

# NCO's 'house calls' fix radars and save lives in remote reaches of Afghanistan

By Spc. John A. Martinez  
Task Force Centaur →

When a radar dish malfunctioned Sept. 15 near Combat Outpost Chamkani, a small outpost located in a remote, mountainous region of Afghanistan's Khost province near the Pakistan border, a repair team was summoned for the risky task of crossing a mountain in a hostile environment to replace it.

Within an hour, the team diagnosed the system, replaced the radar and was ready to move on to the next mission.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher B. Sutton, a fire finder radar operator with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Centaur, led the team.

Sutton, a 14-year Army veteran, works with intricate computer systems known as lightweight counter mortar radar. The main function of the system is to detect incoming mortars and identify their firing locations.

"I love this job and everything that comes with it," he said. "This job saves lives."

Part of that job is making sure the system is in good working order, he said.

"The LCMR is a tool well-suited for the fight coalition forces are currently engaged in with insurgents," said Spc. Magella Correa, one of Sutton's team members. "Because of the LCMR's ability to detect and designate where enemy mortars are fired, we are able to find and counter-fire on the insurgent that attacked us."

Sutton said he started his career primarily to "see the world through a secured job."

As he matured, so did his desire to care for his growing family, which now consists of his wife, Tiffany; son, Christopher; and daughter, Icic.

Working long hours and being constantly on the move isn't easy. For Sutton, however, his family plays a large part in why he does this job.

"It's hard to be away from them. But they understand this is my job," he explained. "This is what I do to take care of them, as well as the nation as a whole."

Since Sutton's team, based out of Forward Operating Base Salerno, is in constant demand, it is never in one spot for long. "I'm based at FOB Salerno, but I don't live there. I visit," Sutton quipped. "Wherever they need us, we go."

Most of Sutton's time is spent making the journey to a number of different combat outposts, he said. The team is constantly on the move and gets warm welcomes at several of the more



Photo by Spc. John A. Martinez

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher B. Sutton adjusts a lightweight counter mortar radar system Sept. 15 at Combat Outpost Chamkani in the Khost province of Afghanistan.

remote outposts, such as Chamkani.

"It's a great honor to know you are recognized for doing good work," he said.

Being a fire finder radar operator isn't easy. It requires its technicians to be highly knowledgeable about the equipment to be able to troubleshoot the dish, Sutton said.

"As with most jobs, skills are perishable," he explained. Sutton said his team stays sharp by staying busy.

"Most Soldiers get their training through classes and reading," he said. "We get ours through actual hands-on experience, and in most cases, while under duress."

Sutton said leading his team and being a Soldier isn't a 9-to-5 job. "It's more than wearing a uniform," he said. "It's about sacrifice, hard work and doing everything you can to wear the uniform with pride. To me, every Soldier's job is an important one."

Sutton credits his family with inspiring him to do what needs to be done regardless of how tired he may be or how dangerous the task.

"My family looks at me as their hero, so I work hard on being that person for them," Sutton said. "My son told me, 'Dad, you're my hero,' and because of his words, I do everything I can to do things better than before, because I don't want to ever let my family down."

# Army Field Band staff sergeant wins Emmy for work as highlight producer

By Lisa R. Rhodes  
Fort Meade Soundoff

The gold and black Emmy statue arrived in July in a black box. Since then, Staff Sgt. Jared Morgan's supervisor and several of his colleagues at the U.S. Army Field Band have been quite impressed. But he remains humble.

"I never really told anybody," said Morgan, 31, the organization's media producer. "Everybody here is very educated and established in their own right. [The Emmy] helps me blend in."

The 32nd Annual Sports Emmy Awards were presented May 2 in New York City. Morgan was among the more than 150 nominees in 33 categories, including outstanding live sports special, live series, sports documentary, studio show, promotional announcements, play-by-play personality and studio analyst.

Morgan, who did not attend the awards presentation, won in the "Outstanding Studio Show Daily" category for his work as a highlight producer for the Major League Baseball Network, a cable television network. Morgan was one of several highlight producers recognized for their contributions to a season of *MLB Tonight*, a daily sports show that features one-minute recaps of baseball events.

"I'm extremely impressed and glad we hired him," said Master Sgt. Scott Vincent, the Army Field Band's production manager and Morgan's supervisor. "It has really enhanced our public image to have someone with such in-depth industry knowledge."

Morgan worked at the MLB Network for about a year before joining the Army Field Band in October 2010. He learned about his win in June, when he visited the Facebook pages of several of his former MLB Network colleagues who were sharing congratulatory notes. A colleague sent Morgan the list of winners, and he saw his name.

