

5th Signal Command

Winter 2007

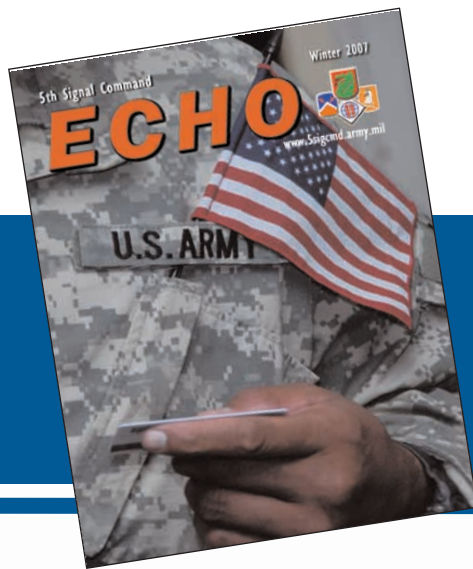
# ECHO



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U.S. ARMY

Welcome Home



## Cover Photo

During the last few months, 5th Signal Command Soldiers from both 22nd Signal Brigade and 72nd Signal Battalion returned from operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

*Photo by Sgt. Elizabeth Erste, 5th Signal Command, PAO*

# Warfighters Return to Germany

*This issue of the ECHO magazine is dedicated to the great Soldiers of the 22nd Signal Brigade and 72nd Signal Battalion. Thank you for your sacrifice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are so proud of you. Welcome Home!*



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakelee, ECHO Editor*

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**ECHO**

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# From the Commanding General



**A**s we enter a new year, I could not be more proud of 5th Signal Command and U. S. Army, Europe G6 Soldiers, civilians, and their families. Over the past year, you have worked tirelessly to achieve our goals and objectives, and you have done so magnificently.

Thank you for your tremendous professionalism, service, sacrifice, and commitment to 5th Signal Command, USAREUR, our Army, and our nation. It was through your extraordinary efforts that we collectively achieved success during a very challenging year for the command. Well done!

My command priorities for **2007** remain unchanged; **People First; War-Winning Readiness, and Quality of Life / Well-Being.** Our People - our Soldiers, civilians, contract employees, and their families - are our greatest asset, without whom we could not successfully accomplish our mission. We will continue to invest in their training, their equipment, and their professional development, and always ensure every 5th Signal Command Soldier is prepared to safely deploy and accomplish his or her mission. We will sustain a positive, caring, and supportive command climate, work environment, and quality of life to achieve General McKiernan's, commanding general, USAREUR & 7th Army, intent of keeping USAREUR a great location for Soldiers and families.

The Signal Regiment in Europe is currently immersed in a dynamic era of change and opportunity as we continue to transform, inactivate, restructure and/or rebase our Signal formations and organizations; train and prepare forces for deployment; field new tactical and strategic communications systems; expand and strengthen the USAREUR IT infrastructure; support USAREUR, V Corps, SETAF, and Stryker Brigade Combat Team joint and multi-national training exercises, and mature Army Knowledge Management Enterprise, Single DOIM, and Network Operations initiatives.

2007 will be a pivotal year for the command in all of these activities and initiatives, and although we face several challenges in achieving end state objectives, I remain confident that because of the extraordinary professionalism, experience, and commitment of our tremendous Soldiers and civilians, we are postured for success. As such, this is an exciting time to serve in and be a part of USAREUR & 7th Army and 5th Signal Command, and experience first-hand successful accomplishment of these significant efforts for our Army, USAREUR, and the U.S Army Signal Regiment.

Articles in this edition of the ECHO highlight the return of the 22nd Signal Brigade and 72nd Signal Battalion from year-long

deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Serving as communicators at the tip of the spear, Task Force Adler changed the landscape and mission of Signal in support of OIF by establishing the first Signal Joint Network Control Center - Iraq, while Soldiers of the 72nd Signal Battalion supported the Task Force by providing communications from Northern Iraq to Southern Kuwait, meeting the ever-changing needs of joint and multinational forces. Setting a standard for efficiency and effectiveness, Task Force Adler accomplished their mission while simultaneously ensuring the safe return of every Soldier in the Task Force. What a remarkable achievement. We are so proud of each of you and especially your families for your selfless service and sacrifice.

Next, we review the training exercises and exchanges that sharpen our Soldiers as warfighters. From Italy to Belgium, and all across Germany, 5th Signal Command continues to work with our allies and coalition partners to improve communications interoperability.

And, we take a moment to look back at history. Current members of the 5th Signal team share their stories, beginning in the trenches of World War II, and marching forward to the days of the Digital Electronic Backbone.

Finally, we look to our future. In doing so, we continue to build our benchmark of excellence and develop the bridge to future waves of technology. As USAREUR evolves and transforms, we lay the lines. 5th Signal Command will continue to raise the bar and lead the way in providing exceptional Signal communications support and capabilities to the warfighter - here in Europe and beyond.

**Dragon Warriors - Army Strong!**

**DENNIS L. VIA**  
Brigadier General (P), USA  
Commanding

# Welcome Back — Signaleers —

*Soldiers of the 22nd Signal Brigade and the 72nd Signal Battalion recently returned to Germany after year-long deployments to the Middle East.*

*While deployed the Soldiers provided communications support to Army warfighters, joint services and multinational forces throughout the theatre of operations. The two stories that follow highlight their missions.*

## 22nd Signal Brigade sets Signal standard in Iraq

**CAPT. MATTHEW PARISH**  
*S1, 22nd Signal Brigade*

It was obvious as the 22nd Signal Brigade's first boots touched ground in Iraq in October of 2005 -- their mission and the related threats had drastically changed since their first departure from Operation Iraqi Freedom in February of 2004.

The 22nd Signal Brigade, known as Task Force Adler, successfully met the needs of this challenge. They maintained the largest forward tactical network in the United States military, covering approximately 172,000 square miles in the Iraq Theater of Operations (ITO).

During the deployment, the 22nd Signal Brigade trained on emerging technologies in theater, assisted in the development of the Iraqi Army, implemented new theories in communications support to commercialize the network, and worked towards finalizing the replacement of Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE) on the battlefield with high-bandwidth capable commercial and strategic equipment.

"Task Force Adler planned and established the first four-star Joint Task Force-level Network Operations Control Center. The Joint NETOPS Control Center -- Iraq, called the JNCC-I, now serves as a model for future



22nd Signal Brigade

72nd Signal Battalion

JTF organizations,” said Col. Fred Cross, Commander, 22nd Signal Brigade.

### Mission Diversity

Though Soldiers from the 22nd Signal Brigade left Darmstadt, Germany as a Corps Signal Brigade, they fulfilled tactical and strategic missions on the battlefield which included new communication technologies, to include installing fiber optics, tech control facilities, commercial satellites and a coalition network.

From the perspective of their mission, the main difference between OIF I and OIF 05-07 was that the network had morphed from a tactical network to a mixture of tactical, strategic, and commercial assets, enabling the warfighter to complete the mission on a 21st Century battlefield.

Prior to departure, the 22nd Signal Brigade sought training from sister units in Europe to meet the changing needs of the Signal mission in Iraq. For example, the 440th Signal Battalion cross-trained with the 52nd Signal Battalion and 6981st Civilian Support Group prior to departing. Once downrange, the Task Force Adler utilized the Baghdad Signal University (BSU) as another tool to provide Soldiers with the means to learn their new jobs. Classes covered commercializing a tactical network, how to configure Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones with call managers, routers and Joint Network Nodes.

The 22nd Signal Brigade went beyond the implementation of their new training. Students became teachers when Soldiers from the brigade shared their knowledge and skills with Soldiers in the Iraqi Army. As one Soldier put it, “it is highly important that the Iraqi Signal Soldiers learn the ability to understand, operate and maintain the communications in an adapting network that meets the needs of their

Army.”

Not all training taught by the 22nd Signal Brigade was communication related, however. The 16th Signal Battalion conducted training with their food service counterparts from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division, focusing on field food service operations – sanitation, safety, and preparation basics. Soldiers of the 29th Signal Battalion were assigned to Entry Control Point (ECP) guard, serving along side Kurdish Soldiers.

Battalions that fell under the 22nd Signal Brigade performed a diverse array of missions across Iraq. Upon deployment, the 440th Signal Battalion’s area of operations increased significantly with the assumption of missions from the 51st Signal Battalion (Airborne) and the added operational control of long range communications missions. Regardless, the 440th was the first battalion to completely replace Mobile Subscriber Equipment with a completely commercial network in their area of operations.

During the commercialization in northern Iraq, the 16th Signal Battalion began focused on developing Q-West Base Complex, the future contingency operations base and logistics hub for northern Iraq. The 16th Signal Battalion Cable Installation Team performed the majority of the physical labor by running in excess of 25 miles of fiber. They performed countless terminations and splices to provide the backbone for the fiber network at the Q-West Base Complex.

The 32nd Signal Battalion was charged with continuing the effort to install a commercial fiber optic network at the Logistics Support Activity (LSA) Anaconda as one of its missions. Once completed, the communication network looked similar to a Directorate of Information Management (DOIM) communications in garrison, freeing up tactical Signal

Soldiers for other assignments. Tactical communications provided a bare minimum services to the warfighter.

In Mosul, 29th Signal Battalion Soldiers initially resorted to alternative transmission media through the use of modems to replace tactical signal assemblages with commercial-off-the-shelf equipment. The expansion and contraction of the network within the western Ninevah Province was made possible through the creative solutions the Soldiers. In early June of 2006, the battalion received a Corps tasking to provide

data and voice services to five company outposts in the city of Tal Afar. Assessing the impact of deploying five Small Extension Nodes in the city, the leadership devised a commercial solution in which line-of-sight, internet protocol (IP) radios known as AN/30s and Free Space Optics, were used to transmit and receive data. These innovations replaced the communications services that would otherwise have required five Small Extension Nodes and up to 30 Soldiers to support.

Task Force Adler had to overcome many challenges during their commercialization, including trenching through cement roads and large rocks, dodging buried power lines and even the odd buried shipping container. This work also required intense physical labor in often adverse weather conditions.

Throughout, the 22nd Signal Brigade worked outside the normal boundaries of Signal doctrine. Not only did the required knowledge, skills, and abilities required by the brigade change, but the mission to maintain the communications network was altered to incorporate newer, high speed technologies, enhancing the warfighter’s ability to win the Global War on Terrorism.

Commercialization became the normal operating procedure for the 22nd Signal Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, using up-to-date commercial solutions. COTS equipment was used to increase bandwidth, provide higher data rates, and help bring the network into the 21st century.

### Transformation and Inactivation

The 22nd Signal Brigade commercialized the military communications network in Iraq, trained with emerging technologies, and taught Iraqi Army Soldiers, yet its greatest achievement was being able to redeploy with 100 percent of its Soldiers.

Upon returning home to Darmstadt, Germany, the 22nd Signal Brigade transferred from the control of V Corps to 5th Signal Command on November 17, 2006 as part of the restructuring of U.S. Forces in Europe.

That transition marked the beginning of a new mission -- to inactivate the brigade.

Over the next seven months the 22nd Signal Brigade will execute its portion of the Commanding General’s plan for force restructuring in Europe. Personnel will move to other units and organizations in the U.S. Army, carrying with them the knowledge, skills, and pride that they have come to know while assigned to the 22nd Signal Brigade.

As the colors are cased in the summer of 2007, the Soldiers of the 22nd Signal Brigade will await the next time they are required to answer the call and support the mission of the United States Military.

## FAST FACT:

The concept of a commercial network is similar to that of a tactical network but the equipment is different and its capabilities are greater. Fiber cable runs from the Area Distribution Nodes (ADNs) in a ring. Each ADN can support up to eleven user buildings. The ADN fiber runs to a switch at the user building; from these run the CAT-5e cables which terminate at the subscribers’ computers and Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) terminals.

The network is controlled and administered at Technical Control Facilities (TCF). Inside TCFs, Soldiers manage and operate Promina Nodes, Call Managers and Servers, the “brain” of the communication network. Once the fiber network is complete and powered up, the status of the network connections through the ADNs are monitored from the TCF. From there, the fiber network connects to the outside world via satellite uplink through a tactical, strategic or commercial satellite dish that is co-located with the TCF.

