Pvt. Hepuaona Lani Keali'i Kane Sellers, a cable system installer and maintainer, Charlie Company, 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade, how to use the fiber optics testing equipment during the fiber university training.

USAG HUMPHREYS, Korea -- The 36th Signal Battalion and 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion of the 1st Signal Brigade conducted joint fiber optics training at Camp Humphreys, South Korea July 8-11.

A small group of Soldiers from both battalions participated in a variety of courses and training exercises revolved around familiarization, hands-on experience and understanding of fiber optics communications; a backbone in the communications networks in South Korea.

Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Rutley, the noncommissioned officer in charge for outside plans, 501st Signal Company, 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, was the main instructor for the fiber university. Rutley said, "When I first got here, we heard about some people doing the fiber optics training and fiber university, so the commander and I wanted to keep that tradition going and now we try to do it quarterly."

"I am teaching them things they don't get to see every day and I am proud to say that. The Soldiers have been very good and I am having a good time teaching them; that's what I do as an NCO."

- Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Rutley
36th Signal Battalion

The fiber optics training allows Soldiers to refresh themselves with concepts and troubleshooting of fiber optics communication cables. Rutley said throughout the week of training, Soldiers learned how to troubleshoot fiber optics, understand the differences between multimode and single mode characteristics and become familiar with the different types of connectors.

"We use our test equipment for the fiber optics to service an outage, fix it and then test it again to make sure it is 100 percent ready to go," Rutley explained. "Using the proper equipment, safety guidelines and quality assurance techniques are things we go over during the training so they know how to properly ground and secure when they actually get out there working."

Pvt. Hepuaona Lani Keali'i Kane Sellers, a cable system installer and maintainer, Charlie Company, 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade, participated in the training and said that the basics of fiber optics were covered during the fiber university. "We go over what fiber optics is, different wavelength types, how fiber optics works, the different types of cables we use, safety practices and how and why we use manholes," Sellers said.

Throughout Camp Humphreys, miles of fiber optic communication cables run beneath the streets and surface. "We use manholes so that it will be easier for us to get communications from one place to another," Sellers explained, "so when we do have to work on them it won't be affecting traffic or anything, because we are underground."

Pfc. Brent Massey, a nodal network operator and maintainer, Charlie Company, 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade, got the chance to expand his knowledge of the Signal world by participating in the fiber optics training. "This training has been a great opportunity for me," Massey said. "It's important for someone like me to learn this material and training in case we ever run across a problem with fiber optics, I will be familiar with it. I've enjoyed this training and look forward to other cross training opportunities with the instructors from the other battalion, because they are very knowledgeable and helpful."

With a combined total of 35 years of experience, Rutley and his NCO team provided their young Soldiers with knowledge and information during the fiber university training to help make them better at their jobs. "It is good to keep their minds fresh, especially with the tactical Soldiers," Rutley said. "I am teaching them things they don't get to see every day and I am proud to say that. The Soldiers have been very good and I am having a good time teaching them; that's what I do as an NCO."

Photo by Capt. Traun Moore
Soldiers participating in the 36th Signal Battalion's fiber university training practice lowering themselves into a manhole safely and properly during the Battalion's fiber university training at Camp Humphreys, South Korea July 9, 2014. Soldiers participated in a variety of courses and training exercises revolved around familiarization, hands-on experience and understanding of fiber optics communications.

1st Signal leads 9/11 Memorial Ruck March

Story by Capt. Traun Moore
1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs

USAG HUMPHREYS, Korea -- The Soldiers of Alpha Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, hosted a 48 hour ruck march and fund-raising event Sept. 12-14 here as a memorial to the fallen and to honor those serving our nation in the Global War on Terrorism in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

More than 500 Soldiers, Families and Civilians came out to support the event, paying tribute to service members past and present and all that have felt the effects of the 9/11 attacks.

The event kicked off with an opening ceremony during which Lt. Col. John Kostur, Deputy Brigade Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, delivered words of encouragement to the participants before they set forth to trek the 9.11 mile route.

"Look to your left and to your right. The men and women that stand amongst you, whether they serve as Soldiers, fire fighters, policemen, volunteers, or families or friends of those that serve - regardless of their background and how they were brought up, were affected by that tragedy 13 years ago and the subsequent events caused by the 9/11 attacks. This event has brought us together as one unit, all striving to defend our nation's liberties and continuing to maintain the safety of our family and friends back home," said Kostur. "The 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion has hosted this memorial ruck-march event since 2011 to recognize the lives of those who perished and those who heroically chose to serve in the military with the support of their families."

