

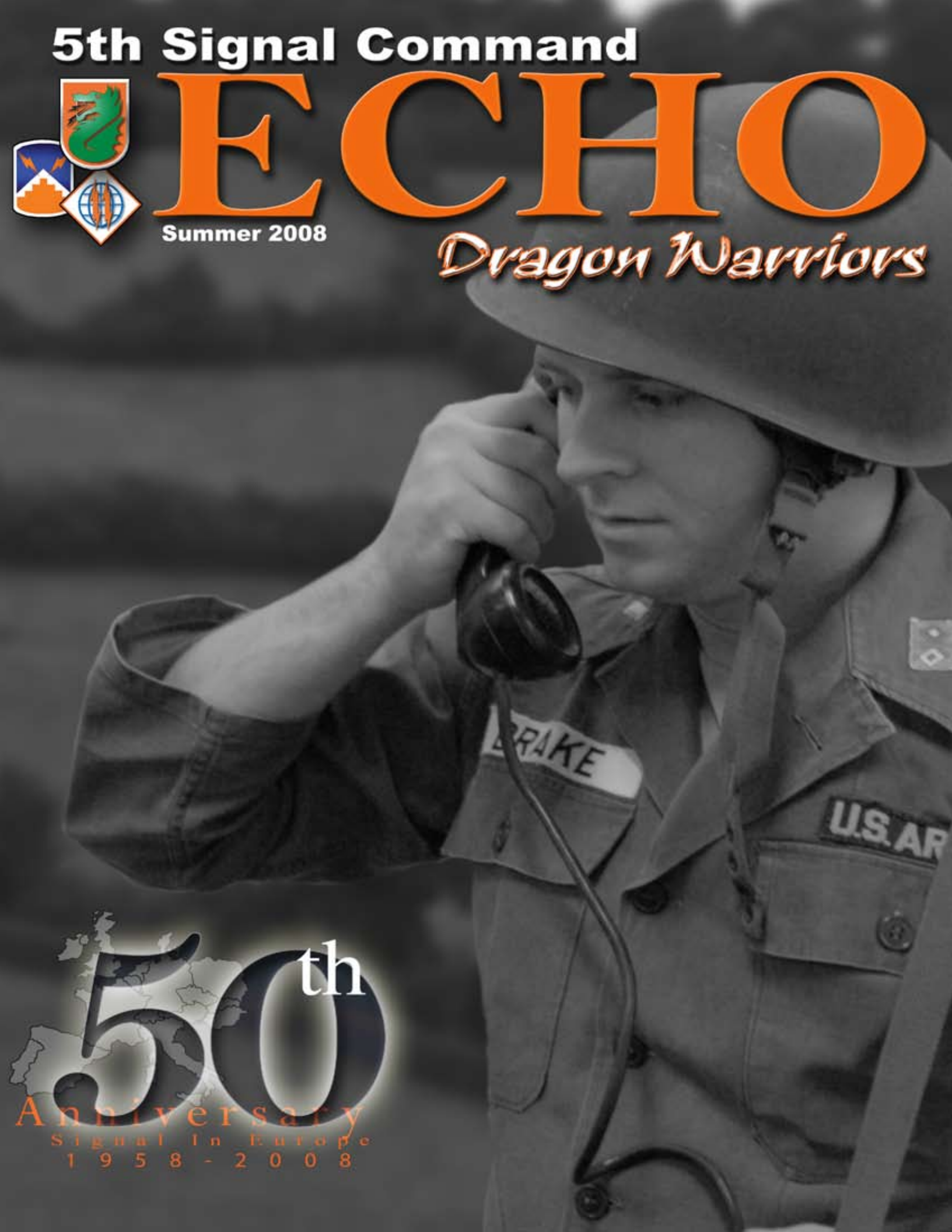
5th Signal Command



# ECHO

Summer 2008

*Dragon Warriors*



50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary  
Signal In Europe  
1958 - 2008



# ECHO





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# CONTENTS

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**Page 20**



5th Signal Command Soldiers participate in a historic tableau ceremony during the last day of the command's Regimental Week, March 20, that celebrated 50 years of Signal in Europe.

*Photo by Sgt. Jonathon Gray*

## FEATURES

<b>Austere Challenge</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lean Six Sigma</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sky High Excellence</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>44th ESB Mid-Deployment Report</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Network Service Center - Regional</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5th Signal Change of Command</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>50 Years of Signal in Europe Special</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Two Officers, One Marriage</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>102nd Rescues an Old Friend</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Honoring the Fallen</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>First Impressions</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Joe Wetzl: In Remembrance</b>	<b>36</b>

## IN EVERY ISSUE

<b>From the CG</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Snapshots</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>News Briefs</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>From the GSM</b>	<b>39</b>

# FROM THE CG



UNCLASSIFIED

Soldiers, Civilians, Contractors, and Family Members,

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, I believe there has never been a better time to be a Signaleer in Europe. I am truly humbled by the opportunity to lead this amazing command. You have welcomed my family and me with open arms and we appreciate the superb support and warmth received throughout our transition to Germany.

Some of the fondest memories of my career have been here in United States Army, Europe. From a regular day in the office to the most austere encounters across this vast area of responsibility, be it in Tbilisi, Georgia to Brussels, Belgium, the members of the signal community here are by far the most impressive I have ever seen.

This year as we focus on the history of this great organization, I am driven by the words of William Shakespeare -- "What is past, is prologue." What we accomplish now will have a permanent impact on this command for generations to come.

Our time is one of transformation, and with your help, we will posture this command to remain relevant and ready in supporting the warfighter, integrating Signal mission commanders that solve operational challenges and track network readiness at every level.

We will do this by continuing to build the right team, refining command control, coordination and cooperation relationships, re-basing as directed by the Department of the Army, completing the transition of Europe's Network Service Center - Regional (NSC-R) construct, and leveraging everything - from organizations and facilities to joint resources and exercises.

Marking this, our 50th year as a collective, regimentally organized unit in Europe, this edition of the ECHO magazine will showcase our homage to the past, forecast our journey into the future, and pay tribute to the recent successes of Dragon Warriors all across Europe.

Pride is too weak a word to describe the feeling I get witnessing the tremendous talent that all of you bring day in and day out. Again, I am truly honored to be your commander of the premier signal command in the world. Together, we will pave a one-way road of success and make our own history along the way.

Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr.  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

DRAGON WARRIORS - ARMY STRONG!

Congratulations to 5th Signal Command's 2008 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:

**SGT DUSTIN M. PFAFF**

72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion

and Soldier of the Year:

**SGT KEVIN ZIEGLER**

69th Signal Battalion



Sgt. Dustin M. Pfaff



Sgt. Kevin Ziegler

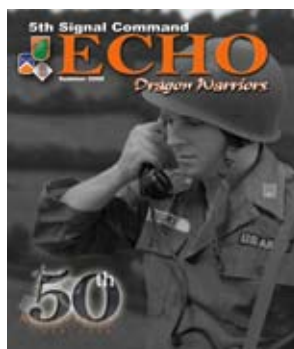
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**Story and Photos by  
SPC EVAN D. MARCY**

*5th Signal Command, PAO*

In the Global War on Terror, United States Army, Europe and V Corps have been a formidable one-two punch providing warfighters command and control and support services for Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and other contingency operations. Like a multinational corporate merger, these two military powerhouses are on the verge of a historic transformation resulting in what will be known as 7th Army.

A transformation of this magnitude does not happen with just a stroke of a pen from the Pentagon. Exercise Austere Challenge at the Grafenwoehr Training Area was the final test to see if these two neighbors were ready to move under the same roof.

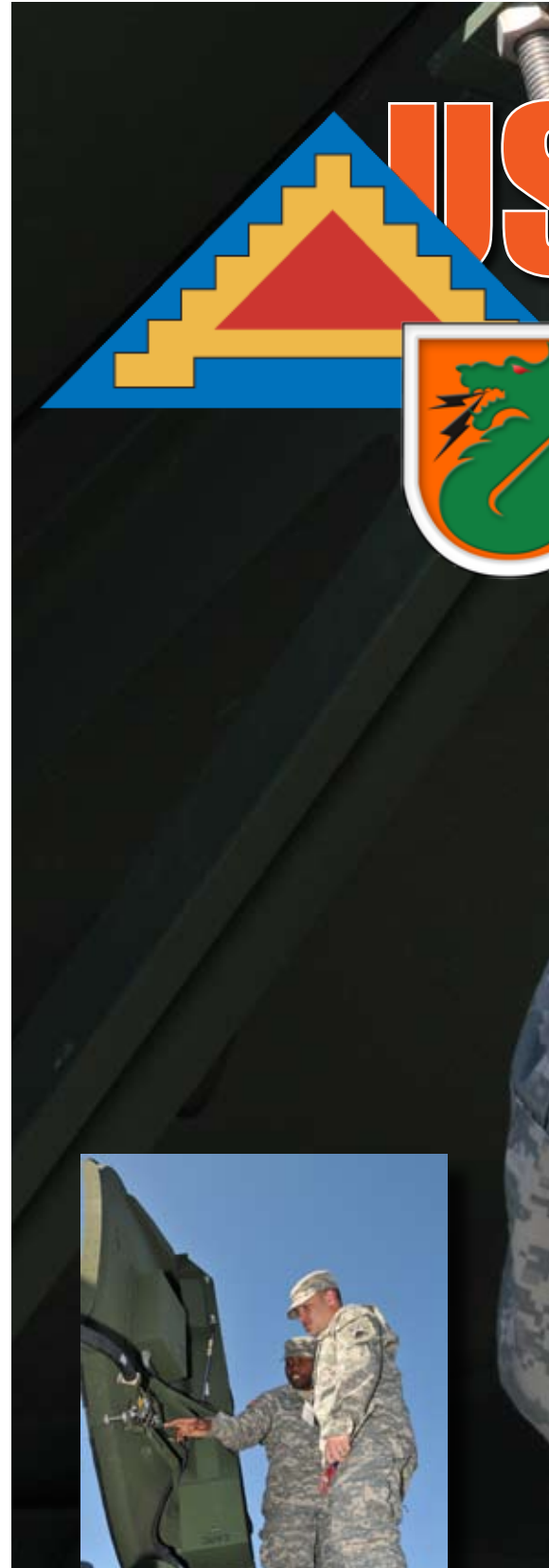
Providing the electricity for this new “house” is USAREUR’s 5th Signal Command. During Austere Challenge, which took place throughout much of the spring, 5th Signal, in coordination with USAREUR G6, V Corps G6, 7th Signal Brigade, 2nd Signal Brigade and a large tactical contingency from 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, provided the communications infrastructure for the exercise participants who were given the scenario of setting up a command and control base in an unestablished area during a conflict.

