

Right Arm Night



1st Signal Brigade along with other organizations hosted March's Area II Right Arm Night. Above: 1st Sgt. James Flynn hands out one of the hundreds of raffle prizes handed out throughout the night. Left: Sgt. 1st Class Smith enjoys the complementary buffet at the party.

Family members vital part of 1st Sig.

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

A number of programs support the efforts to make the Army life better for family members as well as the military service members. 1st Signal Brigade Family Readiness Group meetings are to brief soldiers and family members about these programs and to have them involved. The 1st Sig. Headquarters and Headquarters Company held its regular meeting on Feb. 4 at the Army Community Services Building.

"FRG is in place to support the family member by giving instructions and guidance, allowing each of us to share and deal with family issues," said Marcia Bouchard, the wife of the 1st Sig. Commander Col. Ronald M. Bouchard.

One of the subjects covered at the meeting was the importance of getting involved in the Army Family Action Plan. AFAP is a community-wide forum that brings the quality of life issues to the command's attention. Like the town hall meeting, it is another way to resolve the issues. Wearing black back-

packs while in uniform or the standardization of on-post taxi fare are some example of benefits that have resulted from AFAP issues in this region.

"I strongly encourage everyone to participate if they are able," said Jennifer Siquah, Area II Army Family Team Building/AFAP coordinator, "It's a good opportunity to bring issues of concern to the command's attention."

Some of other ACS programs are Relocation Assistance Program, which assists personnel and families moving from one community to another, Installation Volunteer Program, which links volunteers with more than 73 programs and community agencies that offer volunteer positions, or Army Family Team Building, basically teaching the non-military personnel the military life.

Bouchard said, "It's good that it brings things that are unique in Korea to attention."

"I think it's good for educational benefits for dependants," said Sgt. Anton Luddington, automation, HHC, 1st Sig. Bde., who participated in the

meeting with his wife.

"For people like us who've been in the army long enough, it's just like a natural process," said Angie Quinata, the wife of 1st Sig. Bde. Command Sgt. Maj. Alejo C. Quinata, "Wherever you go, you stop at ACS and check for information and services. It's more like a part of in processing."

"It's not about taking care of families, but making sure families are able to sustain life," said Capt. Cenethia R. Harraway, the commander, HHC, 1st Sig. Bde. "If soldiers and family members are apart from each other for any reasons, we trace them and let them be aware of the safety of each other."

She continued, "We're improving everything, getting more people, not only the family members in Korea but also state side and single soldiers, which is a good sign."

FRGs are a vital link between families, the soldiers and community agencies, and according to Harraway, HHC plans to have this meeting every month.

Time to Unwind...

Activities geared to promote team work, wellbeing

Story by Spc. Ryan Simms
229th Sig. Co., 307th Sig. Bn.

There are several different elements that make up a great team. The diverse personalities of individual soldiers, the strength and leadership of NCOs and the guiding policy of command all contribute to the success of a team. Where one is lacking another may compensate. The balance of functionality, reliability and efficiency are always sought after.

In the constant pursuit of perfection however, a soldier can lose sight of these objectives.

In a stateside environment, things like family, close friends or being home will always help to bring back the sense of purpose a soldier needs for motivation.

In Korea there is a very limited amount of time, and very few are fortunate enough to have families. It is hard for soldiers to find a way to relax. Not everybody enjoys the bars in "the Ville" or shutting themselves away in the barracks in their off time.

More and more, soldiers are finding there is a lot to be gained from company events. Even the smallest organized event can provide a chance to unwind.

The soldiers of the 229th signal company are using these trips and events. There have been various trips and events that are bringing them together.

A majority of the funding coming from donations, from the

individual soldiers themselves or fundraising within the company.

On Dec 23, 229th held a Christmas party at the Parring facility. Decorations, food and beverages were all arranged by the soldiers. There was entertainment for everyone.

It was a great way for the different platoons and sections to get to know each other. Because 229th must use a large number of small teams, soldiers may not always get to work or even get to know one another.

The Super Bowl Party in the dayroom of the 229th barracks also provided the soldiers a chance to let their hair down. Even though not everybody was a fan of either team, there was a huge turnout. Everyone really pulled together to make it work.

The most recent trip for the 229th was a ski/snowboard trip to Muju ski resort.

Twenty-seven soldiers rode on a bus to the resort. The equipment was rented for a marginal cost.

Many soldiers had never skied or snowboarded. It gave them a chance to try something new. It also gave some an opportunity to spend time at the only place that even

remotely resembled their hometown in the states. The trip cost was lightened with the use of MWR funding.

For a team to come together the members must not only work well together, but also strive to know each other outside the place of work.

Some of the best ways that the 229th signal company achieves this are the recent trips made available to all in the company.