# The Communications Battlefield

**72nd Signal Battalion** provides strategic communications capabilities to joint and multinational forces in Kuwait and Iraq

**LEANNE MACALLISTER**  
*PAO, 5th Signal Command*

Building upon the equipment, knowledge, and lessons learned of signal battalions that have rotated through bases across Kuwait and Iraq, Soldiers of the 72nd Signal Battalion expanded and improved the execution of communications support for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom during their year-long deployment.

The 350 Soldiers of the 72nd Signal Battalion, who returned to their home base of Mannheim in November 2006, provided communications support at six bases in Kuwait and 14 bases in Iraq while deployed.

"This is the most diverse mission we had ever been a part of. We were spread from the Persian Gulf to Northern sectors of Iraq," said Lt. Col. Anthony Dattilo, Commander, 72nd Signal Battalion. "We provided everything from network access to communications for our coalition partners, joint forces, state department staff, and the embassy. We were joint to the core in every aspect out there."

Soldiers of the 72nd provided internet connectivity, SIPRNET, NIPRNET, and phone and video teleconference services to thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, as well as coalition forces stationed in Kuwait and Iraq. Utilizing the global information grid, the 72nd Signal Battalion also ensured reach back capabilities to U.S. Army, Europe and other home bases for warfighters across OIF and OEF.

## Mission Challenges

The 72nd, a tactical signal battalion of the 7th Signal Brigade, 5th Signal Command, demonstrated maximum flexibility by transforming to meet the Command and Control requirements of the OIF theater.

Though skilled in tactical communications, in some instances Soldiers had to quickly adapt their skills to perform strategic operational requirements on commercial

equipment employed downrange, instead of implementing their organic and more familiar tactical equipment.

"The main issue was training," according to Staff Sgt. Tara Bussey, who led the communications mission at the Aerial Port of Debarkation (APOD). "We had to overcome the fact that there was more to this mission than putting up tents and tactical structures for mobile communications. We manned operational equipment there, similar to what would be used at a permanent base."

Bussey's team provided all links for communications to the APOD. The group of ten Soldiers utilized commercial off-the-shelf equipment to successfully maintain the critical network. At most sites, embedded contractors provided training and expertise, but Soldiers of the 72nd mastered the equipment on their own through "on the job training."

How did they accomplish this mission? The response was unanimous -- lots of on the job training, or OJT as they say. From studying manuals, to trial and error, Soldiers sought new solutions daily to maintain communications and complete their individual missions.

According to Sgt. Mark Fourie, A Co., 72nd Signal Battalion, this approach worked --the APOD site was the only technical control facility run solely by the Army.

In Nov. 2006, they passed responsibility of their mission to the 386th Expeditionary Communications Squadron. The shift emphasized the seamlessly joint environment of OIF and OEF operations.

Sgt. Jonathan Roy, B Co., 72nd Signal Battalion, while stationed at Arifjan, faced similar challenges with the shift from a tactical to operational focus in their satellite mission. "During the deployment our mission switched from a mobile satellite mission to a strategic one, while simultaneously we physically moved the mission from one zone to another."

Though Army Signal Soldiers continue

to maintain the Arifjan Earth Terminal Complex since the departure of the 72nd Signal Battalion, the requirement for joint and multinational communications transparency continues to evolve.

In addition to strategic mission requirements and taking over responsibilities previously maintained by contractors, Soldiers of the 72nd Signal Battalion also operated help desks at multiple locations.

Furthermore, during their mission, everyone in Kuwait transitioned to the status of PKI compliant through the assistance provided by help desk Soldiers.

All of these missions were accomplished while working in a highly complex, secure network, and encompassing a vast region of the battlefield.

## Benefits

The challenges of the deployment, though difficult, actually benefited many members of the 72nd Signal Battalion.

"I received great training on strategic equipment while using the skills I trained on ahead of time," said Roy. "I am grateful for the opportunity."

Bussey echoed this sentiment.

"I have served in the Army for 10 years, and I have learned more in the past year than the other nine combined. This deployment has been such a rewarding experience. It has convinced me to reclass to 25B," she said, in explaining her desire to transition from a tactical military occupational specialty to an operational specialty.

Both Soldiers have completed deployments in support of OIF multiple times.

"Basically, I know how it [the joint network node] works now. I can see how the whole picture and how it comes together in the end," said Roy.

Beyond the bridging of military signal specializations in the warzone, the 7th Signal Brigade's units - from the 44th Signal Battalion's 2004-2005 OEF deployment to the 72nd's 2006 OIF deployment -- have truly led the way in the transformation and improvement of communications capabilities to the warfighter.

"The signal corps connects the battlefield there," said Dattilo.



*Photo by Master Sgt. Jimmie Dale, G3, 5th Signal Command*

**Chief Warrant Officer James Jackson, G4, 5th Signal Command, inspects Spc. Bryan Steele's tool kit in the 587th Signal Company arms room. Steele is the unit armorer for both the 587th Signal Co. and the 52nd Signal Battalion. Jackson was conducting a Command Logistics Review Program inspection for the battalion.**

# An Army way of life

**SGT. ELIZABETH ERSTE**  
*5th Signal Command, PAO*

The musty smell of old manuals permeates the room, a military wall locker still in use, with a rusty 10 kg iron ball for bicep curls on the floor in front of it. Issues of Army newspapers are stacked on a table next to various other military publications. The carpet is clean, the surfaces dust free; everything has its place and is in it.

His appearance is as sharp as his mind. He is soft spoken, yet with a voice that makes a Soldier pay attention. His words are tinged with knowledge and a slight southern twang.

Chief Warrant Officer James A. Jackson joined the Army in 1964 as an enlisted radio repairman, and worked his way up the ranks. His unshakeable foundation of values, steadfastness as a Soldier, and zest for knowledge have been the backbone of his long, successful career in the Army. This and the fact that he has more time in the federal service than any other warrant officer in the United States Army Ordnance Corps can be an inspiration to Soldiers everywhere.

## **The early years**

Born January 21, 1946, Jackson was raised in Greenback, Tenn. on a 64-acre farm with his four brothers, three sisters, and parents. His father owned the farm he worked, as well as a 115-acre farm

they used to grow tobacco. His father also worked full time at the local Alcoa Aluminum plant.

"My father would send us kids out to work the farm. I was up milking cows, doing chores before I went to school in the morning," Jackson said, shaking his head and chuckling at the memory. "It was hard work but it made me what I am today."

When he was 11-years old, his father made him save half of his earnings. "He told me I could do whatever I wanted with the rest," he said. "I still do that to this day, it was a good lesson; it taught me patience and restraint."

The lessons that Jackson learned on the farm carried him into the Army and through his life. "You can never forget where you came from," he said. "You take what you learned; apply it to yourself and how you live your life."

## **Becoming a Soldier**

"I originally wanted to be an airborne infantryman. I ended up as a radio repairman," he said laughing.

Yet, his most memorable event in Army was Basic Radio School. "It opened up a whole new world, it was the basis for the steps I would take to achieve what I have now," he added. All he had done before the Army was farm work for his neighbors and family, he explained. Maintenance and soldiering was different and exciting.



"You have to pick what you want to do and stick with it; once you have done that, you set goals for yourself and go from there," he said. "I realized in school that this is what I wanted to do."

### His enlisted story

Jackson's first duty station was in Mannheim, Germany with the 504th Signal Company.

"I worked right behind the commissary," he said, laughing. "I started here and will be ending here."

In 1968, he served in Vietnam, taking his brother's spot when he came up on orders. Jackson volunteered to go in his place since two males in the same family could not go to war at the same time in those days. He was pinned buck sergeant while in Vietnam.

Shortly after returning, he earned his Staff Sgt.'s stripes in 1969. By the time he reached Sgt. 1st Class, he was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Electronic Repair and Maintenance Division for Infantry Hall, Fort Benning, Georgia. It was there when he was serving as platoon sergeant that his commander, Chief Warrant Officer Henry Riley, recognized his potential to become a warrant. He prodded Jackson to put in his warrant officer packet. "He kept at me for two years before I actually put it in (packet)," said Jackson. "I wanted to be an NCO, a Sergeant Major."

### The transition to warrant officer

Jackson's packet was rejected twice. The first time he simply did not qualify, the second time he passed the board, but there were better qualified candidates. While he waited to resubmit each time, he finished college and correspondence courses.

"You work hard, improve yourself, and prepare for the future while taking care of today the best way you can," Jackson explained.

Finally, in 1980, the third time he submitted his packet, he was directly appointed to become a warrant. From there he moved through a variety of assignments, including three tours in Korea and participation in Desert Storm/Desert Shield. While in Korea, he served as the S-4, Chief of Maintenance at 1st Signal Brigade. In 2003, Jackson was called to Washington D.C. from Alabama to sit on a board to review and recommend warrants for promotion.

On the road to success, he also had to overcome adversity.

Jackson has survived two serious car wrecks. The second, in September of 2001, almost caused him to be medically discharged from the Army. He sustained significant head trauma, and held out through a tough recovery period that required surgery. He battled back with success and became the Chief of the Warrant Officer Training Division at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama in 2002.

Shortly after, he was diagnosed with cancer. He pushed through the subsequent radiation treatments. He did not allow any of it to hold him back though. "I just kept doing what I was doing; I just kept moving," he said.

### Heading toward the end of an Army career

"My motto is to look like a Soldier, act like a Soldier, perform like a

Soldier," said Jackson. "A good Soldier does good things."

At 60 years old with 42 years active duty, CW5 Jackson practices what he preaches.

Jackson walks with his shoulders back, wearing a spotless uniform, to his position as the Senior Electronic Systems Maintenance Technician at 5th Signal Command, in Mannheim, Germany. He is the officer in charge of the Command Logistics Review Program, which involves inspecting the logistics of the command's battalions throughout Europe.

Whether Jackson is walking at a furious pace during his daily workout or heading into work, cries of "Hey Chief, how are you?" or "Hooah Sir!" are heard. He replies with an ever ready smile, wave and salute.

"He leads by example; he always looks squared away, he has a firm grasp on all maintenance areas, and is the only CW-5, at 60 years old that I've seen do PT," said Master Sgt. Matthew Coulter, G-4, 5th Signal Command, shaking his head incredulously. "He's a good leader."

Shaped by his experiences, he teaches what he knows.

"I love helping Soldiers; I had good teachers, I try to do the same," said Jackson. "No one has achieved what they have by themselves, everyone has mentors, to push you and believe in you."

Jackson stays on top of military happenings, he tracks regulations, watches what goes on financially; if he doesn't know something he knows who to call to find out, said Master Sgt. Jimmie Dale, G-4, 5th Signal Command.

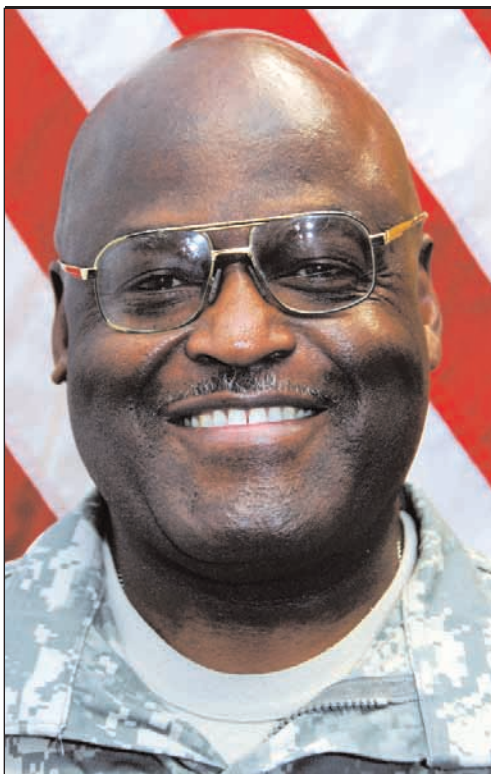
"Chief is very wise, he gives good advice," said Dale. "He is knowledgeable in so many areas, and has so much experience you can pull from him."

