



# J INSCOM

Fall 2000

# JOURNAL

FOR THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONAL

**Inside this issue:**

**INSCOM's best soldiers**

**MASINT**

**Comanche code talkers**

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## Front Cover

Sgt. Corvell Conley, B Company, 732nd MI Battalion, avoids contact while heading for a touchdown during the Kunia Army vs. Navy flag football game. (Photo by Sgt. Janis Levonitis)

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# Soldiers help after asbestos discovery

By Sgt. Janis Levonitis

Spirits were high on the Friday night in July when the long-awaited remodeling of Building 131 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, was complete. 115th MI Group soldiers were starting their much-anticipated move into their new rooms.

But on the other side of the barracks, at F Quad, a different story was developing. The 3rd Infantry Brigade soldiers were being forced to stay with other soldiers because asbestos was discovered in their barracks building. Leaving with what few belongings they could carry, the infantry soldiers were literally left without a home to call their own.

Lt. Col. Steven Fogarty, commander of the 732nd MI Battalion, said they got the call about the displaced soldiers, and the moving of 115th MI Group soldiers stopped.

Ninety-four soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade now occupy rooms in Buildings 131 and 132.

Capt. Carl Fehrenbacher, commander, HHC 3rd Brigade, said when the asbestos was first discovered, it was thought the soldiers would be displaced for a few days, so the soldiers were bunking up with other soldiers. When they discovered the soldiers were going to be homeless for a while, the brigade contacted the Department of Public Works and the garrison commander to find new temporary homes for the soldiers. Quads A and D were identified.

D Quad did not offer enough space to handle all of the soldiers, so the 115th MI Group command was notified to

place some of the soldiers in A Quad.

The 732nd's executive officer, Maj. Erin Gallogly, and 1st Sgt. Mark Coggins of the 408th MI Company ensured the rooms were ready for the 3rd Brigade soldiers. The keys to the rooms were signed over, and the soldiers started moving into A Quad the next morning.

Fehrenbacher said his soldiers are not complaining one bit about having to move to A Quad. "A Quad has some of the best barracks on post and has the best facilities. Not that the barracks at F Quad are horrible, but the soldiers didn't have dayrooms or private bathrooms in F Quad, like they do at A Quad," Fehrenbacher said smiling.

Pvt. Andrew Anderson, who had to stay with one of his friends for a couple of days after the asbestos was found, said he has really taken advantage of his room at A Quad, especially the bathtub. Anderson said he hadn't soaked in a bathtub two years. He went out and bought some bubble bath and took a long, hot bath, he said.

"It is nice to have a private room and bathroom, and the kitchens are really nice," he said.

Fogarty said the soldiers really welcomed the access to all of the 732nd's facilities. "It is just another example of soldiers taking care of soldiers," he said.



*Levonitis is public affairs NCO for the 115th MI Group at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.*

By Sgt. Trinace Rutledge  
 Photos by Bob Bills

The United States Army Intelligence and Security Command Noncommissioned Officer, Soldier and Linguist of the Year were announced Aug. 16, in an awards ceremony at INSCOM headquarters.

Sgt. Derik Z. Miller, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort George G. Meade, Md., was named INSCOM NCO of the Year. Spc. Kimberly M. Northcutt, 513th MI Brigade, also from Fort Gordon, Ga., took Soldier of the Year. Staff Sgt. Eric Matos, 116th MI Group, Fort Gordon, was awarded Linguist of the Year.

Miller said he was very happy to win. He said he had gone to 26 boards before making it to the Soldier of the Year board.

"Technically I've been given the title [INSCOM NCO of the Year] but I'm no better than any of the others who competed," Miller said.

Northcutt said she personally had something to prove in this competition.

"I was beaten at the group level last year and started going to boards this year and made it to the brigade level," she said. She said her husband and NCOs in her platoon helped her to prepare for the Soldier of the Year board.

"My first sergeant, commander and command sergeant major were very supportive," she said.

Col. Donald D. Woolfolk, INSCOM commander, said America trusts its livelihood in the hands of soldiers just like the ones who competed and won in the competition.

"It was a very tough, very demanding competition," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald D. Wright, INSCOM command sergeant major. The board questions were very demanding. They proved themselves as all-around soldiers and competitors. They're all winners, he said.

Miller and Northcutt received the Army Commendation Medal, the Command Sergeant Major's Plaque for Excellence with a



Col. Donald D. Woolfolk, INSCOM commander, pins on an Army Commendation Medal on Sgt. Derik Z. Miller, INSCOM NCO of the Year.

coin, the Commander's Coin of Excellence, a \$100 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificate, a \$1,000 savings bond, a gift certificate for a dress blue uniform and choice of next duty assignment, plus other donated plaques and gifts.

Matos received the same with the exception of choice of next duty station.

The linguist winner was selected through a nomination packet. Nominees had to send in a list of accomplishments that were reviewed by a panel of five people from the headquarters INSCOM staff. The INSCOM commander picked



Staff Sgt. Eric Matos, INSCOM's Linguist of the Year, will represent INSCOM at the Department of the Army competition level.

the final winner, who will represent INSCOM at the Headquarters Department of the Army, Linguist of the Year competition.

Other competitors were: Staff Sgt. Andrew Angarita, 108th MI Group, Bad Aibling Station, Germany; Spc. Adam Lewis, 66th MI Group, Darmstadt, Germany; Sgt. Deborah L. Sills, 500th MI Group, Camp Zama, Japan; and Spc. Erich H. Keough, 115th MI Group, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The runners-up received an Army Achievement Medal, a Command Sergeant Major Plaque of Excellence, a \$100 AAFES gift certificate and a certificate for a dress blue uniform.

