



# INSCOM *INSIGHT*



Volume 2, No.33

U.S. Army Intelligence & Security Command

Dec. 20, 2002

## ***CG's Holiday Message***

As this year draws to a close, the soldiers, civilians, contractors, and family members of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command can look back in pride at their accomplishments in 2002. The many individual efforts of Command members have come together to make a true impact in the Global War on Terrorism. I am extremely proud of your efforts as you have worked steadily towards the INSCOM goal of timely, accurate intelligence. Around the clock and around the world you have performed flawlessly as we pushed the boundaries of intelligence support to our customers. You and your families have definitely earned the happiness, celebration, and spiritual renewal of this Holiday Season.

Unfortunately there will be many members of the INSCOM workforce, who because of mission requirements, will celebrate the holidays far from family and friends. I ask that you remember them for their dedication and selfless service.

As you celebrate this joyous season, keep safety foremost in your mind. Inclement weather, crowded highways, and drivers under the influence are just some of the dangers that will put you and yours at risk. Don't rely on the other guy - make safety your business. We want all of you back, safe and sound, when the New Year arrives.

***I extend to each of you and your families my deepest wishes for a happy, fulfilling, and safe holiday season.***



***Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander***

## ***Fast Facts***

- To find out ways to support our troops this Holiday Season, go to [http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Dec2002/b12122002\\_bt632-02.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Dec2002/b12122002_bt632-02.html)
- The President recently announced that military personnel would receive the smallpox vaccine. For information on the vaccine, visit the Military Vaccines Web Site at <http://www.vaccines.army.mil/smallpox.asp>
- Read the Holiday Greeting from the President at [http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Dec2002/n12162002\\_200212163.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Dec2002/n12162002_200212163.html)
- The INSCOM Safety Office has compiled a Holiday Safety Tips brochure. You can access it at [http://www/PAO/Flyers/CHRISTMAS\\_Safety\\_Message\\_2002.pdf](http://www/PAO/Flyers/CHRISTMAS_Safety_Message_2002.pdf)

**Staff Profile**

**A series to introduce leaders to INSCOM**



**Capt. Eric Larsen, HQ INSCOM commandant, discusses his views of quality of life issues. (U.S. Army photo by Mr. Bob Bills)**

When he graduated from the Virginia Military Institute as a Distinguished Military Graduate, Captain Eric Larsen, Headquarters INSCOM Commandant, may not have envisioned a career assignment that involved such noncombat responsibilities as making sure the snow gets shoveled and the workforce gets inoculated. But these duties, along with a myriad of others, are part of a larger responsibility as HQ Commandant to ensure that the right work environment exists in the Nolan Building and that the soldiers and civilians who work there are taken care of.

“I’m like the Mayor of the Nolan Building,” Capt. Larsen said. “As the commandant, you are not the guy in the spotlight, you are not the operator. But you are the person in the background making sure that everything goes smoothly and is set in place for the organization’s success.”

special events, ensuring that additional duties are equitably divided among the workforce, training soldiers, and working a variety of quality of life issues. Although this is a change for him, he sees it as a great opportunity.

Capt. Larsen, who has spent most of his Army career in tactical assignments thus far, can be found emceeing

“I don’t have any role models or experience as a Commandant, but I have been fortunate enough to have had plenty of opportunities to lead soldiers, and I have learned the importance of taking care of soldiers. Now I have the opportunity to take care of civilians as well.”

Prior to becoming the HQ INSCOM Commandant, Capt. Larsen was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Information Operations Command (Land) in the Field Support and the Current Operations Divisions. Other assignments have included the Eighth U.S. Army, Osan Air Base Korea; 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Hawaii; and 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

As for the INSCOM soldiers and civilians who are engaged in a high optempo because of the War on Terrorism, he had this to say:

“Continue to do the outstanding job that you are doing now. Your efforts may not be reported on CNN, but they are felt where it counts: in the field, where the lives of our fellow soldiers are counting on your abilities and expertise.”

