

VOICE of the ROK E

Signal takes UFL by storm

Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff's message for Veterans Day

Battalion has best dinning facility

Tax forms available online

November 1, 2002

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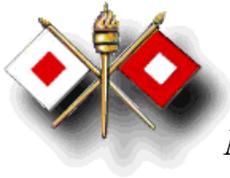
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On the Cover

Spc. Francisco J. Baez connects a telephone line to maintain communication during UFL.

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Photo by Spc. Daniel Okada



1st Signal Brigade
APO AP 96205

Message from 1st Signal Brigade Commander

To the soldiers, civilians, and families of 1st Signal Brigade:

It is an honor to lead this outstanding organization. Four months have flown by. During this time we have: Executed the best Ulchi Focus Len exercise of five that I've been associated with; supported the United Nations Command Salvage Operations of the South Korean Patrol Boat; supported the United Nations Command's DMZ transportation corridor de-mining operations by providing communications support at OP Dora and OP 71;- installed a "hotline" between North Korea and the United Nations Command at the JSA and the list goes on. Job well done!

On Oct. 8, as part of Army transformation, the Army created a new command, the Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command to spearhead information management initiatives and become a single voice for the Army's information technology network. By creating an enterprise-level 'info structure,' the Army is now postured to execute the functions critical to information management. The 1st Signal Brigade is a subordinate command of NETCOM. On that same date, we activated a Regional Chief Information Office, headed by Mr. Rich Husak - congratulations on your appointment as the Deputy Director.

The RCIOs have the responsibility, from the aspects of technical control and configuration management, to ensure that all ongoing information management actions across the Army do in fact fall within the standard Army architectures, derived from headquarters via mandates, executed under a standard configuration management technical control. That's how the Army has chosen to characterize the role of the RCIO and DOIM activities, across our entire Army.

On Oct. 16, we activated the 14th and 251st Signal Detachments. The lineage of these two units is rich with service to our nation. As we uncase the colors of these two great units, I know that the soldiers and civilians in the Republic of Korea, who are now part of the 14th and 251st Signal Detachments, are ready and more than able to write another chapter of achievements in their respective unit's history. It is an honor to have them as part of our ranks. A special welcome to the command teams of Capt. Yvette Foster, Sgt. 1st Class Derick A. Winstead, and Capt. John J. Wernau, Sgt. 1st Class Roger T. Crowley. Congratulations to all assigned to the 14th and 251st Signal Detachments.



Recently we participated in "New Horizons." One of the topics covered was safety. Death in wartime is a heavy burden. Death from a peacetime accident is an unbearable tragedy. We must do everything in our power to prevent accidents from happening. As we enter this holiday period, we need to remember only one fact — we cannot replace a single soldier, civilian or family member.

Commander's message continued

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**1st Signal Brigade
APO AP 96205**

Message from 1st Signal Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Greetings once again Team Signal! As always, it is both a privilege and an honor to address all of you in this forum - the Voice of the ROK. It should come as no surprise to anyone that we've had a very busy quarter, and as we close out the fiscal year, I would just like to take this opportunity to talk about some of the great accomplishments of this fine brigade. Most notably...

□ □ Outstanding support of Ulchi Focus Lens Exercise. Absolutely the best!

□ □ Closed out the year at over 100 percent in all categories for Reenlistment. Master Sgt. White and the entire unit Career Counselors were able to complete 303 reenlistment contracts. The most ever this brigade has done in many years!

□ □ Earned Soldier of the Year and Runner-up NCO of the Year honors at the U.S. Army Signal Command NCO/Soldier of the Year Competition.

□ □ Pfc. Alfredo Vega is the first soldier in the brigade to earn the coveted Air Assault Badge at the 2nd Infantry Division Air Assault Course.

□ □ And the list goes on and on...

However, Team Signal, we still have a lot of work to do in the areas of incidents and accidents. In the past quarter, we've seen an increase in alcohol related incidents and vehicular accidents, both government owned vehicles and privately owned vehicles, that could have easily been prevented with a little common sense and through proper risk assessments. I solicit everyone's support in ensuring that we're all fully engaged in looking out for each other and doing the right thing, both on and off duty. Remember your seven Army values and you can't go wrong.