"The event was originally started in 2011 by an officer within the 304th ESB who had a family member directly effected by the 9/11 attacks."

- 2nd Lt. Joshua Kappes
304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Photo by Capt. Traun Moore
Lt. Col. John Kostur, Deputy Brigade Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, delivered words of encouragement to the participants before the start of the 9/11 Memorial Ruck March Sept. 12 at USAG Humphreys.

Photo by Capt. Traun Moore
The first group of participants lined up at the starting point of the 9/11 memorial Ruck March Sept. 12 at USAG Humphreys.

The first wave of participants made their way to the starting point, with a 35 pound ruck sack on their backs, and began to march at 9 a.m. the morning of Sept. 12. A new group of participants would line up, eager to start the memorial ruck march, every hour over the next 48 hours.

Outside of the individuals that were participating to pay their respects and support the annual event, there were also competitions for the fastest times and largest group participation. The 501st Signal Company posted the fasted time, with Alpha Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion placing second and Headquarters and Headquarters Company USAG Humphreys posting the third fasted time, as well as earning the award for most motivated unit. The largest unit award was presented to 4th Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment.

"This march was great for unit cohesion and brought as all together for a great cause," stated Pfc. Keith Stansbery, information technology specialist, Alpha Company, 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade. "We were able to raise a lot of money for the unfortunate event that took place 13 years ago and we are able to keep supporting the organizations that help Soldiers. I participated in the individual competition for time and pushed myself to my limits and will definitely be a part of this event in the future."

2nd Lt. Joshua Kappes, platoon leader and event coordinator, Alpha Company, 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade, also shared his thoughts about the event.

"The event was originally started in 2011 by an officer within the 304th ESB who had a family member directly effected by the 9/11 attacks," stated Kappes. "Though the family member was not injured, they were actually in the towers when the attack was taking place. So what stated out as a fairly small event and had grown to become a peninsula-wide event over the past four years."

Kappes also added, "This is a very important cause and as the years pass since the 2001 attacks we need not forget those who served in the wake of the tragic event. We will continue to hold this memorial march to pay tribute and remember the impact that the 9/11 attacks has had on America and the world as a whole."

The event came to an end 9 a.m. Sept. 14 with a closing ceremony to recognize and celebrate all participants of the event. Over the 48 hour event, more than $10,000 was raised in support of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Photo by Capt. Traun Moore

Cable Systems Installer Soldiers with Charlie Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, confirm the proper installation of fiber and Ethernet cables during the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise at New Mexico Range, South Korea Aug. 25.

Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2014

Story by Capt. Traun Moore
1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs

NEW MEXICO RANGE, Korea -- Strategic and tactical communications are vital for any Army leader to implement command and control initiatives across their formations both in operational and support capacities. The concept of being able to "Shoot, Move and Communicate" under duress can ultimately provide leaders with the information needed to make informed command decisions based on real time situation reports from their Soldiers on the ground.

The 1st Signal Brigade is a key component in providing communications services to customers across the Korean Peninsula and proved to be up to the challenge during the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2014 exercise.

The mission of the 1st Signal Brigade during the UFG14 exercise was engineering, installing, operating, maintaining, defending and extending the strategic and tactical communications networks throughout the Korean Peninsula to enable mission command and training of the United Nations Command, the Combined Forces Command, the United States Forces Korea, the Eighth Army and the participating major subordinate commands.

The UFG14 exercise also gave the 1st Signal Brigade an opportunity to execute its operational plan during a simulated wartime mission while integrating and training new Soldiers and leaders of the brigade.

The subordinate units and directorates of the 1st Signal Brigade were widespread over the course of the exercise enhancing mission command through reliable communications support across the Korean Area of Operations, also building upon lessons learned from past exercises while refining and improving their service capabilities.

Capt. Michael Chezum, commander, Charlie Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, and members of Charlie Company were collocated with the Eighth Army Main Command Post at New Mexico Range, South Korea.

"Charlie Company has been tasked with providing Eighth Army teams and its major subordinate commands with communications support," said Chezum. "This is my second UFG exercise and hands down this is the best exercise that I have personally been involved with. Our teams have been trained and have been able to bring up their equipment more frequently over the past four months as compared to the previous exercises. That has translated into our teams being more knowledgeable and able to provide better service to our customers. We want to continue to build on the successes that we have had during UFG14."

