

# COMMAND IN BRIEF

## D Co., 1st SATCON goes Ground Mobile Force with the National Guard

By SPC Glen Jones and SGT Logan Mantz, Unit Reporters

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — This summer, the Soldiers of D Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion Operation Center had the rare opportunity to participate in a Ground Mobile Forces (GMF) satellite communications training exercise with the California Air National Guard.

The training was coordinated by the 149th Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS) out of the 162nd Combat Communications Group and conducted at Camp San Luis Obispo, located in the central coast area of California about a 45-minute drive from D Co. This is one of the few GMF training exercises that are conducted close enough for the Soldiers of D Co. to attend.

Seizing the opportunity to work closely with the GMF terminals that they control, D Co. personnel contacted the 149th CBCS to see if they could send Soldiers to participate in the exercise. Getting the go-ahead, two Soldiers from D Co. were then selected to participate in the two-week exercise. SPC Glen Jones and SPC Jarrod Mantz were chosen because of their strong initiative to learn and their willingness to pass that knowledge on to their fellow Soldiers.

Mantz said, “I enjoyed working with the Air National Guard, they were very helpful and informative, as well as eager to learn.”

The focus of the training was to familiarize the Soldiers of D Co. with the daily operations of a GMF mission as well as to refresh their already extensive knowledge of the equipment.

The first week of training was hands-on with the equipment. The Air National Guard had four types of communications terminals. Three types of termi-

nals were satellite based, including two hub terminals; a TSC-85B and a TSC-100A and two spoke terminals — both TSC-94A. The fourth type of terminal was a TRK-170, a line of sight microwave communications terminal. The Soldiers of D Co. had never had the opportunity to work with line of sight communications, but were eager to learn about it.

In one instance, Mantz was able to set up and then troubleshoot a line of sight link using the TRK-170. Jones and Mantz were able to help the National Guard Soldiers further their understanding of radio frequency theory as well as how the satellites are controlled and how the Operations Center views their carriers.

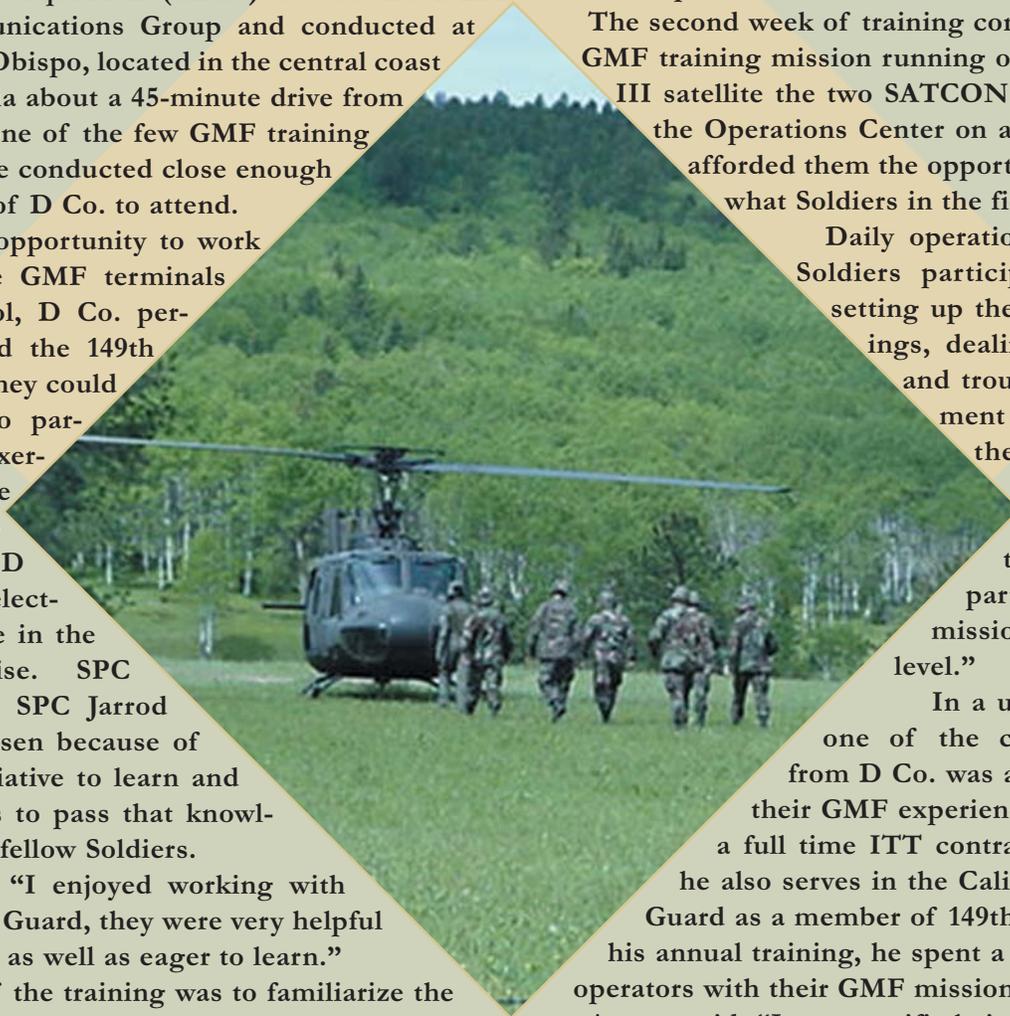
The second week of training consisted of an actual GMF training mission running over the same DSCS III satellite the two SATCON Soldiers control at the Operations Center on a daily basis. This afforded them the opportunity to experience what Soldiers in the field go through.

