

# Madison DFAC to compete for Connelly

Story & photo by Sgt. Sarah Maxwell  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

Phillip A. Connelly is a name synonymous with Army dining facilities that have quality food preparation and service that strides to impress.

To compete for the honor to have an annual Connelly award is something taken very seriously.

For 1st Signal Brigade the DFAC carrying the torch to this year's Area II competition will be the 362nd Signal Company's facility at the remote Madison site. It barely edged out the brigade's other facility and long-time Connelly competitor, 304th Signal Battalion's at Camp Colbern.

"It was a very close competition," said Warrant Officer Tonya Sims, 1st Sig's dining facility advisor, "because they both did a great job."

The Madison DFAC is unique not only because of its mountain top location, but also it consists of only one manager and one cook who serve just five soldiers.

The decision to send Madison to the competition surprised a lot of people since they have never before been chosen to compete, said Sims.

"This is the first time they have made a commendable effort," she said. "It is very remote, but I still wanted them to compete. It will give them a good opportunity and experience."

She said she was impressed with the way the small facility was being run, especially since it's highly so remote and unsupervised.

"All facilities still have to maintain the standard, whether it's six or 900 people," said Sims.

"Because they're in a remote place, a lot of people wouldn't keep the same standard, but they (Madison DFAC) do."

Although small, Madison has everything it needs to compete with the other facilities. They're too small to order in bulk from the Army's food system, so they improvise with bi-monthly trips to the commissary.

According to the DFAC manager, Sgt. Christopher Davidson, the Army's guidelines for food rations and menus are still adhered to. But, because there are so few soldiers, they can give Davidson a lot of input into what they like to eat.

For Davidson serving the soldiers of Madison with good food is extremely important to him.

"We all live up here together," he said.

"The important thing is to please them. If they're not happy, I'm not happy. Having good food keeps the morale high."

"My philosophy is if I wouldn't eat something, then they shouldn't have to eat it."

That perspective will help him strive to be "one of the most talked about dining facilities."

"We're going to continuously get even better. My goal is to succeed past everybody before me."

The Area II Connelly awards will be presented to the winners in March.



*Korean cook Pak, Hyo Chin carves a grapefruit he will put on display at the Madison DFAC. Attention details such as fruit displays helped send the small facility to compete for the Area II Connelly award.*

# Koreans honored for years of commitment, service

By Sgt. Jo, Jong Hye  
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

An unusual Korean retirement ceremony was held October at the Dragon Hill Lodge to congratulate the three retiring Korean from the 41st Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade. Ki-Hwan Pak, Yong-Kyu Choe and Un Shim were the guests of honor.

“It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all here this morning to this important ceremony to honor the distinguished service of these three fine gentlemen,” said Lt. Col. Darin Talkington, 41st Sig. Bn. commander.

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

The old, black and white pictures of the retirees in the video showed their footprints on the sands of time. Pak especially seemed to be repressing his tears as he recalled the course he has followed for more than 46 years and six months.



Photo by Sgt. Jo, Jong Hye

*Shim, Un receives an Army Commendation Medal from Lt. Col. Darin Talkington, commander, 41st Sig. Bn.*

Pak was first assigned to the 14th quartermaster motor pool May 19, 1956. He was then assigned to 552nd Sig. Company supply room and worked until now.

Choe was assigned to Camp Casey microwave station April 2, 1966.

He was then assigned to 552nd Sig. Co. operations and worked in United States Forces Korea for 36 years and six months. He has a number of nicknames and the two most famous ones are ‘General Choe’ and ‘Godfather’ because he seemed to know everything going on and took care of other soldiers and civilians.

“I started working with vacuum tubes in 1966, and I also operated optical communication and automated teller machines,” Choe paused for a second as he recalled the memory and said with a smile. “I guess I need to find another job with my career. I have a lot of field experience, so it shouldn’t be too hard.”

Shim first worked in 304th Sig. Bn. from July 1958 to April 1967 until he was discharged to the first Republic of Korea Army. He was then reassigned to 201st Sig. Co., 41st Sig. Bn. in December 1985 and later to Camp Long Technical Control, which made it total of 25 years and seven months of service.