The underlying significance that has been echoed by leaders of the 1st Signal Brigade has been the chance for the junior Soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers to see firsthand the impact that flexible and consistent strategic and tactical communications support helps commanders to see the battlefield and exercise mission command.

"The experience gained from this exercise has helped our junior Soldiers gain a deeper understanding outside of what they were taught in AIT (Advanced Individual Training) and they are getting their first taste of what it's like to be an Army communicator in a real world scenario," states Maj. Patrick Clary, operations officer, 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade. "They are also being exposed to the mission command aspect of our mission and they witness how high level General Officers battle track and conduct mission command through the services we provide. It has been an eye-opening experience for our junior Soldiers to see how strategic communications helps tactical commanders track the battlefield."

After participating in his first Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, Command Sgt. Maj. Andy Frye, brigade command sergeant major, 1st Signal Brigade, shared his thoughts on the outcome of the exercise.

"I expected to see our Soldiers exercising both the tactical and strategic networks at a higher level because of increased usage and use of our systems in places where they are not normally set up. I was impressed with our Soldiers during the exercise and observing how they implemented the use of all of their systems," said Frye. "The fact that there were a minimal number of service interruptions throughout the exercise is rare and speaks volumes of the hard work of our Soldiers. They displayed a fantastic attitude and were willing to chip in and help one another to accomplish the mission."

In the end, the 1st Signal Brigade enabled joint and combined command, control, communications, computers and information management operations throughout Korea to support the United Nations Command, the Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea and Eighth Army's ability to lead, direct and maneuver their forces throughout the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise.

Photo by Capt. Traun Moore

Soldiers from Charlie Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, review the standard operating procedures of the Phoenix Satellite Terminal during the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise at New Mexico Range, South Korea Aug. 25.

Tactical experience for strategic Signal Soldiers

Story by Capt. Bryce A. Hollweg & 1st Lt. Bryan A. Chancey
501st Signal Company

USAG HUMPHREYS, Korea -- Soldiers from the 501st Signal Company stationed at Camp Humphreys, South Korea gained an insight into what "the other side" of signal operations looks like during training July 8.

The group of information technology specialists currently serving in the Korean Theater of Operations Network Enterprise Center (NEC), traded a day of conducting Help Desk support, Information Assurance vulnerability scans and Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN) services for War fighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) and tactical communications training.

During the Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Ga., information technology specialists only spend a fraction of their time training and becoming familiar with the tactical equipment that allows Soldiers and Army leaders to communicate and conduct Mission Command on the battlefield. Being collocated with the tactical 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, provided an opportunity for strategic signal Soldiers to cross train on WIN-T equipment and learn the practices and procedures that their tactical signal counterparts are employing in their day-to-day operations.

Many of the Soldiers who attended the training will be moving on to expeditionary Signal battalions and division Signal companies where working in a NEC will become a thing of the past. Gaining a basic understanding of how the tactical equipment works and the capabilities that the systems provide war fighters will ultimately pay dividends by allowing Soldiers to seamlessly integrate and become contributing members of the Joint Network Node (JNN) and Customer Premise Network (CPN) teams in which they will likely find themselves.

Pfc. Devaughn Gonzales, an information technology specialist from the Area III Hardware/Software section, 501st Signal Company, 36th Signal Battalion, learned how satellite terminals track different satellites, how to control the Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) and how CPNs were set up. "Because of this training, I will generally know what to expect at my next unit, being that it is a tactical unit," stated Gonzales.

Pfc. Brian Baham, an information technology specialist working in the LAN/WAN section of the NEC, 501st Signal Company, 36th Signal Battalion, shared his thoughts on the importance of the training. "At first I didn't understand why we needed satellite communications on the battlefield when we have radios," said Baham, "but during this training, we learned how to extend these systems to the battlefield so those out in the field can work on the same domain as those in the rear. We also learned how to troubleshoot some equipment including the JNN and the STT and how to manually adjust the STT to acquire signal."

The Soldiers of the 501st Signal Company will also participate in the upcoming Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise in August, deploying with CPN teams from the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, building upon the training they recently received and gaining valuable hands-on experience with the tactical WIN-T equipment.

Photo by Capt. Bryce A. Hollweg
SPC Song from the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) instructs Soldiers of the 501st Signal Company on the capabilities of the tactical WIN-T equipment.

