

# Command In Brief

## “Swift”ly Achieving Goals

By DJ Montoya

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Setting goals, both short and long term, is part of any noncommissioned officer's career. SSG Jennifer Swift is no exception. She recently achieved one of four short term goals — induction into the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/ U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

SGT Leon Audie Murphy was one of the finest non-commissioned officers in the U.S. Army during WWII. His leadership on the battle field of Europe demonstrated the ideals of an American non-commissioned officer. SGT Murphy displayed immense courage and bravery at great personal risk.



CSM Kevin McGovern from the 1st Space Brigade places the Sergeant Audie Murphy medallion on SSG Jennifer Swift, from the 53rd Signal Battalion, during her induction into the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. *Photograph taken by DJ Montoya*

Induction and membership in the SMDC/ARSTRAT Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is a reward for noncommissioned officers whose leadership achievements and performance merit special recognition and who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO corps and a combat ready Army. Members demonstrate superb leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, and development of their Soldier, as well as concern for their Army families.

Swift, a 25-year-old native of Redding, Calif., is currently the 53rd Signal Battalion operations noncommissioned officer and received her honor during a brief ceremony on the morning of Feb. 21. She is the twentieth inductee into the SMDC/ARSTRAT chapter since its creation back in 2001.

According to Swift, hard work and patience have paid off for her.

“I’ve been trying to do this for a couple of years,” she said.

“I found myself going on missions every time they either did the first or the second board.”

However, in the past six months — especially around the December time frame — Swift found the time and determination to focus on her goal. SMDC/ARSTRAT CSM David L. Lady commented on her accomplishments prior to the induction by saying, “This is a leader of Soldiers on Schriever Air Force Base and in Baghdad, who succeeded at every task, but most importantly the task of caring for and training her Soldiers.

“She has proven that in deployments. She has proven that in day-to-day operations. She is trusted by her Soldiers as well as her leaders. And she is being recognized by this Army Program in order to distinguish her from among all of her peers right now in the Signal Corps and in the Army.”

In recognition of her demonstrated professionalism and excellence, Swift received the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club medallion and certificate.

As part of the ceremony Swift was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal by BG (then COL) Roger F. Mathews, deputy commander for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, for her selection and induction into the club.

Swift recommends to others in her battalion, and command wide, to think about competing for the honor.

“I’ve talked to some individuals a couple of weeks



Installers put the finishing touches on the restoral terminal next to the Echo Company Wideband Satellite Operations Center on Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan. *Photograph taken by CPT Todd M. Vick*

ago. And it is really something that they should definitely look into because they have the qualities that embody a candidate for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.”

Swift has been part of the SMDC/ARSTRAT family since early 2002 working as a network controller and squad leader with 53rd Signal Battalion at Schriever. In January of 2005 she deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a team member for the Space Support Element assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division. She returned to SMDC/ARSTRAT in August of 2005 and has been here since.

Her next short term goal is getting married at the end of March and hopefully making sergeant first class next year.

## Borrowed Satellite Keeps Mission Going

By SGT Vicente Gonzalez

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — Recently, Echo Company had to borrow an AN/GSC-52 satellite terminal. This restoral terminal or “R/T” is being used to support the ongoing mission during regularly scheduled RADOME

maintenance at Fort Buckner’s Wideband Satellite Operations Center and Satellite Communications facilities.

The R/T has traveled extensively since it was put into service in support of the AN/GSC-52 modernization program in 2000. Most recently, the terminal was on Kwajalein Atoll before it made the ocean voyage to Okinawa, Japan.

The R/T arrived on a rainy February day; the crew of installers wasted no time and got right to work on the setup of the terminal. After assembling the 20 foot dish, about a day and a half process, everyone’s attention turned to connecting the dozens of cables and other pieces equipment needed to operate and monitor the satellite terminal. After only a few days, the R/T was online and fully mission capable.