“This is as far as you can go in an INSCOM unit,” Sills said. “I wanted to set the example for soldiers. I wouldn’t put my soldier in front of a board if I’m not going to do it for myself,” she said.



*Rutledge is the public affairs NCO at the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command.*



**Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald D. Wright, INSCOM command sergeant major, hands Spc. Kimberly M. Northcutt an AAFES gift certificate .**



All of the finalists in INSCOM’s Soldier, NCO and Linguist of the Year competition take a moment after the ceremony for a photograph. (From left to right) Staff Sgt. Eric Matos, Linguist of the Year; Command Sgt. Maj. (retired) Donald Thomas of the Association of the United States Army; Sgt. Deborah L. Sills; Sgt. Derik Z. Miller, NCO of the Year; Spc. Erich H. Keough; Spc. Kimberly Northcutt, Soldier of the Year; Staff Sgt. Andrew Angarita; Command Sgt. Major Ronald D. Wright, INSCOM command sergeant major; and Spc. Adam Lewis.

# Army Management Staff College presents new challenges, broadens perspective

By Maria Kuhns

**I**NSCOM employee Marilyn R. Monthaven, a graduate of the Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program (SBLM) at the Army Management Staff College (AMSC) and recipient of the AMSC Outstanding Student Award, was awarded the prestigious Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for outstanding academic and professional achievement during the recent graduation ceremony at the Fort Belvoir, Va., campus.

Thomas L. Cole, another INSCOM civilian, was also among the 149 students from Class 00-1 to receive 12 weeks of specialized education in the sustaining base.

A general military intelligence specialist with the National Ground Intelligence Center, Fort Meade, Md., Monthaven said she heard about AMSC several years ago from co-workers. With her supervisor's support, Monthaven said her biggest motivation to apply was that "I really wanted to learn more about the total Army. Being in military intelligence for over 20 years, a person tends to get myopic, like any field of concentration. I also wanted to see how I worked as a manager (feedback), and if I was a leader. I really didn't know what made the difference between a manager and a leader in the everyday job environment."

Even though AMSC had been her goal for some time, she chose this particular time in her career so that she could fully concentrate on being a student. She emphasized that it's important to understand what SBLM is about before attending; without that understanding, a person cannot hope to reap the full benefit of the program.

The curriculum places emphasis on team building in order to build cohesion among students in the seminars. For Monthaven, that was one element of the powerful set of skills she learned. "I believe it [AMSC] was one of the best times in my life. At times I couldn't wait to get it over with, but then it ended so quickly," she said. "I will continually remember the value of my experiences as I encounter situations in which I find myself relying on what I learned."

Reflecting on her AMSC experience, Monthaven said, "I learned more about the Army than I had in the rest of my career. I also learned about leadership and what people expect of a leader." She added, "The benefits I have gained are not just job related but very personal, too. My self-image is stronger and I feel more empowered to ask questions when I think something isn't right. I think AMSC gave me the chance to test my knowledge and build my confidence."

The program places emphasis on small seminar settings, allowing seminar members to interact with each other, exchange information and share experiences.

Although the student body is comprised primarily of GS-12 -14 civilians, military officers assigned to sustaining base positions also attend the course.

Monthaven said, "I believe that AMSC SBLM is necessary for all Army supervisors to attend. If required, it would certainly remove individuals who were mainly self-motivated for financial benefit out of supervisory positions that would then be open for individuals who honestly want to promote the Army and the United States into a stronger, more productive and universal force."

The College was established in 1986 to provide professional development opportunities for civilians commensurate with those given to military officers. The graduate level education focuses on leadership, management, and decision making, with emphasis on national policy and strategy, force development and doctrine, and the systems through which America's Army transforms resources into combat power.

The American Council on Education/Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction reviewed the AMSC curriculum and has recommended that colleges and universities consider awarding credits at the baccalaureate level and graduate level for students completing any resident classes; this also began for the nonresident program in 1995. The specific award of credit depends on the college or university policies and the appropriateness of the specific credits to the degree in which the student is enrolled.

Continued on page 27



**INSCOM employee Marilyn R. Monthaven (left) receives the Leadership Award from Yuki Ann Graves, president of the Army Management Staff College Alumni Association. (Photo courtesy of Army Management Staff College)**



The U.S. Army's RC-7B Airborne Reconnaissance Low-Multifunction (ARL-M) is the fifth aircraft in the ARL-M series. It is the first of the five aircraft to feature the complete multifunction, multimission performance package. (Photo courtesy of Northrup Grumman Corp.)

# Army's newest ARL rolls out

By Karen B. Hickman

August 29, as the flight hangar doors at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport slid open, Lt. Col. Charles R. Mehle II, commander of the 204th MI Battalion, 513th MI Brigade announced, "On behalf of the soldiers, officers and civilians of the 204th, we proudly accept the logbook to the M5, the Army's newest and most capable aerial reconnaissance platform in the world today." Mehle was introducing the Army's first full-capacity, second-generation RC-7 Airborne Reconnaissance Low-Multifunction (ARL-M) aircraft.

The ARL-M5, the fifth aircraft in the ARL-M series, is the first complete multifunction, multimission performance airframe that provides significant advancements in sensor technology.

"This is a significant enhancement of capabilities to support commanders in the field," said Col. Donald D. Woolfolk, commander, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command.

The ARL-M5 satisfied the Army's

1993 vision to provide an aircraft with imagery, radar, communications intelligence, data links and communication systems capable of providing near real-time intelligence information to tactical commanders. It is a modified commercial four-engine de Havilland DHC-7 aircraft that combines the first generation ARL-I and ARL-C (imagery intelligence and electronic support services). Work on the initial ARL five-aircraft program began in 1991.