Signal Corps Regimental Association

Over the course of 154 years the Signal Corps evolved from a one-man operation into a complex organization comprising tens of thousands of individuals. Signaling methods, likewise, underwent extraordinary changes. Myer's wigwag flags and flaming torches were replaced by radios, radar, and computers. Not only within the Army but also throughout society at large, communications and information technology has grown in size, sophistication, and influence, transforming the world into a "global village" as the Army's voice of command, the Signal Corps played an active role in this transition, both influencing and being influenced by the process.

The Signal Corps is the Army branch that was born in 1860, 154 years ago. The regiment came about in 1986, 28 years ago, when the Army adopted the regimental system. The Signal Corps Regimental Association (SCRA) began in 1976, 38 years ago, as the Signal Museum Association.

The Korea chapter of the Signal Corps Regimental Association was organized in March 1993. The Korea chapter is affiliated with the Signal Corps Regimental Association, international headquarters located at Fort Gordon, Georgia. The chapter is a patriotic, educational, scientific, non-political and non-profit-making organization of American citizens, allied personnel and industrial organizations that desire to support its purpose. The purpose of the association is to provide an opportunity for interested individuals to aid in preserving for posterity the proud heritage of the United States Army Signal Corps Regiment. The chapter works closely with the national office of the Signal Corps Regimental Association to publicize and reinforce the goals of the Signal Corps regiment and thus insure that the lessons of history and the proud traditions of the Signal Corps regiment are not forgotten by future generations.

Membership in the association is on a voluntary basis. The majority of the membership comes from the DOD family. Membership is not restricted on the basis of sex, age, religion, race, color, national origin, marital status, political affiliation, handicap or rank. The chapter does not seek to deprive individuals of their civil rights. Membership in the chapter is open to industrial organizations and to individuals interested in furthering the objectives of the chapter. Full membership is available to the United States and to free world nationals living and/or stationed in the Republic of Korea area. The chapter operates on Yongsan with the consent of the installation commander. This consent is contingent on compliance with applicable laws and requirements and conditions of all army regulations, with changes and supplements. This chapter is not an instrumentality of the United States government. This chapter does not compete with any non-appropriated fund instrumentality, MWR, or any other government function using appropriated funds, on the installation. The purpose of the chapter is to preserve the proud heritage of the United States army Signal Corps Regiment.

In our 21 year history we have had numerous distinguished guest speakers from on and off peninsula. Our SCRA Korea chapter has sponsored numerous events and programs since our beginning in 1993. Our Korea chapter has held fun and educational team building events such as right-arm nights, golf tournaments and conferences that help to bring us together throughout the year. Every year, our SCRA, "Voice of the ROK!" Chapter gives full support to help raise funds and assist in planning the annual signal ball in May and signal holiday social in December.

One of the most visible "arms" of SCRA is its award program for its members and volunteers. The Order of Mercury, Wahatchee Award, and Brevet Colonel Award are presented to recognize those who have made significant contributions over a period of time to the regiment or the association.

For information on becoming a member, visit the SCRA Website is http://www.signalcorps.org/

SCRA "Voice of the ROK!" E-Mail Account is scra.vrok@gmail.com

Arvesta P. Roberson
President, SCRA Korea Chapter

41st conducts CBRNE Defense Exercise

Editorial by 1st Lt. Cameron Davis and 1st Sgt. Clifford Hall
41st Signal Battalion

On July 30th, 2014, a particularly sweltering day on the Korean peninsula, the execution of a long awaited, in-depth, combined forces exercise was finally kicking off. CPT Brent Nolan, the Commander of the 201st Signal Company and the original catalyst behind the event, saw his plan coming to fruition after weeks of late night teleconferences. The exercise was planned in the middle of the company's "White Week," a 41st Signal Battalion mandated week-long training event used to give Soldiers a break from the daily grind and focus on basic Soldier tasks. In the 201st's day-to-day operating environment, Soldiers are often so busy managing the largest military network in Korea that the "White Week" is necessary for them to hone the other skills expected of them.

The exercise kicked off with an IED being placed against the side of the Northern Node, the main hub for all network operations within Area II. 718th EOD Soldiers received a call that a possible explosive device had been identified, and the location of the device. They rolled to the scene in a purpose built vehicle with all the tools and equipment required to do the job. CPT Foist, the 718th EOD commander, reported on these kinds of training events, saying "my guys know this is an exercise, and know the day it will take place, but they are unaware of the exact time or location." This adds a bit of realism to the training, and while we can predict where the (in this case, fictional) North Korean Special Operations Forces may place an explosive device; USAG Yongsan remains a target rich environment. This was the first time ever that EOD had been called to the Northern Node.