“What we’ve replicated here was that we were out in an austere environment, and had to tie into all the command posts, and then back into the fiber ring of the enterprise, which provides all the required services back here in the middle of nowhere,” said Lt. Col. Jay Chapman, 72nd ESB commander. “As and ESB, our job is to extend the enterprise out to the warfighter, who is away from the fiber back at the home station,” he added.

B Company, 72nd ESB, used a Joint Network Node and a Command Post Node as the primary source of communication for the 21st Theater Sustainment Command and 30th Medical Brigade, respectively, with an additional CPN from another parent switch that provided backup contingent communications for the 21st TSC. While supporting the 21st TSC, Lt. Lora Clark Coleman, B Company, 72d ESB, commented on the learning opportunity of getting customers civilian line phone access in addition to military phone service. “The 21st TSC needs to call civilians in order to get the Army what it needs, thus for us to help provide them with that service so that they can talk commercially, though a little different then what we normally do, was an interesting development,” she added.

72nd ESB has been consistently fielding their new equipment in preparation for future real world missions. During the transformation to an ESB, the 72nd went through a New Equipment Training Exercise, followed by Operation Eis Blitz, which was their validation exercise in which they put the entire network together for the first time. From there, they immediately entered phase one of Austere Challenge. “Confidence wasn’t fully there yet and there were a lot of rough times and late nights,” said Chapman.

“By phase three I think we really hit a home run and we were able to get the network up and running really quickly, while sustaining it the whole time. There were a few glitches along the way, which is good because the more we troubleshoot, the more we learn about our equipment. If you put in a network and it’s perfect, then you’re not really learning anything. So it’s good from time to time to have a few headaches that we have to work through. It makes the Soldiers that much more proficient with their skills when they go out to a real austere environment later,” said Chapman.



Below: Sgt. Anthony Weaver, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, performs maintenance on a satellite used to provide communications to participating units during exercise Austere Challenge in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

# AUSTERE CHALLENGE



Left: Pfc. De'Andre Williams (left) and Pfc. Robert Matz (right), 72nd ESB, check the connections of a Joint Network Node satellite during exercise Austere Challenge in Grafenwoehr, Germany.





**Sgt. Charles Mason (left) and Sgt. Adrian Silva, C Co., 72nd ESB, set up a Line of Sight satellite during exercise Austere Challenge. LOS satellites were part of the Joint Network Node package that provided communications for all Austere Challenge participants.**

C Company of 72nd ESB is considered a heavy signal company. C Company ran the Phoenix satellite system, the Single Shelter Switch, and a command post. “Austere Challenge was a great learning experience for our Soldiers because it allowed them to support and interact with real customers,” said 2nd Lt. Scott Noland, 2nd platoon leader, C Co., 72nd ESB. Although the scenarios were fabricated, 72nd provided the actual communication systems used by the units there, unlike the previous training exercises where the battalion acted as customers. “It was a good experience for the Soldier who got to use every aspect of the new systems, while supporting three times the amount of customers we had during the NETEX,” added Noland.

“From this exercise, our Soldiers are becoming more proficient and familiar with their equipment to where I can step back and allow them to do more advanced troubleshooting on their own,” said Sgt. Anthony Weaver, 2nd Platoon

Phoenix noncommissioned officer-in-charge, who has been working with the Phoenix since it came to the unit last summer.

“Something as simple as setting up the antenna (of the Phoenix) was somewhat of a challenge for the team before, but now we can set up the antenna in the least amount of time necessary. We’re definitely coming together as a team,” added Weaver.

“We have a great set of Soldiers working together here,” said Spc. Christopher Conway, who just re-enlisted for another overseas tour, enabling him to stay with his team for two additional years. “Soldiers want to stay in the unit, because they want the opportunity to work and gain knowledgeable experience on this new equipment,” said Weaver. “It’s great having these exercises where we can refine our military tasks leading up to deployments. My team is really motivated and eager for more missions to come down,” added Weaver.

“We have a great NCO core, and a great batch of young officers that came to me last year, and didn’t know anything about the JNN. Now they are here providing support in exercises while learning the technical skills and taking care of the Soldiers,” said Chapman. “We’ve had many Soldiers who’ve wanted to reenlist to stay with the 72nd because we’re deploying next year. They’ve actually said they want to stay and deploy which is exciting to know that we’ve got Soldiers that feel that way. They want to stay in a good unit, with good leadership using the Army’s cutting-edge equipment, and do our mission for real,” added Chapman.

Some of the equipment the 72nd is using, such as Cisco routers, is used in the civilian world as well. “It was frustrating a few months ago when the Soldiers had to step back and let the civilians step in and start doing the work to fix it. We don’t get the same level of detailed training for our Soldiers on how to operate this equipment the way the contractors have,” said Chapman. “They’re here helping to continue the learning curve. We now have a much better skill set on how to troubleshoot our equipment. When we go to an austere environment in the future we won’t rely on them as much, so it may only be a phone call about an issue that we can fix hands on,” he added.

72nd’s sister battalion, the 44th ESB is currently downrange supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. “The doctrine of an ESB is that we are constantly deploying and supporting those that don’t have their own habitual communications,” said Chapman.

“We are the only tactical signal battalion left in Europe right now with our sister battalion deployed, so we provide all the exercise/real world signal support. Whether it is a natural disaster or a situation of a national level, we have to have our equipment on standby to support a task force. We’re constantly making sure we’re ready,” said Chapman.

From their command post during Austere Challenge, 72nd was able to have numerous video teleconferences with the 44th. “We’ve sent questions ahead of time, about how they would’ve trained differently, what



equipment do they wish they trained more on, and how did their new equipment fielding prepare them for the mission that they're currently doing," said Chapman. "We have a great connection between our two battalions and share lessons we've each learned. For instance, if we have a problem with one of our systems and we think it's systemic, we ask them if they're having the same problems, we try to tag team to let the repair team, the Communications-Electronics Command, and the contractors know of the issue so a fix can be put in process. Whether it's training, electronic maintenance, or Warrior Tasks, we are constantly in communication with them to find out lessons learned, so we can fix them before we go," added Chapman.

For the foreseeable future, 5th Signal Command, along with its strategic and tactical units like the 72nd, will continue to provide communications support to warfighters in real and training environments like Austere Challenge.

In the house that will be known as 7th Army, 5th Signal will no doubt continue to be an indispensable resident.



**Above: 72nd ESB Commander Lt. Col. Jay Chapman (left) and 7th Signal Brigade Commander Col. Randall Bland (right) discuss the communications set-up during Austere Challenge.**

**Right: Sgt. Arty Garcia, 72nd ESB, unravels cable used on a Line of Sight satellite during exercise Austere Challenge.**

The old adage “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” has been given a death sentence by current trends in the arena of Army business transformation. 5th Signal Command’s goal of leading transformation in Europe is being realized, in part, by a hybrid business methodology known as...

# LEAN SIX SIGMA

## Kristopher Joseph

*5th Signal Command, PAO*

A name that sounds like a combination of a diet plan and a Greek fraternity is actually a unique combination of two rivaling business initiatives, Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma, when brought together create a synergistic environment that improves overall service quality and saves millions of dollars every year for organizations such as 5th Signal Command.

Lean is an outgrowth of the Toyota production system, and focuses on increasing efficiency and reducing cycle time by the elimination of waste. Six Sigma was developed by Motorola beginning in the 1970s as an approach to improving quality and effectiveness through statistical control. Its roots go back more than 150 years to a Prussian mathematician who introduced the concept of the normal curve.

Lean Six Sigma was “drafted” into 5th Signal to fully align with the Army’s priority of accelerating business transformation and process improvement. The Army’s growing LSS program has its roots in a corporate method of eliminating wasted time, money and material.

Like an injection of antibiotics, LSS augments an organization’s immune system by rooting out infected or malignant business processes. The key players responsible for carrying out these projects are known as green and black belts. Green belts take on specific smaller projects, while black belts try to solve broad, larger projects.

While there are no kung fu kicks or karate chops involved in the training to become a certified LSS green or black belt, there are plenty of statistics, graphs, charts and mathematical business equations to be learned that require a good amount of martial-arts discipline and con“Zen”tration in order to successfully tackle a project.

