

# UFL '03

By Sgt. Sarah Maxwell  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

Almost three thousand 1st Signal Brigade soldiers, civilians and Korean nationals set, then exceeded the standards during the Ulchi Focus Lens exercise in August.

That is greatly because of the newly renovated Theater Network Operations Security Center, the nerve center of all Army communications on the peninsula.

The new equipment allowed the brigade operation's ability to integrate into the facility, working side-by-side to bring the whole network under control. It essentially bridges the gap between the tactical and strategic battalions, said Lt. Col. Michael Shillinger, TNOSC officer in charge..

"Up until now, you would have to be in different places to see the different things going on. Now we have one location to see it all. That's huge," Shillinger emphasized.

This translates to better service to the warfighter, he added.

"The service he (the warfighter) typically gets - phones, data, video - are more responsive, more flexible. We see problems coming now before a train wreck happens," he said.

This great leap in technology not only benefits the brigade personnel, but it allows everyone who works with the

unit the opportunity to learn.

That's exactly the benefit Capt. Shun Washington had as a reservist with the 280th Sig. Bn. in Georgetown, Del. Although it was just his first UFL, he played a major role during the exercise working as the assistant battle captain.

"At the brigade level, this has been an awesome opportunity to see what's happening," said Washington. "It's also a great benefit for my unit at home. Now, I'm going to be teaching, training and let them know what needs to be done at our (company) level."

The TNOSC may have given the brigade more control over monitoring the communication networks, but it still takes every signal soldier and civilian to ensure the system is working properly.

For the small extension node of Company A, 304th Sig. Bn., or as their platoon leader calls them, the "Quiet Killers" this was no exception.

Sgt. Jacob Roberts, a radio operation with Co. A, monitored his piece of the network from a radio van at Camp Humphreys. It may be a small piece of the network, but Roberts understands he's part of a big picture. "If it wasn't for us the warfighter couldn't communicate. We have a saying 'they might talk about us, but they can't talk without us.'"



Photos by Pvt.2 Shin, Hyung-bum

...res the Main Distribution Frame connecting tele-  
...ation backbone for the Yongin area.



Gen. Leon J. Laporte, commander in chief USFK, visits TNOSC showing his encourage-  
ment and appreciation for what the soldiers are doing.

# Extra Homework

## *Network University pushes soldiers for better performance*

**2nd Lt. Aaron Young III**  
**Company B, 304th Sig. Bn.**

The 304th Signal Battalion is pushing soldiers to perform better by giving out a little homework during its Network University program, and according to 304th personnel the benefit is the greatly improved performance during training exercises.

The training is a refresher on the different tasks of a 31L, 31F, 31R and 31U MOSs.

Each instructor is a noncommissioned officer or, in certain circumstances, a civilian contractor who assists in the installation, operation and maintenance of equipment that is indigenous to the Digital Group Multiplexer world.

Sgt. 1st Class William Monical, a 304th network controller, said some form of this program has been around for at least five years.

He helps develop the curriculum and tasks instructors for the individual training that goes on during the two to three weeks of instruction.

The Net-U began June 2 at Camp Colbern, and ended June 13 at Camp Humphreys.

The curriculum not only encompassed classroom instruction, but soldiers also learn by hands-on training.

“Not only do we improve the skills of our entire signal MOSs in the battalion,” said Monical. “We also get to show those who have only worked with Multiple Subscriber Equipment how to implement what they know on that level, how to get a broader base of knowledge within the Corps by learning another tactical side in echelon above corps.”

Staff Sgt. John Nelson, Company B, a first-time instructor with the Net-U program, is instructing on the most recent piece of equipment to the 304th, the AN-TTC 56(v)1 Single Shelter Switch.

“Unlike the Net-U held before RSO&I, this time I get to help new soldiers with real-time experience on the SSS, which was just really being fielded within the battalion,” said Nelson.

When the Network University ended, the battalion built on that knowledge base and began its battalion Switchex, which was a prelude to the biggest FTX in Korea, Ulchi Focus Lens.

Because of the incredible foresight, know-how and tireless efforts of a few Signaleers five years ago and today, the 304th will continue to improve on their success in performance on this peninsula due to a little teamwork and a little extra homework.

## Celebrating in Style

### 1st Sig. Bde. hosts USFK Signal Regimental Ball

**By Sgt. Jo, Jong-hye**  
**1st Sig. Bde. PAO**

1st Signal Brigade hosted the U.S. Forces Korea Signal Regimental Ball at Seoul Grand Hyatt Hotel May 16 to celebrate the 143rd anniversary of the Signal Corps under the theme “Soldiers by Duty, Families by Heart.”

About 500 Signal soldiers were in attendance, bringing together all the tactical and strategic battalions of the 1st Sig. Bde. and other units such as the 122nd Sig. Bn. from 2nd Infantry Division.

Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Alejo C. Quinata and the first sergeants of the 1st Sig. battalions took the lead as they displayed their drill and ceremony skills as the color guard at the beginning of the ceremony.

The guest speaker for the day was Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin C. Palacios, who was awarded the Bronze Order of Mercury medal by 1st Sig. Bde. Commander Col.