Daily operations that the D Co. Soldiers participated in included setting up the dish, taking readings, dealing with user data, and troubleshooting equipment problems. All of these actions were new to the two, as unit members typically have never participated in a GMF mission on the “ground level.”

In a unique coincidence, one of the civilian contractors from D Co. was able to join them in their GMF experience. Mike Arenas is a full time ITT contractor at D Co., but he also serves in the California Air National Guard as a member of 149th CBCS. As part of his annual training, he spent a week as one of the operators with their GMF mission.

Arenas said, “It was terrific being able to work with the Soldiers on a different level and they were a great

Delta Company, 1st SATCON Soldiers recently trained with National Guard Soldiers during Ground Mobile Force Exercise, giving the satellite Soldiers a rare opportunity to experience “grunt” life and a helicopter ride. *U.S. Army Photo*



help; I think the people in my unit also learned a lot from them.”

The mission was a resounding success because it provided the opportunity to cross-train with another branch of the service and expand the knowledge of all those who attended.

Jones said, “It gives me a much better perspective on how GMF missions work in the field.”

The knowledge gained by Jones and Mantz has been a benefit to others as well.

SGT Mike Feddema, Jones’ squad leader said, “I’m glad my Soldier got to participate in the training — his new knowledge will be a great help



Air Force members of RSSC CONUS engage in training on the Secure Mobile Anti-jam Reliable Tactical-Terminal, or SMART-T. Senior Airman Amber Duncan and Staff Sgt. Shannon Metcalf are setting up the terminal for operation, while, behind them, Tech. Sgt. Kelven Preston and Senior Airman Candy Knight are going over the theory of operation. *Photo by Wilson Small*

on the (operations) floor.”

D Co. looks forward to sending more Soldiers to GMF missions and is currently trying to arrange participation in a mission aboard a U.S. Navy ship.

### RSSC CONUS gets SMART-T Training

By Air Force Tech Sgt. John Steele, Unit reporter

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Members from Regional SATCOM Support Center CONUS Extremely High Frequency section had the rare opportunity in May to do some hands-on training on a particular piece of high-speed equipment. The 280th Combat Communications Squadron

made the two-day road trip from their home base in Dothan, Ala., to train RSSC personnel on the Secure Mobile Anti-jam Reliable Tactical-Terminal, or SMART-T.