718th EOD sent in a small, tracked robot to assess the threat. It found an explosive device within a duffle bag near one of the building's entrances. This was followed by one of the EOD Soldiers donning a blast suit, covering his body in layers of foam, kevlar and plastic. While this suit is designed to protect the Soldier in the event of an explosion, his hands are completely exposed to afford him maximum mobility. After working on the device for nearly half an hour, he had successfully disarmed it.

Meanwhile, a second scenario was playing out inside the Northern Node, among the seemingly endless racks of various information technology devices serving as the heart of the Area II network. A small box had been opened to reveal a large amount of a suspicious white powder and an ominous, note handwritten in Korean. The 501st CBRNE Company promptly responded to the incident, set up decontamination stations outside the Node, and several Soldiers then suited up into Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) 4 to enter the building. Once inside, they surveyed the situation. A quick test using M9 detector paper determined that the powder was indeed dangerous, and the Soldiers began collecting the powder and sealing it inside plastic bags. During their collection, they noticed that some of the powder had contaminated one of the racks, and a piece of IT equipment within. Sgt. Roger Brammer, a member of the Northern Node's Local Area Networking/ Wide Area Networking (LAN/ WAN) Team, put on his MOPP gear and was escorted in to disconnect and remove the equipment so that it could be safely removed, decontaminated, and the high-value data within could be extracted.

With the help of the 501st Soldiers, Sgt. Brammer was able to remove the equipment, place it in a plastic bag, seal it, and move it to the decontamination area. At this time, the Node was considered secure, and the CBRNE team began their personnel decontamination procedures. This involved the use of pumps (not dissimilar from those used for weeds or bug spray) with a mixture of water and bleach. The decontamination team sprayed down the Soldiers in MOPP gear, and then had them remove their masks, and used scissors to cut off the MOPP gear in order to reduce the risk on further contamination as much as possible. The CBRNE team and Sgt. Brammer were drenched with sweat, but could rest easy knowing that they had identified the hazard and extracted the high value equipment, all without endangering any of their team members.

The event ended in success, and was the culmination of many long meetings and coordination. CPT Nolan topped off the event by presenting each of the Soldiers with a 201st Ninja Coin and a small plaque for the unit to express the company's appreciation for their participation. This was the first event of its kind for all three units involved. It proved to be a valuable training experience, and built further rapport between the Signal, CBRNE and EOD communities.

No Battle Buddy Left Behind

Editorial by Sgt. Lisa Pasternak
RCC-K

On 22 Oct., Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Farmen, the Commanding General, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Daegu, Korea, recognized outstanding Area IV volunteers who are making a difference in the USAG Daegu community. One of the Soldiers recognized was Pfc. Rawlyn Rogers, from the 6th Regional Cyber Center – Korea, 1st Signal Brigade. Rodgers was recognized for his leadership efforts with the No Battle B Left Behind program in Area IV.

No Battle B Left Behind is a Soldier led program that reaches beyond unit boundaries to help keep other Soldiers out of trouble, regardless of unit affiliation. On a typical Friday and Saturday night, Rogers and the No Battle B Left Behind team will spend 4-6 hours walking the local bar districts in Daegu canvassing for Soldiers that may have had too much to drink or may be at risk for getting into trouble. The group targets potential SHARP victims, disorderly conduct, public intoxication, DUI or curfew violation incidents to methodically de-escalate potentially dangerous and career impacting situations to get our Soldiers and family members home safely. They freely volunteer their time and even use their own money when needed, to pay for cab fare to keep Soldiers out of trouble and get them home safely.

What makes No Battle B Left Behind so impressive, is that it is mainly led by young, first term Soldiers, who have made it their mission to look after other Soldiers. These young leaders who make up the No Battle B Left Behind team are organized, disciplined, smart and are truly an asset to USAG Daegu community.

Rogers is leading by example. Since taking the reigns of No Battle B Left Behind team, Rogers has freely given well over 150 hours of his own time and has ensured that at least 15 Soldiers assigned to Camp Walker weren't left behind. Soldiers who had consumed too much alcohol and may have been left in a bar, an alley or sidewalk, all made it safely back to Camp Walker safely. Thanks to their efforts, 15 families will not receive a visit from the Casualty Notification Officer and no one ended up in jail.