In closing, remember to treat everyone the way you expect to be treated. Regardless of the individual's race, creed, religion, national origin or sex. As Americans abroad, we're ambassadors of our great nation 24/7, 365 days of the year. Noncommissioned officers, remember too, that taking care of soldiers is the responsibility of every NCO in this brigade. There are no short cuts when caring for soldiers and their families. If you take care of them, in the end, they will take care of you. Safety first, soldiers and families always!



**“There is no substitute for
outstanding leadership!”**

**Alejo C. Quinata
CSM, USA**



Photos Cpl Jo, Jong Hye
Top: First Sgt. Devin Jackson, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 41st Signal Battalion addresses soldiers during Operation Leap Frog 02', Aug. 27, Camp Morse during a downpouring rain.

Left: Cpl. Joseph Lobello, HHD, 41st Sig. Bn. takes cover behind a tree as part of the exercise's base security force.

Operation Leap Frog 02'

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

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 41st Signal Battalion, set an example of how a military exercise can be organized and conducted together through Operation Leap Frog, 02', Aug. 27.

"This exercise allowed us to receive a mission, formulate a plan as a team and deploy," said Cpt. Charmaine Valmonte, commander Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 41st Sig. Bn. "At the end state of this operation, our soldiers, noncommissioned officers and leaders will have the confidence in our ability to deploy a strategic element should a contingency arise."

Operation Leap Frog 02' was an administrative, logistics operation center and detachment field training exercise that empowered the soldiers in developing training plans in improving the go-to-war tasks, according to 1st Sgt. Devin Jackson, HHD, 41st Sig. Bn.

Alerted at 4 a.m., leaders were double-checking whether the training went as planned without delay. Soldiers were busy getting ready to go out to the training site, Camp Morse, which provides many of the key microwave links between United States camps.

"Although the standard for most Army units is to leave their garrison area for exercises, this is a significant rollout for the strategic signal battalion like ours," said 1st Lt. Raymond Simms, executive officer, HHD, 41st Sig. Bn.

After a short convoy briefing, the eight different sections began rolling out to Camp Morse in Namsan, which is controlled by the 275th Signal Company, 41st Sig. Bn.

The reconnaissance, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical checks and Base Security Forces went as planned. The misty rain turned

into a torrential downpour as the soldiers set up the tents. Yet, no one panicked.

"It's not very often that we do this kind of exercise. But, everybody is doing very well," Valmonte said.

Sergeant's time training on NBC was given throughout the day by Sgt. 1st Class Essie Washington, battalion NBC NCO, 41st Sig. Bn. and her two soldiers, Sgt. Kim Jae Hyung and Pvt. Jun Min Wook.

"I had soldiers come up and see exactly how they'd apply NBC in an environment like this. Instead of sitting in a classroom and reading about it, get out there and actually do it," Washington said. "I think it's a very beneficial class for soldiers to learn and feel hands-on what it's like on top of a mountain or hill side"

One of the factors that makes this training stands out is that soldiers were involved in every phase of this exercise to make it better and more efficient. Pre-combat inspection and pre-combat checks were conducted by soldiers as well as NCOs and leaders and nothing was directed from higher authority.

"Our BSF team guarantees 100 percent security around the perimeter because that is our duty," said Cpl. Sohn, Je Yong, training, HHD, 41st Bn. "We all were assigned different duties and we did them as if we were in war."

"The exercise we conduct here is very important and different from the ones in other places because we always have a threat of north," Valmonte said.

Through this exercise, soldiers from HHD, 41st Sig. Bn. gained confidence in their ability against any contingency by actually implementing the rollout plan in time of war.

304th Signal Battalion wins CG's Best Mess

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

Always reliable, yet often under appreciated, military dining facilities are rarely given the recognition they earn on a daily basis. But food services take great pride in their business and constantly strive to maintain the highest standards.

Although regulations set the guidelines by which dining facilities are operated, the final evaluations come from the military personnel who eat in them on a daily basis. If there are ever any issues regarding the quality of food at a given dining facility, it rarely takes long for word to spread.