*INSCOM Insight is published weekly as a Command Information e-publication for the men and women of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of HQ INSCOM, the U.S. Army, or the Department of Defense. All photos are U.S. Army photos unless otherwise noted. Send inputs to INSCOM Public Affairs Office at [pao@inscom.army.mil](mailto:pao@inscom.army.mil)*

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## Celebrating the Holidays



**Who is a French Hen?** Members of the INSCOM G3 take part in the 12 Days of Christmas songfest at the INSCOM Headquarters tree lighting on Dec. 12. (U.S. Army photo)

**Here Comes Santa Claus.** Santa arrives at the INSCOM Headquarters on Dec. 12 to greet headquarters staff members who had gathered for the tree lighting. (U.S. Army photo)



**Hanging in there.** Mr. James L. Hubbard, visual information specialist with the INSCOM Public Affairs Office, hangs an ornament he designed for the new Strategic Management and Information Office on the INSCOM Holiday Tree. The ceremony was held Dec. 12 at the INSCOM Headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo)

**Winter Wonderland.** INSCOM Headquarters at Fort Belvoir gets into the spirit of the season with an early December snowfall that blanketed the Washington D.C. area. (U.S. Army photo)





**Songs of the Season.** Burena Smith leads members of the 66th Military Intelligence Group family in a round of caroling at a holiday tree lighting ceremony Dec. 4 at the Group's headquarters in Darmstadt, Germany. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Reinhardt)

## ***Bad Aibling holiday ceremony brings Americans, Germans together***

**By Kimberley Jannsen**

Editor

Bad Aibling News and Views

The sights, smells, sounds, and feel of the Holidays were in the air on Dec. 9 for the Annual Bad Aibling Station Tree Lighting Ceremony and reception. Over the years, this Bad Aibling Station tradition has become a treasured opportunity for our German neighbors to join us in a celebration of the holiday season.

Filled with tradition, the ceremony sets the tone for the entire holiday season on Station. A German and English welcome from our Master of Ceremony Benny Juarez started off the festivities. Gathered and bundled up around the tree, the Joseph Haas Choir, a local German choir, brought the sounds of the season to the festivities. Following the invocation, Station Commander Col. Susan Huggler and the mayor of Bad Aibling, Bürgermeister Felix Schwaller, offered their season's greetings to the crowd gathered around the twin trees in the cold. After the winners of the First Annual Ornament Contest presented their ornaments to the Bürgermeister, the overall winner, Brandi Justice, and a child from the Kinderheim Schöne Aussicht awed the crowd when they threw the switches on the trees and lit up the night.

Following the ceremony, the celebrants followed the luminary-lined path to the Bavarian Club for a party to really get the holiday season hopping. This reception draws hundreds from the Bad Aibling Station community into a holiday wonderland filled with music, decorations, and a lavish buffet to delight the most discerning tastes. Taking a break from the North Pole, Santa dropped by to hear holiday wishes and pose for Santa photos with the little ones.

This annual event is a much-anticipated tradition which brings the German and American neighbors together to share in the friendship and spirit of the season.



**Lighting up the Night.** The twin trees on Bad Aibling Station light up the night following the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, Dec. 9 (U.S. Army photo by Kim Jannsen)

## ***A Soldiers' Night Before Christmas***

**Anonymous**

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
He lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of  
Plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney  
With presents to give,  
And to see just who  
In this home did live.

I looked all about,  
A strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents,  
Not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,  
Just boots filled with sand,  
On the wall hung pictures  
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,  
Awards of all kinds,  
A sober thought  
Came through my mind.

For this house was different,  
It was dark and dreary,  
I found the home of a soldier  
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,  
Silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor  
In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,  
The room in such disorder,  
Not how I pictured  
A United States soldier.

Was this the hero  
Of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho,  
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families  
That I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers  
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,  
The children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate  
A bright christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom  
Each month of the year,  
Because of the soldiers,  
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder  
How many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve  
In a land far from home.

The very thought  
Brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees  
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened  
And I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry,  
This life is my choice;

I fight for freedom,  
I don't ask for more,  
My life is my God,  
my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over  
And drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it,  
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,  
So silent and still  
And we both shivered  
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave  
On that cold, dark, night,  
This guardian of freedom  
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,  
With a voice soft and pure  
Whispered, "carry on Santa,  
It's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,  
And I knew he was right.  
"Merry Christmas my friend,  
And to all a good night."

(Courtesy INSCOM Safety Office)

## ***AFAP considers most critical issues, most valuable services***

**By Yolande Johnson-Spinnato**

HQ INSCOM AFAP Program Manager

Two INSCOM delegates participated in the Army's 19th annual AFAP conference hosted by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center (CFSC) in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 18 - 22. Sergeant Major Renita Cooper, INSCOM G1, a conference participant, described the experience as "awesome."

"Those of us at the grass roots level have a high impact on the decisions that Army leadership makes. Our input influences the direction they (Army leadership) take in making these decisions."