After quoting the battalion's motto, "Silently We Defend," Mehle recognized two of his "back-enders" from Fort Bliss, Texas: Sgt. Daniel S. Harrison and Sgt. Daniel A. Mowry. The soldiers frequently deploy to conduct ARL missions, and both "back-ender" soldiers are mission supervisors in training, Mehle said. He then awarded them the ARL-M5 logbook.

Harrison, a native of El Paso, Texas, said, "As a back-ender mission supervisor in training, I coordinate the flight and task personnel for specific missions. A senior NCO is there watching, but I am in charge. This is a step progres-

sion; I am still an operator. It is realistic, not a play game. The results are actual. It's fun, and I love flying. This is not a regular Army unit."

An average mission is 45 days from loading and checking equipment to returning and unloading, according to Mowry, a native of Fargo, S.D. For those sitting in back-ender positions, the plane is comfortable most of the time, Mowry said. "It depends on how the pilot handles the plane in weather conditions. It's a live mission. It sort of gives you a sense of helping out the country and the Army," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Luther Clemmons, mission analyst assigned to INSCOM's G3 Sensor Program at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Sgt. 1st Class Jude Rabago are a two-person team assigned to provide training and conduct inspections on the ARL programs at the 204th MI Battalion, 513th MI Brigade and the 3rd MI Battalion, 501st MI Brigade.

Mehle commented, "The ARL-M5 is a tribute to the developers and integrators who have worked so hard and

so long to fulfill a need, but it also is a tribute to those soldiers and officers who will be operating this magnificent platform in harsh, often unforgiving environmental conditions. The system you have provided increases operational safety margins, intelligence capabilities and flexibility across the operational spectrum.”

Guest speaker U.S. Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland added, “Our military will be safer in the future.” Sarbanes credited Lt. Gen. Robert W. Noonan Jr., deputy chief of staff for intelligence, with “selling” the program. Sarbanes stated it was Noonan’s aggressive support at the Pentagon level, combined with the ultimate success of the ARL-M5, which got Congress to approve \$30 million for another ARL aircraft.

“Enormous contributions have been made by taking the capabilities of the Army and taking equipment from off-the-shelf and putting it together to come

out with such a beneficial product,” said U.S. Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett of Maryland, also present.

Near the close of the ceremony, Lt. Col. Robert Montgomery, deputy chief of staff for operations system integrator for ARL, proclaimed, “This system should complete the materiel process and be operational by the spring of 2001. They’ve done a good job learning and evolving (this aircraft) from previous versions. From a front-end (pilot) perspective, the plane is very comfortable during flight.”



*Hickman is a public affairs specialist at INSCOM headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Va..*



**Sgt. 1st Class Luther Clemmons, INSCOM mission analyst, heads back to the hangar after giving a systems briefing aboard the plane.**



**A view of the inside of the ARL M-5 cockpit. (Photos by Sgt. Trinace Rutledge)**

# American MI soldiers are among "six star" awardees in Korea

By Sgt. Stephen F. Pizzini

In 1970, a group of South Korean civic leaders gathered to decide how to best honor outstanding members of the Korean military community. They came up with the title "Six Star" and awarded it to military members serving with exception on the Korean peninsula. Each year since, enlisted soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from the ranks of the United States armed forces, the Republic of Korea armed forces and the United Nations Command have received the title of Six Star as a symbol of the gratitude of the Korean people.

The tradition continued as the United Service Organizations, Inc., honored 80 service members at the 29th annual Six Star Salute in March in Seoul. Honored this year from the 527th MI Battalion, 501st MI Brigade, were Sgt. Frank Voity and Spc. Daffney D. Howell.

1st Sgt. Ronald H. Baer, first sergeant of the 527th MI Battalion Headquarters and Services Company, described both Voity and Howell as "well-deserving."

"I chose Sgt. Voity because he is probably one of my best junior leaders in the company, hands down," said Baer. "He's a very energetic and enthusiastic sergeant. He's always out front, leading the way, doing what a good young sergeant should do."

Voity, a five-year veteran of the U.S. Army, serves the 527th as an automated logistical specialist, making sure automation equipment is properly maintained and repaired. He wants to become a member of the Special Forces, a green beret. If per-

sistence counts for anything, Voity should attain his goal. The Connecticut native has successfully completed the grueling, three-week Special Forces Assessment and Selection course three times but was not selected to train further. He hopes to have another chance.

Voity is the NCOIC of the 527th MI Battalion HSC's perimeter defense force and has won the NCO of the quarter board at both the battalion and brigade level. He has also worked as the unit training NCO and is, according to Baer, a "PT stud." Voity scored a 292 on his last Army Physical Fitness Test.

About being named to attend the Six Star Salute, Voity said, "It's an honor to be selected to go to something like this, to be a representative of not only my company but the battalion and brigade as well."

Howell, a record telecommunications operator/maintainer from Valdosta, Ga., also is heavily involved with company activities, and, after winning the company and battalion level soldier of the quarter board represented the 527th at the brigade soldier of the quarter board. Howell volunteers to head up repair and utilities projects in the barracks.

"She's just a very caring soldier about other soldiers," said Baer.

When selected to attend the Six Star Salute, Howell said, "I was so excited."

The event, which took place in and around Seoul, South Korea, began with a luncheon at the Dragon Hill Lodge, a hotel on Yongsan's South Post. After the luncheon, USO buses carried the honorees to Kyongbok Palace, site of ancient Korea's royal capital, for a tour of the grounds.



