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

The Secretary of the Army, John M. McHugh has approved the Gunston Location of Fort Belvoir’s North Post as the official site of the National Museum of the US Army. Ground breaking is expected to take place next year. The News Letter of the Capital Campaign for the National Museum of the US Army “Call To Duty” recently printed an interesting article concerning females serving in the army.

Nurses were among the first women mobilized after the US entry into World War I in April 1917. A second, lesser known but equally important female contingent was recruited and organized later that year. These were the Army Signal Corps “Hello Girls,” the army’s first female combatants. The “Hello Girls” emerged in response to General Pershing’s National News paper appeal for experienced, French-speaking telephone operators, many of whom would come from the ranks of the American telephone and telegraph company. Pershing saw a need to initiate a bilingual telephone system to improve battlefield communications between the front lines and American expeditionary forces headquarters.

These seasoned telephone operators would be ideally suited to operate the battlefield switch boards. The women were sent to the Signal School at Camp Franklin, MD, adjacent to Camp Meade, for both military training and radio and switchboard operator school.

The “Hello Girls” earned promotions and were paid salaries comparable with their male counterparts. An initial detachment of 33 “Hello Girls” was issued gas masks and steel helmets and departed for Europe in early March 1918 and were soon operating AEF telephone exchanges in France and England.

Others followed and within months were assigned to over 75 other cities in France and three cities in England. Those sent to the Front took incoming fire along with other allied soldiers. One of their own, Chief Operator Grace Banker was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Following the Armistice the “Hello Girls” returned home believing they would receive discharges veterans status, and World War I victory medals, instead, they were denied because Army regulations included no references to females as military members. One of the operators, Merle Eagan Anderson, spent nearly 40 years advocating on behalf of the “Hello Girls”, her persistence was finally rewarded in 1978 when President Carter signed a bill awarding about 50 surviving “Hello Girls” veterans status, Honorable Discharges and World War I Victory Medals.

Upcoming events

Our next meeting is scheduled on 20 Oct at the Polish Community Center in Yonkers, NY at 1930 hrs. A reminder that spouses/friends are invited at our Annual Elections will be held.

The 101st Signal Battalion Association 7th Annual Holiday Formal will be held on 3 Dec 2011 at the Polish Community Center in Yonkers, NY. A flyer for the event is on the www.nysignal.org web site. Please note that there also is a flyer to purchase an ad in the Battalion association journal.

Obituaries

CW4 (Retired) Louis P. Tarantelli a former Member of the 101st Sig Bn and the Liberty Chapter SCRA passed away on 18 August 2011. He was a Korean war veteran and spent over 32 years in the 101st Sig Bn. He will be missed by all.
MEMBER’S NEWS ITEMS

Article and Photos provided by LTC Greg Dreisbach, Commander of 101Sig Bn

The 101st ESB had an outstanding Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 full of training, signal missions and stateside endeavors. The Unit was fielded over 50 Million Dollars in new War Information Network - Tactical (WIN-T) Increment 1 equipment. Over 350 soldiers from the 101st ESB were trained to use the new equipment at Fort Drum, NY. Immediately after the training, selected soldiers were chosen to deploy the new equipment at Fort Drum in order to support the Pre-mobilization training for the 27th BCT deployments to Afghanistan. Soldiers of the 101st ESB accomplished record breaking success during this endeavor by providing full internet and voice access to over 65 subscribers in a single day. By the end of the 8 week tour, soldiers from the 101st ESB provided voice and internet service to over 200 subscribers, responded to over 430 helpdesk tickets, created an internal e-mail and ftp server, develop an internal website and trained numerous personnel in Blue Force Tracking systems, SINCGARS and other tactical communication equipment.

Since then, 101st ESB Soldiers have been highly sought to provide communications support for other endeavors. Recently, 101st ESB soldiers have been called to provide communications support exercises for both the 42nd ID STB and the 369th Sustainment Brigade.

The 101st ESB also proved its versatility and operational strength this year by leading disaster relief operations from Camp Smith Training Site and in Leeds, New York as result of Hurricane Irene. The 101st ESB oversaw a joint operation consisting of both New York Army and Air National Guard forces. Under 101st ESB leadership, National Guard Service Members rescued trapped and isolated civilians from flooded areas, augmented first responders and emergency personnel, transported food and water to shelters and emergency evacuation points, cleared public institutions of flooded water and mud. 101st ESB Soldiers were highly motivated; many of them volunteering to stay on mission much longer than the required time.

These efforts not only prepared and trained both the line company soldiers and command elements in operations, but also gave us the cohesiveness and confidence needed to be a success in any type of operations.

Lighting Warriors

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED SFC Meyers, Network Operations NCO of A Co 42nd STB briefs BG Renwick Payne, Director of the Joint Staff, and others key leaders from JFHQ-NY on the WIN-T Network that was set up to support the Division Main at Grubeski Air Base in August, 2011. The 42nd ID has the Domestic All-Hazards Response Team (DART) Mission to respond to any large scale Domestic Emergency east of the Mississippi. The DART team takes direction directly from the National Guard Bureau. This was the first time the 42nd ID was able to establish the WIN-T Network in a training exercise.

Members of the 369th STB Signal Support Team which included several members of the 101st Signal Bn stand in front of a Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) at Fort Drum, NY. The 369th team supported the 27th BCT in their pre-deployment validation exercises in June, 2011. The 101st Sig Bn and teh 369th STB were fielded the new equipment between February and May at Fort Drum with extensive new equipment training requirements. Immediatly upon completion of the training the 369th STB Signal Support Team put the equipment to work in the sustainment support mission for the 27th BCT. It was the first time that any National Guard unit put the newly fielded WIN-T equipment directly into a mission following the new equipment fielding.

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SFC Michael Wicks of the JFHQ-NY J6 Communications Assistance Team monitors the computer network at Fort Drum, NY at the Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) for service members who are scheduled to deploy from the New York Army National Guard. The J6 shop supports the networking activities of the Medical Command and many other activities in the state to support pre-deployment activities.
NYARNG New Force Structure

187 Signal Company Network Support

EDATE 1 September 2012

187 Signal Company Network Support

- **EDATE:** 1 September 2012
- **Authorized Strength:** 39 (4/0/35)
- **Mission:** To provide 24-hour operational Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) signal systems network to the supported Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), and/or Sustainment Brigade (SB), which includes deploying, installing, operating, and maintaining these systems.
Why 187 Designation

The 187th Signal Brigade NYARNG's patch and crest contain vivid elements of three flashes, a torch, two stars, fleur-de-lis, nine blue rays, rising sun and gold rays. Together these symbols express the Brigade's proud traditions, superlative capabilities and illustrative service during the campaigns of the Civil War, World War I and World War II.

Proposed Life Cycle