An INSCOM family member who also attended said that "AFAP is a fantastic process that will affect the future for incoming soldiers and families. It will have a good, positive impact on their quality of life."

Both attendees expressed an overwhelming sense of accomplishment in being involved in this vital Army program that makes positive changes in the lives of soldiers, civilians, retirees, and family members.

A total of 112 delegates from installations and major Army commands evaluated 146 well-being issues submitted from AFAP conferences across the Army. Delegates were assigned to one of eight workgroups - Employment, Entitlement I and II, Family Support, Force Support,

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### ***GOSC takes on family issues***

The AFAP General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC) met on Nov. 20, 2002, to review and determine the status of 27 of the 72 active AFAP issues. Chaired by Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John M. Keane, the 35 member GOSC meets semi-annually and is composed of general officer representatives from the Army staff and major Army commands and Defense Department senior executive service civilians.



The committee's charter is to review AFAP issues for feasibility, provide status briefings on existing issues, determine the appropriate status for each one —active, completed, or unattainable — and make recommendations to the Army chief of staff. All issues are briefed by the heads of proponent agencies.

As he addressed the GOSC, Gen. Keane expressed his support for the AFAP process. "This conference is all about our soldiers and doing what's right for them," he said. "Their families know we'll be there for them. We try very hard to get it right. We listen to our families; we are responsive to them in a way unlike any other (process) in the Army. This is the end product today: getting together to get things done in this forum."

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Logistical Support, and Medical/Dental I and II. Each workgroup was given the task of identifying its top three issues to be presented at the Friday report out. Delegates worked tirelessly at identifying and prioritizing their issues.

On Friday all issues were briefed to Gen. John M. Keane, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. Delegates then voted for the top five from the conference, the six most critical active AFAP issues and the four most valuable community services. In his closing remarks to the delegates, Gen. Keane told them, "No single activity in the United States Army produces more results on behalf of soldiers and family members than AFAP."

In-state tuition for military members headed the list of the top five issues, followed by retirement dislocation allowance, selective use of military spouse preference, elimination of time limits to use Montgomery GI Bill benefits and ending with medical coverage for activated reserve component families. The critical active AFAP issues selected were distribution of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to dependents, active duty spouse tuition/education assistance, modification of weight allowance table (increase for enlisted families), revitalize all Army family housing by 2010, pay table reform (mid to senior NCOs) and Army retirements benefits awareness. Delegates voted Army Community Service, medical/dental services, commissary and housing (tied for third) as the most valuable community services.

## **Reservists end 10-month tour at 66<sup>th</sup> MI Group**

**By Jayme Loppnow**  
Staff Writer

The soldiers of the 331<sup>st</sup> MI Company from New York City, and the 323<sup>rd</sup> MI Battalion from Fort Meade, Md., are packing their bags and saying goodbye after nearly 10 months on active duty with the 66<sup>th</sup> MI Group.

The reservists arrived in February and were quickly integrated into the unit, supporting missions at the Group's MI detachments and the Analysis and Control Element.

"The two reserve units brought with them a variety of [Military Occupational Specialties] and as a result, supported a variety of missions," said Capt. Yen Pan, of the 331<sup>st</sup> MI Co. "The 331<sup>st</sup> MI Co. provided all the imagery analysts. The 323<sup>rd</sup> had a variety of skills ranging from linguists, analysts, to CI agents."

Pan says the reservists grew as professionals as well as strengthened their "soldier skills" throughout their tour with the 66<sup>th</sup>.

"It brought the reservists up to speed with their active-duty counterparts and it was a great opportunity to sharpen their intell skills," he said. "We were able to send some reservists to [the Primary Leadership Development Course] and to support some exercises. Working in an active-duty unit also taught the reservists how to work in such an organization and what standards to aim for. Everyone has grown since the time they first set foot in Germany. I leave with the confidence that our reservists are up to speed and ready to face any challenges in the future."

While the reservists were learning the ropes of the active Army, the active-duty soldiers were learning about the Army Reserve.

### ***A rough start***

"There were many challenges to overcome when we first arrived in Germany," said Pan. "There was a learning curve on how to work with each other. The initial effort was to fully integrate

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the reservists into the active-duty system. That caused many problems, specifically pay and personnel.”

Pan said he hopes the active-duty soldiers now have a better understanding of the reserve system which will in turn make a smoother transition for future reservists.

Sgt. Daniel Chapple, who worked in the ACE, says he’s learned a number of valuable lessons that he can take back with him to his civilian job.