**Sgt. Frank Voity and Spc. Daffney D. Howell**

The salute continued at the Seoul Hilton where a banquet was held in honor of the participants. Stephen W. Bosworth, U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Korea, was the guest speaker. Lt. Gen. Daniel Petrosky, chief of staff of U.S. Forces-Korea, was also in attendance.

The next day, the honorees toured the Blue House, the equivalent of the U.S. White House, followed by a luncheon at the Sejong Cultural Center, hosted by the vice mayor of Seoul. The honorees were then taken to Yongsan for a tae kwon do demonstration performed by students of a local elementary school. The students accompanied the honorees to the USO for a farewell ceremony, ending the event.

The Six Star Salute was "the best thing I have been to in the five years I have been in the Army," said Voity. He enjoyed the Hilton banquet the most, saying that talking to senior leaders and officials was the best part of the evening.

Howell said, "I wish I could stay here until next year and go again."



*Pizzini is the public affairs NCO for the 501st MI Brigade in Seoul, South Korea.*

# Distinguished military, civilian employees recognized

By Jack Ebert and Karen B. Hickman

**T**welve of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command's most distinguished military and civilian employees received INSCOM's most prestigious honorary awards from Col. Donald D. Woolfolk, commander, at the 23rd annual headquarters awards ceremony Aug. 11. The awards ceremony preceded the command's annual Organization Day events. The following command awards and awardees were recognized:

The Albert W. Small Award is presented to a civilian employee of the command's highest scope in recognition of exceptionally meritorious contributions which have directly impacted the INSCOM mission. Lisa D. Gilley, Interservice Support Agreement program manager, G4 was this year's recipient. Her contributions over the past 18 months saved INSCOM over \$1.6 million. From her oversight of approximately 180 written support agreement and related Memorandums of Agreements she ensured INSCOM soldiers and civilians received the best support possible at the best cost.

The Col. Richard F. Judge (Team) Award recognizes one military and one civilian employee whose collective efforts contributed significantly to the improvement of INSCOM's "one-army military/civilian team" concept. David B. Matthew, senior intelligence specialist, Foreign Material Operations (FMO) Division and Maj. William R. Conlon, commander, 203rd MI Battalion, National Ground Intelligence Center, were the team recipients this year. Together they helped to conduct and mutually support many joint morale activities that directly fostered a one-army military/civilian working relationship and improved the morale of the INSCOM military and civilian employees at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The Jackie Keith Action Officer Award is presented to an outstanding civilian in recognition of singularly significant performance of achievements for which the nominee is primarily responsible. Kathryn A. Lenker, G-3 was this year's

recipient. She is a subject-matter expert on every aspect of counterintelligence operations conducted by INSCOM, and her work toward the development of counterintelligence support to the Army's technology protection program has been exceptional. She provided exceptional support to the 902nd MI Group in every operational aspect of their mission and, most notably, provided guidance in support of two of the Army's highest visibility counterespionage investigations.

The Virginia McDill Award is presented in honor of Virginia McDill, an extraordinary woman and a valuable adviser to the INSCOM command group. She demonstrated competence in her position and dedication to duty and was a visionary long before the Army as an institution understood the need for forward thinking and implementation of new ideas. Linda A. Retz, lead secretary in the Intelligence Material Activity (IMA), G4 was this year's recipient. When the IMA reduced its administrative support staff to preserve operational capability during downsizing, she took on many of the duties formerly performed by an administrative officer, a program administrative assistant and a property book officer.

The Local National Employee of the Year Award is presented to an INSCOM host-nation employee who is deserving of command-wide recognition to mission support. Hisako Kitahara, electronic programming specialist, Army Asian Studies Detachment, 500th MI Group was this year's recipient. Through her technical skill and professional dedication, Japanese and English operating systems for over 90 employees were successfully maintained at near 100 percent operation capability. System downtimes were minimal and virus countermeasures were effectively implemented during a period of increased risk, and the Year 2000 transition passed virtually unnoticed.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Award is presented to an individual who has achieved outstanding results through effective leadership, skill, imagination and innovation in extending equal employment opportunity to the employees of INSCOM. Sgt. 1st Class Diane R. Bouchard, 115th MI



Lenker



Pedersen



Matthew



Conner



Retz



Bartlett



Kitahara



Lisle



Bouchard

Group, was this year's recipient. She worked tirelessly to promote equal employment and treatment in and around the Schofield Barracks military and local civilian community. Her efforts and activities to encourage diversity, harmony and teamwork included soldiers and civilians of the 25th Infantry Division and other branches of service, as well as the soldiers and civilians of the brigade.

The Wage Grade Award is presented to an unsung hero who is vital in the support role of the INSCOM mission. Arthur S. Homan Jr., mission stock record account, Supply and Services Division, G4 was this year's recipient. He distinguished himself by using his expertise in supply and outstanding warehousing skills to locate, identify and redistribute all INSCOM headquarters-generated excess equipment from the mission stock record account. He contributed to the processing and command redistribution or disposal of approximately 8,000 line items of excess equipment valued at \$4.5 million. Homan passed away on April 30, 2000.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to the military or civilian individual or organization that has contributed significant volunteer service within the community. Lorance D. Lisle, G4 was this year's recipient. He volunteers his time and energy to a number of noteworthy organizations and programs that contribute to the betterment of youth, the community and the nation. He has served in his church as the acolyte director for 24 years and donates time and resources as an elementary school volunteer.