### The next step

Chief Jackson will retire in 2008, with 43 years of active duty service.

"Somewhere in your life, you have to make a change and do something different," said Jackson.

After all, he said, "What you put into life is what you get out of it."



## James 'Chief' Jackson

**Current Position:** Senior Electronic Systems Maintenance Technician at the 5th Signal Command.

**Career Highlights:** Jackson received a direct appointment to warrant officer duty in 1980. His favorite assignment was as the Chief of the Warrant Officer Training Division.

**Family:** Jackson has been married for 39 years to his wife, Joanne. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.

**Hobbies:** In his free time, Jackson enjoys rebuilding old cars like the 1970s Mustang he owns, and he plans to restore old houses during his retirement.

**Heroes:** Jackson's role model is (CW4 Retired) Henry Riley. "He was my mentor and I always followed in his footsteps. He encouraged me to become a warrant officer. In 1999, he traveled to Ft. Campbell to pin my CW5. I really respect him," said Jackson.

# Connecting the Balkans

## 5th Signal team equips U.S. and NATO Forces in Bosnia with new network

**LEANNE MACALLISTER**  
*PAO, 5th Signal Command*

"We had to react quickly," said Staff Sgt. James Copas, network installer with the 44th Signal Battalion, 7th Signal Brigade. "We didn't just hit the ground running. It was a sprint."

With less than a week's notice, 14 Soldiers from across 5th Signal Command voluntarily deployed to Bosnia to establish a mission-specific, tailored network and to maintain communications support for NATO, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army Forces in Butmir and Tuzla.

U.S. Army, Europe chose to terminate a service contract with Sprint that had been providing a level of services no longer required for the current force size, according to Brig. Gen. Weber, NATO and Army Forces Commander in Bosnia, in August.

USAREUR is currently undergoing the process of consolidating contracts for Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Croatia, but still requires communications services in Bosnia during the interim period between contracts. 5th Signal Command's expeditionary capabilities were the key to bridge the capability gap through December 2006, explained Weber.

"We were looking for efficiencies and prioritizing our needs," Weber said. "Bringing 5th Signal Command in just made sense. It is saving USAREUR millions of dollars."

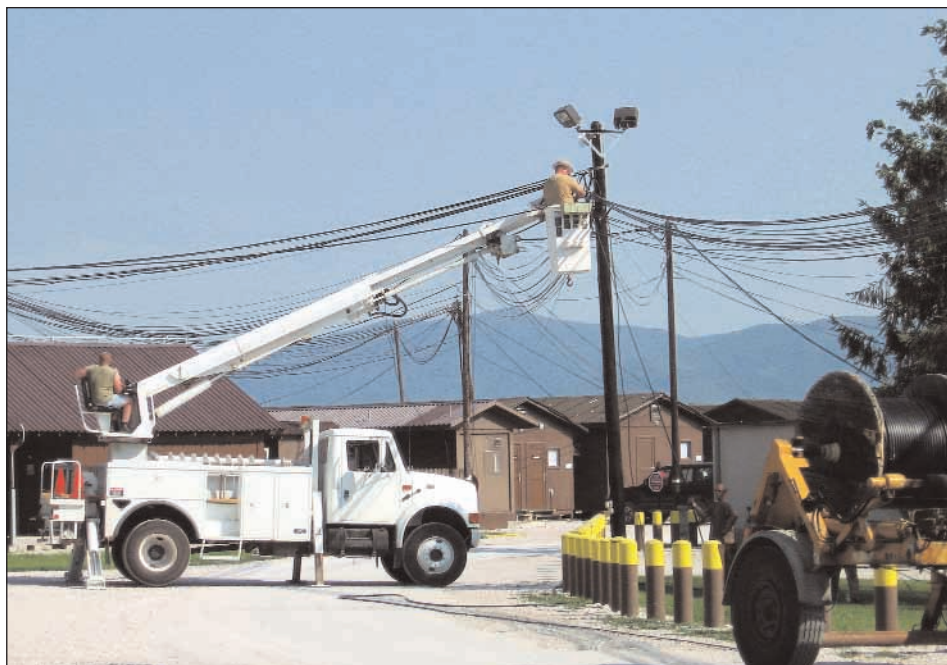
Fourteen Soldiers and one civilian are working around the clock to ensure continuous reliable communications for approximately 500 U.S. Soldiers and civilians in Bosnia. The 5th Signal Command team and its expeditionary communications package have effectively and seamlessly replaced approximately 70 Sprint contractors and the Sprint network.

"The Soldiers are performing tasks and managing responsibilities beyond their MOS to provide the necessary services here," said 1st Lt. Justin Zevenbergen. "It's been a great learning experience."

The newly created network and operations center provides all data and voice capabilities, to include patches, phones, internet service, NIPRNET and SIPRNET.

### **Laying the Lines**

Because Sprint pulled out their equipment when their contract terminated, civilians from the 6981st Civilian Service Group, 2nd Signal Brigade, also deployed in August to lay cable



*Photo Courtesy of 6981st Civilian Service Group*

**Civilians from the 6981st Civilian Support Group put in new telephone poles and laid over 22,000 meters of cables in just two weeks at Eagle Base and Butmir Base in Bosnia.**

as the critical foundation of the newly designed network.

"We laid 7,000 meters of indoor cabling and 15,000 meters of outdoor cabling, and put in new telephone poles in two and a half weeks," recalled Dietmar Banasch, 6981st CSW. Banasch, a German local national employee who has 23 years with 5th Signal Command, has stayed in Bosnia with the Soldiers to troubleshoot any issues with the cabling.

While installers laid the cables, the team - a mix of Soldiers from 7th Signal Brigade and 2nd Signal Brigade's subordinate units: 39th, 43rd, 52nd, 102nd and 509th Signal Battalions - established services rapidly, despite still being in the installation phase.

Sgt. Eric Jackson, 509th Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, recalled, "It was just a matter of getting everything installed while at the same time providing as much service as we possibly could with what he had set up to that point."

Within just two weeks, 5th Signal Command's Bosnia operations center opened its doors, utilizing new underground cabling and equipment provided by 5th Signal Command.

### **International Challenges and Customer Service**

Camp Eagle in Butmir is a temporary home to U.S., NATO, and European Forces, representing approximately 35 nations. "We provide all the phones and internet lines, so we come into contact with many different people and systems within the

European Forces," said Jackson.

On a daily basis, the Bosnia NSC fields service requests from Air Force, NATO, Army, Area Support Team, National Guard and Reserve personnel stationed at Butmir and Tuzla.

5th Signal team, according to Sgt. 1st Class Jessie Davis, 102d Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade.

"The learning curve here is pretty steep, but this experience is also a great crash course to improve our skills and get better at

**"Managing this communications requirement in Bosnia is a great example of 5th Signal Command's commitment to U.S. Army, Europe's Lean Six Sigma initiatives." – Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via**

From over the phone troubleshooting to on-site repair, 5th Signal Soldiers in Tuzla and Butmir provide 24/7 communications capabilities. Circuit maintenance is also provided by the

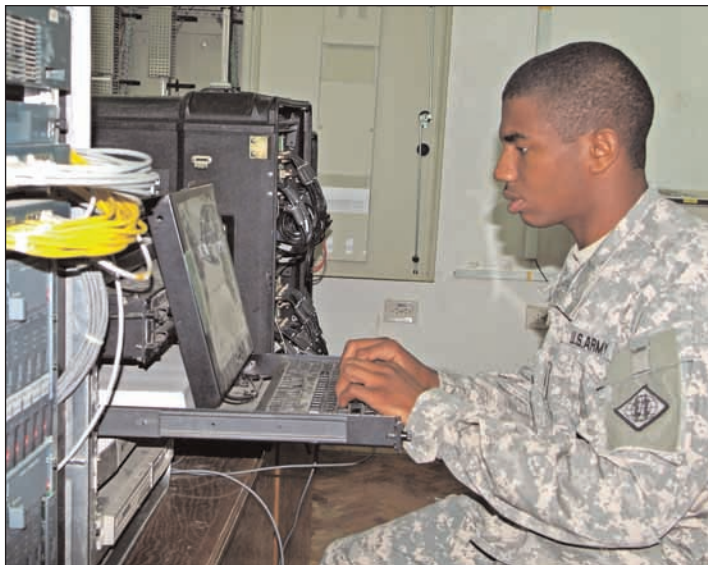


Photo by LeAnne Macallister, PAO, 5th Signal Command

what we do," said Davis.

5th Signal Command Soldiers' daily tasks include maintaining NIPRNET and SIPRNET capabilities, overseeing phone lines, and providing connectivity between U.S. Forces and European Forces, thus presenting a range of customer service challenges everyday.

"And they are doing great," says Weber. "It's obvious they are professional and know what they need to do."

"At the baseline of this process, communications requirements are being met; in the big picture, Army efficiency is highly increased," said Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via, Commanding General, 5th Signal Command and USAREUR G6.

"Managing this communications requirement in Bosnia is a great example of 5th Signal Command's commitment to the Army's Lean Six Sigma initiatives," added Via.

5th Signal Command's team will continue to provide communications until contract consolidation and hand-off is complete.

"The sprint may have slowed to a run," said Copas, "But we'll continue to run to ensure service needs are met."

**Sgt. Eric Jackson, 509th Signal Battalion, 2nd Signal Brigade, checks notes on the REDCOM system for faults and line dropouts in Tuzla, Bosnia.**

## Lean Six Sigma: what is it?

Lean and Six Sigma are both process improvement methodologies. Lean is about speed and efficiency, while Six Sigma is about precision and accuracy – leading to data-driven decisions.

Each approach on its own can result in dramatic improvement, however utilizing both methods simultaneously enable the process owner to address more types of process challenges by employing the methodology's most appropriate tools.

The lean Six Sigma goals and benefits are: to achieve total customer satisfaction and improved operational effectiveness and efficiency by removing wasteful or non-value added activities

and decreasing defects and cycle time; to improve communication and teamwork through a common set of tools and techniques; to develop leaders in



break-through technologies to meet stretch goals of producing better products and services delivered faster and at lower cost.

The Lean Six Sigma challenges users to: think differently, work differ-

ently, ask questions, challenge the Status Quo, make decisions with facts and data and to use new principles, tools and methodologies.

"It is designed to take work out and improve cycle time. Ultimately, it will lead to more efficient production that frees resources that can be used to better support the warfighting side of the Army," said Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army.

If you're interested in learning more about Lean Six Sigma and the Army go to [www.amc.army.mil/lean](http://www.amc.army.mil/lean).

-- Information and graphic from the U.S. Army Materiel Command

# Crossing Cultures

## Soldiers learn skills, foster friendships at German Ranges

**SGT. ELIZABETH ERSTE**  
*5th Signal Command, PAO*

**T**he metallic click of a loaded magazine sliding into place, a resounding thud of bullets hitting a target, coupled with laughter and broken language.

These are the sounds heard at an international range, one of the opportunities available to U.S. Army, Europe Soldiers serving in Germany.

These types of events come in many forms, such as the German Schutzenschnur, and the Annual International Shooting Competition, Walldurn.

The competitions not only offer a chance for Soldiers to test their warrior skills on unfamiliar weapons in a competition against the multinational forces who use them, but they also allow the Soldiers to be a part of maintaining established partnerships and to help foster new ones.

Soldiers, newly stationed in this country, may hear rumors of the German Schutzenschnur; they may seek to win the German marksmanship badge. Yet, a badge alone is not the only thing that they could take home with them that day. The possibility to strike up new friendships, learn about a different cultures, or ways of life, or even learning new techniques are benefits that can be taken advantage of during the event.

In September 2006, there was an Annual International Shooting Competition that began with dinner on Friday evening followed by a range on Saturday. The events were hosted by the German 461st Logistics Battalion.

This year, French Soldiers from Haguenau arrived in two tour buses to join with U.S. Soldiers and Airmen, mem-

bers of the German Armed Forces and a few Swiss military servicemembers.

Walking into the smoky meeting place, sights and sounds flooded the consciousness; shiny badges and brightly colored patches on uniforms of various patterns drew the eye, languages foreign to the ear were spoken rapidly and loudly, trying to be heard above the rest.