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Spc. Ryan Simms



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Willie Tompson

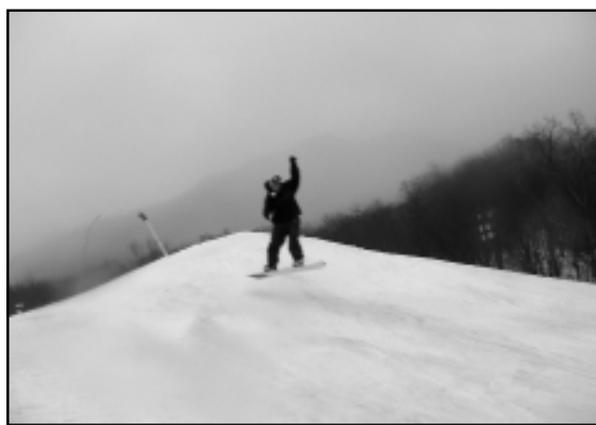


Photo by 1st Lt. Melisa Platt

(Left) The Officers of 229th Sig. Co., 307th Sig. Bn. wind down at the company Christmas party. (L-R, 1st Lt. Melisa Platt, Capt. Alton Johnson, 2nd Lt. Leah Schwarz and 2nd Lt. Gregory Paladino (Above) Pfc. Steven Reidy shows his mad skills on the snow board.

307th boasts racquetball champion

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Ryan Renken
Company C, 307th Sig. Bn.

When most people would let an injury end their basketball career, Staff Sgt. Sheldon Whitfield, a wire system installer from Company C, 307th Signal Battalion, just changed sports.

“I played basketball since fourteen. I played in high school and summer leagues in the city, but truly loved the game. It was more of an extensive hobby,” said Whitfield.

Yet, while playing basketball at Fort Stewart, Ga., his left eye received a fractural blowout from an elbow. As a result of the injury, he had to make the change racquetball.

Since his change in sports, Whitfield has been making a name for himself and making an impact on the racquetball court. He began compet-

ing and winning in tournaments back in 1999 with a bronze medal at the Osan Open Racquetball Tournament Men’s Open.

“I like racquetball and I play for me. It is enjoyable, fun and competitive,” he said.



Staff Sgt. Sheldon Whitfield, Company C, 307th Sig. Bn. poses with a racquetball racket and his championship trophies.

While stationed at Fort Gordon, Whitfield was an active competitor.

By the end of his time in Georgia, Whitfield was ranked the first in the Men’s B’s Georgia Racquetball Association, and sixth in the Combined Armed Forces Men’s Open.

Upon arriving in Korea for his current tour, Whitfield took first place in six racquetball tournaments; Camp Carroll Columbus Day Tournament, Christmas Holiday Tournament, Labor Tournament, Thanksgiving Tournament, Camp Walker Columbus Day Tournament and the Thanksgiving All Division Championship.

With all of his recent accomplishments, his gold medal finish at the 2002 Georgia Games and at the 2001 Georgia Pro-Am are ranked as his top accomplishments to date.

Ball team strives to be 8th Army’s best

By 1st Lt. Eric Setzekorn
HHC, 307th Sig. Bn.

In every unit it is important to have some time to take a break from training and have soldiers take a moment to enjoy themselves.

Company sports are a way to build esprit within a unit, get a good workout and have a chance to compete with their fellow soldiers.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 307th Signal Battalion went to the 8th Army competition in Yongsan after moving through the tough and demanding Area IV tournament and coming out on top.

The tournament was held at the Camp Carroll gym in the last week of January and had a very full and demanding schedule of daily games and always increasing crowds.

The quick turn around time between games meant that injuries and recovery times had to be kept to a minimum to ensure the teams were ready to compete again the next day.

The team, which has always been competitive and

routinely advances to the last rounds of any tournament, continually adds new talent from incoming soldiers and builds on the experience of the returning players.

In Area IV there is normally tough competition from units stationed at Camp Walker, Henry and Camp Hialeah, in addition to units at Camp Carroll, including the rest of the 307th. The cold weather of the winter has allowed time to practice and hone the teamwork and individual skills to take the team to a higher level of competition.

The HHC 307th basketball had a great run coming into the Eighth Army tournament and hoped to continue their success. After a long bus ride to Yongsan on 12 Feb, HHC had to face tough competition from the 121 Medlog BN from Yongsan.

The team put great effort, but the Camp Humphreys champions proved too much and the team returned to Camp Carroll on the 15th. Although the tournament didn’t take them to the finals, they represented HHC, the 307th and Area IV well and impressed a lot of teams with their skills and sportsmanship.

Signal spotlight



(above) Capt. Ray Wood shows his mad skills during a soccer match between HHC, 1st Sig. and HHD, 41st in April.



(above) 41st Signal Battalion presents a donation check to the Geon Orphan from money collected at fundraising events in February.



(left) The mother of Pfc. Park, Joon Yung, 251st Sig. Detachment speaks to the KATUSAs of HHC and 41st Sig. Bn., during the ROKA directed training in April.

(below) Capt. John Wernau, 251st Sig. Detachment commander, entertains 1st Sig. Bde. at the Hail and Farewell in March.



Noncommissioned officers of 41st Sig. Bn. participate in the NCO induction ceremony in March.