Echo Company Soldiers in conjunction with civilian contractors diligently man the terminal 24 hours a day, and are able to receive up-to-the-minute status and performance data via a remote computer terminal placed on the operations floor.

Though the R/T is only slated to be on Okinawa for a short time, the Soldiers of Echo Company 53rd Signal Battalion are making every effort to gain experience from equipment associated with the satellite terminal.

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## Space Soldier takes “Green” to “Gold”

By DJ Montoya

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — When most Soldiers go into battle, they are on the front lines of a war zone, but one particular Soldier within U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command recently went to battle in a more unusual location ... the basketball court. SGT Evevetta L. Crawford helped the Army defend its title during the recent 2007 Women's Armed Forces Basketball Championship, and in the process became somewhat of a celebrity within her command.

The six-foot, 35-year-old, human resource specialist, a member of Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion in Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan joined the SMDC/ARSTRAT family back in February 2005, and has been in the Army for 10 years. Back in mid-March, as a member of the All-Army Basketball team, her skills contributed to winning the Championship held at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Crawford, “the Army’s top gun” as one sport’s writer called her, scored an average 20.2 points over six games in which the Army went undefeated against the Air Force, Navy and Marines.

According to CPT Jason Shin, acting commander of Echo Company, “Support for her has been tremendous from the company.

“We are all proud of her. We only regret not being able to attend the games to cheer her on in person.”

Shin said that Crawford’s fellow Soldiers were able to keep up with her progress through news bulletins and her e-mails and phone calls back to the company.

Looking back on her performance during the championship, Crawford commented, “I feel I was at the top of my form. I know what it takes to win a gold medal and the championship, so that is what I strive for before basketball season starts and in life.”

What was her greatest moment during this tournament? Crawford reminisced on various instances from finishing a lay-up or shot, to giving a teammate an assist. And being selected for the

eighth time in a row as the best small forward of the tournament didn’t hurt either. But one moment in particular did stick out for Crawford.

“The most memorable moment will always be having the gold medals put around the team’s necks at the end of the tournament.”

Crawford started playing on the All-Army Women’s Basketball Team in 2000 and has helped garner eight medals — four consecutive gold medals, two silver medals and now two more gold.

If you ask her “How did this love of basketball and the Army come about?” on the basketball side she’ll claim it all started back in the fourth grade with Junior Pros at Booker T. Washington Elementary. From there the ball was put into motion.

In 1990 she graduated from Christian County High School in Hopkinsville, Ky. Crawford then



SGT Evevetta Crawford of Fort Buckner in Okinawa, Japan, averages 20.2 points and 6.8 rebounds in six games to lead the All-Army Basketball team to its 26th crown in 30 years of the Armed Forces Women's Basketball Championships, March 12-17 in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. *Photograph taken by PFC Matthew E. Jones*

went on to Shelby State Community College (now called Southwestern Community College in Memphis, Tenn.)

“I had to ask Coach Herbert Wright (NBA player Lorenzen Wright’s father) to try out for a basketball scholarship.”

The rest is history. She was named to the first team All-American, and was the second leading scorer in the nation and fourth in rebounding among junior colleges back in 1991 to 1993.

“I helped the Lady Saluqis to win our conference back in 1993.”

After graduation Crawford went on to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Ark., to finish her last two years of college playing on a full basketball scholarship in the Sun Belt Conference.

As for the Army side she was born at Fort Campbell Army Hospital in Kentucky and has three brothers. Her father, Herbert Lee Crawford Sr. did two tours in Vietnam while serving in the Army and received the Bronze Star Medal.

“I decided to join the Army after I had played professional basketball overseas. I had always wondered what it was like to be in the Army and to serve our country. I thought it would be a good career move for me.”

Not only is Crawford a valuable member on the court, she is also a very important member of Echo Company according to Shin.

“She takes her job very seriously and is an incredible asset.

“In turn, her transition from basketball player to Soldier and back is flawless and her dedication to her work shows that she is truly a consummate professional.”