Ronald M. Bouchard. It was for demonstrating the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence and selflessness, and contributing significantly to the promotion of the Signal Corps and the Signal Regimental Association.

The Wahatchee Award was given to some for exemplifying the volunteer spirit and having given the Signal Corps long-term service. The award is named after Nancy Hart, a Georgia patriot who immortalized herself by becoming involved in the fight for freedom during revolutionary times.

Silver Wahatchee medals were awarded to the spouses of Col. Theodore Mayer, joint communications, and Palacios, among the bronze medals given to others.

“All the comments are very positive, and this is one of the best balls I had the privilege to attend,” said Quinata. “I’d like to thank everybody that made it possible for

us to have a great Signal Corps Regimental Ball tonight.”

According to Bouchard the ball’s theme was great because it was focused on soldiers and their families, which are an integral part of the Signal Corps team.

“It was definitely worth the trip,” said 2nd Lt. Liah Schwarz, 229th Co., 307th Sig. Bn., who came up from Camp Carroll, “especially, the food and the jazz band. That was outstanding.”

After the formalities, the dance floor lit up with DJs and people became very relaxed. They didn’t hesitate to take their jackets off and dance to the beat of the music. The atmosphere was as good as it gets, as Staff Sgt. Billy Goldston, 122nd Sig. Bn. said.

“This is terrific and I’m proud of myself as a Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army in the Signal Corps,” said KATUSA Pfc. Lee, Han Jin, 501st Sig. Co., at the ball.

# Operation Splat

## Soldiers learn military skills at paintball course

Story, photos by Pvt.2 Shin, Hyung-bum  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

Alerted at 4 a.m., soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 41st Signal Battalion, geared up and double-checked their equipment to make sure they were ready for Operation Splat July 31st.

“Are we motivated?” asked Cpt. Charmaine Valmonte, commander HHD, 41st before taking off, and “HOOAH,” replied the sleepy soldiers. Although it was not loud enough to satisfy the commander, the “HOOAH” at the end of the day’s training was thunderous and motivated.

Operation Splat is an action-packed situational training exercise using the paint ball range to test basic soldier skills required at the team level. It was the culmination of several training events which included the brigade exercise warrior storm.

“Sergeants’ time training was the crawl phase with warrior storm used as the ‘walk’ phase and finally, Splat as the culmination of several training events,” said Valmonte.

However, Operation Splat was not just the usual training composed of classes and various exercises.

“The idea of the training is that we are going to have fun,” said Valmonte soon after the alert, giving a clue to the unknowing soldiers that it wasn’t going to be everyday soldier training.

After a short briefing about conducting a defense by Sgt. Cedric



Capt. Charmaine Valmonte, 1st Sgt. Frederick E. Love and Sgt. Suh Min-sung discuss their strategy.



Pfc. Raynelle Farley, HHD 41st, aims the gun from behind the tree to cover her team during the company’s paintball training held at Camp Humphreys.

Maybank, HHD 41st, soldiers were divided into three teams. Then they were unleashed to play paint ball.

The goal of the paint ball training was to develop and execute a plan for the defense based on an estimate of the situation and an analysis of mission, enemy, terrain, troops and time. And, when attacked to conduct the defense to destroy or repel the enemy.

“Paint ball was a good exercise to learn how to work with your buddies down range. We covered each other and worked as a team,” said Pfc. Yoo Moon-Soo, HHD 41st.

While on the course, Valmonte was not the commander. Soldiers were working as a team and their team leader was the commander for the training. “Don’t shoot at your commander,” said Valmonte joking with the soldiers.

She was the first one out.

The soldiers truly learned that in a real-time situation everything doesn’t go as planned. “We had a strategy but it didn’t work out as we planned. I can’t imagine how difficult it would be in a real-time situation,” said Sgt. Suh Min-sung, HHD 41st.

According to Valmonte the hands-on training was more effective.

It tested the soldiers ability to receive a mission, formulate a plan as a team and deploy. The soldiers gained confidence in their ability against any contingency by actually implementing the rollout plan in time of war said one dirty, splattered soldier. Most of all, the soldiers said that it was a great time.

“We’ll try to do more of these exercises. You all like this kind of training?” said Valmonte to her soldiers at the end of the day’s training. “HOOAH!” cried the soldiers as loud as they could.



Pfc. Damian Byrne takes cover and waits for his target after getting shot in his weapon, but still in the game.

# Time wisely spent

## *Advanced degrees just an ed. center away for soldiers*

By 2nd Lt. Samuel Sanderson  
HHD, 41st Sig. Bn.

“First Brigade’s Best” is the thunderous motto of the 41st Signal Battalion. With that known, the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment is showing that it not only leads the battalion in mission capabilities but in education as well. Many of today’s soldiers are taking advantage of the opportunity to continue their education. Soldiers are going to college for different reasons. Two of those reasons are: personal enlightenment and professional development.

“The reason I decided to go to college was because I didn’t have the opportunity before the Army,” said Sgt. Keary Parinis, 41st operations. “My parents didn’t have enough money to send me to school. When I joined the Army and saw how easy it was to go to school, I was like a kid in a candy store. So I had this motivation built up because I was denied college and the Army supplied the opportunity.”