"It is cool. I sent the list to my mother," Morgan said. "[The Emmy statue is] a nice thing to have in my office. It's great to have it."

As the Army Field Band's media producer, Morgan is responsible for creating

the organization's visual content for the Internet, as well as music videos, DVDs and short television promos. He also films many of the Army Field Band's live concerts.

Morgan joined the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1997 during his junior year in high school. He was then assigned to the New Jersey Army National Guard's 63rd Army Band, where he played the French horn.

Morgan graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in broadcasting from Montclair State University in New Jersey and landed a job as a television editor at CBS Sports the following year. He also worked as an audio technician for the U.S. Army Soldier Show before being hired at the MLB Network.

Vincent said with Morgan's expertise in broadcast media, the Army Field Band is "branching out into a whole new realm and reaching a whole new demographic" — particularly young music enthusiasts.

In preparation for the holiday season, Morgan just completed shooting an Army Field Band Christmas music video that will be broadcast on the Pentagon Channel.



Photo by Jonathan Agee

Staff Sgt. Jared Morgan, a media producer for the U.S. Army Field Band, won an Emmy in May for his contributions in 2010 as a highlight producer for the Major League Baseball Network. In his current position, Morgan creates visual content for the Internet, music videos and short television promos.



# Togolese journalist returns to Africa as a U.S. civil affairs Soldier

By Senior Airman Jarad A. Denton  
Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa →

During a recent civil affairs mission through Djibouti, Cpl. Kwami Koto, the information manager for Civil Affairs Team 4902 at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, was able to articulate his connection to the African continent and its people.

“You see those kids playing soccer barefoot?” he asked his team chief as their vehicle passed by children running around on a dirt field. “That used to be me.”

Koto, a resident of Denton, Texas, was born in Togo, a nation in West Africa. In the wake of a military coup d’etat and cultural turmoil nearly 10 years ago, he and his wife fled their homeland as political refugees and sought asylum in the United States.

“Human rights in Togo were being systematically violated,” he said. “As a journalist, I started writing about it, denouncing the military regime’s abuses.”

Koto and his family began to receive death threats. He weighed his options carefully: Stay in Togo and likely be killed while reporting on the unfolding situation, or flee to America.

“I chose the latter,” he said.

After coming to the United States, Koto went to work as a program manager for a marketing company. He attended graduate school in his free time, earning his master’s degree in journalism in the spring of 2005. Four years ago, Koto decided to demonstrate his pride for his adoptive country and enlisted in the Army Reserve.

“It is a pride not only for myself, but for my family — my parents and my entire hometown back in Togo,” he said. “They are all proud to have a son who serves in the most prestigious, and by far the best, Army in the world.”

Army Reserve officials decided Koto was best suited to build relationships with villages and government leaders throughout the Horn of Africa. To him, the journey has been an astonishing one.

“Thirty-five years ago, I was playing here as a kid — kicking an orange because we couldn’t afford a soccer ball,” he said as a proud smile grew on his face. “Now I wear the uniform of a U.S. Army Soldier. I never could have imagined it years ago. It’s indescribable, the feeling I get when I travel to African villages and help bring about change.”

As an Army civil affairs Soldier, Koto said returning to Africa has been a life-changing event for him.

“I had seen Americans before, when I was in Togo,” he said. “I learned English from a Peace Corps teacher. I never forgot those lessons or the interactions I had with the Americans. I



Photo by Senior Airman Jarad A. Denton

Cpl. Kwami Koto, a native of Togo, uses his experiences to engage with the people of Djibouti while serving as a civil affairs team member with Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

make sure to treat the people I meet now the way I want them to remember me.”

Civil affairs Soldiers assess and engage local leaders at both the village and government levels. They build relationships with the people through a spirit of cooperation facilitated by African leaders.

Capt. Justin Lev, chief of Team 4902, said having Koto on the team has been invaluable.

“From day one, he’s been working with us on understanding the African people,” Lev said. “The reason we are able to work so well with them is because of Koto.”

Lev added that Koto brings a unique perspective on Africa’s potential to the team’s mission.

“This is a land of opportunity,” Koto said. “Africa presents people with both an opportunity to help and an opportunity to learn. Just like all the opportunities we have in the United States, the ones here should not be taken for granted.”

As an American who earned his citizenship in February 2009, Koto has strong and passionate feelings for both his home and adopted countries.

“I love Africa,” he said. “I love it in the same way I love the United States — with my whole heart.”