The future for Crawford looks bright with her sights set on making the rank of staff sergeant, graduating from the Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course, and finishing her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

“My long term goals are to be selected for Officers Candidate School and retire as an O-6 or higher,” said Crawford with much resolve. After all, her sports role model is none other than Michael Jordan.

“I like his determination to win.”

## Alpha Detachment Warrior FTX

By SGT Christa Dunne

STUTTGART, Germany — The Soldiers and Sailors of Alpha Detachment, 1st Space Company have a mission to

provide early missile warning support to Soldiers on the front lines, but what if they themselves were called to the front lines? Every Soldier needs to be ready for that possibility and Alpha Detachment is doing their part to make sure their Warriors are ready to face that challenge. From March 1 - 10, the detachment conducted a Warrior Field Training Exercise. The unit conducted N Hour Tasks, followed by four days of training on the Warrior Tasks and nine Battle Drills. The Warrior exercise consisted of three phases.

Phase I began with an early morning recall of all personnel reporting in by 5:30 a.m., carrying their A and B bags for inventory purposes and updating OCIE (Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment). As Soldiers reported in, Soldier Readiness Packets were reviewed and updated for missing or corrected information. The remainder of Phase I was spent conducting PMCS (Preventive Maintenance Checks & Services), PCCs (Pre-Combat Checks) and PCIs (Pre-Combat Inspections), finalizing load plans, and ensuring all equipment and vehicles were prepared for the convoy to the FTX site.

Phase II began a four day long FTX consisting of classes and warrior tasks. To begin the day, SSG Matthew Brown, PFC Toby Unzicker, and SGT Donovan McKenzie trained Soldiers on how to treat injuries consisting of open wounds, fractures, and transporting casualties while under enemy fire. Following the first aid portion, SSG Richard Kruse and SGT Alfredo Lozano taught classes on hand grenades, land mines and improvised explosive device identification and reaction. After the classes, Kruse set up six different lanes to review and practice proper hand grenade techniques for different situations.

That afternoon, Alpha Detachment moved locations to conduct Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training, and mask confidence testing. While in full MOPP (mission-oriented protective posture) Gear, classes were given by SSG Joseph Collins, Lozano, and SGT Christa Dunne on M8/M9 detection paper, M256 kits, and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical chamber safety procedures. Once classes concluded, Alpha Detachment proceeded to the chamber. While inside the Chamber, Soldiers and Sailors participated in minor calisthenics to raise the heart rate and to determine if their mask was properly fitted. Mask confidence testing continued with each Soldier and Sailor breaking the seal of their mask and resealing it. The final step was to take their mask off, state their name and rank and exit the chamber calmly.

The second through fourth day of the Warrior exercise (Phase II) was planned and guided by the detachment Training and Evaluation section, consisting of SFC Gerald Forgione, SSG Brian Sibila, and Collins. These three days used scenario

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training to effectively teach a variety of tasks needed to accomplish an advanced marksmanship mission, utilizing the crawl, walk and run phases of training. The trainers divided the Detachment into two squads, with the concept of experienced NCOs and Soldiers, sharing their personal experience and knowledge with newer, inexperienced NCOs and Soldiers. Each mission relied on the squad members building a cohesive team to practice land navigation, mounted and dismounted movement tactics, radio communication, first aid, hand and arm signals, and react to ambush and improvised explosive devices while under enemy attack. A mounted portion, traveling in a single HMMWV (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) or convoy, encountering an ambush, road block or improvised explosive device situation began each scenario. During each attack or encounter with an obstacle, squads were evaluated on leadership, proper situational procedures, perimeter set-up, first aid, communications and proper reporting procedures.