The training consisted of getting familiar with the terminal, its capabilities, and terminal set-up. Even though the RSSC personnel routinely plan user communication needs regarding the terminal, hands-on experience with it for themselves is rare. The training lasted three days, and six members were able to get up to speed on this new EHF terminal’s capabilities. The base is home to U.S. Central Command, and this terminal is widely used to support ongoing operations in Iraq.

The terminal is mounted on the back of a HMMWV, which makes it completely mobile — set-up time taking about 30 minutes. The terminal may use commercial power, the HMMWV itself, or an onboard generator for power. It can support voice and data up to 1.544 Mega bits per second, and has a maximum throughput of 2.24 Mbps, allowing more information to transmit more rapidly and accurately.

The SMART-T can even work under remote operation up to a mile away.

It has the capability of using any EHF capable satellite, but for data rates in excess of 2400 bps, it can only use Medium Data Rates Milstar birds, a more robust satellite.

The training was a special treat to the communications planners stationed at RSSC CONUS, since most of their time is spent allocating resources for others to train. It was their turn this time, and they got to see first-hand how the products that RSSC supplies to the tactical warfighter are implemented.

“SMART-T is the operational terminal of the future, and the training was phenomenal. We greatly appreciated the efforts of the 280th CBCS, in coming all that way to provide the training,” said Tech. Sgt. Kelven Preston.

### HHC 1ST SATCON steps up and out during national exercise

By PFC Jesse Childress, Unit reporter

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Dedicated news-hounds might have heard recently about the nationwide terrorist response exercise known as Determined Promise. A less widely publi-



SPC Terry Clough works on satellite terminal equipment under the tutelage of Richard Hamer of ILEX Corporation during the national level terrorism response exercise called Determined Promise.

One fact is that 1st Satellite Control Battalion's own Headquarters and Headquarters Company played an important role in this national level exercise

Determined Promise 2003 was a Homeland Defense and Northern Command exercise to determine the nation's response capabilities to terrorist attacks in various regions of the United States, as well as other important events, such as natural disasters. A biochemical attack on the city of Las Vegas, raging wildfires in the Northwest or a devastating hurricane in Florida were just a few examples of scenarios that were used to test the strength of our nation's emergency responses in national and state government agencies.

Taking place Aug. 12-28, Determined Promise 2003 was the largest coordinated exercise of terrorism response to date. Involved were 15 federal agencies, several state and local organizations, a number of military units, and the American Red Cross.

That long list of support agencies included a group of HHC, 1st SATCON Soldiers and contractors. These satellite technicians deployed to an undisclosed location, and worked 24-hour shifts providing satellite support functions to keep leaders talking and data flowing. One participant, SGT Robert Smedley, said about the experience "I feel this was a great opportunity for everyone here to learn and 'train as you fight.' It also shows everyone involved what HHC has to offer and proves what we are capable of providing."

Another involved SATCON Soldier, SPC Terry Clough said, "Exercises like this give the Soldiers an opportunity to work in an operational environment that creates stress, which improves crew cohesion and mission focus."

Reflecting on "playing" on such a large stage, HHC 1st SATCON's Commanding Officer CPT Daniel Gager commented, "HHC 1st SATCON's participation in Determined Promise 2003 was a great training opportunity for all involved. The Soldiers adapted to operational and communication challenges without any problems and identified new areas in Space support where they can be useful to the Northern Command staff. It was also a testimonial as to how important contractor support is to the Satellite Control mission. Without the contractor support we had, there would have been a gap in the operation of our more complicated control systems. The teamwork displayed between all of the exercise participants was truly exceptional."

With the experience gained, the Soldiers of HHC 1st SATCON look forward to Determined Promise 2004, as well as other upcoming deployments — opportunities to once again show what they can do.

## JTAGS CENTCOM helps warfighters get R & R

By SPC Aaron Evans and CW2 Jeffrey Robinson, Unit Reporters

DOHA, Qatar — Temporarily far from the dust and heat of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, Soldiers involved in those operations can report to this Persian Gulf-front city for a few days' rest and recuperation. Locally stationed Soldiers from Detachment Echo, 15th Air Defense Joint Tactical Ground Station, Central Command, already an integral part of ongoing operations with their critical mission of providing Theater Ballistic Missile early warning, volunteered to help the incoming weary Soldiers enjoy the R&R opportunity to the fullest.