The Non-Appropriated Fund Employee of the Year Award is presented to an outstanding non-appropriated fund

civilian employee (including off-duty military personnel) in recognition of consistently high quality performance. Ms. Elizabeth Ashley-Bartlett, personnel management specialist for the non-appropriated fund instrumentality, Menwith Hill Station, United Kingdom was this year's recipient. The success of the morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) programs at Menwith Hill Station is due largely to her personal commitment and dedication to duty.

The Quality/Customer Service of the Year Award is presented to the outstanding military or civilian employee in recognition of outstanding commitment and dedication to quality principles and customer service. Mr. Gary D. Conner, Intelligence Material Activity, G4 was this year's recipient. As the chief of special fabrications, he supplies the "tools of the trade," the specialized non-standard intelligence equipment, to intelligence and counterintelligence operatives.

The Commander's Plaque for Operational Achievement is awarded to the nonsupervisory individual who made the single greatest contribution to the operational effectiveness of INSCOM during the past year. Pfc. (then Pvt.) Kevin B. Pedersen, 743rd MI Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, was this year's recipient. He significantly contributed to the operational effectiveness of INSCOM by providing superb technical knowledge and skill in the execution of his daily duties. The chief of the directorate of production in the 743rd MI Battalion handpicked him to train 32 multiservice personnel on four highly diverse collection and processing systems. During a priority combat search and rescue mission, he provided accurate and timely direction-finding data to locate a miss-

ing Army aircraft.



*Ebert is a military personnel management specialist at INSCOM headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Va. Hickman is a public affairs specialist at INSCOM headquarters.*



Conlon



Homan



Gilley

# COMANCHE

## code talkers perform dual mission in World War II

**N**ormandy, France, June 6, 1944. Under angry clouds of smoke and sand, through enemy fire, the 4th Infantry Division landed on Utah Beach. Pushing forward, they attacked toward Periers. Speeding south, the division took St. Pois after a furious battle and countered German attacks at Avranches. On August 25 the 4th entered Paris with French army units.

Wherever the 4th Division served, the German defenders heard strange, guttural sounds through the headsets of their radio-intercept equipment, which they were using to intercept American communications. It was difficult for the Germans, as well as for anyone else listening to these voice messages, to determine just what they were hearing. In fact, they were intercepting messages conveyed in an American Indian language, Comanche. As in World War I, Comanches used their native language to help cloak American communications during the sweeping advances that carried the American infantry well beyond Paris into Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany.

Soon after entering World War II, the American military realized its need for a swift and secure means of communication. In one instance a battalion commander asked a company commander for the position of a reconnaissance patrol. The company commander reported the position in grid coordinates. "Thank you," a third voice cut in, "our patrol will be there too."

While several devices enhanced communications security, none proved practical for use in a fluid battlefield situation. When fighting became confined to a small area, everything had to move at a split-second pace, with no time for the enciphering and deciphering that communications security requires. Also, voice communication was the only certain method of maintaining contact with troops spread over a wide area. One solution was to revive the use of code talkers who could speak in the clear in their native language, one that enemy eavesdroppers would not understand.

Comanche was one of the world's "hidden languages" in the sense that, at the time, it had no written form, alphabet or other symbols and was known by few non-Comanche. Use of Comanche as a code language in voice (radio and wire) transmission guaranteed communications security.

The U.S. Army Signal Corps enlisted 17 men who could speak both

Comanche and English fluently. Among them were cousins Charles Chibitty and Larry Saupitty and Simmons Parker, a great-grandson of Quanah Parker, a famous Comanche chief. Roderick Red Elk, 4 pounds underweight, almost failed the physical exam; when the others threatened to leave if he wasn't accepted, the recruiting officer told them to feed him bananas and water, which they did all night. The next day he was weighed again and, possibly with a sleight of hand, passed. "Since you all think so much of Roderick," the officer told them, "I'm putting him in charge of getting you to Fort Benning."

2nd Lt. Hugh Foster was assigned to oversee the Comanches' specialized training. In addition to the technical training given all signal corpsmen in landlines and radio, they practiced translating English-text military messages into Comanche and back into English. Because the Comanche lan-



**Normandy.** The men of the 4th Signal Company, including 14 Comanche talkers, landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944. (File Photos)

guage had no equivalents for military terms, they imaginatively improvised. One of them recalled a catfish he once caught that was full of eggs—"a bomber is just like that, it's full of eggs"—and so they decided upon "pregnant airplane."

When the soldiers were highly proficient, they were assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. So it was that 14 young Comanche men went from a traditional life on the plains of Oklahoma to become "code talkers" on the battlefields of Europe.

The men were assigned in pairs to each of the 4th's three organic regiments, transmitting vital messages between the division main command post; regimental, division artillery and division engineers headquarters; and attached and supporting units. From the beaches to slow hedgerow fighting to rapid pursuit, no two situations were exactly alike. Larry Saupitty was assigned as radioman to Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, the division's deputy commander. They went in with the troops on D-Day, discovering that the first wave had landed in the wrong place. Roosevelt's critical decisions on a new plan of action were translated into Comanche and transmitted to the division command post, where they were received and translated back into English.

Time and again, the Comanche linguists' proficiency proved invaluable. The Comanche "code" protected tactical movements and ensured troops would not be in danger from an enemy eavesdropping on voice transmissions.

In performing their unique dual mission, the Comanche soldiers faced many dangerous situations. Signal corpsmen were often out in front, building networks of wire lines and radio circuits over mountains, rivers and plains. Wire lines did not last long under constant and withering artillery bombardment that tore them apart; what the shellfire spared, tank treads chewed to bits. When the lines went out, the Comanches had to find where they were broken and patch them.

