



Sending greetings from Baghdad

I've been tremendously impressed since assuming command in August by the focus, competence, relentless dedication and selfless leadership across all ranks and components of INSCOM worldwide. INSCOM is truly the Army's Operational Intelligence Force — fully engaged in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and preparation for regional contingencies as part of the Joint Intelligence Team.

The significant accomplishments of the past two years have laid a solid foundation for major advances in the way we collect, move, process and analyze information along tactically useful timelines to satisfy Joint warfighter requirements. The immediate challenge is to keep pressing ahead. My meetings and discussions with INSCOM soldiers, civilians and contractors, as well as feedback from senior leaders, tells me we're focusing on the right areas — support to current force operations in Southwest Asia remains first; concurrent support to GWOT worldwide comes as a close second, spanning operations in the Horn of Africa, Colombia, Philippines and elsewhere. Our very substantial security and contingency involvement in Korea remains unaltered.

This column was composed from CJTF-7 workspaces in Baghdad, where INSCOM involvement was integral to the rapid conclusion of major combat operations on Coalition terms, and remains integral to successful prosecution of stability and support operations. INSCOM's ability to weight the battlefield with seasoned counterintelligence and human intelligence resources leveraged by connectivity to tactically engaged, high capacity fusion hubs in the continental U.S. has never been greater. Shared access to multi-discipline databases is now widely recognized by the intelligence community as an operational imperative — the "walls" are starting to come down; the protracted nature of our involvement in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom has given us the impetus to make major, needed changes.

Advanced fusion techniques and tools are now being developed and employed in support of the warfight. Counterintelligence and human intelligence capabilities are deploying and operating as integrated teams for maximum synergy. Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, is holding all developmental efforts to an unambiguous,



DA photo

"no-nonsense" joint interoperability standard which directly enhances the entire intelligence system. The objective is clear, as recently noted by the Army G-2, Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander: "see first, understand first, act first and win decisively across the operational spectrum." We stand on the edge of realizing this objective. We have among our ranks the most important resource — brilliant, dedicated active duty, reserve, National Guard and civilian components. Getting the resources to fully operationalize our vision and meet wartime requirements is challenging, but I am confident we'll get what we need with continued assistance from the Army, the intelligence community and Congressional support.

Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons

Take a closer look before you click

ARLINGTON, Va. – The two million military and civilian users of myPay are being cautioned to use only the official myPay site (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) when seeking to access pay account information.

“Personal information is valuable and should be safeguarded,” said Claudia L. Bogard, director of Corporate Communications for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. “Don’t provide your personal information to any website unless you know it can be trusted.”

Look-alike sites have recently frustrated myPay customers who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is in no way affiliated with DFAS or the Department of Defense.

DFAS’ myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated website that lets active duty, National Guard and reserve military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online. The official website is found at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>



photo by B.J. Beretta

Paying proper respect

(Left to right) Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons, Maj. Thomas Engle and Command Sgt. Maj. Terence McConnell salute during the playing of the National Anthem during the Sept. 11th ceremony in front of the Nolan Bldg. at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

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Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

By Sgt. 1st Class Marty Smith
513th MI Brigade

September was Hispanic Heritage Month with this year's theme being "Honoring Our Past, Surpassing our Present, and Leading Our Future." Hispanic Heritage Month begins in the middle of September partly because many Latin American countries celebrate their independence around this time. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua all celebrate theirs on the 15th; Mexico celebrates

on the 16th and Chile on September 18th.

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." More than 35 million people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino on the 2000 Census.

Fresh out of the Defense

Equal Opportunity Management Institute, my first assignment as an Equal Opportunity Advisor was for U.S. Army South in Panama.

As one might imagine, USARSO put on what I believe had to have been the best Hispanic Heritage Month celebration anywhere. Dancers were invited from all over Central and South America, and attendees were able to sample a veritable smorgasbord of local dishes and musicians played in the different styles of the region. We also had one of the best guest speakers – a man I had actually done research on while a student at DEOMI. His name was Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez.

Benavidez was born the son of a Texas sharecropper; he was a 7th grade dropout and an orphan who grew up taunted by the term "dumb Mexican." Roy eventually joined the Army to get some direction in his life.

Benavidez joined the Army at the age of 19, went to airborne school, then was injured by a land mine in South Vietnam in 1964. Doctors feared he would never walk again, but he recovered and became a Green Beret.

Benavidez's destiny took him to Vietnam a second time, where, as a member of Detachment B56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, he challenged death on May 2, 1968.