Parinis received a bachelor’s of science in computer and information science. With this type of degree Parinis has set himself up for success.

He is and will be a commodity to any unit he serves in.

Another noncommissioned officer leading the charge for education is Sgt. 1st Class Glorai Rabsatt, battalion personnel noncommissioned officer in charge.

Rabsatt earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Cameron University in Lawton, Okla. and was recently awarded a master’s degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma.

She said her biggest challenge was attending college while serving as a drill sergeant, and she credits her chain of command for her success.

“If the chain of command supports education,

soldiers will get their education,” Rabsatt said. She continues to drive on with her education as she begins on her doctorate through the University of Oklahoma out of Osan Airbase this fall.

“It was hard at first to motivate (myself) to go (to class) but easy to stick with once you get going,” said Spc. Jason McRoberts a member of the Maintenance Support Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 41st.

McRoberts graduated with a bachelor’s in psychology from the University of Maryland University College. He extended four times to finish his degree and plans to pursue a career in teaching after his time in the Army.

Cpl. Joe Lobello works at Communication Security Maintenance Office.

“I wish I would have started school sooner. Free classes are great, they would cost you a whole bunch back in the states,” he said.

He is working on his associates of science degree focusing on computer science and plans to complete his degree by next year.

The additional civilian college credits will add to the number of points needed for his promotion to sergeant. Right now 100 points are awarded for civilian education for promotion packets.

The U.S. Army policy of 100 percent tuition assistance for all active duty soldiers encourages college attendance.

Approximately 20 percent of HHD soldiers, 41st, are currently signed up to take college classes for this current term. With that program in place the soldier is only responsible to pay for the books needed during that period and can save them hundreds of dollars per class.

The military has many education center across the Republic of Korea. Area centers can direct soldiers in remote locations to the offices nearest them.

## **Area U.S. Military Ed. Centers in the ROK**

### **Area I**

Camp Casey 730-6859  
Camp Red Cloud 732-6329

### **Area II**

Yongsan 723-8098

### **Area III**

Camp Humphreys 753-8901

### **Area IV**

Camps Henry/Walker 768-7919

# Quality chow

## 304th recognized for high field service standards

Story, photos by Spc. Daniel Okada  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

The 36th Annual Philip A. Connelly award ceremony for 19th Theater Support Command was held at Camp Carroll July 15 to recognize the efforts of the winners and runners up of the food service competition.

The Company A, 307th Signal Battalion was recognized for runner up in the field service category.

To be among the very best the food service has to offer in Korea requires exceptional knowledge of the Military Occupational Specialty, 92G, Food Service Specialist.

The Connelly competition tests this knowledge with high standards for evaluation and provides well-deserved recognition to the often under appreciated food service specialists.

Major Gen. Jeanette K. Edmunds, commander, 19th Theater Support Command and Col. Ronald M. Bouchard, commander, 1st Signal Brigade, were in attendance to present the awards.

Master Sgt. Dante Sampson, brigade food service supervisor, 1st Sig.



*Maj. Gen. Jeanette Edmunds, commanding general, 19th TSC and Col. Ronald M. Bouchard, commander 1st Sig. Sig., present the Phillip A. Connelly runner up award to 2nd Lt. Brian Ward and Sgt. 1st Class Linda Coleman, Company A, 304th.*

Bde, explained the significance of the award.

“Armywide, teams prepare for the Connelly Award competition within different categories, such as field kitchen category, small garrison category and large garrison category.

“This particular team competed in the field kitchen category and did extremely well. Winning this award is very significant within the food service as this is one of the highest awards they can achieve.”

Spc. Kevin L. Brooks, Company A,

307th, was given special recognition for his efforts during the competition and received Edmunds’, CG, coin as well as his company’s.

Brooks said the best aspect of the competition “... was the good training we received when we were out there thanks to our NCOs.”

Company A performed admirably although Brooks stated there were minor problems initially.

“The first time we did a practice run, we didn’t do so good, but by the end we came together and got it done.”

Brooks said the key to making a winning field kitchen team is, “Everybody working together and doing a good job as soldiers.”

This ability of Company A to come together and perform was not overlooked by Sampson.

“I saw teamwork -- working really well together. It took a lot of effort when they brought in the members of the detail from the unit,” he said.

“They brought them in and showed them exactly what they had to do to win this award. I have to say they did an outstanding job, and when I looked at the evaluation, I was almost certain that this team had won the competition.”