When asked, what is your motivation for volunteering with the No Battle B Left Behind program, Rodgers graciously responded with, "This isn't just something to do to earn an award, I truly care about my fellow Soldiers and if my sister was stationed here I would want someone looking after her just like we do here."

Rodgers and the No Battle B Left Behind team are making a difference in the USAG Daegu community. Leading from the front, Soldiers taking care of Soldiers, I am my brother's keeper! Rodgers, we salute you and your team!

Family Readiness Support Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering creates a positive impact upon your community. However, volunteering also has benefits for yourself and your family. Community service grows your network of personal and professional contacts, gives you the opportunity to gain new skills, and enhances your career and resume. While it may seem that volunteering is about doing a good deed it is okay to find out what you will gain through serving your community.

While creating positive change within your community, volunteering has benefits for the individual as well. Whether through gaining new skills, expanding your network, or elevating your career path, community service serves the needs of both the community and the volunteer.

How to get started:
* Talk to your local Installation Volunteer Coordinator at Army Community Services
* Check out the Volunteer Management Information System (located under the "Volunteer Tools" tab) on MyArmyOneSource (www.myarmyonesource.com) for local opportunities
* Find out if any current extracurricular groups or communities you belong to are in need of volunteers; look to see if any groups you would like to become involved with are in need of volunteers
*Ask your unit about any current good neighbor programs that involve community service
*Speak to local churches about current outreach projects

There are no "Passive bystanders"

FOLLOWER	OR	LEADER
Support		Deter
Encourage		Discourage
Enable		Condemn
Stay Silent		Speak Up
Ignore		Intervene

"You can succeed from this day forward in virtually every aspect of your military career, but if you fail at this, and that is leading on the issue of Sexual Assault, you've failed the Army."

-JOHN M. MCHUGH
Secretary of the Army

The Question is:

What are you doing to help shape the Army culture based on values, standards, and discipline consistent with the Profession of Arms?

1st Signal BDE SARC: SFC Evans, Julie
Cell: 010-3699-6574
SHARP Hotline: DSN "158"
Commercial: 05033635700

Supporting the Warfighter from the Sea to the DMZ

Editorial by Capt. Renata Crapps
USACISA-P

Deep inside a command post, the United States Army Communications Information Systems Activity – Pacific (USACISA-P) deployed its officers and technicians to man the Network Operations Center (NOC) that provided real-time mission network support to the war-fighters fighting a computer simulated peninsula-wide military exercise named Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) between August 18 and 29, 2014.

UFG is an annual routine operational exercise that is structured to enhance combat readiness while protecting the overall surrounding region by maintaining stability on the Korean peninsula. Each UFG exercise consists of over 30,000 U.S. service members partnering with the Republic of Korea (ROK) military forces from all services as well as the ROK government. Throughout UFG, USACISA-P actively engages and supports the "Fight Tonight" mission throughout the Korean Theater of Operation (KTO) by providing critical enterprise command, control, communications, computers, and information management (C4IM) services while ensuring mission command. Both of the major peninsula-wide military exercises including Key Resolve (KR) and UFG continue to highlight and commemorate the enduring partnership and commitment between the United States and the Republic of Korea Alliance while maintaining a united front and peace on the Korean peninsula.

One essential service that USACISA-P provides to the Joint Staff consisting of the United Nations Command (UNC), Combined Forces Command (CFC), United States Forces Korea (USFK), Eighth Army, and the major service components is the high quality Command and Control (C2) Common Operational Picture (COP). The C2 COP enables command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) to the CFC/UNC/USFK CDR in near real time for both real world operations as well the computer simulated operations utilized for the Korea-wide combined exercises including UFG. The real world C2 COP feeds the entire United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) with the visibility that provides the USPACOM Commander with the premier C2 capabilities of a comprehensive, interoperable system that exchanges imagery, intelligence, status of forces, and planning information. From the C2 COP feed, the USPACOM Commander can successfully execute their operational directives for the Joint Task Forces (JTF) and subordinate land, air, maritime, and special operations commands within the PACOM AOR.

While providing the KTO with two strategic mission networks, Global Command and Control System – Joint (GCCS-J) as well as the Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System – Korea (CENTRIXS-K), the USACISA-P NOC maintains full visibility and support primarily through its NETOPS Battle Staff. The NETOPS Battle Staff consists of an Operations OIC, Battle Captain, Battle NCOIC, and a variety of highly qualified IT contracting staff that provides a superior level of support and monitors the KTO war-fighter GCCS-J and CX-K mission networks. In addition, USACISA-P NETOPS Battle Staff actively engages with the UNC/CFC/USFK Joint Staff that provides the CFC/USFK Commanding General (CG) with the all of the operational aspects from situational awareness, intelligence, sustainment, force planning, and force readiness throughout the KTO in both real world operations and the two major peninsula-wide simulated military exercises.