(continued on page 4)



photo by Ron Hall

Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez (center) is flanked by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger (left) and President Ronald Reagan at his Medal of Honor presentation ceremony in 1981.

(continued from page 3)

A staff sergeant at the time, Benavidez “distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty,” his Medal of Honor citation states. The citation credits him with helping to save the lives of eight of his Special Forces comrades during helicopter evacuations during a firefight with North Vietnamese regular forces west of Loc Ninh.

Benavidez suffered a broken jaw and 37 bullet and bayonet puncture wounds in the fight. He was so mauled that his commanding officer thought he wouldn’t live long enough to receive a Medal of Honor. He nominated Benavidez for the Distinguished Service Cross instead, because the No. 2 award would take less time and paperwork to obtain.

Benavidez, however, survived his wounds and received the Distinguished Service Cross from Gen. William C. Westmoreland. Only years later did the general learn detailed particulars of Benavidez’s heroism. The Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to a Medal of Honor, and Benavidez received the award in 1981 from President Ronald Reagan in a White House



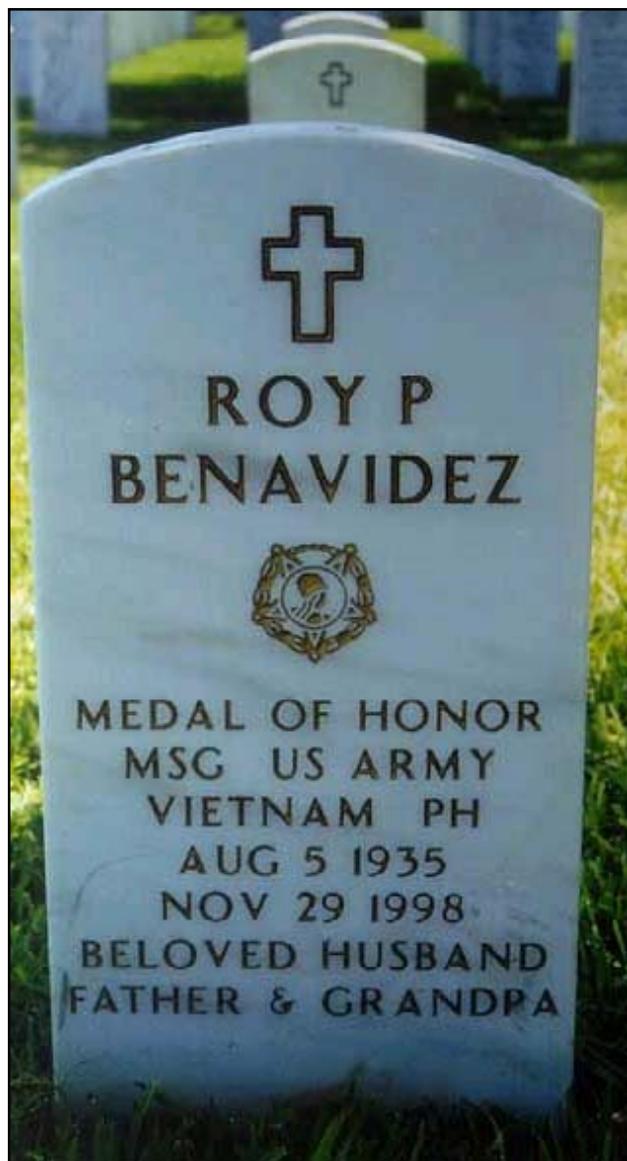
courtesy photo

Since his heroic actions in Vietnam, Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez has been honored in many ways. One of which, was the creation of his own action figure.

ceremony.

“Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez was a true American hero, rising from humble origins in South Texas to become an Army legend,” said Army Secretary Louis Caldera. “The Navy’s recognition of his selfless service is truly an appropriate tribute to Master Sgt. Benavidez’s memory, and to the ideals of our nation that he epitomized.”

Benavidez is one of the 37 Hispanic Americans among the 3,400 recipients of the Medal of Honor since the award was created in 1861.



courtesy photo

Benavidez passed away in 1998, at the age of 63 from respiratory failure at Brooke Army Medical Center.

INSCOM soldiers roll the DISE

by Staff Sgt. Eric Reinhardt
66th MI Group

DARMSTADT, Germany – The soldiers of Company A, 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion's Deployable Intelligence Support Element Platoon recently fielded new communications equipment to enhance the unit's mobile intelligence support mission.

The Joint Mobile Integrated Communication System, or JMICS and the PSN - 11 Secure Channel, or SCAMP, will be assigned to Company A's Deployable Intelligence Support Element Platoon.