There were groups huddled together and groups circulating the room, trying out their hand at the other languages. Sign language, facial expressions and hand gestures were employed to get a point across. People spoke slowly, coaxing their mouths to wrap around words never tried before.

Dinner took place in the Schloss Bodigheim, a castle built in 1286 and owned by the reserve association that sponsored the range.

While walking under the old stone archway into the courtyard, history surrounded the participants. The fare served included sizzling schnitzel and cool salads. There were speeches made, and patches and badges exchanged.

The range itself offered familiarization with German weapons, friendly competition, and a chance to cultivate relationships sparked the night before.

"It's interesting to actually meet Soldiers from other countries, and talk to them, train with them; it was fun. It helped maintain relations between ourselves and the other countries," said Pfc. Antonio Modeste, G-2, 5th Signal Command.

"Essentially, we have the same basic job: defense of our country; we are just doing it under different flags," said Sgt. Aurelien Brevers, Ra-12, of Hageunau, France. "Because we share that common bond, I find this (range) a good circum-



stance to build new relationships and uphold those already established."

Also in September 2006, there was a shooting competition sponsored by Wonnegau Reserve Unit's Marksman Club, est. 1493, which took place in Bobenheim-Roxenheim.

Warm, homemade pretzels and rolls were served as the contestants trickled in.

A team of French police, German Water Police, teams of Americans, and



*Photos by Sgt. Elizabeth Erste, 5th Signal Command, PAO*

various other German teams sized each other up while chatting. The rules and order of fire were given. The cracks of the first bullets fired were heard, and the games began. Laughing, joking and the swapping of stories rose above the sounds of the shots, as teams mingled while they waited their turn.

"Besides honing your military skills, human interoperability is the main benefit of these types of events," said Joe Wetzl,



**Maj. Ben Morrill, J-4, Special Operations Command Europe, instructs Soldier 1st Class Eric Passeron, Ra-12, 67 Haguenau, on firing stance techniques for the pistol at the 7th Annual International Range held in Waldurn.**



**Above, participants pose for a group photo. The competitions not only offer a chance for Soldiers to test their warrior skills on unfamiliar weapons in a competition against the multinational forces, they allow the Soldiers to be a part of maintaining established partnerships and to help foster new ones. Left, Pfc. Antonio Modeste, G-2, 5th Signal Command, learns how to load a German MG3 machine gun from a German range safety officer during a 7th annual international shooting event sponsored by a reserve unit in the Baden-Wuerttemberg area.**

political advisor, 5th Signal Cmd. "During the process of the competition you learn about other people; all of a sudden you start to communicate even though you don't speak the language."

"It's great. We swap stories, and learn from one another," said Robert Hembrook, Deputy G-2, 5th Signal Command. "We're all the same inside,

despite the flag on our shoulder."

The international opportunities offered to Soldiers of 5th Signal Command go beyond basic travel options.

The chance to train and compete with Soldiers of other nations opens up another avenue to improving quality of life and strengthening coalition relations.

# Facility centralization increases communications efficiency in Europe

**BRUCE LEWIS**

*G3, 5th Signal Command*

**T**he U.S. Army, Europe computing environment is changing in a large and significant way. In the not so distant past every U.S. Army Garrison included a detachment or unit responsible for providing computing services and computer repair services.

Each unit owned and controlled servers and personal computers for their organization. The servers provided the basic file share and e-mail services. These services enabled the Soldier to communicate around the world. They interfaced with other units and organizations via the network provided by 5th Signal Command.

The care and feeding of this network grew into a tremendous undertaking and has often been described as an impossible requirement, yet 5th Signal Command and its supporting units have excelled at this undertaking. Regardless, time

marches on and circumstances change. The advances in technology and the face of our mission is changing. The Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) has forced us to modernize how we fight battles.

The battlefield of today includes the desktop and network environments. We must upgrade and harden our weapons in the network / computing battlefield.

The economics of today are forcing the Army to rethink how it deploys into the strategic environment and still provide support to tactical units. Here in Europe we are reducing the total number of operating facilities. With this drawdown we must change how we provide computing services to our Soldiers.

We must adapt new means to support our new higher mobility tactical fighting units. Our customers are the fighting Soldiers and other supporting units.

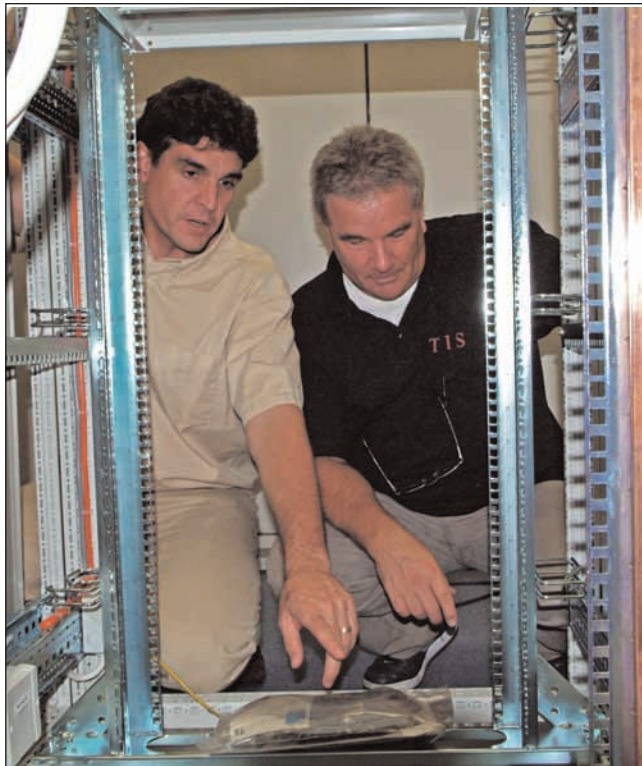
Supporting both the drawdown and the support requirement, U.S. Army, Europe and 5th Signal Command are changing how we provide networked computing services.

The establishment of Army Knowledge Management's (AKM) five major goals has forced the beginnings of this change into the networked computing environment.

Specifically, goal #3, "Manage the infostructure as an enterprise to enhance capabilities and efficiencies," lays this groundwork.

USAREUR G6, in collaboration with 5th Signal Command in the guise of Task Force Enterprise is working to do exactly this for the Army in Europe. A trend of the commercial world has been to centralize the data computing and storage functions into hardened facilities and provide higher capacity communications pipes through which the data can flow to and from remote sites faster. Thus these facilities provide higher capacities, greater reliability, and enhanced availability to customers.

By using commercial off-the-





Photos by Sgt. Elizabeth Erste, 5th Signal Command, PAO

**Above, Reinhard Schumacher, power and electrical wiring specialist for Telecommunication Installation Services, secures power cables for a new network hub as a part of the installation of the Dense Wave Division Multiplexing Optical Transport Network (DWDM-OTN). Left, Joseph Varga and Gerhard Schwarzenbacher discuss placement of a network hub.**

shelf software and hardware, the Army is becoming more efficient and economical in its operations and support of the new mobile tactical forces. Area Processing Centers (APCs) and Local Processing Centers (LPCs) have been established in strategic areas in USAREUR.

These facilities will provide exceptional increased capabilities in regards to confidentiality, integrity, and availability of mission critical data. These centers are now starting to provide expanded storage capabilities using advanced technology Storage Area Networks. SANs provide faster data access, increased storage reliability, and expanded data integrity. Server systems within these facilities are using new clustering technologies that permit systems to be linked between the APCs.

High speed communications links allowing for constant real time data replication business continuance are possible with little interruption to the customers. Thus disasters that might have crippled

the environment previously will now be survivable with little or no degradation in services.

Disaster Recovery Plans can now be centered around recovery and not on getting the business back up and running. Accessibility is being increased in the same manner as the commercial world. 5th Signal Cmd. is designing and installing larger more reliable communications links.

Both of these elements (advanced computing systems and communications links) combined will provide the tactical fighting units with increased computing capabilities to be even more successful in prosecuting the Global War On Terrorism.

## APCs: A Benchmark of Signal Transformation

Successful U.S. Army, Europe transformation relies heavily on the consolidation of computing services into Area Processing Centers (APCs) and Local Processing Centers (LPCs), which enhance the efficiency of services provided to the Soldier.

LPC/APCs are server consolidation facilities for file storage, e-mail accounts and Internet access. The centers increase network security, bandwidth, reliability and efficiency of services provided, while supporting information sharing and collaboration in a protected environment. APCs also provide continuity of operations and disaster recovery of all data stored in either an APC or LPC.

5th Signal Command plans to open its fourth processing center in Grafenwoehr, Germany in March. This ceremony marked the final step of the USAREUR's transition from 21 network service centers to four processing centers.

The Grafenwoehr APC will serve the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, the Joint Multinational Training Center, and various other U.S. Army units serving in Bavaria.

USAREUR's successful transition to APCs provides a benchmark for Signal transformation and serves as a model for other U.S. Army Major Commands as they transform.

-- LeAnne MacAllister, PAO 5th Signal Command

# Transforming The Data Backbone

**DARREN FRIESZ**  
*G3, 5th Signal Command*

Originally known as the DEB, the Digital European Backbone has gone through an amazing number of generational changes over the past several years. Although this robust radio network has supplied the Armed Forces their primary means of communication since roughly the end of World War II, it seems very little is known even today regarding the impact to the European theater. In fact, the DEB has been in almost continuous transition since the beginning.

Currently, 5th Signal Command is entering its final phase of the change and modernization process, leading the way for the Signal Corps through its partnership with U.S. Army, Europe and the Installation Management Command -- the decommissioning and dismantlement of the last remaining elements of this historic system and the completion of the Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP), utilizing powerful tools such as Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) and Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM) are part of that process.

## **A personal history of DEB**

*It was 1987. I became part of the DEB alumni when I had the rare opportunity to be stationed at the Donnersberg Defense Communications System (DCS) facility.*

*In those days, the moniker 'DCS' was the term used to count the hundred or so hilltop radio relay sites and technical control facilities from Bremerhaven to Vicenza, over the Zugspitze and across the English Channel. With their endless rows of analog patch panels and bountiful banks of cathode-tube-powered radio equipment, staying "on the air" was a labor of blood, sweat, and not a little ingenuity. But even before the DCS abbreviation was used, older iterations still coalesce in the recesses of my consciousness.*

*Looking back, I can recall the European Wideband Communication System (EWCS) with the fate of the entire theater resting in a three foot section of coaxial cable, the Digital Radio and Multiplexing Acquisition (DRAMA) with the introduction of solid state components, and the latest generation to end all bandwidth shortages forever, the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN-E) radio upgrade which changed the meager 26Mb/s links to a whopping 155Mb/s (classified by the ITU-T as an OC3 or Optical Carrier-3).*

*Ultimately though, this promise to usher in a new era of endless bandwidth lasted only as long as the next leap in technology and the newest video or data delivery requirement to the desktop.*

*At roughly the same time as the DISN-E radio upgrade was just kicking off, the Army witnessed the activation of the first Asynchronous Transfer Mode link over an early fiber optic cable connecting the Mannheim and Heidelberg communities.*

*Although this link was activated at 155Mb/s -- the same rate offered by the on-going radio upgrade, the possibilities for bandwidth expansion were numerous. Turning a 155Mb/s link into a 622Mb/s link was only a matter of changing two cards at each end of the link. This was a significantly different methodology than what was traditionally used. For decades, the DEB was completely re-invented; the entire system replaced every few years with a new generation of technology.*

*Of course, at the time no one anticipated the number of fiber optic links which would eventually spread throughout Europe 10 years later in practically every major installation in USAREUR.*