Army Central Command (ARCENT)-Qatar has the overall responsibility for what is called the Fighter Management Program. The JTAGS Soldiers, along with other local units' members, act as sponsors, and offer vehicles, time, and guide services to those Soldiers lucky enough to make it to this temporary Mecca.

"It feels really good to be able to share something with these Soldiers; to give something back and support them for their efforts. We are lucky to be in a position where we can get them off post and allow them to feel like real people again," said volunteer sponsor Petty Officer Patricia Viviano of Naval Network and Space Operations Command, Detachment Echo.

The mission of the ARCENT-Qatar Fighter

Management Program is to increase the morale and welfare of the Soldiers that support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. As of Sept. 7, 2003, about 7,091 Soldiers have participated in the Fighter Management Program. Soldiers are afforded the opportunity to spend five days relaxing and participating in on-post and off-post Morale, Welfare, and Recreation activities. Some of these activities include Dhow cruises, Jet Ski rides, and water skiing.

The time span allotted is a period that participants can enjoy themselves and mentally and physically take themselves out of the battlefield mentality for a few days. While the Soldiers are here, they are afforded the opportunity to swim, visit the malls, and eat some well-deserved meals at restaurants far removed from military chow lines. They also have the opportunity to visit with other Soldiers and share their stories.

Another volunteer, SGT James Smith, of JTAGS Colorado Springs, said, "It's great to reunite with fellow Soldiers from other units and have an opportunity to take some of them out to the restaurants and talk about the good times of the past. It's a good feeling to see their faces glow because they are in a restaurant in the Middle East."

SPC Jorel Santiago of JTAGS Colorado Springs said, "It's nice to meet some of the Soldiers that are putting their lives on the line in the war on terrorism up there in Iraq. This is a great oppor-

tunity for them to have some fun, and for us to show them that they are appreciated."

While the letters of support from around the world, buttressing speeches made by national leaders, and infrequent phone calls home are equally important for morale, ARCENT-Qatar's Fighter Management Program and JTAGS Detachment CENTCOM do their part and "roll out the red carpet" to allow these heroes critical down time. In the midst of their own important duties, JTAGS Detachment CENTCOM is assisting these service members in truly getting quality R&R, fitting them for the fight they return to.

## National Guard ARSST deploys to Iraq, farewelled by Mayor

By MAJ Laura Kenney

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The most recent Army Space Support Team to deploy received a special sendoff from the mayor of Colorado Springs.

Lionel Rivera, a former Army captain elected in April as mayor of the city known as "the gateway to the Rockies," met with Team 12, Sept. 24. He spoke with all six members privately just prior to a farewell ceremony, and was briefed on their upcoming mission.

The team, which had recently returned from a mission in Korea, deployed Sept. 29 to support the Coalition Provisional Authority in its mission of rebuilding Iraq.

Team Leader MAJ Michael Willis joked about the quick change in missions exemplified by the color of the uniforms now worn by the team.

"Going from green for Korea, where we were supporting operations (exercise Ulchi Focus Lens) to the tan of Desert Camouflage Uniforms for Iraq, where we'll be assisting people on a humanitarian mission, speaks exactly to the versatility of Space, and to how pervasive the need for it has become," said Willis.

1st Space Brigade commander, COL David Shaffer, commented on the "pervasive need" aspect.

"The demand for Space teams  
(See *Command In Brief*, page 51)



Posing in front of a local tourist attraction along the Persian Gulf city of Doha, Qatar, Soldiers on a brief rest and recuperation respite from duties in Iraq and Afghanistan pal with their guides, Joint Tactical Ground Station - CENTCOM volunteers. The JTAGS Soldiers are, fourth from left, CW2 Jeffrey Robinson, and, last two on right, SGT James Smith and SSG Jeff Patterson. *Photo by SPC David Nussbacher*