Those soldiers have spent the last month fielding the equipment and training on it, according to Capt. Jason Liddell, Company A commander.

The DISE Platoon is the most deployed unit in the 66th, according to Liddell. "Over the last year, the platoon has deployed in support of exercises in Poland and Israel.

The DISE deployed equipment and personnel to Israel, Turkey, Kuwait, Italy and Iraq in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The soldiers have provided outstanding support to commanders across the globe, Liddell said.

Most of the soldiers have returned, but some remain in Iraq and surrounding regions.

The DISE soldiers back home still have plenty to do, from training replacements to fielding new equipment.



courtesy photo

The Deployable Intelligence Support Element Platoon fielded new equipment to enhance its mobile intelligence support mission.

The soldiers also conduct training and study volumes of manuals to become experts in their field.

"A few of the new faces will experience the opportunity to return to Fort Huachuca to become master operators on the Trojan Spirit [communications] systems organic to the DISE," said Liddell.

Although the soldiers earned a rest after their deployments, the respite from training was necessarily short.

In June, the company received new equipment from the Defense Intelligence Agency followed by a two-week crash course from a mobile training team.

The training included everything from system emplacement, maintenance and troubleshooting to system administrator duties for the complicated network supporting the DISE's mobile video teleconference suite.

In July, the DISE platoon took part in a Company A field

training exercise. The maneuvers were a chance to put the platoon's real-world capabilities to the test.

"We used this time to ensure that the new troopers had learned the ins and outs of their new system and provide an opportunity to evaluate and validate the platoon's [standard operating procedures]."

The soldiers trained on building defensive positions, responding to nuclear, biological and chemical attacks, dealing with enemy prisoners of war, and tearing down and moving the DISE after a full 24-hour day, according to Liddell.

Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd MI Battalion provided expertise on tactical vehicle recovery and such Nuclear, Biological, Chemical equipment as M-8 chemical alarms, 256 chemical and contamination marking kits.

"These soldiers are ready to provide exceptional support to whomever, whenever," said Liddell.

Nijmegen: Not for faint of heart

Commentary by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Dick
66th MI Group

"This road march isn't far enough, my feet don't hurt enough, and we can't drink enough beer" echoed across Charlemagne Field as the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion team finished the 2003 Nijmegen Four Day Marches.

About 5,000 soldiers from more than 30 countries gathered at Camp Huemendoord, Netherlands, July 15-18 to take part in the 100-mile road march – 25 miles each day.

"We enjoyed a successful four days of marching and finished in second [place] twice and in first [place] twice out of the 20 teams in the American contingent," said Capt. Joseph Barber, who headed the 2nd MI's 15-member Nijmegen team.

For the first-timers, Nijmegen can be a "significant emotional experience" as the reality of the grueling journey sinks in.

All of the 2nd MI team members completed a 25-mile road march before leaving for Nijmegen, but repeating that trek four times over four days straight takes extreme physical and mental toughness. Added to this year's 100-mile march was record high humidity and temperatures in the low to mid 90s.

On day one, just two miles from the finish line, the 2nd MI Battalion team experienced the first sign of weariness.

The team's combat lifesavers treated one member for dehydration with intravenous fluids. The team finished the day with all of its soldiers marching.

After day one, the Dutch Nijmegen committee altered the uniform by dropping the 22-pound rucksack requirement because of the record heat. According to committee officials, this was only the second time in the 86-year history of the march that they've altered the marching uniform at Nijmegen.

The weather forecast for the third day indicated a decrease in temperatures, so the rucksacks were back on for the 25 miles. The locals took pity on marchers and soaked them down with water hoses and buckets as they passed.

On the third day, the marching course changed from flat on asphalt and cobblestone to gently rolling hills on asphalt and cobblestone.

The team pushed hard through the elevation changes, coming out ahead of all the teams in the U.S. contingent.

They finished up with the traditional end-of-day march into the beer tent and knocked out a few pushups, kicked back with their rucksacks and shared a few beverages with their NATO comrades.

The last day of marching found the team starting last in the order of movement, but finishing first. They pounded the pavement to set a team record time.

The highlights of day four - the real prizes for all the effort, are crossing the pontoon bridge at Beers, the hundreds of thousands of spectators cheering (and sometimes tormenting) the soldiers and the honor of marching with your flag and team into downtown Nijmegen representing the United States of America.

Words can't easily convey the sheer pain, satisfaction, guts, sweat, heart, intestinal fortitude, dedication, or discipline this year's team experienced and displayed throughout the 100 miles of marching.