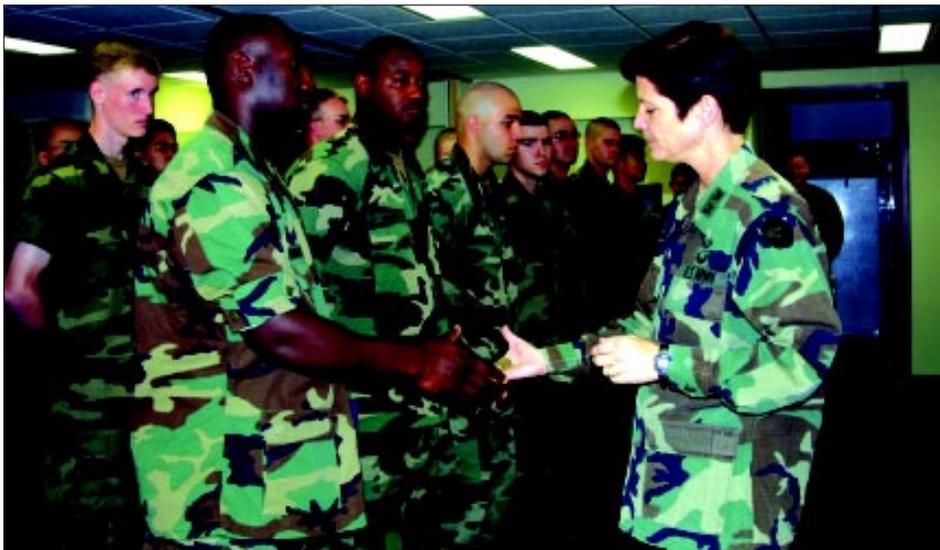
Capt. James Stanton, Company A commander, had nothing but high praise for his soldiers in regards to their efforts.

Setting up a DFAC in the field isn’t just about getting chow out. And Stanton noticed how they rose to the challenge.

“It was the best site I’ve ever seen. Soldiers had fighting positions ... the site had gravel sidewalks and a tactical environment,” Stanton said.

“They went well beyond what I had expected them to do,” he said. “I’ve never seen a site look that well. It was all due to the NCOs and soldiers bringing their heads together, making everything happen.

“Overall it was very impressive.”



*Maj. Gen. Jeanette Edmunds, commanding general, 19th TSC presents her coin to Spc. Kevin L. Brooks, Company A, 304th, in recognition of his performance during the Phillip A. Connelly competition.*

# Going the extra mile

## *36th soldiers teach English, reach out to community*

Story, photos by 2nd Lt. Cheere Harris  
HHD, 36th Sig. Bn.

Among the elite soldiers of the 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, some exceed the high expectations set for the Signal soldiers. These soldiers literally go the extra mile when they travel from their unit at Camp Walker to a local Korean elementary school in Taegu to volunteer giving English lessons.

With their rank aside, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday their new title is Song-san-nim or teacher.

The eight soldiers who teach and the KATUSAs who help out said they wanted to volunteer to help out the community, but most of all they wanted the experience of teaching and giving.

Classes in English are taught from the the third to sixth grades.

"I really enjoy teaching at the school," said Sgt. 1st Class Sandy Yelverton, 36th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment.

"It is a great experience because the children are really enthusiastic about learning a new language."

Yelverton said it was easy to keep the students focused on learning because she enjoyed being there.

"The children were a little shy at first, but that all changed once we got started. They really have a great understanding of the English language for children their age. It was such a joy to teach them," she said.

Sgt. Camille Adams, 169th Sig. Company training noncommissioned officer teaches English to the intermediate level fifth-grade class. Adams introduced letters to pen-pals in the United States, practiced restaurant scenarios, and also taught the students where all 50 states are located.

"I really enjoy teaching the classes. The students are all very attentive and eager to learn," said Adams.

With volunteer teaching experience in the United States and now in Korea, Capt. Marcus Allen, HHD commander, agrees.

"The students at this school are all very smart. Teaching English in Korea is definitely a great experience," he said.

"The students have a great understanding of English grammar and



*Pvt. Veronica Cruz, 169 Sig. Co., participats in a restaraunt scenario with one of her 5th grade students.*

spelling. We as teachers focus on the pronunciation of the words so they understand."

Allen said the students are getting better and better with each visit. "I am very proud of the work that we have done with this school," he said.

## Giving Time

### *304th soldier named Area III Volunteer of the Quarter*

By 2nd Lt. Aaron Young III  
Company B, 304th Sig. Bn.

Sgt. 1st Class Sylvester Walker of Company B, 304th Signal Battalion was named the Area III Army Community Service Volunteer of the Quarter in a ceremony held concurrently with the organization's birthday celebration on July 28 at Camp Long.

Sgt. 1st Class Walker was the driving force behind the renovations done to the Camp Long/Eagle ACS building, which was completed just in time for the celebration.

He put in more than 300 volunteer hours and assisted in getting many of Company B soldiers to also put in hours of work to get the building finished in time for the ceremony.

Sgt. 1st Class Walker attributes his selfless service to his experiences; the things he has seen and learned while

serving in the Army. He said that while in the service, "...he has always been able to always give back to the different communities he and his family have lived in while traveling to different duty stations around the world." One of the most memorable organizations for which he has volunteered is the Big Brothers program.

The event brought out several dignitaries from around the Area II and III communities to include the 304th Signal Battalion commander and Command Sgt. Maj. and the Area III ACS Coordinator.

Sgt. 1st Class Walker, platoon sergeant for the Area Node, wasn't present to receive the award, but his commander, Capt. Frances C. Kelly, accepted it on his behalf.

Sgt. 1st Class Walker is from Sandersonville, Ga. He is in his 19th year of service to the Army and is married with three children and two grandchildren.