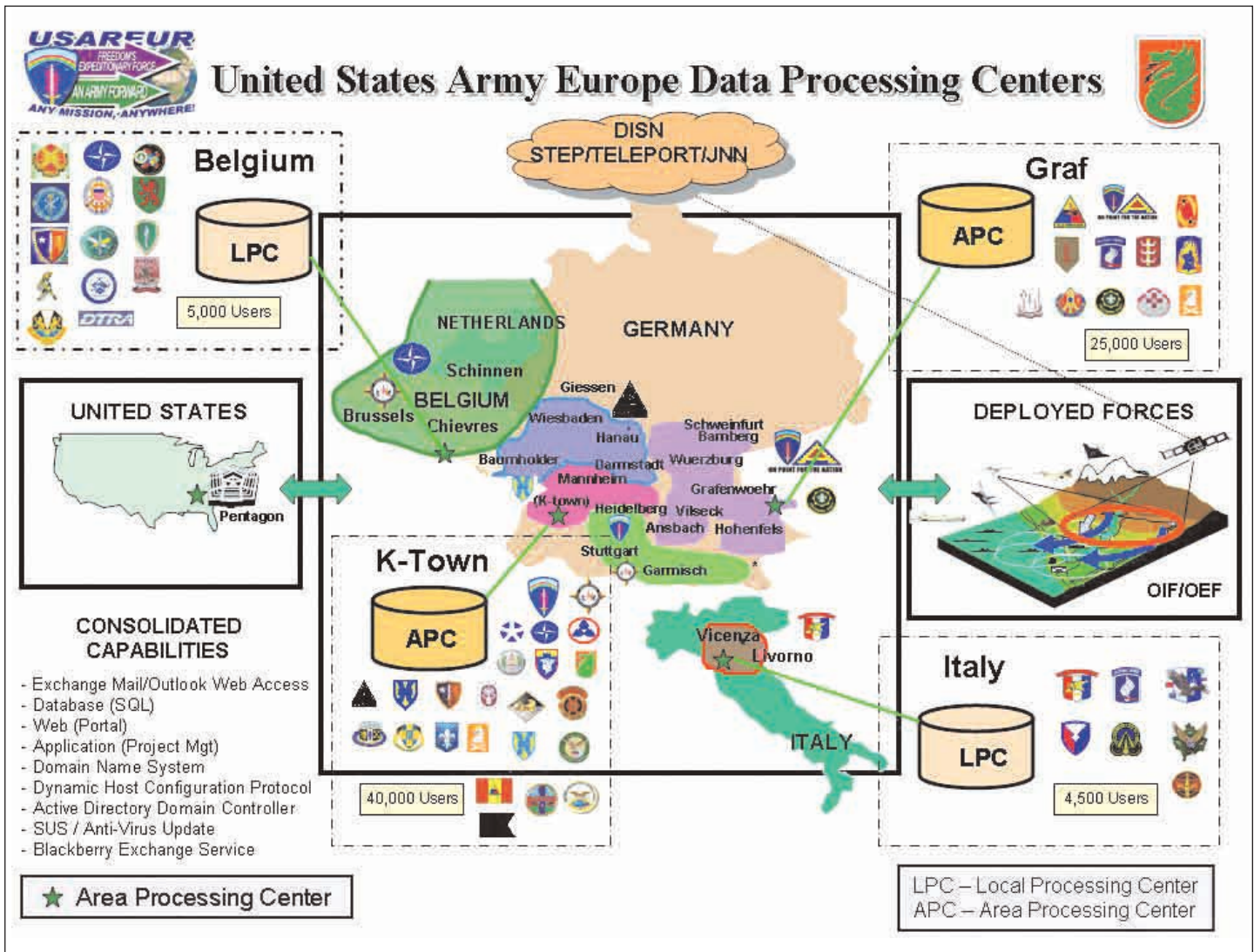
## **Reaching new speeds**

Combined with the transport technology of today -- Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) and Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM) -- virtually every enduring caserne in Europe has the ability to connect to the military network at multiple 10Gb/s links. That's a potential increase of over a hundred times more bandwidth than what is typically offered by a DISN-E radio solution. This increased capacity combined with superior equipment reliability of DWDM optical transport devices and the mature, physical diversity fiber cable plant in Europe lead to one inevitable conclusion. The cost of maintaining a less reliable radio system plus the vast difference in bandwidth capabilities justified the necessity to replace the DEB and build upon its functions with the introduction of this new data backbone.

The Soldiers and civilians of USAREUR G6, IMCOM, and 5th Signal Command embraced this new technology and have moved into the forefront of change across the Signal Corps. 5th Signal Command is paving the way to move the radio traffic onto the new fiber network backbone. The obvious benefits combined with fewer operation and maintenance resources needed to sustain the massive communications requirements in Europe are a clear way to cut costs in the tightly-reigned budget of a nation at war.

Not only do these benefits help 5th Signal Command, but





The above graphic depicts 5th Signal Command's transformation to Area and Local Processing Centers, and indicates the unit customer bases at each location.

they have also invoked interest from the other stakeholders in theater: Defense Information Systems Agency, U.S. European Command, U.S. Air Force, Europe, and Navy Europe. Creating a coalition to organize and plan how to transition from the remaining DEB sites to a fiber solution made sense to these interested parties. 5th Signal Command, as the executive agent for USAREUR, developed a detailed timeline with key milestones to aid in this transitional effort.

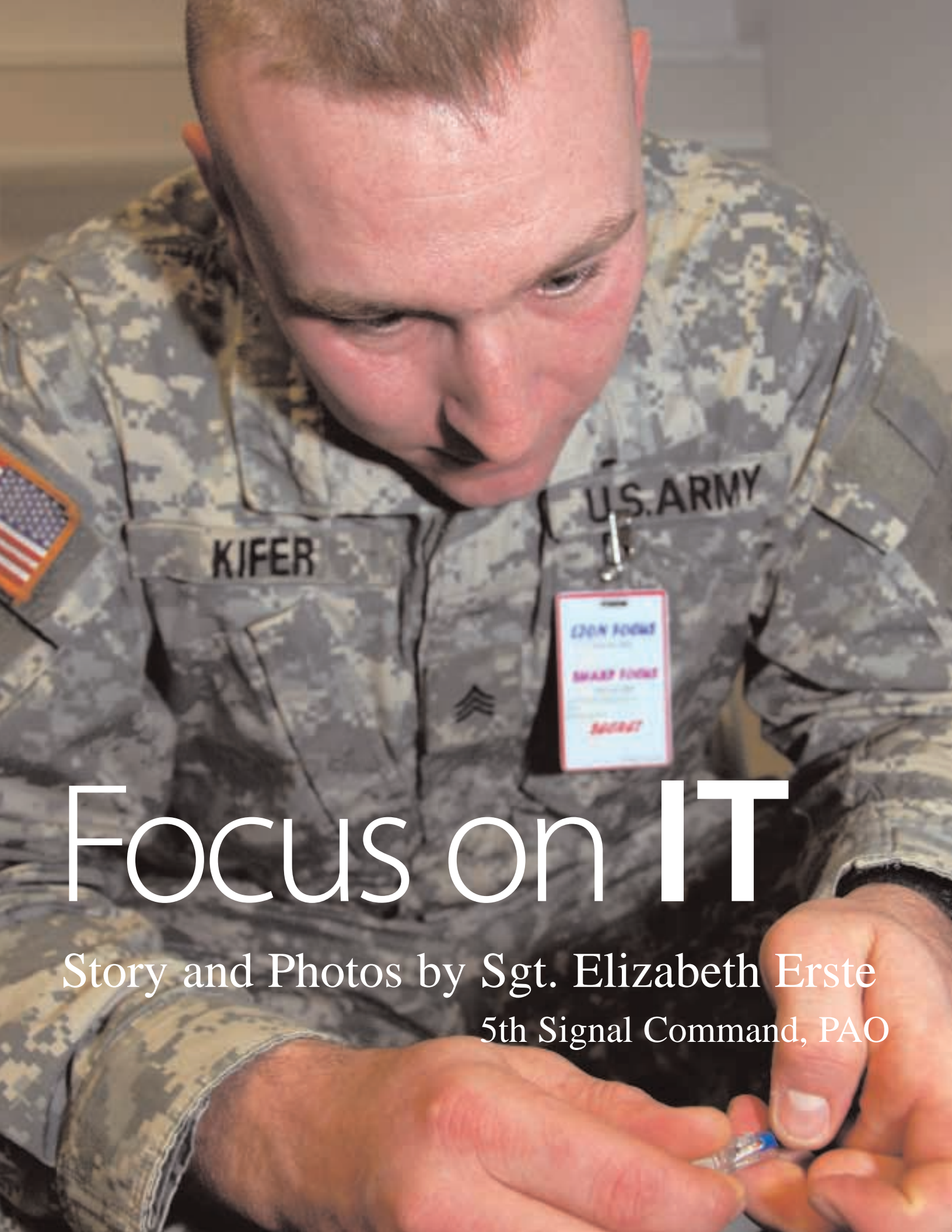
Among these critical elements, coordination with DISA to migrate communications to the USAREUR Fiber Optic Network (FON), decommissioning and uninstalling communications equipment, and removing antennas from radio towers were of paramount importance. As a result of this comprehensive advanced planning, the 5th Signal Command G3, has ceased communications on 10 of the remaining 14 Army radio relay sites -- back-to-back repeaters that allow a microwave radio link to be extended more than the average 30-50 km distance of a single radio link -- and has, or is in the process of turning them over to the local Directorate of Public Works. The final four sites will be completed by mid-summer.

Conceptually, the next DEB transitional iteration is to redesign the last few Technical Control Facilities by shutting

down the DISN-E radios but retain the patching and rerouting capabilities of them. Unlike relay sites, TCFs are located on major installations and distribute communications services to customers. This also allows us to keep a streamlined operation and maintenance workforce and still be able to leverage fiber and DWDM technology. Sites like Patch Barracks, Wiesbaden, Landstuhl, Grafenwoehr, Katterbach, Vicenza, Chievres, and SHAPE remain, but the steel or concrete towers could potentially be turned back to IMCOM or demolished. This phase is already in the planning stage using the same timeline model used to decommission the remote radio relay sites and is targeted to be completed by the end of the year.

With certainty, the outcome of both these initiatives means closing out a long-running period of tradition and culture that is the DEB. No longer will line-of-site microwave transmissions carry the heartbeat of the Army across the European plains, through the valleys or over the mountaintops. The pulse of the theater that once rested in the hand of the radio tech echoes a new set of orders-'stand down, your mission is complete.'

Waves of the future are upon us.



# Focus on IT

Story and Photos by Sgt. Elizabeth Erste  
5th Signal Command, PAO



**Southern European Task Force and Coalition Forces prepare for an end-of-day debriefing during the Lion Focus exercise in Grafenwoeher, Germany in December 2006. Left, Sgt. Richard Kifer, 44th Signal Battalion, assembles a cable to connect a switch for the Lion Focus exercise.**

Clusters of buildings, each a hub of activity with a jumble of voices, screens flickering, and keyboards clicking. Moving parts, both human and machine, mesh together to prepare warfighters to take their place in tomorrow's battlefield.

This is the scene in Grafenwoeher, Germany, where Soldiers and civilians of 5th Signal Command took part in Lion Focus, an exercise designed to prepare the Southern European Task Force for recertification of its task force status at Sharp Focus in January 2007.

During Lion Focus, 5th Signal Cmd. worked hand-in-hand with the Joint Multinational Command Training Center to provide SETAF with a training environment that benefits all Soldiers. 5th Signal Cmd. laid and maintained the communications groundwork used by the JMCTC to supply virtually simulated situations for SETAF to react to as a command center.

"The JMCTC is a proponent for live

virtual constructive simulation," said Maj. Michael Panko, 7th U.S. Army Reserve Command. "We provide a realistic environment that replicates scenarios that could happen down range, which allows our training audience to react in real time."

5th Signal Cmd. has units working on two sides of the fence, both as a part of the training audience with SETAF, and as trainers with the JMCTC.

### **509th Signal Battalion**

The 509th Signal Battalion has six Soldiers that man the SETAF G-6 office, explained Lt. Col. Richard Kempf, 509th Signal Bn., commander, and deputy G-6, SETAF. "We also have Soldiers from the 44th Signal Battalion who are attached to 509th to support SETAF with tactical communications."

The 509th, together with the team from 44th Signal Bn., took part in SETAF Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise in Italy in November 2006. The SETAF EDRE was the ramp up for Lion

and Sharp Focus. The 44th Signal Bn. team will permanently fill a tactical communications slot for the SETAF commander, as part of 509th Signal Bn.