Participation on a Nijmegen team can be both humbling and rewarding to even the most "hardcore" soldier.



courtesy photo

"Nijmegen socks," became standard issue for participants in the Nijmegen Four-Days March.

Record number run Army Ten-Miler

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Oct. 6, 2003) — The Army Ten-Miler ran through the heart of the nation's capital Sunday as a record 13,197 runners participated in the 19th edition of America's largest 10-mile race with teams from U.S. Army Europe and Fort Lewis, Wash., gaining Army bragging honors.

Many ran with thoughts of the troops who have sacrificed, some with life and limb, in Iraq and Afghanistan, after being reminded by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley the night before at the pre-race pasta dinner. He asked that the race be dedicated to them.

From its beginning on the west side of the Pentagon to the finish on the east side, the competition at the front of the race was fierce as runners competed for team and individual honors under beautiful, clear skies. The temperature during the race ranged in the mid to upper 50s, warming from a pre-race 48-degree low, drawing out most of the 15,000 or so who had picked up race packets on Friday and Saturday.

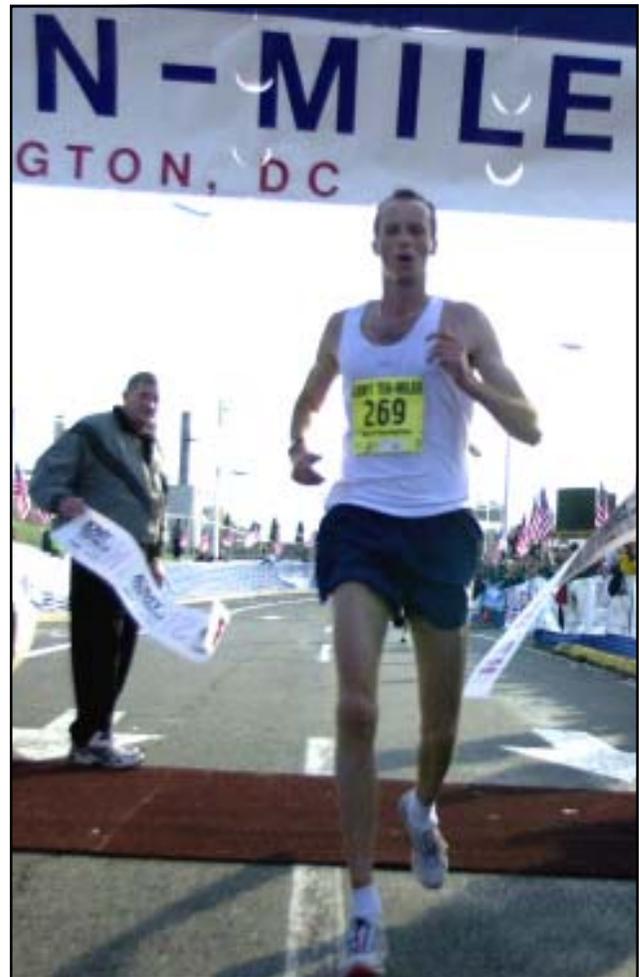
More than 18,000 had registered before entries were capped more than a month before the race.

John Henwood, a fitness instructor and Wellington, New Zealand, native now living in Washington, narrowly edged Army Capt. Scott Goff for the fastest run of the day at 48:39. Goff, of the Army World-Class Athlete Program in Boulder, Colo., was just four seconds back, unable to catch his taller rival, but 33 seconds ahead of the top runner of a strong team from the Italian Army, Luigi Labella, who crossed the finish line carrying his country's flag.

In all there were 16 foreign nations represented — and more than 800 teams.

"I felt strong about my chances of winning the race," said the 6'5" Olympic-hopeful Henwood. "I looked at the times from the winners last year and thought I could run around those times."

Alisa Harvey gutted out her first-place finish among the women with a time of 59:29 to join a trio of runners who have each won the overall



courtesy photo

John Henwood, from New Zealand, crosses the finish line of the Army Ten-Miler with a winning time of 48:39.

men's or women's divisions three times in the past six years.

The Manassas runner, a track coach at George Mason University, had back-to-back victories in 1998 and 1999 and a second-place finish in 2000 with faster times, but has been training more for speed in hopes of representing the United States at the Olympics in the 800-meter run, the distance she competed at as an All-American at Tennessee. No man or woman has won more than three times.

"I finished ugly," the 38-year-old said. "I had no kick at the end."

Her regimen has emphasized building her speed with shorter sprints and weight training.