# Soldiers First

## NETCOM CSM visits 1st Sig. troops, expresses soldier-first philosophy

Story, photos by Spc. Daniel Okada  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

The NETCOM/9th Army Signal Command, command sergeant major visited the 1st Signal Brigade soldiers across the peninsula July 21 to 26.

It had been a year since Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald J. Desjardins' last visit and he believed it was time to return and say thanks for the great job they are doing on the peninsula.

Following tours of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Signal Bde, the four signal battalions, and two separate detachments, he said he was pleased with what he saw.

"I'm very proud of what they are doing. They're hard working soldiers. This is a great brigade, as it was with my last visit," he said during his visit

with the 304th Signal Battalion at Camp Colbern.

Current events on the Korean peninsula can easily influence perceptions among soldiers, which was one issue Desjardins addressed.

An increasing share in the spotlight reflects a renewed sense of urgency regarding the mission in Korea among the soldiers who are assigned to carry it out.

"With everything that is going on today, they have a very important mission. They need to continue to be focused and not fall into complacency in regards to what is going on around them and continue to give 100 percent for this country and the folks here. It is our responsibility to ensure that we pro-



*Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald M. Desjardins, NETCOM/9th ASC and Command Sgt. Maj. Alejo C. Quinata, 1st Sig. Bde., salute the colors during the playing of the United States National Anthem by the 8th Army Band.*

vide them with 100 percent communications no matter what happens," Desjardins said.

He had words of support for the soldiers of the 1st Signal Bde, as a leader who places emphasis on the soldiers first and foremost.

"Keep doing the right thing and take care of my soldiers," he said. "That is one thing I've always preached: soldiers first, mission always."

"The mission will always be here no matter who rotates out of the peninsula, but if you don't take care of the families, that's what I worry about a lot, especially with many soldiers coming here without their families."

"We need to make sure that the brigade is still tracking what their families are doing and be sure that we're doing the right thing for them because the biggest thing is taking care of the soldiers and their families."

Desjardins also made a point of stressing the importance of staying "fit to fight" for the real mission in Korea and emphasized this by presenting his coin to the soldiers who maintain scores of 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

After addressing the units, Desjardins held question and answer forums with the soldiers to allow them to voice their opinions and concerns.

## Soldiers hear from top Signal trainer

By Spc. Daniel Okada  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

Brig. Gen. Janet E.A. Hicks, commanding general, U.S. Army Signal Center Commander, visited the Signal troops across the Republic of Korea at the end of June.

It was her first trip back to Korea from the Army Signal Center since August 2002.

She took the time to visit and talk with as many soldiers as possible during her week-long visit.

"Our message to the regiment is that they are doing wonderful things to enable their commanders," said Hicks to 122nd Signal Battalion soldiers.

"But the conditions of tomorrow's battlefield, as previewed in Iraq, promise to bring changes to the Signal Corp, making its soldiers more adaptable and flexible than ever before."

In the near future, Signal corps soldiers will be both creating and maintaining these systems in addition to overseeing satellites, operating telephone switchboards and staffing radios.



Photo by Alex Harrington  
*Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks shows Capt. Joel Stein, 362nd Sig. Co. commander, significant points of interest from the Madison Site, a strategic communications relay center in East Suwon. Hicks took a break from her itinerary to visit the site, which was her first tour of duty as a second lieutenant.*



*304th Sig. Bn. soldiers participated in a question and answer session with NETCOM/9th ASC CSM during his.*

# Comms come together

## 304th conducts first ever ROK, U.S. Army InterOP

By Spc. Daniel Okada  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

The 304th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade concluded a successful joint operation with the 63rd Signal Bn. of the Third Republic of Korea Army (TROKA) at Camp Colbern.

The interoperation, or InterOp, tested recently established interconnectivity between ROK Army and US Army data networks initiated approximately two years ago.

U.S. Navy Lt. Commander Theodore Shaw, United States Forces Korea, interoperability branch chief for communications, provided an overview of the InterOp.

“What we’ve been doing here is an evaluation of the capability to interface the Spider (ROK Army tactical network switching system) and U.S. Technical Switch Equipment and purpose being that when the warfight happens, commanders may have to exchange information, either data or voice communications between command posts and what this test proves is that they can do it.”

Sgt. James Woo, 304th Signal Bn., C Co., explained his unit’s role from his Small Extension Network, an attended mobile communications system.

“What we’re doing for this exercise is setting up data that will be run between the ROK Army and US Army. We’re also setting up voice lines and commercial access lines so we can call DSN numbers and we can also call field numbers while we’re out here.”

With the fully integrated networks, the ROK Army and US Army can now share telephone communications, video teleconferences, e-mail and other data transmissions directly through one unified network system.

Previously, each Army ran separate networks requiring more



Photo by Pvt. 2 Shin, Hyung-bum  
**Sgt. Christopher Gray and Spc. James Krenk, HHC 304th, test ATM capabilities to ensure the equipment can work with the ROK Army.**

manpower and work hours to share communications.

Shaw explained the significance of the integrated system.

“This test really allows U.S. and ROK commanders to communicate with one another without having to exchange liaison officers and having to send additional equipment out into the field. It’s a very streamlined way of sharing data and passing phone calls,” he said.

