



MEET THE RESERVE SOLDIERS WHO SUPPORT THE 501ST MI BDE

By MAJ ALLISON MARSCHEAN

20 Reserve TPU Soldiers are assigned HHC, 501st Military Intelligence Brigade. While these Soldiers are physically assigned to the 501st their parent unit is The 9th Mission Support Command (MSC) headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii. The 9th MSC is a U.S. Army Reserve Command under the operational control of U.S. Army Pacific. It is comprised of approximately 3,500 Army Reserve Soldiers and 160 civilians throughout the Pacific to include Hawaii, Alaska, American Samoa, Japan, Korea, Guam, and Saipan. The 9th MSC provides trained and ready forces to overseas contingency operations, playing a vital role in approximately 20 U.S. Army Pacific Theatre Security Cooperation Program exercises.

Below are questions the TPU Soldiers both generated and answered in hopes of giving the rest of the brigade a peek into the roles they play.



SGT JOSHUA LIM 46Q
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

SGT Lim, would you tell me, again, what it is that I just recently learned about you?

- My military background? Yes, I used to be an Active Duty Human Intelligence Collector and deployed

to Iraq from '08 to '09 as a member of a MFT serving in Kalsu and Mosul. I got out in 2010 and moved to Virginia as a Korean linguist in McClean. I switched jobs to the State Department where I worked as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst. During my time in Virginia, I was in the National Guard at Fort Belvoir and was a 35M (formerly known as 97E – HUMINT Collector). Then I took a job in Korea.

So, you were originally a 35M and are now a 46Q? How did that happen?

- LTC Lang gave me a job! There were no 35M TPU slots, so I'm filling a 46Q slot! This is good for me to know because I am a 35D (Intelligence Officer), but like you I'm filling a 46A (Public Affairs Officer) position.

How long have you been in this unit?

- Since March '12.

Does your Army Reserve experience assists you in your civilian career or vice versa?

- Yes, what I do in the Reserve unit can be transferred to what I do in the J2.

What do you do on the civilian side?

- Combined Watch in the J2.

How do the Reserves compare to Active Duty?

- I like the Reserves better because you can be utilized more efficiently.

In what ways can we improve our organization?

- We could go State-side for Annual Training to train in real-time exercises or language training so we can train with other

members of the Reserves to broaden our minds. Being in Korea be isolating, especially from other Reservists.

What is your most memorable experience in this unit?

- The time we went hiking. It was a good experience to bond with other Soldiers.



SPC SETH WEIMER

How long have you been in this unit?

- Two years and a few months.

What unit were you in previously?

- I was active duty and I ETSed in 2009. I was with the 602nd Aviation

Support BN at Camp Humphreys.

So, you got off of Active Duty in Korea?

- Yes.

How long were you in Korea before that?

- 3 years

What is your MOS?

- 92F, a Fueler. For the 501st I'm a 92Y, a Supply Specialist. I've complete phase 1, but once I've completed phase 2 I'll be MOS Qualified.

What do you do on the civilian side?

- After getting off of Active Duty I transitioned to where a civil service job. I am the Area 3 Official Mail Manager.

How does being in the Reserves compare to being on Active Duty?

- In the Reserves you still do the same training, but don't have the everyday obligation of being on duty. But as a civilian I'm still completing a similar mission because I'm still working with active duty members daily. My office services every unit organization at Camp Humphreys to complete their daily missions.

Do you know any of the Active Duty members of the 501st?

I know the mail clerks from the 501st BNs at Camp



501ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE
USAG YONGSAN, SOUTH KOREA "RED DRAGONS - STRIKE WITH FIRE"

Humphreys.

What training would you like to see your unit conduct?

- EST Training!

Why did you join the Army Reserves?

- To add to my resume and learn a new MOS.

How do promotions work for TPU Soldiers?

- After I complete my phase 2 training I'm eligible to move into the E5 position if it is available.



SSG EUN KANG
MOS 42A30 HUMAN
RESOURCES NCO

How long have you been in this unit?

- I've been here 2 years in December (2012).

What do you like most about this

unit?

- It is hard to say, because it still feels like we're still setting up because we're gradually gaining more Soldiers and Officers. A couple of years ago there were only two or three Soldiers and now we have so many people we've had to set up a rating scheme.

What do you do on the civilian side?

- My position is Program Analyst for the USFK J2. I've been with the J2 for 20 years! I actually ran into a Major on the street who I knew as a Captain and several years after that he came back as a Full Bird Colonel! They call me the J2 Historian. Wow!

How do you like serving in Korea?

- I love my job and what I'm doing.

Have you ever served on active duty?

- Yes, for 4 years, from 1988 to 1992.

So how long have you been in the reserves?

- I had a 10 year break in service and joined the Reserves in '02.

What made you want to come back in?

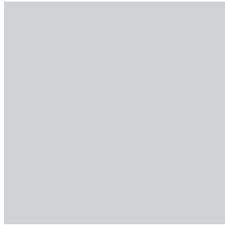
- I thought about why I broke my service and I wanted to continue.

In what ways can we improve our organization?

- The long-term plan we've recently received is good because it incorporates the mandatory Army training we need to complete for the year. We could do more team-building activities that are outside of the office too such as visiting orphanages or even hiking the mountains nearby.

Have you participated in an exercise since you've been here?

Not with this unit. I participate fully with my civilian job because we are always engaged in exercises.



SPC JOHN STANSBURY
MOS 35F- ALL SOURCE
INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

How long have you been in this unit?

- Since October 2008; one month after I ETSed from Active Duty. I was on AD from 2004-2008. But I was

actually a Reservist before that for about a year until I realized that it was a bit harder than I thought to get a job. That's when I went on Active Duty.

How did you come to be assigned to the 501st MI BDE?

- Actually, I saw e-mails from a staff sergeant from the IRR (Individual Ready Reserve). I told him I'd been trying to join the Reserves and he said he could help me with that and asked where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do. I told him "Intel Analyst and Yongsan." And that's how I ended up here.

What do you do on the civilian side?

- I work for a company called Computer Sciences Corporations as an electronics technician. We repair simulated devices throughout Korea and Guam.

Tell me a little bit about how your civilian job carries over to your military specialty and vice versa.

- I actual joined the Army to build my trade as an electronics technician. The Recruiter wanted me to do Radio COMSEC Repair even though I wanted to be a Cable Dog. Since he could get me to Korea I figured that Radio COMSEC wouldn't be too bad. I went to Ft. Gordon, GA and graduated Honor Graduate from Radio COMSEC school.

What training would you like to see your unit conduct?

- I am extremely fond of weapons. I used to be a weapons trainer on different weapons in old BN. So, going to a heavy weapons range would be great! I want to learn more about the MI MOS too. We could really take advantage of the EST (Engagement Skills Trainer). We should all get orders to Ft. Benning and go to Airborne School! (laughs) It is nice that things are becoming more organized and we have a better schedule. I have to say that I really like the camaraderie here in this unit. It's what keeps me here. 🇺🇸