“A retirement ceremony is a bitter and sweet event,” said Talkington. “On one hand, it represents an opportunity to publicly honor the many years of dedicated service and numerous accomplishments of these individuals who are retiring. On the other hand, it’s a formal way of saying farewell and good luck to those retirees who have served so long and so hard.”

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

While congratulating the retirees, Col. Ronald M. Bouchard, commander, 1st Sig. Bde. said he worked with many Korean Nationals in his previous tour to Korea and thus, he knows how deliberate and professionally they work.

Choe concluded, “I want to tell you all — work with pride and work hard. I want you to remember only good memories because I want to stay as your friend forever in your mind.”



*Sgt. Park prepares to set up a claymore mine during Fall Combat Survivability Training at Namsan.*

## ***201st Sig. Company gets ready for winter combat training***

Story and photos by 2nd. Lt. Abdul Smith  
201st Sig. Co.

The 201st Signal Company, 41st Signal Battalion, practiced their Transition To War (TTW-48) operations late November in preparation for the upcoming Winter Combat Survivability Training (WCST).

During the TTW-48, soldiers simulated the first 48 hours of operation in the event of a war on the peninsula.

This training provided a good assessment of the unit's ability to prepare for war and provided the command with areas to target for improvement. The command initiated the (TTW-48) with an alert in the early hours, and from there things went very smoothly.

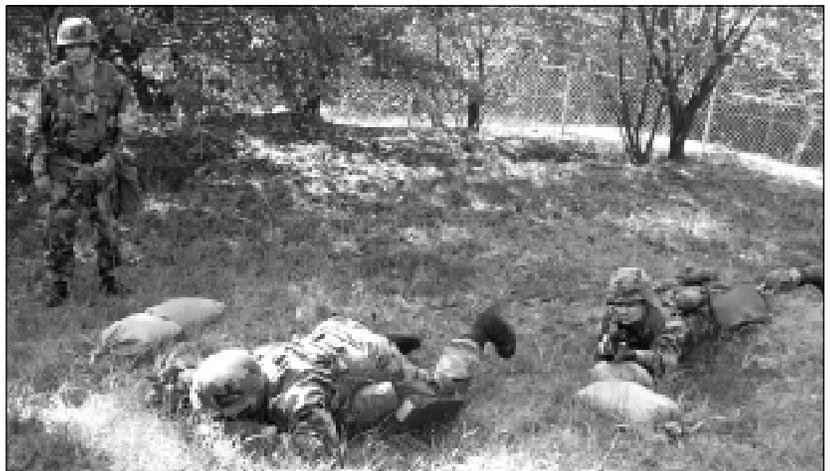
Key personal knew where to report and what to do once they hit the ground. It was reminiscent of a well-executed football play. The bulk of the TTW consisted of Neo Operations, Base Security Force deployment, and the conversion of the Information Center into a Life Support Area.

By the time the exercise ended, most of the soldiers had been up for the majority of the 48 hours and were looking forward to their week-end.

The upcoming WCST will be another opportunity for the soldiers of 201st Sig. Company to break away from everyday operations and train up on their combat skills.

Last quarter's Fall Combat Survivability Training consisted of a road march to site Namsan tower followed by a full day of combat and sustainment related training.

These quarterly training events are crucial to the 201st Sig. Company because it allows them an opportunity to train on their war time mission essential tasks.



*Staff Sgt. Kirkland critiques Spc. Daniel Patton and Spc. Lampkin as they simulate movement under direct fire during their Fall Combat Survivability Training at Namsan .*

# 41st soccer team battles for 8th Army championship

By 1st Lt. Thang Ly  
275th Sig. Co.

On Nov. 3 at Camp Casey Area I Soccer Field, the 41st Signal Battalion — champion of Area II and the 2-17th Field Artillery Battery (Rock & Hammers) — champion of Area I soccer teams battled for the 2002 Eighth US Army Intramural Soccer Championship Trophy.

Entering this game, the 41st Sig. Battalion had enjoyed an undefeated season with a record of 16-0.

