



Left: Maj. Gen. George F. Bowman talks with ask Capt. Harold Montoya, Company A, 304th Sig. Bn., commander during his RSOI visit.

Below: Spc. Rodrick Harris explains the systems he is in charge of to Bowman.



311th command visits 1st Sig troops

**By 2nd Lt. Amanda Olney
Company B, 304th Signal Bn.**

Major General George F. Bowman and Brigadier General Conrad Ponder, the commander and deputy commander of 311th Theatre Signal Command, visited the soldiers of the 304th Signal Battalion and other 1st Signal Brigade units in March during Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration.

Bowman and Ponder personally thanked the soldiers of the 1st Signal Brigade for their selfless service and continued dedication.

Flying by helicopter in order to maximize the time spent with soldiers on the ground, they stopped at the 304th's Third Republic of Korea Army (TROKA) headquarters, Combined Airforces (CAF) headquarters, Camp Long, Camp Humphreys, and Camp Colbern field sites where soldiers briefed the generals on how their specific job contributed to the communications network during the exercise.

If hostilities broke out between North Korea and South Korea, 1st Signal Brigade would fall directly under the command of the 311th.

Visiting soldiers of 304th enabled

them to understand where they stand as a battalion and brigade how well we accomplish the mission - to establish an integrated tactical and strategic communications network while providing good customer service for the supported commands

Their visit was truly inspirational to the soldiers, who appreciated the generals taking time out of their busy schedules to visit them.

The 304th's Command Sgt. Major Douglas said, "It was an excellent

chance for soldiers to display their talents while earning the respect of General Bowman and General Ponder." The soldiers so impressed the generals that they gave away all their command coins and took names of soldiers to whom coins would be presented at a later date.

304th Commander Lt. Col. John Holwick was pleased with his battalion's performance. "The 304th, without any doubt has the best soldiers, bar none," he said proudly.



Brig. Gen. Conrad Ponder is briefed by Pfc. Daniel Berry, a radio systems technician.

Signal takes RSOI b

Story and photos by Sgt. Sareah Maxwell
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

Fielding new equipment, just finishing a transition to war exercise, training green soldiers, and integrating reserve elements is a challenge for any unit. Combine that with the stress one of the military's largest annual forward-deployed joint training exercises, Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration, and it could be a recipe for mission disaster. But, not for the leaders and soldiers of the 1st Signal Brigade. These challenges only gave them a chance to prove their communications know-how and leadership skills to a larger audience.

"This is the best they've ever seen," said 1st Sig. Bde. Commander Col. Ronald M. Bouchard about the brigade's performance during the exercise while addressing his leadership.

Being the communications nerve center of the Army on the peninsula is a responsibility every single soldier and civilian in the brigade must carry.

For young soldiers like Pfc. George Lopez, a radio technician in Company B, 304th, the importance of their job is always stressed. He said he feels confident to tackle any part of his mission because his leadership ensures he is always trained and ready to fight.

"Everything we do while we're not in an exercise is preventive maintenance," said Lopez. "So, when we get out here we don't ask questions; we just perform."

"We're a small piece of the puzzle, but we're necessary for people to communicate," he said. "Maybe we're not seen as fancy or heroic as the infantry guys, but we do make sure they can speak to each other. That's good too."

Although the exercise was in full swing, sometimes if equipment is set up and working properly, it will give the soldiers down time. In Company B, 307th Signal Battalion, this time is not wasted.

Staff Sgt. Demetrial Houston, Company B cable platoon, ensured his soldiers were always learning new skills while out in the field by using free time to conduct Common Task Training. We're going through a lot of conflict right now in the world, he said. It's important they're really familiar with their soldier skills.

This foresight on the part of the leadership at all levels of the brigade and the willingness of the soldiers contributed to the mission's overall success.

"Your efforts have not gone unnoticed - from the team level all the way up to the level of the brigade," said Bouchard. "I thank you all for what you do."



Staff Sgt. Adam Larson, an Army reservist from Company A, 319th Sig. Bn. and Staff Sgt. Terri Elliot, a reservist from Company B, 307th Sig. Bn. who is in the background.



Spc. Terri Elliot fold the flag after retreat at Camp Colbern during RSOI.

by storm



In Sacramento, Cali., teaches Staff Sgt. Brian Bracey, Sgt. Daniel [Name] attached to the unit during RSOI.



362nd Sig. Co., 41st Sig. Bn. soldiers prepare a fox hole high in the mountains at the Madison site.



A soldier with Company B, 307th Sig. Bn., maintains the camouflage cover over their radio site on Mountain Apsan.



Sgt. Christopher Heggins tests Pfc. Y.H. Choi's mask at Camp Humphreys during while conducting CTT training during RSOI.

TROPO plays vital role in ADA

Story and photos by Sgt. Sarah Maxwell
1st Sig. Bde. PAO

Edged at the end of the Apache Airfield, a mighty display of American air defense can be seen during RSO&I. A Patriot Missile field armed with war-fighting soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment formidably conducts operations.