"We are a small organization with a large responsibility, and an important mission to support," said Kempf. "Our unit takes great pride in the excellent service we provide."

### **69th Signal Battalion**

The 69th Signal Battalion, a small unit of approximately 30 Soldiers and 100 civilians, set up and maintained three separate networks -- unclassified, secure, and coalition -- as well as DSL for the foreign nationals.

"Even with a small battalion, we spearheaded the setup of communications for the networks used in the exercise," said Lt. Col. Scott D. Baer, 69th Signal Bn., commander.

"We provide SETAF with an environment they can use to build and prepare for deployment," said Staff. Sgt. James Negelski, NCOIC of the exercise. "We do

everything from laying cable to working the help desk."

"We support future warfighters; this is the closest they could get to the real thing," added Negelski.

### 5th Signal Command

5th Signal Command Headquarters provided a team of personnel for the exercise from ramp-up through completion, both in the command structure and augmenting 69th Signal Bn. in day-to-day setup and maintenance.

"We helped create the software for 1500 computers, on five different kinds of computers, for three different networks," explained Staff Sgt. Lee Rolfe, 5th Signal Cmd. "After the initial set-up, we helped maintain the networks and computers."

The command headquarters also worked with 2nd Signal Brigade and 7th Signal Brigade on their involvement in the exercise.

"Apart from monitoring the daily operations, my duties also included bringing all the parts of 5th [Signal Cmd.] together for the exercise," said Maj. Roger McDonald, 5th Signal Cmd, commander of the Communications Simulations Operations Center, for Lion and Sharp Focus. "I had to identify what information the brigades needed, and pass it down in a timely manner."

### 44th Signal Battalion

44th Signal Battalion provided a team for the exercise that served as a substitute for the team that will be permanently assigned to SETAF.

They supplied network security using firewalls and an Intrusion Detection System. They also provided the Defense Red Switch Phone, a top secret phone system that is dialed directly into the highest headquarters.

"We provide reliable communications by ensuring that all security violations are dealt with," said Sgt. 1st Class James L. Jackson, 44th Signal Bn.

"We are setting a precedent of standards," said 1st Lt. Simon Jennings, 44th Signal Bn. "Normally the 44th sets up and provides the network, here we are monitoring the network against malicious attacks."

Other units throughout the command that had a role in the exercise were the 43rd Signal Bn., 102nd Signal Bn., 39th Signal Bn. and 52nd Signal Bn.

Their responsibilities included augmenting the 69th Signal Bn. in set up for Lion Focus and Sharp Focus as well as day-to-day maintenance. Soldiers from these units helped with anything they needed, from the creation of hubs to manning help desks.

The 2nd Signal Brigade supplied a few personnel for the command structure as well as providing over watch for its battalions. 7th Signal Brigade worked with SETAF and 5th Signal Cmd. to ensure that the transition of the 44th Signal Bn. team was timely and seamless.

"After the requirements were defined, and the information was out, the brigades did a good job of pulling it together quickly," said McDonald. "With the operations tempo the Army is currently under, the units did well by adapting on the fly in the absence of the usual military planning process."

The Lion Focus exercise provided many units in 5th Signal Cmd. with the chance to better themselves in the techni-

cal side of their job as Soldiers, and contribute to the war-winning readiness of their comrades-in-arms.

"This is a really good training opportunity for 5th Sig. and SETAF," said McDonald. "It allowed Soldiers from across U.S. Army Europe to step out of their regular jobs and be a part of preparing themselves and others for a real life situation."

The command headquarters pulled together pieces from the larger footprint to work together toward a common goal, fulfilling strategic and tactical missions.

"5th Signal Cmd., by coordinating across multiple levels, has engineered a multi-structured network, orchestrated electrical connectivity, and integrated all the efforts together so the training audience senses and feels they are operating in a true mission environment," said Maj. Anthony Fontes, USAREUR G-6, Exercise Branch. "Being able to accomplish this, 5th Signal positions themselves to be able to react and provide warfighter communication needs for real world missions."



Soldiers from the 69th Signal Battalion and the 509th Signal Battalion work together to inprocess Capt. Andreas Maier, Tank Brigade 14.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Serafin Cardeli, 5th Signal Command, G3

Staff Sgt. George Krahling, 5th Signal Command, G3, shows Polish Army Warrant Officer Adam Majocha how to operate the VTC by remote that was set up by the 5th Signal Command team during the Stable Guardian Exercise.

# Dragon Warriors provide VTC support in Poland

**STAFF SGT. SERAFIN CARDELI**  
G3, 5th Signal Command

5th Signal Command Soldiers provided Video Teleconferencing Support for the Euphrates VIII Stable Guardian Exercise in Zagan, Poland in December.

Their main mission was to ensure that the Polish Army Headquarters elements had the training and VTC capability required to accomplish their rotation in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The joint operational exercise took place with Polish Infantry Soldiers and U.S. Infantry Soldiers stationed out of Hohenfels, Germany.

The training mission of joint operations gave the Polish commanders a glimpse of commanding multinational Soldiers in a simulated combat environment, said Staff Sgt. George Krahling, 5th Signal Command, G3.

Their mission has changed since their last deployment -- from a combat operations and support mission to a training and advisory mission in which the Polish Army will aid in the Iraqi Security Forces development. This will allow Iraqi Security Forces

to defend and operate in their area of responsibility and to set appropriate conditions for Provincial Iraqi Control.

The responsibility of the 5th Signal Command Soldiers may have seemed small in comparison to the entire exercise, but it was considered extremely important to both the U.S. and Polish Commands on the ground, said Krahling.

Soldiers from the G3 Plans and Engineering Division of 5th Signal Command supported the VTC mission requirements for the exercise.

The requirements called for a VTC link between two commands to simulate the real world need of completing daily VTC SITREPs to their appropriate higher headquarters in a combat environment. In this case, the mission needed a 2000 meter link between the two different headquarters commands. Without having the network infrastructure seen in Germany and in the United States, close coordination between the 5th Signal Command Soldiers and the Polish contingent was important.

The setup required the Soldiers to integrate Polish tactical land cables with more modern VTC hardware. The final solution

took a bit of imagination but the result was a clear, continuous and reliable link that allowed the parties on both ends of the VTC to be able to communicate without incident.

Since VTC support is not the primary mission of 5th Signal Command Soldiers in their day-to-day garrison environment, it took a few weeks of training to be prepared for any possible operational failures during the exercise. Compounding this issue was the use of a brand new suitcase style portable VTC suite designed specifically for these types of missions. Although these systems are lightweight, portable and relatively easy to use, a new learning curve had to be overcome in order to become intimately familiar with the system and the task of integrating it with the Polish communication infrastructure.

The mission was a success.

"It was a good experience for me to work with another country's Army again," Krahling said. "I am confident the Polish commanders are ready for briefings they will have to give through the VTC system to their higher commands in a combat environment."

# Signal in Europe: 101

## A journey through transformation as Strategic Microwave Radio Repairmen

**T**here was a time in the not so distant past when Europe had just started to recover from the ravages of World War II. As the lines were being drawn for the Cold War, the demand for reliable communication set the stage for the Strategic Microwave Repairman mission and the elaborate array of hilltop communications facilities known as Line of Site microwave communication stations. This duty was performed by highly trained and specialized signal Soldiers that were all assigned to specific signal units strategically situated at the highest geographical points throughout Germany, France and the Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg regions).

The year, 1959, was an exciting time to be a Soldier in Europe.

### **The way we communicated**

Today as the last legacy LOS microwave towers are dismantled and their respective communication's traffic re-routed onto fiber optic networks, it's important to understand the significance of all those concrete towers and also the red and white metal towers that dotted the country side.

Imagine a linked chain of hilltop communication facilities that reached even higher into the sky with their towers and parabolic dishes to capture and grasp the radio waves that were being beamed from the distant end site. About every 30 to 60 miles a direct line of site was necessary to overcome the earth's curvature. The radio beam carrying a modulated communication signal to the next facility had to be reconditioned and amplified for the next voyage down the line.

Imagine capturing radio waves in a huge metallic dish, funneling it down the tower with tubing called waveguides and then feeding that signal directly into the radio. A single radio frequency was capable of transmitting up to 48 multiplexed voice circuits. Multiply this by two (dual diversity) or four (quad diversity) for added reliability and you have the microwave frequencies communication systems of the 102nd Signal Battalion headquarters on Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, Germany.

The signal battalion had five operating companies positioned throughout Germany and France. This was amazing technology for the times and enabled reliable communication for the Army-In-Europe commanders.

### **The Signal Soldier in the 1960's**

The Army was increasingly moving towards developing specialized Soldiers. Today we're left with only one specialist rank, but just imagine a master specialist. The specialist ranks were created specifically for highly technical fields and classified those Soldiers according to their training and experience.

One of those Strategic Microwave Systems Repairman was Spc. 6 Charlie T. Stegall, a graduate of the Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey Signal School.

"In February of 1960, I was assigned to Company B, 102nd Signal Bn. in Munich, with a duty station of Robinson Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany. This I found so special as my dad, Pfc. Ernest S. Stegall, had left Stuttgart to return home after World War II. He



*Photo by Roger Stegall, 5th Signal Command*

**Hoek Van Holland Microwave Communication Facility located directly on the English Channel Beach. The facility was part of the communications link that connected mainland Europe to England.**

landed in Normandy, France and his infantry unit fought through the French country side to Karlsruhe and eventually Stuttgart where I was now stationed. I distinctly remembered the names of towns in the area from the stories he told me while growing up." Spc. 6 Stegall was part of an ever increasing American presence in Europe that eventually stationed nearly 300,000 troops at the height of the Cold War.

"Not long after my arrival at the Hohenstadt radio site in 1962, the Berlin Wall construction began and the stand off at Check Point Charlie took place. I recall moving a contingency team towards Berlin one cold wet night," he said. Tensions in Europe were once again at critical levels and both sides were keenly aware of what was at stake if the blockade of Berlin by the Soviets was allowed to escalate.

After the Check Point Charlie stand-down, tensions subsided and life as a Soldier on a remote hilltop communication site took on a more relaxed atmosphere. Unlike being stationed in communities with a large American contingent of Soldiers, these signal Soldiers lived on the site itself or the surrounding areas and in many cases fully integrated themselves into the local community.

This era - with the emergence of fixed station communication facilities in Europe - was the first time in U.S. Army Signal Corps history that permanent locations were sought out to accomplish this new mission. This was a shift in strategy that took into account the U.S. government's doctrine at the time and leaned more towards a long term need to provide established communications links throughout Europe. There was still the need to have a tactical arm of signal but everyone recognized the new requirement for perma-

ment and strategic communications. From this need the Military Occupation Specialty 26V was born. Strategic Microwave Systems Repair was considered a very technical specialty that required a long initial training phase at the Army's premier signal school located at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. Once a Soldier graduated from the course, the training continued as on-the-job training at the new duty station.

"My duties as an equipment operator and later as a repairman had me working directly with German manufactured equipment. The manuals were, at best, crudely translated and the greatest advantage was the necessity to learn German in order to put our electronic training to use. The equipment was Lorenze and Siemens-Halske, FDM and PPM technology multi-channel systems which were used almost exclusively throughout the European LOS system," said Stegall.

### **Signal Support for the Endo-China conflict**

As the 102nd Signal Bn. communication infrastructure for the European theater was fully developed and considered extremely reliable, the need for those same highly technical and experienced Soldiers to establish a similar network in Vietnam arose. Although not deployed as a unit, the 102nd Signal Bn. and its six companies sent their Soldiers to establish and maintain similar LOS systems but this time with the distinct difference of being in a combat zone and far removed from the quaint little German villages with their friendly populations.