“Black belts do have to deal with some complex analysis, but green belts only require rudimentary statistic skills to be able to understand and work through a project,” said Cliff Ward, 5th Signal’s Enterprise Service Office project manager.

Ward sought to apply LSS for the command’s project of migrating all of United States Army, Europe / 7th Army’s computer networks under 5th Signal’s Enterprise Service Desk, which is essentially a one-stop, centralized point of assistance, that applies the Single Directorate of Information Management concept with most computer services being delivered and maintained remotely by expert IT operators and specialists.

The challenge Ward ran into with applying LSS was that the methodology is designed to take a process already in place and make it better. Ward was dealing with a migration process that was being done for the first time in the command.

“The first migrations needed to happen quickly, and this did not mesh with the time it takes to fully implement LSS on a project,” Ward said. “At the same time, we knew we needed an organized, reproducible process.”

5th Signal’s LSS project sponsor and black belt, Mike Beaupre, said that a successful project is one that not only looks at the number crunch but also emphasizes the human element in a business process.

“A critical part of any business process is to be customer focused,” he said. “It’s one thing to deliver a product or service in a timely and cost-effective manner, but we should always listen to what the customer says about it too.”

Ward and Beaupre decided to conduct, what is known under the LSS umbrella as, a Rapid Improvement Event. The RIE allowed Ward the process speed and flexibility he needed to ensure migration happened at an acceptable and successful pace.

“LSS for us is the difference between enduring and non-enduring as an organization,” said John Baltich, process developer for 5th Signal ESO. “LSS has helped us





Photo by Kristopher Joseph

**Cliff Ward, 5th Signal Command's Enterprise Service Office project manager, describes a Lean Six Sigma process during a green belt class in Heidelberg, Germany.**

institutionalize and set to stone proven business processes that will help this command maintain a longevity of superior service to its customers.”

“The results of the RIE meetings enabled the command to put in place a process of migrating any organization with any amount of users in two weeks or less,” said Ward.

The process enabled an exponential rise in total migration. For example, in 2007 it took 5th Signal almost a calendar year to migrate 15,000 users whereas in 2008 it only took half that time.

5th Signal has migrated around 88 percent of total users in USAREUR, which contains approximately 59,000 personnel. These numbers are right on track to have all customers migrated by August 2008 as mandated by former 5th Signal Commander Brig. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence, said Ward.

The success of the ESD migration project, in addition to a boost from LSS will pay various cost-effective dividends for USAREUR as a whole, said Ward. He pointed to the fact that the centralized ESD is manned by only 30 to 40 employees whereas before there were about 500 personnel or IMOs (Information Management Officers) assigned in organizations all over Europe to handle computer issues.

With the ESD only a phone call or mouse click away via the 119 trouble ticket hotline, users can receive computer help instantly and remotely instead of having to wait for an on-site IMO to commandeer the user's computer in order to fix a problem.

“Before, employees were paralyzed at their desks and twiddling their thumbs waiting for simple fixes such as resetting

a password,” said Ward. “What used to be a 20-minute wait can now be a 20-second wait, and all of that saved time translates into more dollars of productivity being used to support the warfighter.”

The overall aim of LSS is to ask “how can we make it better?” 5th Signal Command is asking the same question as it tackles USAREUR and Army tactical and business transformation requirements. Together, 5th Signal's “Dragon Warriors” are teaming up with their LSS green and black belts to give every warfighter under their watch the lean, efficient and effective digital firepower that they deserve.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Approximately 30% to 50% of the cost in service organizations is caused by costs related to slow speed or performing rework to satisfy customer needs, according to the Army Business Transformation Knowledge Center.**



**SKY**

**HIGH  
EXCELLENCE**

**44th ESB takes**

**deployment honors**

**downrange**



## SPC EVAN MARCY

5th Signal Command, PAO

While deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 5th Signal Command's 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion shipped, received and dispersed their equipment from Mannheim, Germany to over 40 sites located throughout Iraq. For their efforts, they were awarded first place for the Army Deployment Excellence Award for large category.

"I've never been in an inspection at this level and it was very thorough and professional. We did an extremely large amount of work on this project, and to be recognized for that makes me extremely happy and proud for the battalion. I think we did a really good job," said Staff Sgt. Darius Cunningham, B Company, 44th.

"While loading and receiving over 299 pieces of signal equipment during the transition, there was not one piece of frustrated cargo. That is, we maintained 100 percent of our equipment," said Maj. John Harris, 44th's executive officer.

This was achieved by meticulous accountability at each point. Going the extra mile, Harris and a small team of Soldiers were on the ground at the Kuwait port to get eyes on the unloading process. "This helped us prevent ourselves from losing one piece of equipment that I noticed was rolling backwards because the local workers weren't familiar with it and didn't brake it properly," said Cunningham.

Before deploying, the "Outstanding" battalion transformed

into an ESB, by incorporating 105 new systems and getting rid of 152 older ones. They had to rotate personnel, conduct new equipment and warrior tasks training, and validate their equipment in the field. From there, the 44th thoroughly cleaned and packed all their equipment and shipped it out in two days.

"The battalion was able to do this because leadership pushed responsibilities down and the junior NCOs did an outstanding job of making sure it was done right. It went very smooth because the whole battalion was involved. You don't usually see it that way, but the entire team was there helping," said Maj. Benjamin Anderson, U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim.

"The new unit movement handbooks that they created are going to be a great help to 72nd ESB down the line," said Sgt. First Class Bret BaTraweek, 44th ESB. 44th has most recently deployed in support of OIF in 2003 to 2004, and to Operation Enduring Freedom in 2006 and then deployed to Pakistan from Afghanistan, and is currently deployed in support of OIF 07-08. Since this deployment is the first as an ESB, the unit had to "start from scratch in getting accountability and procedures for shipping all their equipment, filing all the right forms, and getting everyone properly trained," said Harris.

"From busting their tail unloading equipment during Ramadan, which meant they could not drink water in public, to learning and adapting on the spot, this team was professional the entire way," he added.



Photo by Sgt. Michael Taylor

**44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion Soldiers and German workers load equipment onto barges in Mannheim for their deployment.**



# 44TH EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION



## MID-DEPLOYMENT REPORT

*Photos courtesy of the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion*

**Members of the 44th ESB in front of the Al-Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq.**

### LT. COL. KRIS KRAMARICH

*44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion Commander*

**H**aving assumed command just four months prior to deployment (45 days of which was either block or liberal leave), upon arrival in theater there were Soldiers and names I literally did not recognize. After six months on the ground, the names now have faces, but they also have an accomplishment, a site name, and an area of expertise behind them. When I look at a map of Iraq, strong teams led by professional NCOs leap into my mind. I cannot express how proud they make me every day.

Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Allen and I get constant feedback from Military Transition Teams, Joint Security Stations, S6s, G6s, Brigade Combat Team commanders, and countless Soldiers on the 44th ESB's valuable contribution to the fight. Our Soldiers install Command Post Networks and Joint Network Nodes providing truly reliable communications services to austere, remote and previously isolated locations all over Iraq.

It's almost liberating to witness the difference between the equipment we had during OIF 1 and the joint network equipment on the ground today.

Instead of providing equipment with limited capabilities and



**Spc. Lacy Thompson, B Company, 44th ESB, pulls fiber cable off a reel in support of the Fiber Installation Mission on Forward Operating Base Delta, Iraq.**

saying "make it work, wish we could give you something better," the Army has provided us equipment that is in high demand and enables our Soldiers to provide quality service expeditiously all over Iraq.

I haven't yet mentioned the Families. I'm amazed at how gracefully the Families are handling this 15-month deployment. I attribute their preparedness to a strong Family Readiness Group, to the Families that are on their second or third deployment, and how those with experience prepared those on their first deployment. They're doing a phenomenal job of taking care of each other. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize their selfless sacrifice of enduring an extended 15-month deployment as it will help countless other signal Soldiers return to a more normal and predictable rotation schedule in the future.



**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Fighting 44th ESB installs, operates, and maintains communications support to command posts, forward operating bases, and strategic locations throughout the MNC-I AOR in order to enable the Task Force Thunderbird commander to best support the MNC-I commander's campaign plan.

**Accomplishments:**

**November:**

- Deployed Line of Site and Command Post Network teams status to the different Multinational Divisions and Forces elements operating Joint Security Station sites across Iraq AOR

**December:**

- Developed a portal-based movement tracker to provide real-time visibility of personnel movement-Battalion conducted hundreds of movements (fixed wing, rotary and convoy) the first three months
- Began network trend analysis (using solar winds tools) at the Platoon Level
- Received and installed a Dismounted High Capacity Line of Sight system in MND-B to replace IP Radio w/frequency interference problems
- Replaced 2 x 8 foot satellite dishes in MND-B and MND-CS

**January:**

- Selected as best in NETCOM for the Deployment Excellence Award
- Established a portal site for Better Business Practice
- Developed plan to reallocate convoy Team Soldiers to ESB Doctrinal Missions

**February:**

- Selected as Army deployment Excellence Award Semi-Finalist
- Replaced 5 of 6 Legacy LOS systems with organic HCLOS
- Completed Fixed Regional Hub Node Testing (first testing with new hub in Kuwait)

**March:**

- DA Deployment Excellence Award Semi-finalists onsite inspection; selected as DA large unit winner
- Prepared and moved the Battalion's first JNN to support the XCVI Airborne Corps Assault CP at Basrah in 18 hours (airlifted by C17)
- CPN mission to Southern Iraq via Sling C17 and British forces sling load mission.