Patrons of the 304th Signal Battalion's Camp Colbern dining facility have had little to complain about, due to the rigorous standards its dining staff adheres to. Due to the quarterly Brigade Food Service evaluations, their efforts have not gone unnoticed as the 304th took the title of Commanding General's Best Mess for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2002.

The Brigade Food Service holds this quarterly competition as a means of recognizing superior food service operations. Only dining facilities with evaluations scores of 90 percent or higher may qualify for the award, with the highest scoring facility receiving a nomination to represent the 1st Signal Brigade can compete in the next tier of competition.

Participation in the 19th Theater Support Command CG's Best Mess is limited to food operations that have not failed any preventive medicine evaluations. The dining facility must not exceed the established management ceiling of plus or minus 10 percent tolerance on the account for



Spc. Daniel Okada

Major General Bates presents members of the 304th Sig. Bn., DFAC with the 19th TSC Best Mess award plaque.

two consecutive months. Lastly, the average evaluation score must not fall below satisfactory.

Warrant Officer Tonya Sims, 1st Sig. Bde. food advisor stated that "the measures the 304th dining facility took to exceed the criteria is professional competence and expertise. The recipe for success consisted of teamwork; outstanding customer service; superb food preparation; keen sanitation; diligent administration; and excellent ration control.

"This level of success is a direct result of esprit de corps and the intense desire to provide quality service and support to the soldiers." Sims asserted.

"Sergeant First Class Stovall and Sergeant First Class Williams have been the most dynamic dining facility managers I have worked with to date," said Master Sgt. Dante Sampson, food service supervisor, 1st Sig. Bde.

"Despite whatever comes their way, they still run the most dynamic operation in the theater. The food service personnel and food service workers have finally been recognized for the awesome job they do every day for the soldiers and their families assigned to Camp Colbern and the surrounding community," Sampson said.

This success will enable the 304th dining facility to remain competitive as they prepare for the 36th Annual Philip A. Connelly competition.



Food service officer, 2nd Lt. Mary Faul serves lunch to students of Kyunghwa Girls' High School.



Photos by Spc. Daniel Okada

Left: Pierre J. Riopel teaches the only Microsoft certified course in the Department of Defense. Right: Spc. Eric Berg, 201st Signal Company takes advantage of an opportunity to keep his information systems operator-analyst skills current.

Signal company offers **Free Microsoft course**

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

The 201st Signal Company began hosting Microsoft certificate classes as a cost-effective means of keeping computer proficiency skills current.

“You can’t beat the price on the peninsula,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Dave Craig, 51st Medical Group, Osan Air Force Base. “You only pay for books which is tremendous for the military.”

The courses are an incredible value for airmen at Osan Air Force Base as well as soldiers.

According to Craig, Osan is sending as many staff as possible to the course, because this is a great opportunity to receive training as offices continue to migrate over to Windows 2000.

Students of all skill levels attend the courses from computing novices to experienced programmers. Programming Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Sgt. Kevin Green, 201st Signal Company still sees the value in foundation courses such as this.

“It’s necessary to update knowledge and upgrade skills,” Green said. “You need to learn as a network administrator how the user sees this information.”

With offices throughout the military upgrading operating systems, a means of training personnel from United States service members, Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army

to Korean Nationals has become increasingly necessary.

“These are foundations courses students must take as system engineers,” said Pierre J. Riopel, certified Microsoft course instructor.

Riopel teaches a series of Windows 2000 based classes as a part of what was the only Microsoft certified course in the entire Department of Defense as of last year when the program started.

The series began as a program to train more soldiers at a reasonable cost. Riopel asserts that the classes are one of the best computer training values in Korea.

Professional and Servers Essentials is the first class in the series and pertains to theory and concepts required prior to continuing the series with hands on training segments.

Spc. Eric Berg of the 201st Sig. Co. said that as an information systems operator analyst, the course was directly job related.

“Microsoft classes are more current, more in depth, compared to the training I received through my Advanced Individual Training course,” Berg stated. “Also, there were more materials available to reinforce what the instructor relayed to us.”

With regard to the remainder of the course, Berg said “It should be a good class; very useful in my field.”

U.S. Forces Korea will continue to benefit from the Microsoft certified series of courses, allowing service members to keep vital job skills and information current into the future.