"My arrival in Vietnam at Nha Trang and onto Dalat, was cordial enough as upon reporting to the 362nd Signal Co. I met a number of the former members of the 102nd Signal Bn. The 'Deuce' as it was called operated a large tactical equipment network throughout Vietnam. I had been selected to head up a Tropo Contingence Team which was assigned the not so simple mission of replacing any link of communication within the Republic of

Vietnam within a limited number of hours," said Stegall. "We were a highly trained, superbly equipped and totally motivated 14 man unit. We also trained numerous teams deployed to Vietnam. We were placed under many units for OPCON but basically operated at the control of 1st Signal Brigade. We operated a state of the art Collins Radio Tropo-Scatter System that actually bounced the radio signal off the earth's troposphere to overcome greater distances but could be configured to LOS as the mission demanded."

### **The birth of Signal Transformation in Europe**

Upon returning from Vietnam after a second tour, Stegall was once again assigned to the 102nd Signal Bn., this time with duty at the headquarters in Munich. The new AN/GRC 66 LOS radio systems were upgrades to the first generation systems that he and other 26V's had maintained a few years ago. These new radios were more reliable and capable of providing more multiplexed circuits via the use of the new AN/FCC 18 multiplexers.

"We operated the AN/GRC-66 Radio Equipment and FCC -18 multiplexers. The Defense Communications Reporting System was implemented with a tremendous improvement in the visibility of world wide communication status. Circuit engineering was no longer designed at the local level and a common standard of circuit priority, quality and reliability was realized," said Charlie Stegall.

This was a strategy move towards centrally managing and standardizing European communication throughout the services and commands.

### **Continuing the support in Europe**

Stegall retired from the military and watched his son, Roger Stegall, pick up where he left off upon graduating from high school.

"The urge to see the world was becoming greater and greater as the summer lingered on. The recruiter on Main Street in Henderson, N.C. had already completed the necessary enlistment



**Charlie Stegall is directly appointed from 1st Sergeant to Warrant Officer during 1973 in Munich, Germany. Company B of the 102nd Signal Battalion was located there at the time.**

## FAST FACT:

**In 1955, four grades of Specialist were established: Specialist Third Class (E-4), Specialist Second Class (E-5), Specialist First Class (E-6), and Master Specialist (E-7). Only the lowest Specialist grade survives today, as the higher grades were phased out. Specialist 7 was abolished in 1978 and Specialist 5 and 6 in 1985.**

forms to have me join the Army. It was only a question of which training I was going to accept. Heeding my father's advice, I became a 26V (Strategic Microwave Radio Repairman) and the journey in my dad's footsteps began. Spending almost a year in the Army's longest training program at Ft. Gordon, Ga., my fate was realized when our entire class received orders to report to the 64th Replacement Det., at Rhein Main Air Base near Frankfurt Germany. Within a day I was assigned to the 261st Signal Company, 102nd Signal Bn., 2nd Signal Brigade, 5th Signal Command, with duty at Herborn and Stein LOS/High Frequency/Single Side Band radio station," said Roger.

These sites were strategically situated on the highest geographical points throughout Europe and had a primary mission to provide communication support to the artillery detachment. These detachments in-turn would load the nuclear weapons on the German owned Nike Hercules missiles. The 25 foot tall missiles were all pointed at the Fulda gap as a defense against the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact.

### Shifting the communications strategy

Many of the European signal units that we're familiar with today had entirely different missions in the late 80's and early 90's.

Transformation might be today's buzz-word, but strides in technology and the ever shifting global footprint are truly the continual driving force to change.

"At the peak of my tours in Germany there were over 375,000 U.S. combat forces stationed in Europe and 5th Signal Command had the primary mission to, and still does, provide voice circuits and communication infrastructure support to them all. The introduction of data modems was first realized while I was stationed at Defense Communication Station Stein in the Taunus Mountains. That first data link to our location had a baud rate of 9600 which in today's fiber optic world is considered a snail's pace of ones and zeros," said Roger.

Data circuits increasingly gained in popularity and a majority of them rode over 5th Signal Command's Line of Sight voice communication circuits. Ironically, today the Signal Corps is digitizing analog voice circuits and pushing them over data links (VoIP), which is exactly the opposite of what transpired then. Eventually the linked grid of analog LOS microwave stations bowed to high speed "digitized radios" and the vast network of those familiar red and white towers were replaced with concrete masts that supported the new Digital European Backbone (DEB) sites. Now, as transformation marches on, those sites are themselves becoming legacy systems and fiber optic paths are the prevailing technology of today.

### Moving forward towards the Enterprise

Today we're not dependent on the hilltops radio stations and those infamous towers that were scattered throughout Germany.

Instead, we transcend those same distances through an elaborate maze of circuits that weave their way through each military community primarily on fiber optic networks.

The current transformation under the Single DOIM concept will streamline our C4IM (Command, Control, Computers, and Communications Information Management) with server consolidation efforts of the Area Processing Centers, baseline and above baseline services offered to the customer in the European theater.

This concept adheres to many enterprise models that are used in the private industry and will soon be the new standard for the European Theater and lead by 5th Signal Command.

### The future role of the Signaleer

Although the Strategic Microwave Radio Repairman and the mission in Europe has long since shifted to accommodate high speed data configurations, the need to provide reliable communications to the Warfighter is still there, as it was 45 years ago.

There will always be transformation. As depicted across three generations of one military family, with the latter two Stegalls serving a combined total of nearly 40 years in the U.S. Army's communication arena, these Signaleers' conclude that the only constant is change.

**Editor's Note:** This article was a collaborative effort between both Charlie and Roger Stegall.



*Photo by Sgt. Yung D'Antonio*

**Master Sgt. (Ret.) Roger Stegall stands beside a AN/FRC 98, 1st Stage Multiplexer System that was part of the Digital European Backbone in 1990.**



# Preserving Tradition

## 5th Signal Command shares in day of national mourning

**JOZSEF WETZL**

*Political Advisor, 5th Signal Command*

5th Signal Command has actively participated in the National Mourning Day activities in Worms since 1967.

The commemoration was first recommended in 1919 by the German War Graves Association as a day to honor German Soldiers who fell in World War I. The first official celebration was held in 1922 at the German Parliament.

During the Nazi regime in 1934, this day was made an official state holiday and was named "Memorial Day for Heroes," thus changing the character of this particular day. Remembering the fallen Soldiers was no longer the focal point of the commemoration, but rather the "worship of heroes."

After the end of World War II, the tradition of celebrating National Mourning Day was again picked-up in 1948 in its original form and was first celebrated in a central ceremony in Bonn, Germany in 1950.

Today during National Mourning Day, the celebrations focus on such theological subjects as death, time and eternity, commemorating the victims of all wars and terror of all nations.

A central national ceremony is held every year at the German Parliament with remarks delivered by the Federal President with the government and foreign diplomatic corps in attendance.

At the community level, this day is traditionally commemorated by remarks of officials and a wreath laying ceremony.

**After laying the U.S. Army wreath during the German National Mourning Day commemoration, (from left) Capt. Jeffrey Lau, Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via, commander 5th Signal Command, and Staff Sgt. James Oreschnigg, salute during the playing of the German National Anthem which was lead by Worms Lord Mayor Michael Kissel. The event recognizes military and civilian deaths from all wars and nations. The command has represented the U.S. Army at the event for more than 30 years.**



**Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via, Commanding General, 5th Signal Command renders a salute after placing the Army wreath.**

At this year's event, Worms Lord Mayor, Michael Kissel, captured the importance of the commemoration in his address.

He said, "Today, we remember the victims of violence and war, children, women and men of all nations. We remember the Soldiers who died in the world wars and the people who lost their lives as a result of acts of war, captivity and as refugees. We remember those who were persecuted, because they were members of a different nation and race, and we remember the victims of today's wars and the victims of terrorism and political persecution."

Although the 5th Signal Command moved to Mannheim in 1996, it continues to take part in the official ceremony by laying a U.S. Army wreath at the Worms Main Cemetery on National Mourning Day.



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee, ECHO editor*

## Conquering the Mountain

### BATTALION STAFF REPORT 43rd Signal Battalion

In the early morning of Sept. 16, more than 425 runners and walkers of all ages gathered to compete in one of the most challenging races in Germany, the Koenigstuhl Mountain Run.

The race boasts a relentless 8.8 kilometer climb up to the peaks overlooking the Heidelberg Castle.

The event originates back to 1976, when the executive officer of the 43rd Signal Battalion organized the race in commemoration of the 200th birthday of the United States Army.

At that time, the winner won a free lobster dinner at the local dining facility.

Back then the Koenigstuhl Radio Site was operated by the 181st Signal Company. The race proved to be a mental and physical challenge for the best ath-



Photo by Spc. Lance Buker, 43rd Signal Battalion

letes within the unit.

Thirty years later, the event receives community wide participation and enables the battalion to foster host nation relationships.

Months of planning culminated when Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via, Commanding General, 5th Signal Command, fired the start gun at Mark Twain Village, officially commencing the 2006 Koenigstuhl race.

Runners were a variety of ages, with the oldest winner at 74 and youngest winner at 13.

All participants were provided a running shirt and medal for accepting the challenge of conquering the mountain, but individual and group winners received additional medals and trophies.

This year's overall winner was Klemas Bollinger, a German National, who completed the event with an extraordinary time of 34:28. That's an average pace of less than 4 minutes each kilometer (5

**Brig. Gen. Dennis L. Via, Commanding General, 5th Signal Command, pulls the trigger to begin the 30th Annual Koenigstuhl Run hosted by the 43rd Signal Battalion.**

minute miles) up hill.

Some other notables include:

The fastest female: Julia Metz, 47:50.

Overall team winner: USAREUR

Team Blue, 41:20.

Signal Trophy: 43rd Sig Bn, 43:58.

Top female team: Heidelberg International Marathon, 54:00.

The race was possible due to the combined effort of the Heidelberg Morale Welfare & Recreation, 43rd Signal Battalion to include their Family Readiness Group, Boy Scout Troop 59, Cub Scout Pack 284 and donations from various local organizations.

The 30th Annual Koenigstuhl Run was successful because of the strong German and American relations enjoyed in Heidelberg and 43rd's dedication to quality of life initiatives.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister, PAO, 5th Signal Command

**Runners and walkers of all ages participated in the Koenigstuhl Run an event that originated back in 1976. The oldest winner was 74 years old and the youngest winner was 13 years old.**

# A logistician beyond compare

**1ST LT. JENNIFER SWETLAND**  
*S1, 2nd Signal Brigade*

Many people involved in the United States Armed Forces have come to think of an "Army Career" as 20-years long.



*Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Swetland, 2nd Signal Brigade, S1*

**Eduard Boes, the Senior Logistian in 2nd Signal Brigade, has provided logistical support to the Armed Forces for nearly 40 years.**

An individual assigned to the 2nd Signal Brigade has devoted twice that time to the signal career field.

At nearly 40 years of service, he has spent his adult life providing top-notch logistical support to the largest Strategic Signal Command in the U.S. Army. His name is known throughout Army and Air Force signal communities.

He is Eduard L. Boes.

Boes, Eddy as he is best known, was born in Germany on July 10, 1946. In November of 1965, he was hired as a logistician by the Pirmasens Primary Relay Center. This unit, later redesignated the 73nd Signal Battalion, is where Boes rose through the ranks to become the senior logistician in the battalion. As their S4, he was instrumental in the upgrade to the Strategic Satellite Systems that battalion operated.

After the 73nd Signal Bn. was inactivated in 1993, the 2nd Signal Brigade Commander at the time, Col. Jake Simmons, recognized the technical expertise Boes possessed and offered him

the position of senior logistician for the entire brigade.

He gladly accepted the offer and has been spreading his expert guidance in logistics throughout the Brigade ever since.

"Mr. Boes is the go to person within the brigade," said his supervisor, Jan Frutiger. "If he does not know how to get it done, it is not possible."

She added, he is not only a consummate expert in his field he lends a sense of calm to the hectic tempo of the brigade with his famous closing comment after every meeting, "Es wird alles gut", meaning everything will be alright.

Boes not only manages the daily operations of the brigade S-4's maintenance and supply, but he also oversees the mission of the 6981st Civilian Support Group (CSG).

He has been married to his wife, Gerlinde, for 38 years. They have two children: a son named Frank, 30, and a daughter, Christine, 26.