Twenty minutes into the first half, Spc. Kojo Asare received a cross pass from Spc. Bryce Guillot from the left wing. He trapped the ball with his chest, dribbling past three opposing defenders and jumping over a slide tackle.

Twenty yards from the goal, he shot the ball past the diving goalie and into the net to give the 41st Signal Battalion a lead of 1-0. The team's formation in the second half shocked the

opponents as coach Staff Sgt. Ernesto Diaz strengthened the defense by pulling the fast and fiery strikers back to defend the goal.

The objectives were to hold on to the lead of 1-0 and deny the opponents from any attempts to score. The Rock & Hammers had nothing to lose and went all out on their

offense.

With five minutes remaining, their striker launched a surprised kick from the fortieth-yard line that was deflected by 41st Sig. Battalion goalie, Sgt. David Valcourt.

Once again, the 41st soccer team emerged victorious and undefeated for the entire season.

The 8th Army trophy did not come without a cost. Some of the team members endured agonizing pain from injured ankles and feet but they "sucked it up and drove on."

Spc. Blake Banard, center midfielder, earned his nickname as "No Pain" because he suffered more body contact with the opponents and the ground than the whole team combined. Spc. Douglas Vanner was almost knocked unconscious when he collided head on with another player, but he stood right back up and continued on playing.

Spc. Kojo Asare, Striker, was

nominated as the most valuable player of the team because of his consistency in scoring goals.

On an average, he scored at least three goals per game.

The team's Hard Core Fan award goes to Lt. Col. Darin Talkington and his son, Justin. Their presence and support were highly appreciated by the team members. Perhaps, the overwhelming success of the team could be attributed to the uniqueness and diverse background of the group.

Like our Army, the 41st team is comprised of soldiers from multiple cultures. Some of the team members were born in Vietnam, Panama, Mexico, South Africa, and Korea.

Regardless of rank, race, culture, and ethnicity the team had one common goal - the desire to win.

With a motto of 'Win' they always held true to that motto as evident by their victory.

"This desire bonded all members throughout the season and during rough times," commented by the Team Captain, Cpl. Nigel Lindsay. At the end of the season, the team was invited by the European Intramural League in Korea to include the French, Dutch, and German teams for scrimmages. The team held true to its reputation and remains undefeated.



(Front row, L to R), SGT Charles Hawthorne, SPC Douglas Vanner, SPC Blake Barnard, PFC Gilberto Blanco, PFC Jason Palm, SGT Rodney Belt, SPC Ricky Slavens, (Back row L to R) SSG Ernesto Diaz, SGT David Valcourt, 1LT Thang Ly, LTC Darin Talkington and Justin, SGT Edward Osei, SPC Chad Junkins, CPL Nigel Lindsay, SGT Walner Nelson, SGT Gloria Payne, SPC Kojo Asare

# Geon

hand with paint for the children.

Cpl. Eric A. Berg, 201st Signal Battalion enjoyed the day's activities, and commented on the real significance of the visit.

"Orphanages like these need our help. It is very expensive to run the Geon orphanage," said Berg.

"The Chaplain of Geon told me it costs approximately \$30,000 a month to run with only about 60 percent funded by the Korean government. They need our donations of not only money, but food and cloth-

ing as well."

"In light of everything that has happened recently between the U.S. military and Korean Nationals, I think that sponsoring the Geon orphanage shows that we do care about their country, and is a step in the right direction toward improving relations," he said.

"I hope this program continues to run for several years to come," Berg added.

While the day's events were a complete success, thanks in large part to the Geon coordinators and the members of the 41st who



*41st Sig. Battalion soldiers serve the Geon orphanage children lunch during their holiday visit.*

chose to spend their Saturday with the children, many expressed a need for more participation and active involvement within the Korean community.

Through goodwill gestures such as the Geon Children's Home visits, 1st Sig. soldiers will continue to foster and maintain positive relations with the people of the Republic of Korea. Service of this kind is an opportunity for direct involvement with the children and future generations of Korea.

## Chapel

commitment to walk with the Lord for the rest of my life. One individual in our church confused me.