Cpl. Veronica Cruz, C Company, 44th, repairs communication cable at Forward Operating Base Echo in Iraq.



Lt. Col. Kris Kramarich, 44th ESB commander, and 44th Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Allen, unfurl their battalion colors at Camp Victory, Iraq, Nov. 2007 to officially assume responsibilities.



# NETWORK SERVICE

## CENTER - REGIONAL



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

**“T**wo images are the basis for the Signal Corps’ transformation. The first is a lighthouse – a powerful structure used to shed light on a region, provide aid, assistance, and direction, and ensure safe navigation for all who need its assistance in its sphere or region. The second is a planetarium – an optical device with the capacity to project the positions of multiple solar or, in this case, network systems, providing a model that represents a large picture needed to understand and manage the context of all within its scope.” -Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., commanding general, 5th Signal Command

The metaphorical images of the lighthouse and the planetarium are the basis for Europe’s Network Service Center -Regional, the Army’s newest, centralized approach to integrated Network Operations and Network Defense.

Utilizing the lighthouse and planetarium concepts, 5th Signal Command aims to provide more centralized IT support, services and planning capabilities to all U.S. Army, Europe / 7th Army customers (lighthouse) and enterprise and content management, network defense, and NetOps oversight of all networks within and traversing through the European theater (planetarium).

5th Signal Command was selected by the Army Chief Information Officer, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, to validate this new construct with the aim of the Signal Corps ultimately better supporting joint warfighters through integrated NetOps. In conjunction with Network Enterprise Technology Command,

Defense Information Systems Agency and USAREUR / 7th Army, 5th Signal is now leading the way in IT enterprise maturation, reorganization, and proof of principle of the NSC-R. Once validated, Europe’s NSC-R will serve as the model for the global military NSC transformation. Ultimately, the NSC-R in Europe will be a part of NETCOM’s global NSC construct. Additionally, Europe’s NSC-R will connect to all other NSC-Rs across the Army and Department of Defense.

The NSC-R creates a paradigm shift in how 5th Signal Command operates and defends USAREUR / 7th Army’s networks by organizing all signal core competencies into a serviceable, global unit. The NSC-R is the warfighter’s communications and network enabler, providing consolidated support to all bases, posts, camps and stations, which includes transport, data processing, modeling and simulation, and NetOps capabilities.

Building this construct requires a lot of moving and shaking. “As with any paradigm shift, we sometimes need to break bones in order to re-set them properly,” said Smith. “To this end, we are aligning our functions to gain efficiencies at the strategic level and better serve the warfighters at the operational level.”

Specific functions previously belonging to USAREUR G6, 5th Signal Command G3 and G2, 2nd Signal Brigade, and 7th Signal Brigade are being reorganized into the NSC-R. At end state of this transformation, the NSC-R will be under the leadership of 2nd Signal Brigade, maintaining coordinated oversight of its

six strategic signal battalions, the 39th, 43rd, 52nd, 69th, 102nd, 509th, which will transform into a service-based model of senior regional 6s for the respective higher-commands in their areas of responsibility. “These are our regional lighthouses,” said Smith.

“Command and control of the NSC-R includes two key functions. The first is technical control of NetOps, and the second is traditional military C2 of operational units. Previously, these two functions were separately controlled. In the NSC-R context, we have aligned these functions so that the technical authority parallels the chain of command,” said Col. Joseph Brendler, commander, 2nd Signal Brigade.

The NSC-R will also have a direct line of operation with the NSC-Tactical, managed by 7th Signal Brigade, which provides NetOps capabilities to deploying units utilizing Joint Network Node technology through the Regional Hub Node. This allows deploying units to essentially leave their network resources and files within the theater and reach back through the RHN when forward deployed to maintain connectivity along every step of their deployment and movement processes.

The NSC also enables joint warfighting for the operating force by providing network dependent capabilities through all phases of joint operations. The NSC-Tactical and the global NSC-Regionals will mobilize data for the deploying unit and allow reach back through the RHNs to maintain connectivity along every step of their deployment.

While many signal organizations



have some of these functions within their organizations, what makes 5th Signal unique in the European region is their span of control. In other locations, the networks are based around each major installation. Through the operations of the NSC-R, 5th Signal's two signal brigades, the 2nd and 7th, have a span of control over the entirety of the U.S. Army's networks in Europe. This gives unprecedented central control and decentralized execution of the operation and defense of the network. The NSC-R has oversight to facility-based "strategic" network infrastructure as well as insight and monitoring of mobile tactical formations.

At the heart of the NSC-R, four organizations provide the planetarium perspective: The European-Theater Network Operations and Security Center, Regional Computer Emergency Response Team- Europe, Information Assurance Program Manager, and the Cyber Threat Intelligence Cell.

"Essentially, these four are a point of intersection between the NetOps C2 functions provided by 2nd Sig for the NSC-R and the external organizations that support it," explained Brendler.

This newly cultivated interoperable team is the central basis for 5th Signal's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance of its networks and personnel.

"The NSC-R is essential because it provides continuity of information

services to the warfighter. The NSC-R incorporates TNOSC, step-sites, enclaves in Area Processing Centers and regional 6s on a global level. Through the NSC-R, a brigade combat team from anywhere in the world can contact their respective NSC-R to transfer their services seamlessly to any other NSC-R, thus transparently supporting warfighters and units for any mission at any location," explained Col. Dana Tankins, 5th Signal's former G3.

Tankins went on to explain that ultimately service members will maintain a single e-mail identity no matter where in the world and eventually this singular information construct will carry to phone numbers, logins, and all forms of electronic identity.

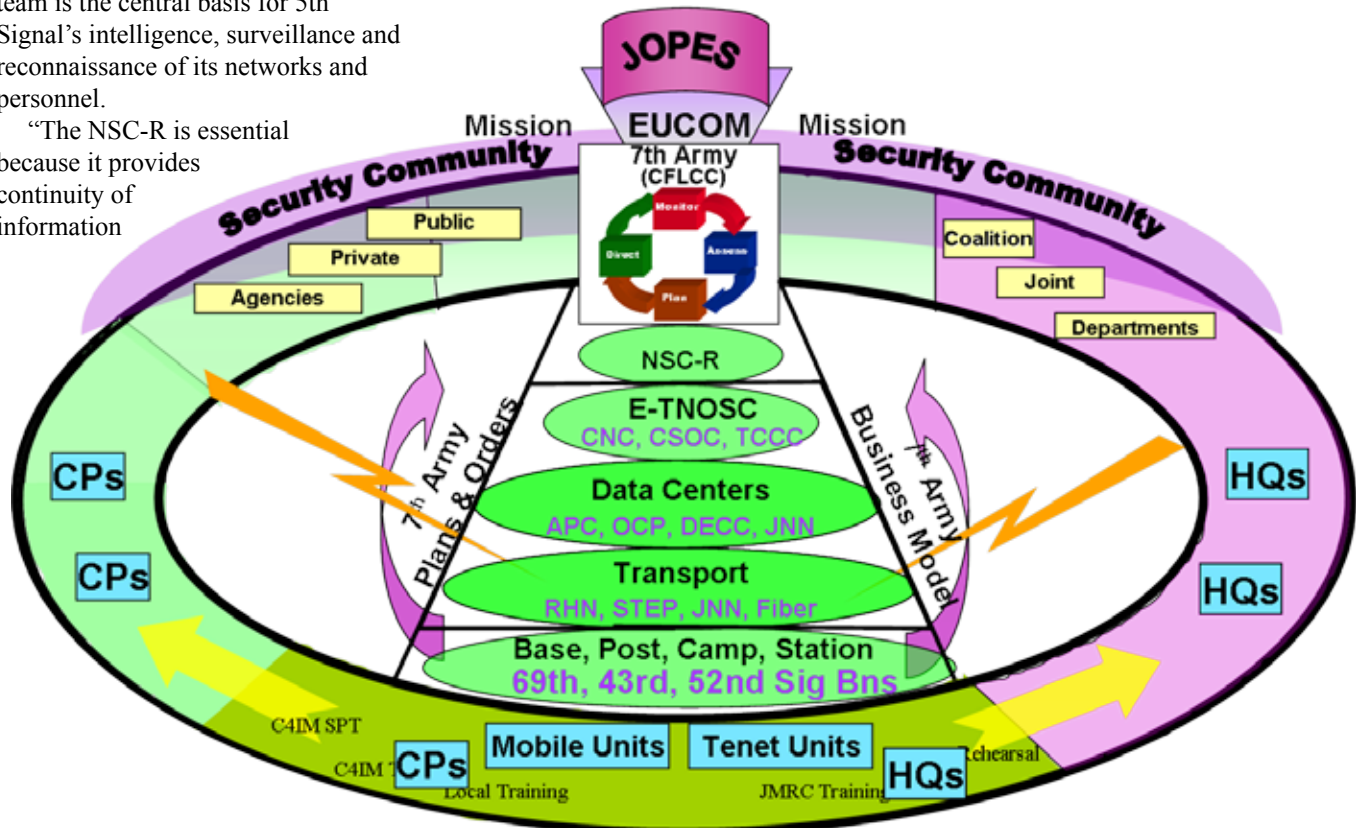
Currently, 48,000 USAREUR customers receive services from 5th Signal. The NSC-R builds the capabilities to branch out and provide service to all Army customers traveling through the European region, regardless of the global location of the headquarters, and the ability to migrate customers of other services and joint commands into the service base.

