



## 101st Signal Battalion

Article by: LTC Mike Bresnahan

The 101st Signal Battalion is off to a great start. I am happy to report that the battalion is on its way to meeting the required readiness goals. We now have many of the key leaders in place and new equipment continues to come into the battalion. The battalion personnel strength is growing by the week. We have shown an increase in strength for every month this year. We are currently at 65% strength and quickly approaching our 75% goal for this fiscal year. This growth is allowing us to move forward on our training program.

The leadership team is coming together nicely. Since the start of the year we have added several key leaders to the unit. The team at the headquarters level is comprised of the Executive Officer, MAJ Tom Kilmartin, the S3, MAJ Kim Farrier and the Command Sergeant Major, CSM Ron Patterson. We also have put in place excellent leaders at the company level. Company A, located in Poughkeepsie is led by CPT Chris Spriegel and First Sergeant, Tracey Krom. Company B located in Yonkers, is led by CPT Henry Wong and First Sergeant Joe Moody, Company C located in Orangeburg, continues to be led by CPT Frank Letizia and 1SG Carl Dornbush. CPT Craig Maceri leads the HHC. We are working hard to fill the remaining leadership positions.

The company commanders are doing an outstanding job with recruiting and retention. Our production and retention rates are among the best in the state. The recruiters that support us are also doing an excellent job. Signal MOSs are selling well. They continue to bring new soldiers to our ranks.

Our troops are real excited about having the whole organization in the state and the new equipment that we have received. Their morale and enthusiasm is off the charts. The added personnel spaces allowed us to promote many soldiers. Soldiers also continue to remark how great the new equipment is and how much they look forward to using it. Its great for my morale to see how much fun they are having coming to drill. This is resulting in a very low loss rate of unit members.

We continue to receive new state of the art equipment. Last summer, we completed a new equipment fielding that provided us with some of the most modern equipment in the Army. We are on the schedule to receive a tactical message switch and 2 commercial data packages later this year. We also picked up all of the equipment from the companies of the 230th Signal Battalion in Tennessee.

Our positive strength numbers are allowing us to move forward on an aggressive training program. My focus for this year was to get most of the required individual training completed so that we can move on to collective training next fiscal year. The battalion NCO corps is doing a great job getting the individual training done. We have had numerous soldiers complete transition training and have now become qualified in their respective Military Occupation Skills (MOS).

Soldiers of the battalion recently completed 2 overseas duty-training (ODT) events. Our soldiers received great training installing CAT 5 and fiber optic cabling in NATO headquarters in Mons, Belgium. Each of the companies had personnel participate in these events. We also had several soldiers participate in a 5th Corps Warfighter in Germany. Our soldiers were involved in the installation of the command and control systems for this exercise.

We are taking advantage of the training that the soldiers received in Europe by getting them involved in cable installation projects in DMNA facilities. We recently completed a CAT 5 installation project in building 82 at Camp Smith. The soldiers that performed the installation did an outstanding job and saved the state thousands of dollars. They also got a chance to exercise the MOS skills. The soldiers loved the event. I expect our soldiers to be involved heavily in the rebuilding of CP Smith.

I am working on building a partnership with the Director of Information Management (DOIM) that will allow many of our other soldiers to get involved with similar projects. Being that our equipment is now commercial compatible, our soldiers now receive much of the same training that the soldiers in the DOIM receive. I am looking for as much work as possible to keep the skills of our soldiers sharp. The DOIM is very receptive to this concept, as it will assist in reducing their workload. The future is exciting for us. We are participating in Grecian Firebolt 2004 this coming June.

We have the Battalion headquarters and 2 company (-) elements participating in the exercise. It will be a challenging event as this will be our first chance to fully employ our new equipment. Our personnel are working hard to ensure that this operation is a success. This week we also had 9 soldiers complete training on a new communications vehicle that is owned by DMNA. This vehicle has communications systems that allow first responders to communicate with each other. Our soldiers have been tasked to operate this equipment in the event of a state emergency or attack.