During UFG, USACISA-P has a unique mission of simultaneously operating and maintaining GCCS-J and CX-K for all war-fighters within the KTO while directly monitoring and supporting the numerous Joint Staff theater level briefings that take place daily throughout the exercise. Two of the main Joint theater briefings that are critical to the mission success of UFG via assisting the CFC/USFK CG and Joint staff in providing integrated battle-space awareness include the daily CFC/USFK Commander's Theater Synchronization Brief and the Commander's Update Brief (CUB). Throughout both KR and UFG, USACISA-P Battle Captains ensure that all critical Theater briefings run flawlessly from all layers of the Open Systems Interconnect (OSI) model as the GCCS-J and CX-K Theater network provider.

USACISA-P directly interfaces with several key Department of Defense (DoD) agencies on a consistent basis in order to always ensure it services the CFC/USFK war fighters with the latest cutting edge technology, products, and applications while maintaining enterprise level communications support. A few key DoD agencies that interact with USACISA-P include Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Army Chief Informations Officer (CIO)/G-6, and the United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM). Many of these key DoD agencies are critical from both peacetime real world and exercise related perspectives in providing secure communications. One of the essential elements that USACISA-P focuses on to defend its mission networks and the information within them by the guidance of the Army CIO/G-6 and USCYBERCOM is the application of Computer Network Defense (CND) while employing a Defense in Depth (DiD) strategy as outlined in Joint Publication (JP) 6-0. Each of these DoD agencies assist USACISA-P in safeguarding all of the war fighting systems, data, and overall GCCS-J and CX-K network while maintaining a high quality of service standing for all CFC/USFK customers during both peacekeeping real world operations and exercise scenarios.

One of the primary goals by the end of each peninsula-wide major military exercise is to refine every aspect of the contingency plan from a tactical, strategic, and operational standpoint. As the various Joint staff sections work through the military exercise computer simulated scenarios, new ideas and procedures are brainstormed to provide more efficient processes, applications, and solutions to be implemented in the future. Many of the new ideas and initiatives that the CFC/ USFK Joint staff requests are submitted to USACISA-P as a Requirement Change Request (RCR). Each RCR that is submitted as a new initiative goes through a Configuration Control Board (CCB) in which a host of various technicians strategize an engineering solution that meets the requirements of the initiative that was submitted by the Joint staff. It is the sole responsibility of USACISA-P technicians, engineers, and web developers to plan and execute that engineering solution from the specifications of the equipment necessary to run the application or system being designed from cradle to grave. Once the requirements of each RCR is engineered and implemented it is turned over to the Joint staff for operational use. On average, USACISA-P completes over 2,000 RCRs on an annual basis. The result of many RCRs provide the CFC/USFK Joint staff immediate operational improvements, increase efficiency of manpower, and have long-term impact on the mission within the various service components and its subordinate commands.

United States Army Communications Information Systems Activity-Pacific has one of the most unique missions within the PACOM Theater as well as one of the most critical responsibilities within the PACOM AOR. While providing 24/7 enterprise network and communications support, implementing new directives and initiatives, maintaining the source of the USPACOM C2 COP, and engineering new IT solutions for the CFC/USFK Joint staff, USACISA-P continues to lead the way in exceeding standards that are set within the Army and DoD. USACISA-P will continue to seek new aspects to improve upon as well as new ideas and ways to provide the war fighters with the finest communication support that exists within the DoD. As the mission and focus within the KTO continues to evolve and grow, USACISA-P's responsibility will increase to new heights that are essential the war fighters in defending the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) as well as North Korea's potential aggression by reinforcing and enhancing its communications support "From the Sea to the DMZ!"

Signal Co. Commanders discuss future strategic operations

Editorial by Capt. David Seiden
169th Signal Co.

DAEGU, Korea -- The 169th Signal Company, headquartered at USAG Daegu, participated in a leader engagement with the Republic of Korea Army signal co., based at the ROKA Base on 26 Nov. During this engagement, the two signal co. commanders represented their nations and set a course to strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

The main focus of this meeting was the need for teamwork between the 169th Signal Company and ROKA Signal Company to ensure quality of cable installation services for war fighting commanders in Area IV. The 2nd Operational Command located in Daegu has operational command over all army reserve units, the Homeland Reserve Force, logistics, and training bases located in the six southernmost provinces. It is vital that 169th Signal Company build, operate, maintain and defend communications infrastructure supporting Eighth Army units in Daegu.