Willis Yackeschi and Charles Chibitty



*Chibitty conducted by Dr. Mary Jane Warde of the Oklahoma Historical Society.*

**Fourteen of the Comanche code talkers who trained at Fort Benning, Ga., served in the European Theater with the 4th Signal Company.**

were together on one such mission when Yackeschi was seriously wounded. Pinned down under mortar fire, they lay flat on the ground. A piece of shrapnel sliced open Yackeschi's back. He was taken to a truck and treated by medics. Rather than be separated from his comrades, when the truck slowed down Yackeschi jumped off and returned to his unit. The commander allowed him to remain at the headquarters switchboard until he was healthy enough to return to the field.

The fall and winter of 1944 saw the Allied armies advance across France to the German border. The 4th fought its way to Luxembourg, making slow progress in the face of German counterattacks. Here the division was subjected to the fury of the German Ardennes counteroffensive, popularly known as the Battle of the Bulge, on Dec. 16, 1944. Chibitty succinctly described how it felt to be in the front lines: "If you didn't talk to the Creator and weren't scared as hell, then you weren't there."

The code talkers were an elite group among the more than 25,000 American Indians who served in the Armed Forces during World War II. Sometimes they crossed paths with friends and brothers. As the Allies prepared to

enter Paris, Wellington Mihecoby was laying wire outside the city and ran into infantry soldier Roland Whitehorse, a Kiowa he knew from Oklahoma. One particular telephone call baffled not only the enemy, but also other Americans listening in. As Charles Chibitty talked in Comanche with his brother, who was with the American Army in a recently captured German town, a colonel cut in and asked who they were. He received the unexpected answer "we're two Comanche Indian brothers talking."

While American Indian soldiers could converse in their native language, another Comanche could not have interpreted a message transmitted in the code talkers' unique vocabulary. He wouldn't have understood "sewing machine gun" or known that "turtle" meant tank. To overcome the difficulties presented by geographic place names, the code talkers developed their own code for spelling out names of towns, basically the Comanche equivalent of the U.S. Army phonetic alphabet (e.g., able, baker, charlie, etc.). Serving as radiomen and wiremen, the Comanches created a vital communication net for the 4th Infantry Division.

Maj. Gen. Harry C. Ingles, chief signal officer, observed, "Communications constituted the weapon placed in the

hands of the commander to accomplish his mission, just as a rifle placed in the hands of an infantryman was the weapon for the accomplishment of the infantryman's mission." The 14 Comanche men serving in the 4th Signal Company constituted such a "weapon," which was labeled top secret during the war.

With the onset of hostilities in Korea, the Army was once more confronted with the challenge of combat communications security. In the 1950s an Army Security Agency staff study on the feasibility of using American Indians as communication linguists concluded that American Indian language "code talking" would provide sufficient security within or between battlefield units where "short-term communications security is necessary."

Voice security equipment for use by low-level tactical units was finally introduced during the Vietnam War, but problems remained. As long as the use of American Indian languages was considered an alternative, the role of the Comanche linguists remained classified. Unpublicized for over 40 years, the story of their dedication and willingness to give themselves to America's defense was scarcely noted.

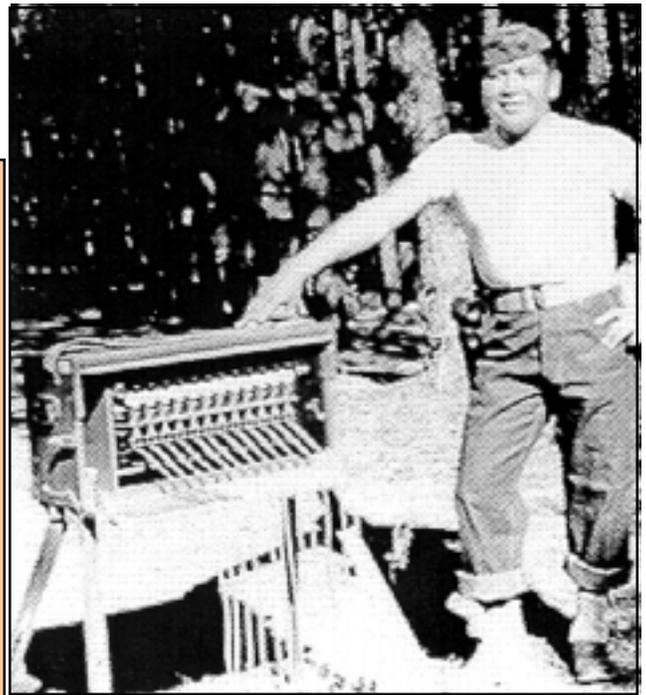
In November 1994 the French government presented the code talkers with Knight of the National Order of Merit medals. Five years later, in a ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, Charles Chibitty accepted the Knowlton Award for significant contributions to military intelligence on behalf of the Comanche code talkers.

The contributions of the Comanche soldiers who served their country as linguists and signal corpsmen during World War II cannot be measured. It is only by recognizing their courage, dedication and patriotism that we are able to appreciate their role in the Allied victory.



*Kovach is a writer-editor in the history office at U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command headquarters. Much of this article is based on an interview with Mr. Charles*

**The Code Talkers**  
**Charles J. Chibitty**  
**Forrest Kassaravoid**  
**Roderick Red Elk**  
**Haddon Codynah**  
**Robert Holder**  
**Wellington Mihecoby**  
**Perry Noyobad**  
**Clifford E. Ototivo**  
**Simmons Parker**  
**Melvin Permansu**  
**Elgin Red Elk**  
**Larry W. Saupitty**  
**Morris Tabbyetchy**  
**Willis Yackeschi**  
**Ralph Wahnee\***  
**Edward Nahquaddy\***  
**Anthony Tabbytite\***  
**\* Trained, but not sent to Europe.**



Comanche code talker Pvt. Wellington Mihecoby stands beside a BD-72, 12-line manual telephone switchboard.