Pfc. Deprima, Richard, C Co. 304th Signal Bn. explained his role in the exercise from his mobile Single Shelter Switch, as one of the operators who would be working remotely during a warfighter situation.

“My job is as an operator and we’re out here to make this system

work and interface with the Spider to provide data and voice communications throughout Korea. Our whole purpose here is to interface with the Spider so we can use the ROK version of our communications system and truly communicate with them on the battlefield.”

Deprima added, “The whole point of being in an alliance is being able to communicate and fight together.”

What made the InterOp most noteworthy was the coordination between the TROKA and US Army Signal units necessary for success.

Under the current environment, with the streamlining of units within the ROK and U.S. Armies, more efficient usage of troops and equipment is necessary to successfully continue the warfighting mission.

With the current upgrades made to the communications systems, the exchange of data is now possible with fewer switches and stations in remotes sites.

Shaw concluded, “I would say honestly that this has been a broad-based effort involving many organizations.

“We’ve got the 304th Signal Bn. and 63rd ROK Signal Bn. of TROKA (Third ROK Army). Last December we did it with the 122nd and 762nd ROK and U.S. units both and what we’ve seen is outstanding teamwork. That’s where the alliance is really working.”

The 304th Signal Battalion’s mission is to provide tactical communications support as part of the theater integrated strategic-tactical network in support of United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, Eighth U.S. Army.

The battalion’s goal is to provide quality, reliable communications support to the warfighter.

# Bridging the Gap

## 1st Sig. ROKA staff officer helps cushion cultural gap

Story, photo by Sgt. Jo, Jong-hye  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

Republic of Korea Army officers are attached to each Eighth United States Army Major Subordinate Commands from Headquarters, ROKA. 1st Signal Brigade, as an MSC that is deployed throughout the peninsula, has one ROKA staff officer in the unit.

Capt. Jeong, Seong Un, as a ROKA staff officer attached to the brigade, accomplishes and coordinates actions that relate to KATUSA personnel management and, as a liaison officer, maintains contact between Headquarters ROKA, ROKA units and local civil authorities, and the U.S. units to which he is attached.

Additionally, Jeong is required to report to his higher HQ, ROKA staff officer, commander, ROKA Support Group, concerning ROKA policy directives and KATUSA soldier management.

Jeong majored in electronic engineering in Korea Military Academy and graduated in 1992. His civilian education includes Serbo-Croatia Language in Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and Information Technology at Graduate school, Ajou University. He has been in four different tactical signal units as a company commander prior to coming here.

When he arrived here Sept. 3, 2002, he said he was

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***“I was kind of afraid of a racial gap between U.S. soldiers and ROK soldiers before I came here, but all my worries are gone now.”***

*Capt. Jeong Seong-un  
1st Sig. ROKA staff officer*

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nervous because everything was so strange and different from the way ROKA was, and he had to use English as well as Korean. His first task here was to report to the deputy commander and commander of the brigade, and the commander of Area II RSG and RSG.

“I was kind of afraid of a racial gap between U.S. soldiers and ROK soldiers before I came here, but all my worries are gone now,” said Jeong. “I still have a language barrier, but it’s not a bad pain any more.”

Since his arrival here, his special tasks were Chorowon OPD, KATUSA manning documentation and KATUSA & U.S. Soldiers Friendship Week.

He tries to make the ROKA directed training every Wednesday more interesting. He rolls out to the field with



*Capt. Jeong, Seong-un, ROKA staff officer, 1st Sig. Bde. and Capt. Centhia Harraway work together to bridge the gap between KATUSAs and U.S. soldiers.*

HHC, he goes to the range and takes the Army Physical Fitness Test. Basically, he goes everywhere KATUSAs go.

“Not only does he go everywhere with KATUSAs, he reports every detailed information to the commander, and it’s really a lot of work,” added Sgt. Song, Nam-hoon, a former senior KATUSA, HHC, 1st Sig. Bde. “Yet, it seems that the U.S. command has a better understanding of KATUSA matters now ... and I feel encouraged as a result.”

During his visit to each subordinate unit for KATUSA manning documentation, he realized that a lot of KATUSAs are doing tough work just as their U.S. counterparts and are sometimes not recognized.

Yet, Jeong met some U.S. Noncommissioned Officers who take care of KATUSAs very well. For example, once the NCO found there’s no Kimchi and rice at the Dining Facility, he made a suggestion and prepared some Korean food for KATUSAs.

“I haven’t had a single problem since I arrived in here. The brigade commander and deputy commander treat me really good. It’s really comfortable working with a company commander and first sergeant of HHC, 1st Sig. Bde.,” Jeong added.

Jeong is very professional according to 1st Sgt. James Flynn, HHC, 1st Sig. Bde. He is always involved in many activities, even though it’s not necessarily ROK-U.S. relations and certainly has his input in any kind of meetings.

“I would like to ask U.S. officers and NCOs to treat the KATUSAs just as their U.S. counterpart and take care of their own subordinate KATUSAs,” said Jeong.

“I would like to ask KATUSAs to drop the preconception about U.S. soldiers. I want them to learn what friends and co-workers are and how an organization is operated, rather than just English.”