Staff Sgt. Shawn Marsland, a senior cable installation repairer, played an important role in recommending a course of action to address cable installation concerns at 2OC to the commander of 169th Signal Co. He provided a detailed account of the work to be done including the cabling, components and tools needed to complete the mission. Marsland personally conducted a site survey of areas manned by US Soldiers and provided a detailed list of work orders. As a result of his actions, operations at Eighth Army, 2OC, and USFK were positively impacted.

At the end of the meeting, both Commanders agreed to set a clear goal of ROKA Signal Soldiers completing short term cable installation projects to support 2502nd Support Detachment, Eighth Army. These Leaders also found it necessary to leverage on hand, qualified US Army signal Soldiers and ROKA signal Soldiers to cooperate in order to conduct preventive maintenance at existing cable installation areas at headquarters, 2OC with the permission of ROKA hosts. 169th Signal Company will set forth to strengthen the alliance with the ROKA Signal Company and improve the foxhole for war fighting commanders in Area IV.

Ninja White Week training exercise

Editorial by Bridgett Hudson
201st Signal Company

CAMP MORRIS, Korea -- One does not simply become a Soldier in a week, but the 201st Signal Company White Week called on the inner warrior of its participants. The Ninja White Week challenged its competitors physically and mentally but succumbing to the pressures of the training was not an option. The event revealed strengths, weaknesses, and as Staff Sgt. Jeffery Foksinski, the Northern Node NCOIC, put it, "we saw each other's true colors." From day one, the pressure was on as six five-man teams completed a high-intensity scavenger hunt, Humvee push, followed by a ruck march up Namsan Tower ending at Camp Morris. With a 35 lbs. pack on their backs, the Ninjas climbed roughly 3 miles – all uphill. These events were only the physical aspects of the training that day.

After arriving at Camp Morris, Sgt. Sabro Sudo, a Regional Network Operations and Security Center NCO, and Spc. Quentin Brown, a help desk technician, initiated training on evaluating a casualty and requesting a 9-line medical evacuation and Sgt. Robert Downing, the information assurance NCOIC, and Spc. Philip Cochrane, a network technician, followed suit with training on establishing a non-combatant evacuation operations site. Staff Sgt. Joy Douglas, a training NCO, worked diligently providing meals for Ninjas throughout the week-long training. As an observer for the team, she noted that "it was a great experience! Soldiers really enjoyed it. It was the first time since I've been here that I was able to see Soldiers interacting as a company training-wise."

The remainder of the Ninja White Week was just as tough as day one. Foksinski, Sudo and Brown were the master minds behind the ensuing obstacle course, training scenarios, and a second hike up Namsan tower on day three for an overnight stay. While Ninjas were low crawling and flipping tires over six-foot walls, Brown took the opportunity to practice his Drill Sergeant voice and motivate Soldiers throughout the various training scenarios. Pvt. 1st Class Hong Geun Kim who had never flipped a tire before the Ninja White Week said that the training was fantastic and that he "really enjoyed doing combatives!" Spc. Jonathan Seetao, a help desk technician, was like a fish in water when it came to establishing a NEO Site.

There was a 5-gallon-water jug carry, push-ups and sit-ups. Of course, the Ninja White Week would not be complete without equal opportunity training taught by Foksinski and SHARP Training taught by Douglas. Douglas and Foksinski conducted their respective training in an open discussion format which gave Ninjas an opportunity to voice their opinions on the various topics discussed.

Training is what the Army does every day but the Ninja White Week was definitely something special. It was an opportunity for Soldiers to gain mentorship on leading troops under pressure and finding the path of least resistance to finish the task at hand with limited resources. The Ninja White Week was not only a successful week full of high-speed training; it morphed into quite the bonding experience strengthening unit cohesion. The 201st Ninja brought the training to an end with a BBQ, donations to Combined Federal Campaign, and a march home where Sudo graced us with cadence. One may not become a Soldier in a week but after the Ninja White Week, the 201st proved we are ready to 'fight tonight!'

Questions, comments or suggestions? Please let us hear from you! E-mail the editor at, daniel.k.johnson6.mil@mail.mil