## Junior Chef of the Year works for an Outstanding DFAC

Spc. Casey Jones, food services specialist at the Outstanding Cafe, 44th Signal Battalion, receives a trophy from Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Smith after being named the Junior Chef of the Year for 7th Signal Brigade. Jones also was awarded an Army Achievement Medal and other gifts from various organizations. The dining facility has proven to be 'Outstanding' this year having won 1st Place in the local Philip A. Connelly Awards which recognizes excellence in Army Food Service. The Outstanding Cafe continued on to win runner-up for the Department of the Army-level award in the small garrison category.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee, ECHO editor*

## Retaining Our Warriors

MANNHEIM, Germany (Sept. 6, 2006) -- Gen. David McKiernan, U.S. Army, Europe commanding general, gives the Oath of Reenlistment to seven 5th Signal Command "Dragon Warriors."

-- Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee  
ECHO Editor



## Army's Oldest Signal Battalion Inactivates

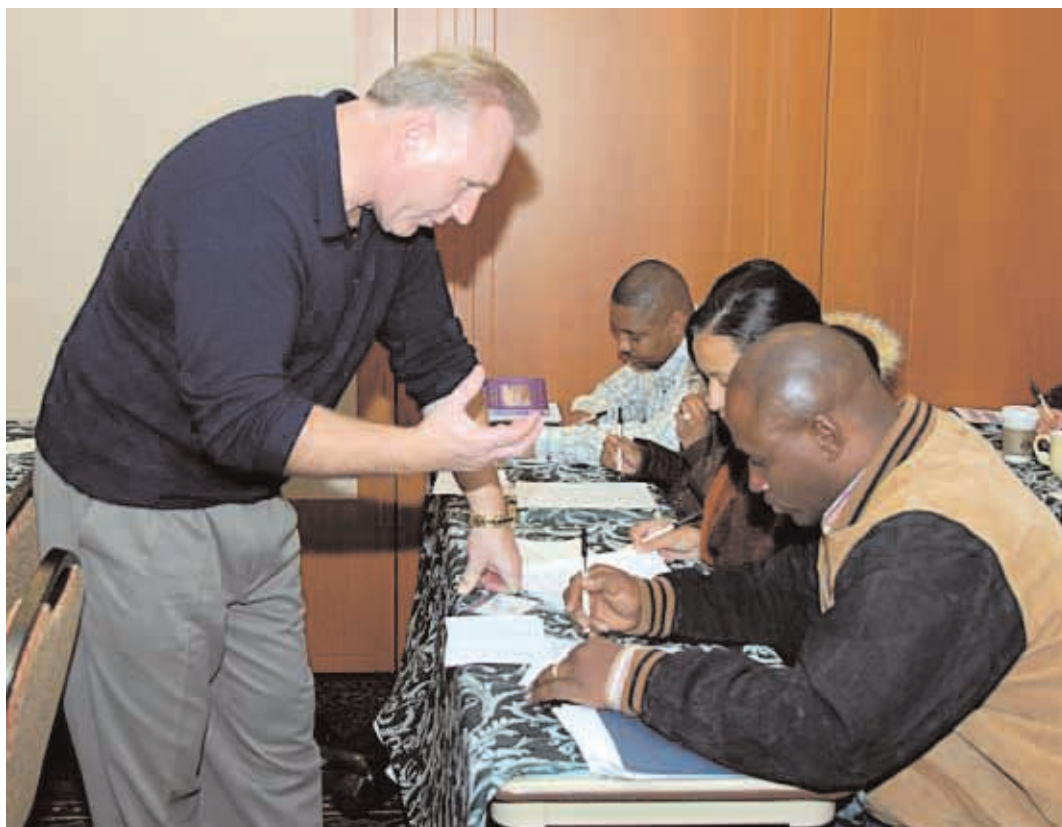
Wurtzberg, Germany (June 1, 2006) -- The 121st Signal Battalion, which began over a hundred years ago in 1898 as two Signal Companies, inactivates at an official inactivation ceremony. In 1917, the unit was called to action as the first signal unit to deploy to Europe in World War I. The unit is the oldest and most decorated Signal Battalion in the United States Army.

-- Photo above, courtesy of the 121st Signal Battalion

## Mastering Marriage

GARMISCH, Germany (December 4, 2006) -- Chaplain (C) James Agnew, 5th Signal Command, works with Master Sgt. Micheal Alford, G4, 5th Signal Cmd., and his wife, Joyce, during a command sponsored marriage retreat.

-- Photo by Sgt. Elizabeth Erste  
5th Signal Command PAO



## Warriors March in Worms Parade

WORMS, Germany (27 AUG 2006) -- Soldiers from the 5th Signal Command carry the 50 state flags in the Backfischfest Parade. The command also provided a color guard for the event that celebrated 900 years of the Wormser Fischer guild history in Worms. This year was also the 10th Anniversary of the 5th Signal Commands move from Worms to Mannheim.

-- Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee  
ECHO Editor

## Holiday Cheer

MANNHEIM, Germany (November 23, 2006) -- Capt. James Temple, commander, Headquarters U.S. Army Garrison, Mannheim, serves a plate loaded with seasonal treats to Jason Larbi, 9, during the midday Thanksgiving feast at 44th Signal Brigade's Outstanding Cafe located on Sullivan Barracks. Local area commanders and their senior enlisted counterparts showed their support by serving food and smiles during the meal.

-- Photo by Sgt. Elizabeth Erste  
5th Signal Command PAO



## Dancing Indian Style

MANNHEIM, Germany (November 3, 2006) -- Chaplain (Capt.) Grace Hollis-Taylor, 2nd Signal Brigade, participates in a traditional American Indian dance, known as the Round Dance, at the American Indian Heritage Observance held at the Sullivan Gym.

--Photo by Sgt. Elizabeth Erste  
5th Signal Command PAO



## Leader of the Pack

MANNHEIM, Germany (October 13, 2006) -- Brig. Gen. (P) Dennis L. Via, Commanding General, 5th Signal Command, leads the way for Signal runners during Mannheim's bi-annual Community Run.

--Photo by Sgt. Elizabeth Erste  
5th Signal Command PAO

## UIT to offer training for all signal Soldiers in Europe

**MASTER SGT. ANTHONY JONES**  
*7th Signal Brigade*

The 7th Signal Brigade has developed a new university that offers professional development courses for signal Soldiers.

The University of Information Technology located in building 209, adjacent to the 7th Signal Bde. headquarters on Sullivan Barracks, offers introductory and advanced information technology and information management curriculums.



*Photo by Master Sgt. Jason Jewett, 7th Signal Brigade*

**Master Sgt. Anthony Jones, center, instructs a class at the new University of Information Technology. A 7th Signal Brigade initiative for professional development, the university will be available for all signal Soldiers in Feb. 2007. For more information, contact your unit training office.**

The UIT also incorporates tactical system, initial and sustainment training to enhance the brigade's capabilities for the warfighter. It offers a wide array of courses ranging from A+, Net + IT course to ISDN Gateway Exchanges and Promina Tactical courses.

One goal of the 7th's UIT is to become one of the premier training locations in Europe providing the most reliable, realistic and certified training to Soldiers in Europe.

"The (UIT) is beneficial for the future of our Soldier's technical development," said Chief Warrant Officer Mia Y. Watts, 7th Signal Bde.

The brigade has partnered with U.S. Army, Europe's Automation Training Program to deliver the best IA and IT training offered in Europe.

The featured course, the Basic Information Technology Course, is a 6-week program that gives Soldiers all the required USAREUR certifications for IMO positions. The course also assists Soldiers in requesting a Waiver of Formal Training for the MOS of 25B. This gives Soldiers the confidence and capability to maintain information assurance network management and Deployable Communications Package operational management.

"The BITC course has been the best training I have been involved in during my 3 1/2 years in the Army," said Sgt. Christopher Pearson, 44th Signal Battalion. "I have the utmost confidence in the knowledge of the instructors, and all of the material is highly comprehensive. It also helps that the school is separate from my unit."

The university is currently training only 7th Signal Brigade Soldiers but will open to all European signal Soldiers in Feb. 2007.

## Army Strong

The U.S. Army announced Oct. 9 the start of its communication and education efforts to assist the Army family to communicate to the Nation about Soldier's skills, leadership, teamwork, and selfless service.

This took place shortly before the launch of a new Army advertising campaign on Nov. 9.

Army Secretary Dr. Francis J. Harvey unveiled the Army Strong campaign, a key component of the Army's recruiting and advertising efforts, at the 2006 Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

"This morning we launched our internal communications and education phase lasting several weeks until we formally

launch the new advertising campaign," Harvey said. "It is vitally important that the internal Army family understand and embrace this new campaign. I believe this campaign speaks to an essential truth of being a Soldier".

The Army Strong campaign builds on the foundation of the previous recruiting campaigns by highlighting the transformative power of the U.S. Army. Army Strong captures the defining experience of U.S. Army Soldiers.

Army Strong was developed to specifically address the interests and motivations of those considering a career in the U.S. military. The campaign also speaks to those who understand and support the decision of a family member, friend or employee to serve.

A preview of the campaign and information is available to all Soldiers and their families at [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil).

*-- Information obtained from Army Public Affairs Release*

# From the CSM

**T**ransformation and the Global War on Terrorism have certainly kept our command busy over the last six months while the competent leaders -- Soldiers and civilians throughout this organization -- have kept up with the turbulent pace of operations.

I have personally witnessed a trained, ready and professional workforce throughout the 5th Signal Command footprint during my travels across Europe and the Middle East.

In the last six months, we have had various units in every phase of the U.S. Army, Europe, R4 Operations process (Redeployment, Reintegration, Reconstitution and Retraining).

Shortly before the winter holidays, we welcomed back the 22nd Signal Brigade and the 72nd Signal Battalion from year-long missions in Iraq and Kuwait. I am truly impressed with the accomplishments of both these units. I want to point out that they completed their missions with 'no loss of life' which is a credit to these fine leaders and Soldiers who carry a heavy load in providing communications to warfighters defending our nation.

While deployed, the 22nd Signal Brigade achieved the task of maintaining the largest forward tactical network in the U.S. military, covering nearly 172,000 square miles in the Iraq Theater of Operations (ITO). The 72nd Signal Battalion supplied communications to six bases in Kuwait and 14 bases in Iraq.

Since returning, both of these units (highlighted in this edition of the ECHO) have been through Redeployment and Reintegration and are beginning the Reconstitution phase of the R4 process.

During this rapid process, leaders must continue to focus on rebuilding the bridge and supporting the unit as Soldiers and NCOs rotate from one duty assignment to another. Leaders must also focus on sponsorship for both incoming and outgoing Soldiers and their families, while simultaneously pairing Soldiers with qualified mentors to continue to strengthen our command.

Leaders, I need you to continue to 'Own the Edge' and think about safety on and off duty. It is imperative that you to talk about safety with your Soldiers. Now is not the time to let our guard down; just because the deployment has ended does not mean you are out of harms way. Risk comes in many forms. We must manage these risks by educating our Soldiers, conducting Oak Tree Counselings, and fostering open communications with our Soldiers.

The 44th Signal Battalion also returned from combat in 2006. They have just completed the 270-day R4 Model and will begin fielding the Joint Network Node this year. Leaders in the 44th, you have done an excellent job



ensuring your Soldiers are proficient in their Warrior Tasks and Drills. This training continues to make your unit stronger so you can succeed in winning in the contemporary operating environment of today.

I am confident that 5th Signal Command has developed warfighters with the premier technologies and capabilities necessary to win the Global War on Terrorism.

Finally, I want to highlight our success in retaining our force in this high-deployment tempo environment. We were one of only three commands in NETCOM to receive an award for our excellence in retention for the last year.

I truly believe the reason behind our success is that our Soldiers are confident in their leadership and happy with the command climate. From the first-line leaders on up, we have some of the most professional and caring Soldiers and civilians in the Army at the 5th Signal Command.

Keep up the great work.

**Happy New Year Dragon Warriors!**

**RODERICK D. JOHNSON**  
Command Sergeant Major, USA  
5th Signal Command



# Army Strong



People First ≈ War-Winning Readiness ≈ Quality of Life