But, amongst the air defense is another kind of war-fighter -- a small but intricate part of this defense system. A team of highly trained soldiers from the 226th Signal Company, 307th Sig. Battalion, man the TROPO shelter for the 1/43rd. Tropospheric communications is long-haul radio signals that bounce off the troposphere to reach another site up to 100 miles away, and without it, the ADA regiment wouldn't be able to effectively communicate, said 1st Lt. Aaren Hanson, executive office of the 226th, headquartered at Camp Carroll.

TROPO not only is attached to ADA during exercises, but it also hooks up with the tactical signal battalions in the unit, allowing them to communicate more effectively.

"Without TROPO the battalions would have to employ so many more systems. It frees up their resources. They wouldn't be able to provide as much service to their customers," said Hanson.

"All TROPO units in Korea come from the 226th," Hanson added.



Pvt. Severe Houde displays their sleeping quarters at Camp Eagle while working with the 1/43rd.

The company has 16 shelters, 12 of which were actively engaged during RSOI, with more than 40 soldiers manning the different sites.

"The training for the soldiers is extremely important," she said. "TROPO isn't an exact science. More experience makes better operators."

On the job training is very important for the TROPO operator since this is not something they learn in their basic advanced individualized training before being assigned to the unit. The 226th sends the soldiers through a "TROPO University," which teaches them the basics.

Pvt. Severe Houde, a part of the TROPO team at Camp Eagle, enjoys his unique job providing the regiment with the tools they need to communicate although it can get "a little hectic."

But, he said RSOI has given him a lot of new experience.

"I learned a lot from the people I work with. Before I just knew what I had to do to the equipment. Now I understand why," said Houde.

Perhaps what Houde has enjoyed the most is the excitement of being in the middle of an airfield.

"The site is great," he said. "Planes right here, missiles over there," he said pointing the runway and airfield. "It's all pretty interesting ... We never get to see stuff like this at Camp Carroll."



Pfc. Matthew Jackson, a TROPO team member from the 226th Signal Company examines his equipment set up at Camp Eagle during RSO&I. His small team ensured communications were available for the 1/43rd during the exercise.

Rock drill synchronizes battalion operations

Story by 1st Lt. Andrew Boyd
304th Sig. Bn.

The 304th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, advanced the Army's communication abilities in the Republic of Korea as it conducted its Reception Staging Integration and Movement 2003 Rockdrill, setting the stage for success in the March exercise.

The key leaders of the battalion along with attach-

ments from the 229th Signal Company, part of its sister unit, 307th Signal Battalion from Camp Carroll, assembled in the Camp Colbern gymnasium Feb. 20. The purpose was to synchronize their efforts heading into the exercise through rehearsals with a scale model of the terrain where they will conduct their mission during the exercise.

Rehearsals play a key role in the military decision making process. They allow a unit to visualize the concept of the operation, focus on key events, synchronize the timeline to subordinate units, and to identify issues and problems that were not originally identified in the planning process. Rehearsals can vary from a simple map exercise to a full enactment of the operation, but the command must keep in mind time and manning constraints when determining the complexity of a rehearsal.

One of the most effective rehears-

als is on a terrain model where the key leaders walk through the exercise from start to finish and describe in detail (using the terrain model) how they will accomplish each of their subordinate



As Sgt. 1st Class John O'Keefe, 304th operations, assists in the computer presentation, Capt. Paul Meaux, operations, uses a terrain model to describe how the battalion will conduct missions during future exercises.

tasks. It is important for the soldiers, who will execute the plan, platoon leaders and platoon sergeants, to brief so that the commander will know how well his in-

terent is understood. The commander can ask questions to ensure that synchronization down to the platoon level is achieved. A well-done rehearsal is the first step toward a great operation.

"The exercise went very well," said Maj. Stanley Jones, operations officer for the 304th Sig. Bn. "It was a good introduction for the lieutenants, who have never been exposed to anything like a Rockdrill. It showed them that everybody has a piece to play."

The 1st Signal Brigade has expanded the data capability and increased the warfighting soldier by modernizing its switches over the last five months, fielding single shelter switches (SSSs), and retrofitting its small extension nodes (SENs) with a tactical high speed data network (THSDN).

RSOI provided the perfect opportunity to revise the procedures and techniques that needed improvement.

Why's a rock drill important?

By Sgt. Ken Zion
HHD, 41st Sig. Bn.

Ask the majority of Americans what it is and you might hear someone say that it's a drill bit used to cut a hole in a rock. Yet ask a military person what it is and you will more than likely hear a much different answer. In definite terms it is nothing more than a scaled-down version of the exercise or mission.

It helps the everyday soldier understand what is expected of them during an exercise or mission, from the beginning to the end. Imagine a unit deciding to have an exercise that it has never conducted before. How would you train soldiers to know what they are supposed to do in addition to their everyday mission? What happens if the platoon sergeant, squad leader or even the soldier in their section is wounded or killed? How do you know that from the most senior levels to the lowest enlisted levels understand what is to be done during the exercise? The rock drill answers these questions allowing each soldier to understand what the mission is.

By using props like rocks, which give this drill its name, they lay out on the ground exactly where every element of the exercise is to be at any time during the exercise or mission.

The idea of the rock drill is not for a soldier just to be able to recite an operations order, but to be able to tell anyone who asks what his mission will be and have the knowledge to carry on the mission no matter what happens.