"From a Signal perspective, this is revolutionary," said Smith. "We are building the basis to enter a new era of

joint network operations and network defense."

## ACRONYM LEGEND

- APC - Area Processing Center
- CP - Command Post
- CSOC - Communications and Simulations Operations Center
- CFLCC - Combined Forces Land Component Command
- DECC - Defense Enterprise Computing Center
- HQ - Headquarters
- JOPES - Joint Planning and Execution System
- JNN - Joint Network Node
- OCP - Operational Command Post
- RHN - Regional Hub Node
- STEP - Standard Tactical Entry Point
- TCCC - Theater Communication Control Center



The NSC-R Construct



# 5TH SIGNAL

## Change of Command

Brig. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence of 5th Signal Command, Smith, Jr. (left), incoming from Gen. David D. McKiernan, general, United States Army change of command ceremony.

**KRISTOPHER JOSEPH**  
*5th Signal Command, PAO*

**U**nited States Army, Europe and 7th Army's 5th Signal Command welcomed a new commander in a change of command ceremony February 27 on Woods Field at Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim, Germany.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., who recently served as deputy commanding general of Network Enterprise Technology Command / 9th Signal Command at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., accepted command

from former USAREUR / 7th Army Commander Gen. David D. McKiernan.

Outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence served eight months as 5th Signal's commander and moved on to become commanding general of NETCOM / 9th Signal Command. She departed with her husband Neil Sonne.

"I look forward to the future and our continued service together," said Lawrence during her remarks. "NETCOM

may be an ocean away, but -- to the credit of the Dragon Warriors -- I know we will always be superbly connected."

"Today's Soldiers and missions require the very best, and that's what we got with you," said McKiernan about Lawrence.

Smith, born at Fort Monroe, Va., returns to Germany after previously serving in the 56th Field Artillery Brigade, 440th Signal Battalion, European Command headquarters, and most recently





Lawrence (right), outgoing commander, watches as Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, incoming commander, accepts the guidon from Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Lawrence (center), former commanding general of the 22nd Signal Brigade, during a ceremony held at Sullivan Barracks.

*Photo by Spc. Evan Marey*



*Photo by Kristopher Joseph*

A 5th Signal Command color guard marches past the official party during the change of command ceremony.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Sheridan*

529th Military Police Company's Salute Battery renders honors to the official party and distinguished guests.

Smith served as commander of the 22nd Signal Brigade from 2002-2004. Smith led the 22nd Signal Brigade during their deployment in support of the first iteration of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"There is no better fact than to state the rightness of this assignment for my family. We are home. Brig. Gen. Lawrence, you and your command have made me feel as if I had never left," said Smith during his remarks.

In 2004, Smith served as deputy

commander of the U.S. Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon, Ga. In 2005, he was assigned as U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's first director for the TRADOC Program Integration Office for Networks at the U.S. Army Signal Center to develop the Army's concept for LandWarNet.

Smith received his doctorate in English literature from Princeton University in

New Jersey and then taught English 101 from 1989 to 1992 at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. He also attended the National War College in Washington D.C.

Smith's wife, Deb, and daughter Madeline, 15, joined him in Mannheim.





# LOOKING BACK LEARNING FORWARD

Pfc. Teeania Williams, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, participates in a historic tableau ceremony on Funari Barracks where 5th Signal Soldiers dressed in uniforms from World War II to the present and simulated a communication transmission using signal equipment from each era to commemorate 50 Years of Signal in Europe.



5th Signal Command's Regimental Week from March 14 to 20 celebrated 50 Years of Signal in Europe through various events. As the communications arm of United States Army, Europe and 7th Army, the 5th Signal Dragon Warriors continue to provide the voice to the world's most powerful warfighters.







Photo by Sgt. Jonathon Gray

The 2008 European Signal Regimental Ball on March 14 kicked off 5th Signal Command's Regimental Week at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion. Guest speaker and former United States Army, Europe / 7th Army Commander Gen. David D. McKiernan praised the signaleers for leading the charge in transformation, saying that many of the benchmarks that have been set for future forces in Europe are things that "5th Signal Command does already."



Photo by Sgt. Jonathon Gray

On March 17, a Junior Officer Leadership Forum was held at a Best Western hotel in Mannheim, Germany. Guest speakers Lt. Col. Ross Osborne, Human Resource Command signal branch chief, and retired signal Col. Rock Schmidt, former 35th Signal Brigade commander and former director of the Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration, spoke to junior officers about current signal affairs in regards to promotions, career growth and professional development. The conference was also an opportunity to meet other signal officers in the USAREUR / 7th Army community.



Photo by Sgt. Jonathon Gray

A command-wide Organization Day was held on March 18 during Regimental Week. Soldiers and civilians alike participated in sport and leisure activities during normal duty hours to build unit cohesion and esprit-de-corps.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

5th Signal Command leadership attended a World War II ceremony in Wissembourg, France March 19 during Regimental Week. Wissembourg was the last French city liberated from Nazi occupation by American and Allied Forces.



Photo by Sgt. Jonathon Gray

On March 20, the final day of Regimental Week, 5th Signal Command held a Joint/Coalition Day. The command displayed its latest tactical signal equipment for foreign and sister services, and concluded the day with a historic tableau ceremony (main photo) hosted by 5th Signal Commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr.



# 50

Anniversary  
Signal in Europe  
1958 - 2008

# YEARS OF SIGNAL

1958



1958

U.S. Army Signal Command, Europe formally organized under USAREUR General Order Number 81, dated March 20, 1958, consisting of the 4th Signal Group, 516th Signal Group and the 102nd Signal Battalion.



102nd Crest

1968

1964

U.S. Army STRATCOM-Europe established on July 1, 1964 to manage all Army communications operations in Europe.



STRATCOM-Europe Patch



Personnel of the 7th Army Communications Command that would later form the 7th Signal Brigade.

1978

1979

2nd Signal Group reorganized  
2nd Signal Brigade



1974

5th Signal Command is born under USAREUR General Order number 192 in the effort to reorganize command and control of signal units in Europe.



5th Signal Patch and Crest

1970

7th Signal Brigade activated February 24, 1970.

# I AM SIGNAL



# NAL IN EUROPE



**1988**

esignates as



**1990**

Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield



**1989**

Mobile Subscriber Equipment approved by Army.



**1998**

**1994**

Operation Support Hope

**1991**

Operation Provide Comfort

**1999**

Task Force Falcon



**1996**

Operation Joint Endeavor

**2008**

Operation Enduring Freedom  
Operation Iraqi Freedom

**2007**

44th and 72nd Signal Battalions field Joint Network Node equipment to become Expeditionary Signal Battalions, replacing Mobile Subscriber Equipment.



**2003**

Fiber-optic network developed to replace Microwave Legacy networks.

# HEAR ME !



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# MEMORIES.

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*"I remember when* it would take a half a week to establish comms with the Legacy equipment that takes Soldiers only hours to do now with JNN."

**Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick Johnson,  
5th Signal Command CSM  
- 31 1/2 years of service**

*"I remember when* the (Berlin) Wall fell and the autobahn traffic doubled overnight. There also used to be AAFES gas stations on the autobahn as well."

**Bob Sheridan, HQ 5th, G1  
-33 years of service**

*"I remember when* it was allowed to smoke inside your office. It got so thick in the hallways, you could cut it with a knife."

**Reinhard Ruf, HQ 5th, G1  
-30 years of service**

*"I remember when* we sat in 'rat rigs' and used morse code to communicate."

**Col. Donna Kapinus, G1, HQ 5th  
-30 years of service**

*"I remember when* you could go to the commissary with \$20 and come out with five bags of groceries."

**Delia Ginete, HQ 5th, G3  
-21 years of service**

*"I remember when* all of our data was input and sent using punch cards into an NCR machine - kind of like what you might see at a voting booth."

**Eddy Boes, 2nd Sigal Brigade S4  
- 43 years of service**

*"I remember when* phone calls were routed by operators in Nuernberg and Bamberg between a base in Schweinfurt and a border camp in Coburg. Direct dial didn't exist and you yelled into the phones to be heard over the static. Calling home to the states meant a trip down to the Bundespost with a pocket full of Deutsche Marks."

**Earl Pray, HQ 5th, IAPM  
- 32 years of service**

*"I remember when* job vacancy announcements were typed on special blue onionskin, rolled off on mimeograph machines cranked by hand and distributed in "shotgun" envelopes.

**Martin Teigland, HQ 5th, IMO  
- 30 years of service**

*"I remember when* we only had one computer per section. You had to ask the secretary every time you needed to use it."

**Jackie Connor, HQ 5th, G8  
- 31 years of service**

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# I AM SIGNAL

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# AND THE WAY WE WERE

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*“I remember when* the physical fitness test had six events. One of them was the inverted crawl and we always ended up with battered hands from everyone trampling over each other.”

**Col. David Atcher, G4, HQ 5th**  
**- 28 years of service**

*“I remember when* I made \$562 a month as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1973. Most people were happy to make \$100 to \$200 a month so that felt like a fortune in those days.”

**Chaplain (Col.) James Agnew, HQ 5th**  
**- 34 years of service**

*“I remember when* you could buy beer at the barracks in vending machines for 60 cents. You were also allowed to drink two during lunchtime.”

**Master Sgt. Matthew Coulter, HQ 5th, G4**  
**- 23 years of service**

*“I remember when* we had these yellow and black PT uniforms. Everyone called them banana suits and they always shrunk to an unwearable size after you washed them twice.”