Mr. Charles Chibitty (center) accepts the Knowlton Award on behalf of the Comanche code talkers at the Pentagon's Hall of Heros last November. (Photo courtesy of the Department of Defense Public Affairs Office)

## Army News Overwatch

### Smart Cards will save time, effort

Over the next several years, Department of Defense officials expect “smart cards” to replace the identification cards of all active duty military, Selected Reserve personnel, DoD civilian employees and eligible contractors.

DoD began issuing the cards in October. Personnel at the Pentagon and Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., will be among the first to receive the new card. The card will eventually allow physical access to secure areas, permit entry into DoD’s computer networks and serve as the authentication token for DoD’s computerized public key infrastructure, officials said.

The selected Army test sites are Fort Eustis, Va., U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany, and Yongson Army Garrison, Korea.

The Common Access Cards, as they’re called, put DoD in the forefront of electronic commerce and security, said Bernard Rostker, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. The cards feature barcoding, a magnetic strip and, for the first time, an embedded integrated circuit chip, he said.

The deployment of the card moves DoD one step closer to a significant milestone in securing its information systems, said Paul Brubaker, deputy chief information officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence.

The cards will store data on identification, demographics, benefits, physical security and card management, Brubaker said. The chip will store certificates that enable the card holder to digitally sign documents such as e-mail, encrypt information and establish secure Web sessions to access and update information via the Internet.

“The CAC will radically change the way we do business in the Army,” said Dr. Linda Dean, director of the Army’s Electronic Commerce office. “It will save our people time and money, and will streamline many labor-intensive processes. The Army is especially excited about the CAC and smart card technology because we view it as an electronic key to the future.”

“Every time we have introduced smart cards into an environment, even those that might have been apprehensive at first have found ways to use that card to improve the way they do business and to improve the quality of life,” she said.

*(Compiled from an American Forces Press Service article by Linda D. Kozaryn and an Army News Service article)*

### Scholarships for military dependents

More than \$22,000 will be available next year to the children of active duty and retired members through the Cmdr. William S. Stuhr Scholarship Fund.

Scholarships for 2001 will be presented to one recipient

from each of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, the fund’s board of trustees recently announced. Each of the five scholarships will be for \$4,500 divided equally over four years.

To be eligible, scholarship applicants must: Be a 2001 high school senior; be ranked in the top 10 percent of his or her class in their junior and first half of senior year; be active in extracurricular activities; demonstrate strong leadership potential; be a bona fide dependent of an active duty or retired military member of any rank; plan to attend a four-year accredited college; and be prepared to attend the fund’s scholarship awards function in May or June 2001.

For an application, send a written request with a self-addressed return envelope to: Executive Director, Cmdr. Stuhr Scholarship Fund, 1200 Fifth Ave., Suite 9D, New York, NY 10029, or e-mail full name and mailing address—to [stuhrstudents@earthlink.net](mailto:stuhrstudents@earthlink.net). Applications must be received by Feb. 15, 2001. *(Compiled from an Army Office of Public Affairs news release)*

### Army has banner year in safety

The U. S. Army just completed one of its safest years in history. Army aviation accidents and fatalities are at an unprecedented low, and ground and vehicle accidents and fatalities have also been reduced from previous years.

The largest reductions were in Army aviation. Aviation flight fatalities dropped from 22 in fiscal year 1999 to four in FY 2000, an 82-percent reduction. Class A and B flight accident rates for FY 00 show a 70-percent reduction from FY 99.

The Army also closed out FY 00 with its second-lowest year ever of ground and privately owned vehicle (POV) fatalities. POV accidents, notoriously the number-one killer of soldiers, claimed the lives of 114 soldiers in FY 00, compared to 124 in FY 99. On-duty ground fatalities dropped from 32 in FY 99 to 27 in FY 00, a 15-percent reduction.

Brig. Gen. Gene M. LaCoste, director of army safety and commander of the U.S. Army Safety Center, said this year’s safety successes were possible because the Army—soldiers, civilians and family members—all worked together to manage risk effectively both on and off duty.

According to LaCoste, the FY 00 safety success can be attributed to four factors: Leadership involvement, which equates to command emphasis on safety programs; improved ability of soldiers to identify hazards, assess risks those hazards impose, and implement controls to mitigate the risks; enforcement and adherence to standards by leaders and soldiers; and improved self-discipline. *(Compiled from an Army Office of Public Affairs news release)*

### MSC units get new commanders

Col. David B. Lacquement assumed command of the 66th MI Group on May 18 in Darmstadt, Germany. Lacquement was deputy intelligence officer for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, a command element within NATO headquarters.

The 501st MI Brigade welcomed Col. Theodore C. Nicholas II and bid farewell to Col. William Marvin on June 22 in Seoul, South Korea. Nicholas was director for intelligence, J2 at Special Operations Command, Pacific.

Col. Brian A. Keller took the reins and guidon of the 513th MI Brigade from outgoing commander Col. Daniel F. Baker on July 7 at Fort Gordon, Ga. Keller became the 10th commander of the brigade since it reactivated in 1982.

The 902nd MI Group had a change of command ceremony with Col. Ginger Pratt as incoming and Col. Lewis H. Thompson as outgoing commander June 30 at Fort Meade, Md. Pratt previously was assigned to the Navy War College in Newport, R.I.

Col. Robert L. Beaver Jr. became commander of the 500th MI Group on June 21 at Camp Zama, Japan. Col. Michael J. Baier was outgoing commander.