“This is the first time I’ve been mobilized with a contingent of reservists, and I had to learn how to deal with some unique reservist issues and with various personalities that did not always get along,” Chapple said. “I loved the opportunity to travel around Europe experiencing new cultures and seeing historical structures that I’d only seen in books,” he added.

“They have done a spectacular job across the spectrum of missions that we are responsible for, including maintaining liaison with host-nation and military agencies and commands, personnel security, [Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army] and counterespionage cases and investigations,” said Col. Gus E. Greene, 66<sup>th</sup> MI Group commander. “They have deployed to contingency missions, and participated in German partnership functions as well as supporting the development of the Information Dominance Center and [Measurement and Signature Intelligence] operations. In their off time, they volunteered their time to the community as well.”



**Reserve augmentees to the 66th Military Intelligence Group form up for an awards ceremony in their behalf Dec. 2 at the Dagger Complex. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Reinhardt)**

“Quite simply, these soldiers have become valued members of the 66<sup>th</sup> team. So much so, that it will be extremely painful to see them return home,” he added.

Pan says the soldiers are excited to be going back home, but there is a chance that the reservists of the 331<sup>st</sup> MI Co. and the 323<sup>rd</sup> MI Bn. could cross paths with the 66<sup>th</sup> MI Group again.

“Everyone is looking forward to getting back to civilian mode to become the student, policeman and the office professional again,” he said. “Until world peace is achieved, there will be a demand for reservists, especially MI reservists. There are possibilities for future deployments and working for the 66<sup>th</sup> again. The MI world is very small, so you have not seen the last of us.”

## ***Commentary: Truth is Santa wears camouflage***

**by Spc. Jameka Roberts**

OKINAWA, Japan (Army News Service, Dec. 16, 2002) - Deployed thousands of miles from home to fight the War on Terrorism, it's comforting to see how those in uniform find meaning in this holiday season.

For instance, among my fellow 9th Theater Support Command reservists deployed here on Okinawa, I know that one NCO has engineered a secret Santa program to provide surprise gifts for soldiers. Another NCO has a baby Christmas tree set up in her room, with gifts sprawling in every direction from under its tiny limbs.

Programs are also in place to feed families who may need food for the Christmas season. And there is the Angel Tree Program, which gives gifts to needy children of military personnel. Deployed soldiers finding time to put together presents for others highlight one of the best aspects of the human condition: the spirit of giving.

After Sept. 11 of last year, the need to insulate and to protect one's own family from harm became even more defined in the midst of clear and present dangers. For that reason, those who are able and willing to go outside of themselves — and outside of their own families — to extend help and kindness to others, hold a special place of honor in my heart. Selflessness is an awesome thing, and it is the real truth behind this season.

I choose to sponsor a child in the Angel tree program because when I was a child someone did the same for me. When I was a little girl, my father was a soldier. While we were stationed overseas, one of my brothers died.

My family was broken - emotionally, spiritually and financially. We had lost so much faith, and the burden of depression was so heavy upon us, that when Christmas rolled around we barely even noticed.

I remember, as clear as yesterday, waking up with the other kids Christmas morning and making our way to the front of the apartment, just in time to see my father and several of his buddies bringing in boxes of presents and food.

My brothers and sister and I ripped open our presents with wide eyes and yelping voices and, for that moment we forgot to be depressed. We forgot to be angry at whatever force had taken our brother and had turned our world upside down. For that moment we were kids again.

I remember seeing my mother cry. This had been a normal occurrence in our home for the past couple of months. But on that day her tears did not slide sullenly down her face. On that day they sank into the deep dark curves around the corners of her mouth and formed watery grooves that looked just like a heart. My mother was smiling!

I overheard my father telling my mother that they had set up a program at the company and that fellow soldiers and their families had donated toys and food for families like ours.

It was on that day that I learned two things. The first of which was that there was no fat, bearded, jolly man named Santa Claus. I wasn't too startled by this realization because I was 9 years old, and the whole "Santa theory" was beginning to have too many holes in it to be plausible.

But I also learned one of the most important lessons of my life: in this world there exists something even better than Santa. There exists the spirit of giving that can make a downtrodden child smile and a grieving mother cry out of joy and appreciation.

To know that total strangers who wore uniforms every day just like my daddy could give so much of themselves and not even think to ask for anything in return was a lesson which stayed with me long after the toys had broken. It remains with me today.

(Editor's note: Spc. Jameka Roberts is a reserve-component unit supply specialist assigned to the 9th Theater Support Command, based at Fort Belvoir, Va. She is spending this holiday season deployed in Okinawa, Japan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.)