**Master Sgt. John Smiley, HQ 5th, G3**  
**- 24 years of service**

*“I remember when* Saturday was still a duty day back in 1968. You had to pass a few inspections before the commander would release you for the weekend.”

**Joseph Michalkiewicz, HQ 5th, Safety**  
**- 41 years of service**

*“I remember when* all my platoon sergeants were Vietnam vets, and you had to stand in a line to receive your pay every month.”

**Col. Mark Baines, Deputy Commander, 5th Signal Command**  
**- 23 years of service**

*“I remember when* if you were late for a formation you had to go through what was known as the ‘School of the Soldier.’ You had to do a TA-50 layout, a Class A inspection and a police call of an entire training area, and all of this happened over the weekend.”

**Sgt. Maj. David Tolver, 2nd Signal Brigade, S3**  
**- 25 1/2 years of service**

*“I remember when* one dollar was worth 4.20 Deutsche Marks, when cigarettes cost \$1.10 a carton, and when gas jumped from 0.17 to 0.63 cents a gallon in 1973.”

**Don Elmore (Ret.), 102nd Signal Battalion**  
**- 20 years of service**

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# HEAR ME !

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# Dragon Warriors SNAPSHOTS

A look back  
at 50 years  
of Signal in  
Europe in  
photos











# TWO OFFICERS

# One Marriage

**SGT JONATHON GRAY**  
*5th Signal Command, PAO*

Photos courtesy of 1st Lts. Brad and Lee Coleman



**W**hile in-processing at his new duty assignment in Fort Hood, Texas, Sgt. Brad Coleman met Spc. Lora “Lee” Clark.

There they would soon find out they had much in common, including a desire to put in a packet for U.S. Army Officer Candidate School. They met in August 2005, began dating October the same year, and were engaged February 14, 2006.

“I took her to a nice restaurant on Valentine’s Day with the intention of proposing. The restaurant was crowded and we had an amusing waiter, so I didn’t feel the atmosphere was right to propose,” Brad said. “So when we got to the parking lot I opened her car door for her and as she sat down I got on one knee and asked her,” he said.

Her response to the proposal was “Are you sure?” She did say yes. They were married in June as Mrs. Lee and Mr. Brad Coleman, just two weeks before she departed to OCS.

“I convinced him to submit early under a Military Personnel message and he was selected in one of the ten slots from Fort Hood,” said Lee.

Because she started before him, she finished the first part of OCS before her husband. Even though they were both married, the fraternization code in place at the school prevented them from being alone together. “We had to have a chaperone with us when we wanted to spend time together,” said Brad.

OCS also helped both of them adjust into the officer ranks. “Attending three officer schools in a row aided a smooth transition from being enlisted. It gave us some time to get used to the rank and the salutes,” said Brad. “It took a while to stop calling myself Sgt. Coleman,” he added.

When the couple completed OCS, they were commissioned in the Signal branch as second lieutenants. While in OCS, they received orders to Germany. It was during the Signal Basic Officer Leaders Course that they both met their future commander, Lt. Col. Jay K. Chapman, commander, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. “We just wanted the same deployment schedule so we would be able to spend time together, but we got lucky with the same unit assignment,” said Brad. “We would consider ourselves very lucky if deployed

together on the same camp,” he added.

Brad is assigned to Alpha Company and Lee to Bravo Company, both serving as platoon leaders.

“This is our first assignment as a married couple and officers. We didn’t know what to expect,” said Lee. They both enjoy being on the same work schedule but find it a challenge to maintain the household after work. “The hard part is finding the balance point between work and private life, such as finding time to shop and do the laundry.”

The home conversations can lean heavily towards military topics as, “the Army is a big part of our lives,” stated Brad. He continued to talk about the benefits about their military-centric conversations. “We can talk about situations that arise in each other’s platoons and ask how the other person would handle it. We can also use our talks for professional development,” he said. “We compare notes on how best to do things,” said Lee.

Brad discussed some advantages of being married to a service member in the same unit. “We have the same work schedules, and when we go to a field exercise and deploy, while others have to leave family behind, we bring ours with us,” he said.

“It was great when we left the United States. We shipped his truck first, so we had a car on each side of the ocean,” said Lee.

Lee also presented a different view. “A difficult part is that we both have to wake up early for physical training and stay late for work. It’s hard to find the balance point between work and private life, for things such as laundry and shopping,” she said.

Soldiers in the U.S. Army have to maintain personal equipment and gear, in addition to the equipment assigned to them in keeping with their unit’s mission. Because of their unique situation, the Colemans have twice the amount of equipment crammed into on-post housing. “Our housing is maxed-out,” said Brad. Even though sized differently, their military gear still looks the same and can get confusing. “Sometimes I grab her rucksack instead of mine,” added Brad.

They also find themselves in a familiar situation because their battalion

commander, Chapman, is married to Lt. Col. Ann K. Kramarich, the 44th ESB commander. The two are sister battalions under the 7th Signal Brigade. “Our battalion commander is very responsive and understanding of our situation and needs, as with all married couples in our unit,” said Brad.

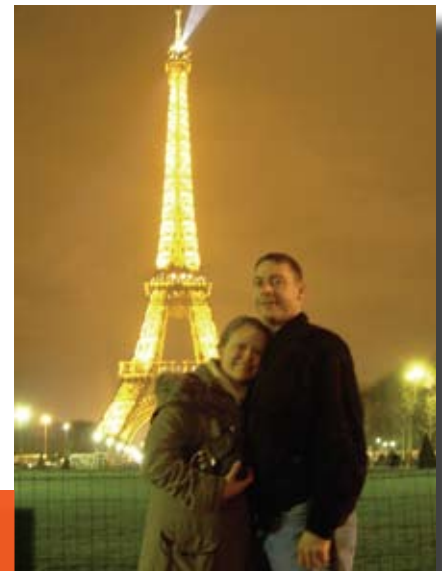
“We also support each other’s Family Readiness Groups as much as we can,” said Brad. “Sometimes we can’t because of our own mission and duties to our companies and platoons,” he said.

The Colemans have been in 72nd since June of 2007. When they find the free time to relax, they both enjoy a heavy regiment of travelling around the world. In a year’s time, they have visited Italy, Belgium, Spain, and Ireland to name a few. “That’s not including the German cities we’ve visited in the area,” stated Lee.

Still, their Army goals are their top priorities. “When we met, I never imagined it would work out so well. Now we’ve got the next chapter to look forward to,” said Lee.

The Colemans are planning on having children, but are unsure of when. “We want to start a family, but with dual-military it’s not a viable option,” said Brad. They are unsure of who would leave the Army and when, but both are ready to discuss it when it’s time. “My brother is a ‘stay-at-home’ dad, so I don’t feel uncomfortable with that role, if that’s what we decide on,” said Brad.

Both of the Coleman’s were promoted to 1st Lieutenant this year, Lee in April and Brad in June. “If one of us makes captain before the other, I’m sure we’ll salute each other in public,” said Brad.



**The Coleman’s in Paris.**

# 102nd Rescues

## an Old Friend



Small photos of flag refurbishing courtesy of Brigitte Dreyspring



Photo by Kristopher Joseph

102nd Signal Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Salo (second from left), conservator Brigitte Dreyspring (left) and members of the 102nd watch as their unit colors are revealed for the first time at the battalion headquarters Feb. 21 after being refurbished by Dreyspring.

### LT. COL. THOMAS SALO

#### 102nd Signal Battalion Commander

On my first days in the battalion headquarters after assuming command, I noticed a large empty space on the battalion conference room wall. When I inquired why there was a space, I was told that the old battalion colors had been displayed there, but had been taken down so they could be remounted. I asked for the colors to be brought to me so I could see them. When they were brought to my office I was dismayed at the condition that they were in. It was clear that they had not been properly prepared for display, and that they were definitely not being cared for as they should. I was also concerned that an attempt by us to remount the colors would likely either worsen the condition of the colors or, at best, remount them with no improvement.

Because I suspected that the colors were the original colors of the battalion from World War II, or from the time of the reactivation of the battalion in 1954, I directed the staff to look in to having the colors dated, professionally restored, and more importantly, conserved. Information received from the Army Signal Corps Museum and Center for Military History – combined with dating of the fibers by the conservator (the fiber was developed and used during the 1930s and 40s) – we concluded that these are the battalion's original colors from World War II.







After determining that the colors weren't just an old flag, but that they had historical significance, we needed to find the best conservator. We contacted the 1st Infantry Division Museum curator in Wurzburg, who then put us in contact with folks at the CMH; the CMH provided us a list of textile conservators located in Germany. Our research and a recommendation of the City Museum in Mainz led us to Ms. Brigitte Dreyspring of Wiesbaden, Germany, considered one of the best, if not the best, textile conservators in Germany. We contacted her, she did an examination of the colors and explained how she could restore and then conserve the colors. After legal review, and with CMH concurrence that these were in fact historical colors, we were able to fund the project – at a cost of approximately 7,000 Euros.

Ms. Dreyspring took delivery of the colors in September of 2007 and over the following 4 months, worked on them at her shop in Wiesbaden. She provided regular progress updates and established a web site where we could see how the project was progressing. Near the end of the work we chose American cherry wood for the case. The restored colors were returned by Ms. Dreyspring to the 102nd headquarters on February 21st, where they were unveiled for the first time to battalion members. This restoration embodies the old adage:

“While members of the unit may fall in battle, the colors live on forever!”