# Service Honored

## Retirees become 41st Sig. Bn. treasures after years of commitment

Story, photo by Pvt.2 Shin, Hyung-bum  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

A retirement ceremony was held July 16 at the Dragon Hill Lodge to honor the five Korean National retirees from 41st Signal Battalion, 1st Sig. Brigade.

They have served a combined total of more than 200 years for the United States Forces Korea and have helped sustain a strong U.S. and Republic of Korea alliance.

The guests of honor were Kwak Chun-sup, Chi Chun-su, Pak Yang-kun, Kim Ha-cha and Kim Tok-han.

The ceremony started with an invocation by the chaplain followed by introduction of the retirees, playing of the national anthems, and a retiree video.

"It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all here this morning to this important ceremony to honor the distinguished service of our team," said Lt. Col. Darin Talkington, 41st commander.

Talkington honored the many years of dedicated service and numerous accomplishments of each of the retirees in his remarks. Talkington expressed his deep appreciation for their commitment to their communication job.

"Through their many years of distinguished service they have become our 41st Sig. Bn. Treasures," he said.

Kwak, whose nickname is "a walking technical dictionary" was assigned to 127th Sig. Bn., 7th Inf. Div., as a communications equipment installer Nov. 15, 1959.

He was then assigned to Yongsan Technical Control Facility, 275th Sig. Co., 41st Sig. Bn. He worked in USFK for 44 years and one month.

"I can proudly say that we all have done an excellent job in support of communications services for the USFK and that we have played an important role in national defense as well.

I would like for our fellow Koreans in 41st Sig. Bn. to keep working hard with pride and be faithful to their duties until retirement," said Chi, who was retiring after 39 years and five months of service.

Chi began his career at Camp Howze Switchboard, 122nd Sig. Bn., as a telephone operator Feb. 29, 1964. He was then assigned to Camp Dodge Carrier, 552nd Sig. Co., as senior electronic technician.

Pak was assigned to 51st Sig. Bn., 1 Co., the predecessor of the 41st, as a telephone operator March 26, 1959 until he started working at the Yongsan Switchboard, 201st Sig. Co., 41st, as a telephone operator supervisor. "To many who have served as an operator, Pak is as much a brother or father as he is their supervisor," said Talkington. He



*Lt. Col. Darin Talkington, 41st commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Patricia A. Keit, Mr. Pak, Sung Pok, 4 Senior Korean telecommunications specialist and the five retirees are watching a video of the retirees life with the unit.*

worked in USFK for 44 years and four months.

Kim Ha-cha first worked in the 201st Sig. Co. as a keypuncher June. 15, 1966. She was then assigned to Yongsan Switchboard, 201st Sig. Co., 41st Sig. Bn. as telephone operator, which made it total of 38 years and two months of service.

Kim Tok-han was assigned to a telephone worker, Camp Howze, 122nd Sig. Bn., June. 8, 1968. He was then assigned to Camp Page Electronic Switch Station, 275th Sig. Co., 41st.

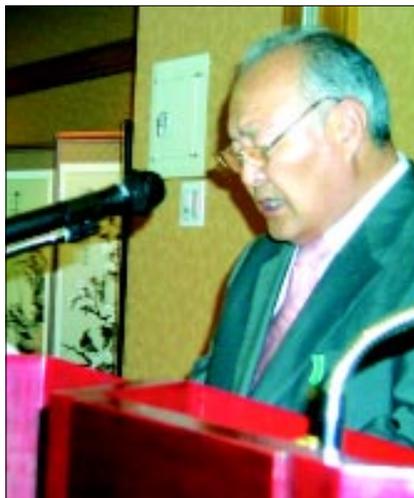
"I'm going to spend the rest of my life with my family and live as a farmer. I'll never forget all the precious memories of my 36 years at USFK," said Kim.

Each retiree was presented with the U.S Army Commendation Medal, a bouquet and a small gift by the Korean Augment to the United States Army, Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year of 1st Sig. Bde.

"We are here not just to honor the retirees but all civilians who work for USFK. If it was not for their contribution, our battalion couldn't have completed the mission, which means the brigade and USFK couldn't have carried on with the mission successfully," said Maj. Nora R.

Marcos, 41st executive officer.

"We now leave you with pride and with precious memories of times that you shared with us ... We will never forget your warm friendship. We wish you all and your families happiness and good luck," Chi concluded at the ceremony.



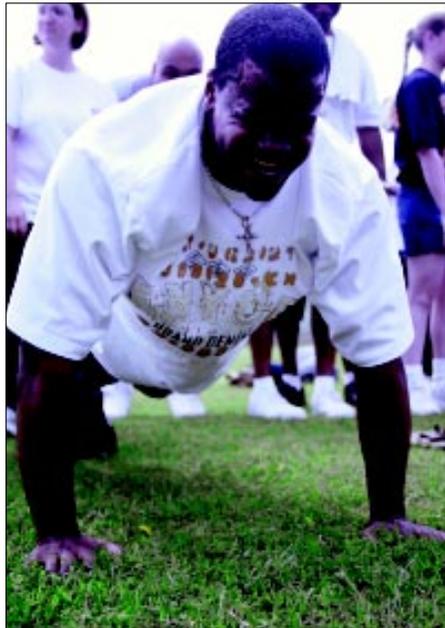
*Chi, Chun-su makes a speech on behalf of the retirees.*



*Spc. Shaun Pulley flies his company's guidon during the soccer competition.*



Photos by Sgt. Sarah Maxwell  
*552nd soldiers take the time between two games of soccer for their own sprinting competition. Soldiers displayed motivation throughout the day of unit competitions.*



*Staff Sgt. Aaron Washington pumps out the pushups during the PT competition.*

Motivation ran rampant during 41st Signal Battalion's Organization Day held in June.