### Menwith Hill has All-Europe athletes

Senior Joe Astroth and sophomore Laura Morales of Menwith Hill High School received All-Europe athletic recognition for their performance in the spring sports season—Laura for her excellent performance on MHS's softball team and Joe for his winning ways on the soccer team. They are the first MHS students to receive the highest honor awarded to athletes in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

"The fact that Joe Astroth and Laura Morales were our first two athletes to be chosen for the All-Europe team reflects on the consistent improvement of our athletic program here at MHS," said athletic director Tom Stafford. *(Submitted by Sarah Chenvert, Menwith Hill High School correspondent)*

### 205th supply section awarded

The 205th MI Battalion, 500th MI Group's supply section won a Chief of Staff, Army Supply Excellence Award. The Supply Excellence Award program is managed by the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. Evaluators are interested in how supply makes life easier for the soldiers in the unit. The battalion won in the category recognizing MTOE units without a property book.

Units that do well in the selection process are the ones adhering to the Command Supply Discipline Program, according to Maj. Tasha L. Williams, group S4. Williams nominated the section because it consistently exceeded INSCOM's semi-annual standards. The supply section earned a 96 percent on the last inspection, which placed it in the commend-

able achievement category. *(Submitted by Staff Sgt. James Core)*.

### Two awards for 527th MI Battalion

The 527th MI Battalion, 501st MI Brigade maintenance section received the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence, the eighth consecutive year that the battalion earned the award. The battalion also received the Army Supply Excellence Award.

The maintenance award is an Army-wide competition, including Reserve, National Guard and civilian companies working for the Department of the Army. Units must show their ability to save money and limit spending, conserve energy, control management costs, provide readiness training, demonstrate innovation, have a specific number of accident-free days, use manpower and achieve a required readiness percentage of manpower and equipment. *(Submitted by Spc. Juli Gonzalez)*

### Ministry team of year awarded

The 115th MI Group's Unit Ministry Team at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, was named as the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command's UMT of the Year. Chaplain (Maj.) Steven Jordan, Staff Sgt. John Smith and Sgt. Warren Gambino are the group's UMT. The command has 16 UMTs.

The 115th's UMT uses three approaches to taking care of soldiers and family members. "We approach the spiritual, family and unit fitness, all of which fall under the umbrella of the group's Human Development Program," said Jordan.

The UMT also teaches soldiers and family members the importance of communication skills. The UMT sponsors many retreats for couples, single soldiers and single parents, such as the Mars-Venus retreats, based on John Gray's best-selling book, for building strong marriages and relationships with spouses, children and co-workers. The Franklin Covey "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" program is designed to foster and sustain an atmosphere of trust and openness while promoting creative cooperation, developing leadership, reducing cynicism and increasing morale.

Jordan said the retreats give soldiers and family members the opportunity to learn and develop effective communication skills in a relaxing environment. The UMT also networks with Family Readiness Groups within the 115th MI Group to strengthen the sharing of information, support services and resources. *(Submitted by Sgt. Janis Levonitis)*

### Korean language bonus doubled

Linguists re-enlisting for 18 months of active-duty service in Korea can expect to see a dramatic increase on their next bank statement. Korean language specialists are the first soldiers eligible for the Army's new \$40,000 selective re-enlistment bonus. The maximum amount was increased by \$20,000 June 26.

The re-enlistment bonus is available to linguists who opt for a permanent change of station move to Korea or agree to remain in Korea for a follow-on assignment. To qualify, 98G soldiers must be the rank of specialist, corporal or sergeant and fall within the initial-term or mid-career re-enlistment zones.

The Army's Selective Re-enlistment Bonus Program provides monetary incentives to qualified soldiers who re-enlist in the Regular Army for continued duty in certain military occupational specialties. On the date of re-enlistment, a soldier receives 50 percent of the bonus after taxes have been deducted. The other half of the money is paid in annual, prorated installments on the anniversary date of re-enlistment.

The award program is managed on a quarterly basis, so as the needs of the Army change, bonus dollars can be shifted to other jobs that are experiencing shortages. *(Submitted by Tom Findtner, Army News Service)*

### 500th team wins bronze medal

The Counterintelligence Detachment-Japan team representing the 500th MI Group in the annual Worldwide Language Olympics came home with one bronze medal recently, in the face of stiff competition. Sgt. Kai Yuan and Spc. Krysti Corbett, interrogators and Chinese Mandarin language linguists, participated in the games at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif., in May. They took third place in the "Jeopardy" competition and finished in fourth place in two other competitions.

The pair competed against 11 teams in the Chinese Mandarin category. The other languages were Arabic, Korean, Persian-Farsi, Russian and Spanish.

There were five events in this year's games: Handcopying, Gisting, Intel Triathlon, Impromptu and Jeopardy, which Yuan said was played very much like the television show. Yuan and Corbett went into the championships as wildcards because of a first-round finish of fourth place. They missed the Final Jeopardy question on geography. *(Submitted by Staff Sgt. James Core)*

### DFAS goes to bigger envelopes

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) now uses legal size, white envelopes to mail travel payment checks, vendor pay checks and Advice of Payments from the Indianapolis Center. People or companies who receive checks should open and look inside all mailings from DFAS. None of the checks will be visible through the envelope window. An address-bearing document will be visible, either the Advice of Payment or a sheet of paper with the address on it. *(Submitted by DFAS Public Affairs Office)*



### One, two, three, push!

Staff Sgt. Scott Thomas of the 66th MI Group, pushes a Humvee at the Strongman Competition during the 4th of July festival in Bad Aibling, Germany, home of the 108th MI Group. *(Photo by Sandy Manon)*