*Photos by LeAnne MacAllister*

**Right: (From left) Ambassador Craig Stapleton, U.S. Ambassador to France, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steve Hawkins, Director of the European Region of the American Battle Monuments Commission, Jeffrey Aarnio, Superintendent of Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, and Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., commanding general, 5th Signal Command, prepare to lay wreaths at the war memorial in Fere-en-Tardenois during a Memorial Day ceremony.**



**French Soldiers march in formation at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France during a Memorial Day ceremony that also marked the 90th Anniversary of the end of "The Great War." The French military lost over 1 million lives while the American military lost over 100,000.**





# Honoring the Fallen

**Left: 50 Soldiers from across 5th Signal Command represented U.S. Forces in a Memorial Day ceremony at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, marking the 90th Anniversary of the end of World War I. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., commanding general, 5th Signal Command and Ambassador Craig Stapleton, U.S. Ambassador to France addressed the crowds and participated in four commemorative wreath laying ceremonies in the region Northeast of Paris.**

## **LEANNE MACALLISTER**

*PAO, 5th Signal Command,*

**M**inot Savage once said, “The brave never die, though they sleep in dust. Their courage nerves a thousand living men.”

In a ceremony marking the 90th Anniversary of World War I and Memorial Day, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr., commanding general, 5th Signal Command, told the hundreds who gathered at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery that these words ring true for him everyday.

“Brave men and women, like the ones buried here, are what inspire us who wear the uniform today, and indeed, what led me to be a Soldier,” Smith said.

50 Soldiers from across 5th Signal Command represented U.S. Armed Forces in Memorial Day ceremonies in the region northeast of Paris, marking the 90th Anniversary of the end of World War I at various battle sites.

Wreath layings were held at the town’s memorial square, Seringes-et-Nesles church – a historic building rebuilt atop a hill at the location of a battle site, and Meurcy Farm – a privately owned farm that was used as a medical station during multiple wars in addition to the American cemetery.

Of the 20 million service members and civilians who lost their lives in what is known by the French as ‘The Great War,’ Oise-Aisne American Cemetery is the final resting place for over 6,000 Soldiers who perished in the area. 1st. Lt. Quentin Roosevelt, son of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, was shot down in a field near the present-day cemetery.

During the ceremonies, Smith commented on the strong bonds that unite France and the United States, highlighting the relationship built through the

Revolutionary and World Wars.

“Our collaborative observance of Memorial Day sends a clear message. It solidifies our mutual respect for the sacrifices made by one nation’s people for those of another land. It also indicates that America and its friends stand united behind our armed forces, as we have in the past and will continue to do so in the future.”

The U.S. Ambassador to France, The Honorable Craig Stapleton, also addressed the crowd, speaking in French about the monumental events that took place here many years ago and shaped the world.

5th Signal Command’s color guard, honor platoon, salute battery and a bugler joined the command leadership – Smith, Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick D. Johnson and Chaplain (Col.) James Agnew – in the multiple ceremonies. Additionally, a French honor platoon, and a French WWI reenactment group joined the formation as the Soldiers marched in procession. The ceremony also included a U.S. Air Force fly-over provided by the 48th Fighter Wing, Lakenheath, United Kingdom, and poetry readings by local high school students.

Following the ceremonies, the local community hosted a reception and tour of a historical collection for the many U.S. and French state, federal and military participants.

In closing, Smith spoke personally to troops, French and American alike, reminding them of the tremendous importance of the ceremony, noting that years from now future generations will pay the same tribute to those who have died in more recent conflicts.

“There is no greater honor than to give honor to those who have served, to those who have fallen,” he added.



# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

## 72nd ESB competes in Eurocorps duathlon for first time



Staff Sgt. Eric Butcher, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 5th Signal Command, checks his target with a German Eurocorps Soldier during a Eurocorps-hosted duathlon in Strasbourg, France.

Story and Photos by  
SPC EVAN MARCY

*5th Signal Command, PAO*

Soldiers of 5th Signal Command's 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion became the first U.S. Soldiers to ever compete alongside European partners in the Eurocorps Support Battalion's hosted shoot-run-shoot duathlon in Strasbourg, France April 16.

Eurocorps is a cooperative European military organization under the European Union created officially in 1993 with the aim of supporting European security and contingency operations. It currently comprises military contributions from its five framework nations: Germany, France, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg. The headquarters, located in Strasbourg, France, also contains Soldiers from Austria, Greece, Poland and Turkey.

The event was started by a previous battalion commander (German) Lt. Col. Frank Wachter. "He created the event to aid in the cohesion between the multi-national Soldiers who are constantly on missions, but aren't always involved in the same exercises," said Belgian Adjutant (Master Sgt.) Nathalie Dhuyvetter, the support battalion's operations officer.

"The duathlon run is different from normal morning physical training, because teams consist of three Soldiers and the time is based on when the last Soldier of a team crosses the finish line, and you're responsible to keep everyone up to speed," said Dhuyvetter. The Soldiers were also scored on their ability to shoot the French-made FAMAS assault rifle before and after the run.

"The second shooting is the most difficult, which is done immediately after crossing the finish line," said Dhuyvetter. The 6.2 kilometer run was done in full uniform through various slopes and hill,



on a mixture of gravel and pavement. “It was a great course and very challenging,” said 1st Sgt. Douglas Lynch, 72nd ESB.

1st. Sgt. Lynch, Spc. Alan Fennell, and Spc. William Barker from 72nd ESB managed to take first place among the 20 teams that participated. At a close second place was Capt. Thomas Laney, Sgt. 1st Class Martin Rosenfeld and Pfc. Joshua McGinnis, 72nd ESB. This duathlon was Laney’s first time participating in a Eurocorps-sponsored event, and he plans on doing more in the future. “It was a great opportunity to learn all about the Eurocorps and their structure. There were a lot of similarities to the U.S. Army,” said Laney.

Laney heard about the event through 5th Signal’s Deputy Chief of Intelligence, Robert Hembrook, who has taken the lead in organizing numerous partnership events in the past, including this June’s 36th Annual International Shooting Contest in Eschbach, Germany.

“Capt. Laney had us train by running up and down stairs numerous times to get our heart rate up before trying to qualify on the Laser Marksmanship Training equipment, said Fennell. “That way, we would feel comfortable when it came

time to shoot after the run during the duathlon.” “It was very different running with boots because it adds an extra pound and a half to your feet,” said Laney.

During their stay in Strasbourg, the Soldiers of 72nd ESB, were first given a tour of the Eurocorps Support Battalion, and then taken out and shown the surrounding areas, consisting of its famous 500-year-old cathedral. The following day after competing in the duathlon, the

Soldiers were allowed to compete for the German marksmanship Schutzenschnur Badge.

**Staff Sgt. Eric Butcher alongside Staff Sgts. Robert Ferguson and Jonathan Muse, 5th Signal Command, shakes hands with a Eurocorps German Soldier after completing the Eurocorps Support Battalion’s duathlon.**



**Capt. Thomas Laney (left), and Sgt. 1st Class Martin Rosenfeld (right), 72nd ESB, 5th Signal Command, come to the last stretch of a 6.2 kilometer run during a Eurocorps-hosted duathlon.**

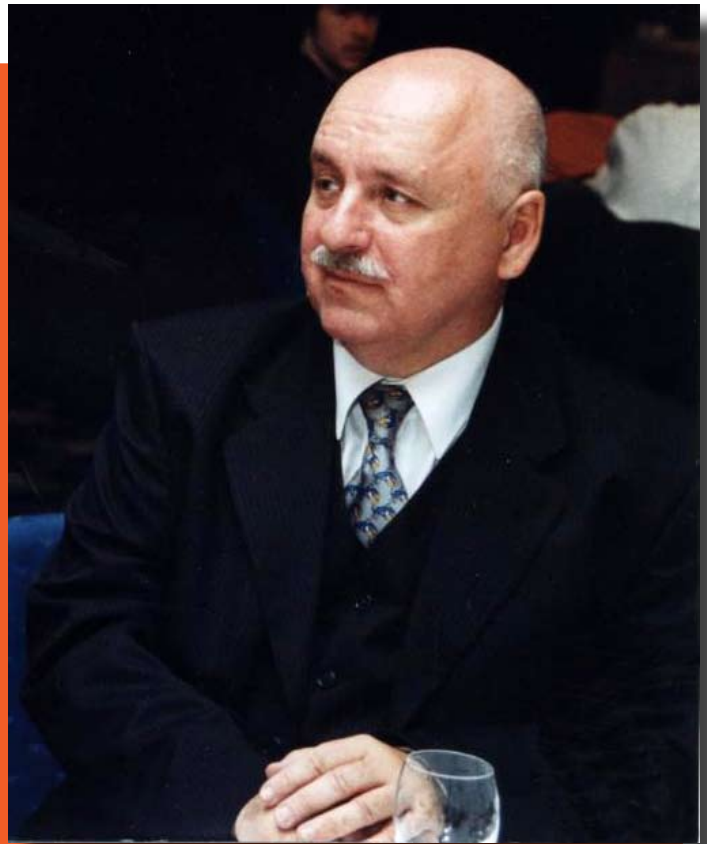


**72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion Soldiers with Eurocorps Soldiers after competing together for the first time in the Eurocorps Support Battalion’s duathlon.**

# “Irreplaceable”

## Joe Wetzl

### 1948-2008



#### SGT ELIZABETH SHERIDAN

*5th Signal Command, PAO*

**J**ozsef Wetzl, a longtime Army employee and dear friend to the military and civilian communities of both Mannheim and Worms passed away suddenly Feb. 15 from natural causes in his home in Worms, Germany. He was 59.