On a somewhat sad note I must report that I am leaving command of the battalion on 1 April 2004. I am being reassigned as the Chief of Staff, 53d Troop Command. COL Mike Swezey, Commander, 53d Troop Command will name my successor in the next two weeks. Although I am leaving command of the battalion, my new position will continue to allow me to assist in the rebuilding of the 101st Signal Battalion. It has been an honor for me to serve with the many professionals that make up in what I believe is the finest Signal Battalion in the Army.

**Liberty Chapter  
Signal Regiment Assn  
State Armory, Quincy Place  
Yonkers, New York 10701**

LIBERTY CHAPTER OFFICERS  
PRESIDENT: Joseph P. O'Leary  
VICE PRES : Edward D'Anna  
TREASURER: Carlos Rodriguez  
AWARDS: Paul Suchanyc  
MEMBERSHIP: Matt Bayless  
EVENTS: George Desimone  
SECRETARY: Anthony Pasqua

**ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH. CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR EXPIRATION DATE.**  
Please complete the membership form even if you are paid up. Need the information to update our database.



# LIBERTY CHAPTER



Volume 6, Issue 2

*A Message From  
The President  
MG Joseph P. O'Leary (Ret)*



On Monday 12 Apr 04 the Liberty Chapter will meet at Camp Smith to conduct our annual meeting. I expect the 101st Signal Battalion Commander (or his representative) to attend and bring us up to date concerning the status of the re-activation plans, strength, chain of command, etc. for the battalion. We expect the re-activation ceremony will be held at Camp Smith on the units September drill week end.

I'm sure we will have definite information in our next news letter. I would like the Liberty Chapter to join with the 101st Veterans Association and possibly the Association, United States Army (AUSA) to sponsor a Battalion celebration after the formal ceremony

Our events coordinator, George DiSimone, and I will work out the details & present them to the membership. April is also election time for chapter officers. Our offices and incumbents are listed on the other page in this newsletter. We're looking for a good, dependable, secretary to record minutes of our meetings both for our chapter records & also for our annual report we send to the Regimental Association Headquarters at FT Gordon.

If you're interested, you will be most welcome. All offices are open to all paid-up members --it's your organization. MANY will hold it's annual convention at the Sagamore at Bolton Landing on Lake George 23-25 Apr 04. MANY observes its 150th Anniversary this year and is one of premier professional organizations that exist to improve the lot of the Individual National Guard Person, working at the legislative level of government also to improve unit equipment status. MANY along with the National Guard Association and the Enlisted Association at State & National levels exist to speak for the citizen soldier to our elected representatives & deserve our support and active participation. I hope to see you at our April meeting -- a light buffet will be available.

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

**Monday  
12 Apr 2004  
1930 Hrs  
Camp Smith  
Annual  
Elections &  
Food Buffett**

**Monday  
12 Jul 2004  
1930 Hrs  
Yonkers  
Armory**

**Thursday  
21 Oct 2004  
1930 Hrs  
Polish C.C.  
Yonkers,NY**

**Monday  
10 Jan 05  
1930 Hrs  
Orangeburg  
Armory**

**ANNUAL DUES  
ARE  
\$12.00 E6 & Up  
\$2.00 E-1 to E-5  
Due in April  
Each Year  
Check Your  
Mailing Label  
For Your  
Expiration Date**



Spring 2004

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Militia Association of NY (MANY) Annual Convention at the Sagamore in Bolton Landing at Lake George on 23, 24, 25 April 04. MANY will observe it's 150th Anniversary.

On 4 May 04, the Greater NY Statue of Liberty Chapter Association of the United States Army, will conduct their annual golf outing at the south shore country club.



On 19 Jun 04, the Greater NY Statue of Liberty Chapter Association of the United States Army, and the Liberty Chapter Signal Regimental association will sponsor the West Point Boat on the Hudson celebrating the US Army Birthday.

## NEW WEB SITE

We are working on developing a new web site for the Liberty Chapter. It will probably be ([www.nysignal.org](http://www.nysignal.org)) if we can acquire that domain name. Our old site at [www.nysignal.net](http://www.nysignal.net) is still working, but the person who developed the site forgot the log-in & password to the site, therefore it can not be updated or any changes made to it. If you have any ideas for the new site please notify Paul Suchanyc at [psuchanyc@yahoo.com](mailto:psuchanyc@yahoo.com)

Does anyone remember from what era this signal poster was made?

