As we await the return of the 101st Signal Battalion from their very successful mission in Afghanistan, I’d like to consider the state of the Liberty Chapter. The Chapter was established in 1996 to be a regimental home for signal soldiers in New York. At that time there were three Signal Battalions in southern NY state: The 99th (USAR), 101st and the 242nd (421D Sig Bn), there was also a Signal Brigade HQ in Brooklyn. The name “Liberty” was chosen and request for recognition was submitted to to the Signal Corps Regiment Association at Fort Gordon, and was approved.

For the past 17 years we have scheduled quarterly meetings at various locations, usually on a Monday night, and a few outside activities. We also publish a quarterly newsletter which may be found on line at www.nysignal.org. We have a mailing list of over 150 names but can expect between ten and twenty members at our meetings. I have spoken to many people who tell me they receive and read the newsletter. This impressed me with the importance of the newsletter in keeping people connected and interested. The Chapter has also caused the Regimental Order of Mercury to be awarded to officers and enlisted soldiers in New York.

In order for the Liberty Chapter to survive we need new, younger members to replace those of us who have served so long. I think of our newsletter publisher Paul Suchanyc, and our treasurer Carlos Rodriguez as indispensable to the organization. Where is our backup if one of them needs to be replaced? I feel strongly that the Liberty Chapter is a worthwhile use of our efforts and talents and I think we should work to continue and improve what was started for us in 1996. The chapter should not be a veterans association (although its a great place for vets to get together) but an association of Signal Soldiers who are serving their State & Country now and living what we only read about.

ANNUAL DUES ARE $12.00 E6 & Up $2.00 E1 to E5 Due in April Each Year Check Your Mailing Label In Apr 2013 for Expiration Date
The last group of Soldiers of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, New York National Guard, returned to Fort Bliss from Afghanistan, June 20, after a nine month deployment providing critical signal support to all units in theater. The battalion arrived at Fort Bliss last August to conduct pre-deployment training.

“We came down here to Fort Bliss, and it was a great platform for us going over to Afghanistan with some of the same terrain and mountains,” said Col. Greg Dreisbach, battalion commander for the 101st ESB.

The 101st deployed with 452 Soldiers spread across Afghanistan in 46 forward operating bases in Regional Command North, South, East and West supporting different types of units.

"I'm just so proud of the Soldiers of the 101st," said Dreisbach. "They did a magnificent job!"

The 101st managed a signal university and trained more than 2,338 Soldiers - 835 of their own Soldiers received certifications; 36 received Cisco Certified Network Associate certifications. This certification validates the ability to install, configure, operate, and troubleshoot medium-size routed and switched networks, including implementation and verification of connections to remote sites in a wide area network.

The command team of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, New York National Guard, Col. Greg Dreisbach, center, and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Bien, left, take a moment after disembarking their plane on Biggs Army Airfield June 20 to offer a word of thanks led by chaplain, 1st Lt. Anthony Stephens, right, for the safe return of all their Soldiers from Afghanistan.
I'm very excited to announce that the 101st Soldiers have returned to their families. During the last 2 1/12 years getting ready for the deployment then the deployment and now the reintegration phase the soldiers and families have done outstanding work. They have produced results that are second to none. Many of our soldiers have taken the challenge we set forward at the deployment ceremony at Stewart AFB. That challenge was to make the deployment time a personnel growth time. They obtained IT certifications to the number of 858. 36 of them having completed the Cisco CCNA certification. They have also enrolled in College course and increased their physical fitness levels to new levels. All of this on top of conducting signal missions across the entire country at 45 different locations producing outstanding results. I'm just very proud of your accomplishments.

To the Families of the 101st ESB. You where the rock that allowed your soldiers the ability to focus on their mission. Once again you were a large part of the success of the Battalion. Thank You so much for all the support.

There will be many changes in the Battalion over the next few months during and after the yellow ribbon events. You will be getting a new Battalion Commander. Her name is LTC Diane Armbruster. She is currently assigned as the 42nd Infantry Division G-6. Please welcome her to the 101st ESB family. CSM Bien will retire around 1 Oct. He will be missed for many reasons. His replacement will be 1SGT Kent. We are planning both a change of command and change of responsibility ceremony at a future date. Once again Congratulations and welcome both to their new positions.

This is my last newsletter I will be writing as the Battalion Commander. Thank You so much for everything you have done. It was a great honor and privilege being able to serve with you during this critical time in the battalion history.

Thank You.
COL Greg Dreisbach
LIBERTY CHAPTER FISHING TRIP

Wednesday, September 11, 2013
Aboard the “Riptide III”

“We … Porgies … Porgies”
Easy to catch, Plentiful, and Delicious!
(And always the possibility of catching ???)

A full 8 hour day
The boat departs at 8:00AM, and returns at 4:00PM
Plan on arriving by 7:30AM
Rate $65.00 ($60.00 Seniors)

**Fishing Equipment:** A full rig including: **rod, reel** and **bait** is available for rent for $3 each upon purchasing your tickets. Rentals include a small tackle package of 2 hooks and 1 sinker.

**Food and Beverages:** Food and beverages are available for purchase on board; bring extra cash with you!

**Gratuities:** Tips for the crew members are optional but greatly appreciated! The crew works very hard to make your trip a memorable one. Typical tips range from $5-10 per adult ticket.

**From Westchester/Connecticut via Merritt/Hutchinson River Parkway**
Take 684/287 to Hutch South to exit 6 City Island/Orchard Beach, follow signs for City Island, go over the City Island Bridge, make the first left onto Bridge Street, follow road to stop sign, make left onto Minnieford Avenue, go a short distance to the Riptide's Parking Lot.
To all Veterans

My name is Kevin Malke. I am currently employed by Morgan Construction Enterprises on a Keller Army Community Hospital addition project at West Point, NY. I am part of a Veterans Training Program which hires OIF/OEF veterans (or current reservists) with no experience in order to help train them for employment in the construction business.

As part of our contracts, our sub-contractors are required to participate in this program as well. I received your email address for Kevin Sylvester in response to my inquiry into anyone looking for work who would be interested in participating in this program. The contract runs to January 2014, so this would not be permanent hiring positions, but may have the possibility of becoming permanent employees of the companies which participate. If you have any individuals which fit the criteria, have been honorably discharged (or still serving), and are interested in the opportunity please contact me.

You may also call me at one of the below numbers, or have the individuals email me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

R/S

Kevin Malke
Assistant Site Superintendent
Morgan-Luster
West Point USMA
845-446-6490
917-848-8920