He had an air of grace and elegance about him, extremely competent but not overbearing -- a true gentleman. His office was an inviting place, decorated with warm colors and filled with life. Adorning the walls were pictures of him with various dignitaries, awards he'd won and mementoes of many years of service to two nations, Germany and the United States. He spoke impeccable German, French and English as well as Hungarian, his native tongue.

He was distinguished man who was always gracious, always courteous, and fiercely intelligent, but it was a quiet intelligence. You couldn't help but notice him, he was well-dressed and always at the general's side. He leaned over to unobtrusively tell the general whose hand he or she was shaking and what was important to know.

Wetzl served more than 37 years as a Department of the Army employee. For the past 17 years he served as the political advisor for 5th Signal Command, advising over a dozen commanding generals on host nation affairs.

"There are no words to adequately describe this tremendous loss," said Brig. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence, former commander of 5th Signal Command. "Joe was an institution, an amazing advisor. He was always behind us, supporting us, tirelessly. More so, he was a great friend to this community and our Soldiers."

Wetzl was born on May 31, 1948 in Bastaszek, Hungary. He attended elementary school in Hungary until 1956, when he and his family fled after an uprising against the Communist government failed. He arrived in Worms, Germany in January 1957. He completed elementary school in Worms, then from April 1966 to September 1969, he attended Ungarisches Neusprachliches Gymnasium, Kastl bei/Amberg, Bavaria, Germany from which he received a Baccalaureate Diploma. In July 1979, Wetzl took the English-German state examination and received a diploma at Hessischer Kultusminister in Weisbaden. From 1980-1986, he attended University of Maryland, European Division, where he received a degree in Business with a minor in Sociology and Psychology.

From 1969-1970, Wetzl worked at the Renolit Chemical Plant in Worms.

He then began his career with the U.S. Army as an administrative assistant in Worms. From 1974-1975 he worked as a supervisory contract specialist in the procurement division of 5th Signal Command. He briefly returned to working in the realm of safety as a management specialist for U.S. Military Community Activity - Worms. In 1977, he became the safety manager, then moved to the position of public affairs officer from 1989-1991.

In June of 1991, Wetzl took over as political advisor at 5th Signal Command. He fulfilled this role for nine general officers, imparting expertise on a multitude of subjects, building and maintaining relationships with the local leaders and units



throughout the command's European footprint.

"Joe enjoyed discussing any and all subjects, whether books, movies, theatre, politics, culture, religion or travel," said Martin Teigland, 5th Signal Information Management Office employee and longtime friend of Joe's since 1973.

"He was fluent in Hungarian, French, German and English. He had a good singing voice and knew a large repertoire of musical text and Hungarian folk-dances in memory and could burst out singing at any time," said Teigland.

Wetzel was instrumental in the rebasing of 5th Signal Command from Worms to Mannheim in the summer of 1996. Because of his efforts, the command continues to maintain a close friendship with the city of Worms to this day. The command's strong friendship and many partnership programs with the city of Mannheim are also a credit to Wetzel.

His honorable contributions to government service spanned more than 37 years and had a tremendous impact on both American and European communities.

Wetzel is survived by family in Hungary and a sister, Eva Onda, in the United States.

"He is irreplaceable. His service to Dragon Warriors, our community, and our Army will never be forgotten," Lawrence said.

**Joe Wetzel advising former 5th Signal Commander Brig. Gen. Susan S. Lawrence.**



**5th Signal members, family, friends and local national associates of Joe Wetzel gather in a church in Worms, Germany to pay their last respects during a memorial ceremony .**

# COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ANNOUNCES RETURN TO 12-MONTH DEPLOYMENTS

To Our Soldiers and Families:

On April 10, 2008 President Bush announced his decision to return to 12-month deployments in the CENTCOM theater for active Army units. The President's decision reflects the improved security situation in Iraq - one made possible by your unwavering commitment and willingness to sacrifice - as well as the recognition of the impact of extended deployments on Army Families and our readiness. Today's policy changes will help reduce that strain as we continue to grow the Army and restore balance.

The Army will reduce "Boots on the Ground" time to no more than twelve months for all active component Soldiers deploying to CENTCOM area of operations after August 1 2008. Soldiers deploying prior to August 1 will complete their scheduled deployments.

The return to 12-month deployments does not change the Army's dwell time policy. This policy is intended to give units time to properly reset and allow Soldiers, Families, and friends to reconnect.

You have chosen a most noble profession. With your Families standing with you in support, you have borne the increased stress and burden of this war for our Army and our Nation. A grateful Army and Nation thank you.

Signed,

Pete Geren  
Secretary of the Army

George W. Casey, Jr.  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Kenneth O. Preston  
Sergeant Major of the Army



## *39th Signal Battalion rakes in DISA awards*

**SGT MICHAEL TAYLOR**

*5th Signal Command, PAO*

Two signal units continue to show the world why 5th Signal Command is the Army's leading signal command by earning some very prestigious awards this year.

39th Signal Battalion's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) building was once again crowned the Defense Information System Network Facility Of The Year. Since 2003, the 39th has either won or been the runner up for this award in Category IV. And, for the third year in a row, the 39th's 128th Signal Company's Menwith Hill facility in England managed to set itself apart by earning the DISN's FOTY award for Category IX-A.

The DISN FOTY awards are an annually held competition, which are independently administered and managed by each of the Defense Information System Agency's Regional, Enterprise, and Global awards managers.

The goal of the FOTY awards is to identify and formally recognize outstanding DISN facilities for exemplary accomplishments, performance, and contributions made to enhance the effectiveness in which the Global Information Grid (GIG) is operated, secured, and managed.

The criteria used to determine the winners are mission accomplishment, training, facility/equipment improvements, and customer support/education.

Winners of these awards are determined by DISA collecting packets from each Defense Information Infrastructure facility and nominating the deserving facilities for the best transmission media facility of that year in categories one through five.

The categories are determined by the number of facilities, networks, and services provided with I being the smaller facilities

and V identifying the larger facilities.

39th Sig Battalion has been able to see a category increase rise from level II to IV since 2003.

39th's team of five Department of the Army civilians and one noncommissioned officer operates and maintains quality assurance over communications at two DII facilities, one radio relay station, and the SHAPE Commander's residence on a 24/7 basis. Technical assistance is also provided to various customers throughout the Benelux region.

Having won the FOTY again this year, the 39th knows what it feels like to be the best in their category, but they aren't the only ones.

The 128th Signal Company has won this prestigious award in their category for third year in a row.

"The 128th Signal Company has been recognized for this highly coveted award because of its outstanding communications reputation and by continuing to surpass the DISA performance objectives," said Ronald Clay, the Menwith Hill station manager. 128th personnel also maintained a good working relationship with their customers by attending weekly operational meetings with the local users. This effort to collaborate with the user community was vital to providing quality satellite communication services, said Clay.

"Overall, the hard work and dedication from these two units is a direct reflection of 5th Signal Command's quality of personnel and leadership. Their accomplishments set themselves apart and continue to show why the 5th Signal Command is the Army's leading Signal Command," said 1st. Lt. Dale Proctor, assistant S3 of operations, 39th.





# FROM THE CSM

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Soldiers and Civilians of 5th Signal Command,

I couldn't be more proud to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Signal in Europe with a finer organization than 5th Signal Command. From the newest private to the most experienced officers and civilians, I have watched you take this command to new heights.

You have accomplished everything we have asked of you to the highest standard and are the reason that 5th Signal Command is leading the charge in transformation and supporting the warfighter in United States Army, Europe.

I encourage you to congratulate each other on a job well done, but always remember the next mission is just around the corner. Each new mission creates new challenges and added responsibility that require sound leadership.

I must stress to every noncommissioned officer to step up to these challenges and lead from the front with courage. This requires supporting your commissioned officers, mentoring your subordinates and listening to your peers.

During this time of constant deployments and contingency missions, there is nothing more important than taking care of your Families. The Army has recognized through the signing of Army Family Covenants worldwide, that Family is what makes our Soldiers and civilians strong. I ask you to give as much dedication, attention and strength to your Families as you do for the command.

It is also important to continue to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Army. Whether it is acquiring skill certifications, getting a college degree or taking military courses, I urge you to never stop improving, learning and working your way up the achievement ladder.

In everything we do, we must do it safely. With summer upon us, you must consider the necessary precautions that go along with rising temperatures. Look out for your battle buddies and never let them slip into an unsafe situation that you could have helped avoid.

Also, please continue to support the Families of the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion as their loved ones are still deployed. Keep these Dragon Warriors, and all deployed servicemembers and their Families in your thoughts and pray for their safe return.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not welcome our new commander, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith, Jr. In the road that lies ahead, I am confident he will continue to lead 5th Signal Command with the same vigilance and competence as the great leaders that came before him. I charge each one of you to give 100 percent to the vision and intent that he will bring to our great organization.

For a half a century, we have been the voice of Europe for USAREUR and 7th Army. This anniversary though marks only the beginning of the unparalleled service and support to the warfighter that you will bring to this region. I am proud to be in your ranks and thank each one of you for making 5th Signal Command the premier signal command in the Army.

Roderick D. Johnson  
Command Sergeant Major, USA  
5th Signal Command

DRAGON WARRIORS - ARMY STRONG

50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Signal in Europe  
1958 - 2008



**ARMY STRONG**



U.S. ARMY