The battalion soldiers took to the competition like bees to honey, goodheartedly trying to outperform each other's companies.

The soldiers had every opportunity to show their competitive spirit with almost every kind of organized sport available to play. Even those not prone to kick a soccer ball or serve a volleyball were having a go at the card tables.

The day of release and

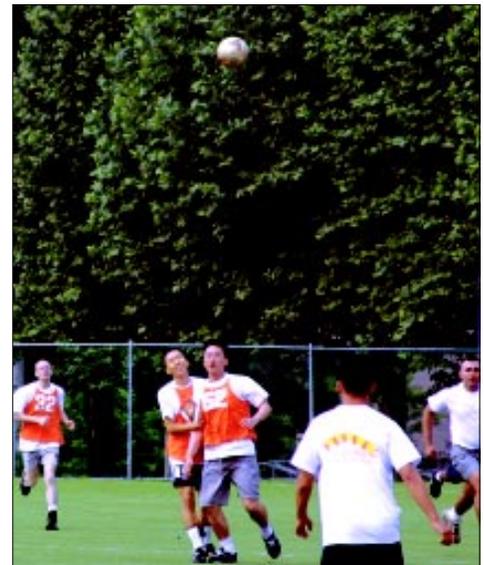
relaxation also was a celebration of the unit and the Signal Corps.

The day coincided as much as possible with the original activation of the 41st July 1, 1974 said Battalion Command Lt. Col. Darin Talkington.

"For us it's exceptionally important since our unit is so spread out over peninsula," he said. "Competition actually brings people together."



*Sgt. Arthur Turza plays with 6-month-old Mathew Wallace during the organizational day.*



*Soldiers represented their company with as much energy possible during the games.*

# Signal spotlight



*Pvt. 2 Sung, Woo-han, Co. C, 304th Sig. Bn., adjusts a support wire for his communications site at CP*



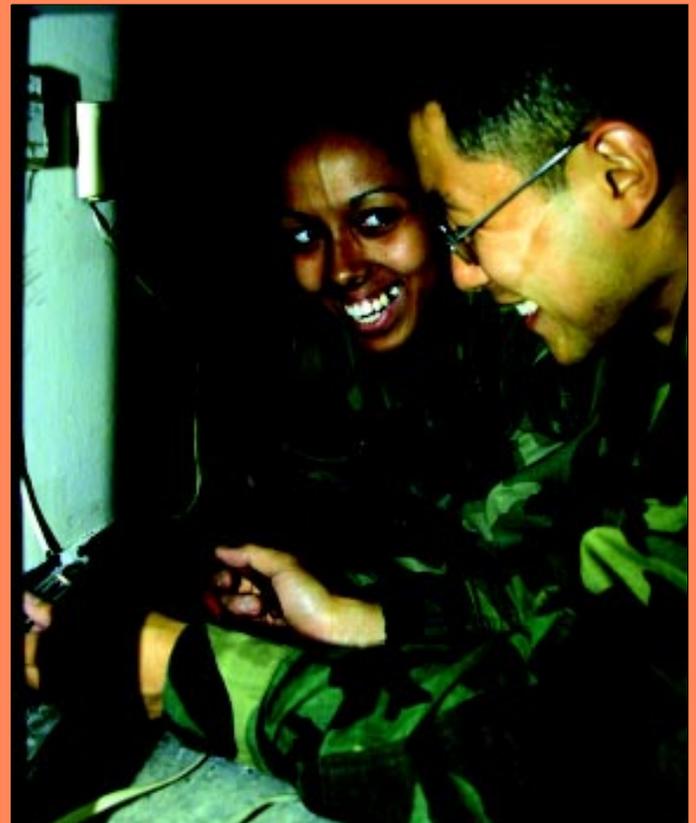
*Below: A 36th Sig. Bn. soldier plays with kids from the Sung Rim Childrens home during their annual pool party they sponsor for the home. Left: One of the children from the home has a good time at the pool.*



*Pfc. Casey Carter, 36nd Sig. Co. strives to finish a leadership reaction course obstacle during training with her company in June.*



*Capt. Christopher Quick, pays restitution for "his failure for not being a Signal officer" at the 41st Sig. Bn. dinning in held in June.*



*Pfc. Jackzery Ortiz Cales and Cpl. Kim, Dong-kun, the 275th Sig. Co., Outside Plant, work as a team to establish about 200 phone lines in the Walker Center in one day during Warrior Storm. The Outside Plant soldiers installed and maintained more than 1,000 additional lines to be used during UFL.*