He was a big man with a wooden leg and not a fancy one at that, (it was a real "pirate" peg leg). He was mean and grouchy. He would only show up for the Lord's Supper.

Some of the ladies would have looks of dread as he walked through the door. The ushers would faithfully serve communion elements to everyone. But every time the elements came around to this man he would curse and make a fuss that they were offered to him at all.

Time after time, month after month, the commotion in the back of the room was relived. What a confusing man! My young mind could make sense of everyone's motivation except this crude man's.

God had given me a personal pointer. No matter what the motivation or where your heart is with God, communion or the Lord's Supper is important. Also, our communion with each other is proof of our communion with God. Evidently, this man had started a relationship with God, but knew in his heart that he had not made things right with God and possibly man.

Since starting a relationship with God, I often reflect back to this interesting man from my childhood to measure where my walk with God is.

At times my spiritual life has struggles. Then I am the peg-legged man, not ready to break my pride and get things right with God. Although my actions are much quieter than the man from my childhood, the noise in my heart is the same.

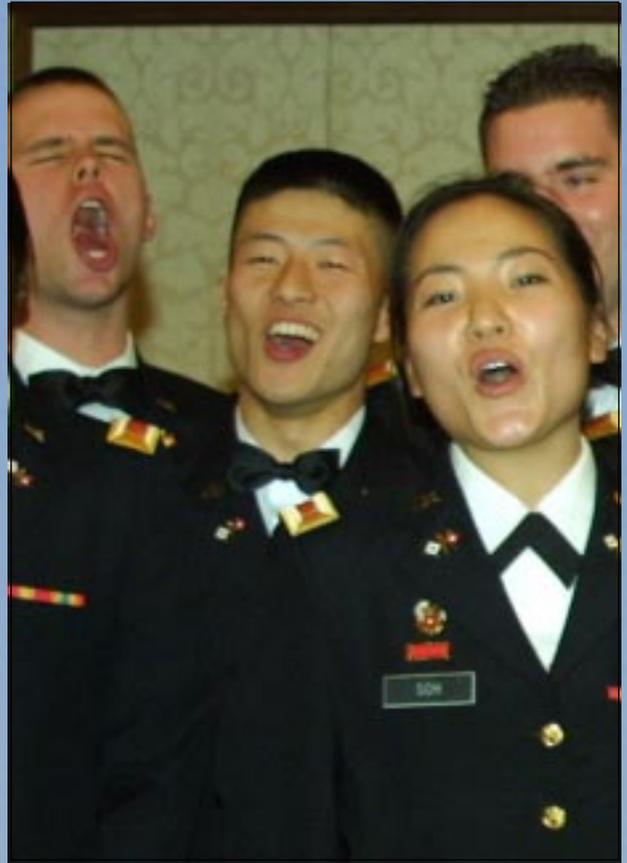
The Lord's Supper teaches us the basics. Communion teaches us the foundation of our Christian faith. Like the verse above says, do we go to communion to eat? Who could fill up on that little wafer and cup anyway? Could it be another reason? The point: Where is your relationship?

At times mature Christian men and women do not partake of the Lord's Supper. In their heart, they are that grouchy old peg-legged man, desiring to be right with God. And they are exactly where God wants them to be. They are back observing the basics to get right with God. My prayer for soldiers and their families in this community is that they go to chapel and observe the basics. How many times are we to do this? Until our precious savior returns. Is your heart ready for his return?

# Signal spotlight



*Above: Staff Sgt. Scott Dettner and Maj. Ronald Martin sing their verse of the song "12 Days of Christmas" for the rest of the company at the HHC Christmas party. Right: The lieutenants of the 36th and 307th Signal battalions belt out Christmas carols to the rest of the soldiers, family members and guests at their Holiday Ball*



*KATUSAs of HHC, 1st Signal Brigade pose by the future train station of Dorasan, which will one day link Pyongyang with Seoul.*



*Members of the 41st Signal Battalion stand amongst the children of Geon Orphanage, following their Christmas visit, displaying a banner marked with the hand prints of children and soldiers alike.*