Following the mounted portion of the scenario, each squad had to navigate on foot to three or four different check points through various terrains. While moving between points, squads continued to be evaluated on their performance, as well as land navigation, squad movement and noise discipline. As each squad approached the final objective, a MOUT (military operations on urban terrain) site constructed as a small village, they came under fire from the enemy positioned inside multiple buildings. At this point, each squad began utilizing movement procedures needed in an urban area, relying on their MOUT training. Squads separated into two teams, one team surrounded the building and used suppressive fire allowing the second team to enter and clear the building. Ultimately, each mission led to a force-on-force scenario between Alpha Detachment and the enemy, comprised of Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Stuttgart Garrison. Following mission completion, after action reports and preparation for the next day's training were conducted.

The third and final phase consisted of recovery operations. Soldiers and leaders conducted recovery operations on all their equipment and after action reports for the overall training event ensuring success of future training events.

Upon completion, the value of conducting a

Warrior exercise of this nature was evident. Each NCO and Soldier was given the opportunity to assess their leadership skills and Warrior Task competence, to gauge proficiency and what they need to continue to improve on. This warrior task training and FTX enabled all members of Alpha Detachment to examine group dynamics, leadership challenges, and different styles of leadership they may encounter while performing normal Soldiering skills. Alpha Detachment, 1st Space Company improved as a team, built on their strengths as individuals and as a cohesive unit.

## Charlie Company 1st Sgt. leads Soldiers on 100th Volksmarch

By SSG Dawn Westrum

LANDSTUHL, Germany — 1SG Martin Chaffee will be retiring this fall after twenty-one years of active-duty service to his country. During his years in the Army he has filled many key positions within the 53d Signal Battalion, including tours in Germany, Maryland and Okinawa. However, the Soldiers of Charlie Company, 53d Signal Battalion, will remember Chaffee for a different reason. Over the two years that Chaffee has been stationed here in Landstuhl, Germany, he has spent most weekends out on the forested trails of the German countryside as part of the German sport of Volksmarching.

For many of his weekend walks, Chaffee has invited the whole company along by posting flyers in advance for a "1SG Volksmarch." Anyone interested meets up in the company area on Saturday morning and carools to the start of the walk. There everyone completes either the short three-mile or longer six-mile trail. Families and children are always welcome, and it is not a strange sight to see a couple of strollers being pushed along, as well as a dog or two keeping in stride. Hunger pains can be assuaged easily along the way with bratwurst, cheese-bread, sweet tea and beer. Back at the start hall, there is even more to eat, including homemade cake, pies and authentic German meals. The experience is one of friendship and camaraderie, as well as a great chance to enjoy the fresh air and get some exercise.

Chaffee has completed over 400 Volksmarches himself, and many of them have been part of his



Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion Soldiers complete kilometer 36 of 42 during a marathon Volksmarch celebrating the companies 100th group Volksmarch. *Photograph taken by Robert Erdman*

“1SG Volksmarch” program. Knowing that his retirement date was rapidly approaching, Chaffee decided to make the 100th 1SG Volksmarch his last company march. To go out with a bang, he also decided to make it a marathon distance of 26.2 miles. Now, this isn’t totally without precedence, as several of the company Volksmarches have been marathons. In fact, Charlie Company Soldiers are proud when their name gets added to the Marathon Club, and so far 24 Soldiers and family members have completed a total of 76 marathons.

Knowing this would be the last organized marathon, thirteen Soldiers and one family member willingly woke up early that Saturday morning to meet up and carpool to the start of the march. Four of those Soldiers would be completing their first marathon and adding the final names onto the Charlie Company Marathon Club list.

After filling up on pie and pastries in the start hall, the group set off on the marathon. The trail was slightly muddy, running along a single-track in the forest and winding through the German countryside. It seemed the weather would also cooperate, with the temperature about 55 degrees and no rain in sight. One member of the group was riding his bicycle, and kept in touch with everyone as the group spread out along the trail, digging out Gummy Bears, Oreos, and other snacks from his pack at the checkpoints.

Cameras, MP3 players, and some trailside antics helped pass the time along the way. At least, they did until the group reached the biggest hill (or maybe small mountain), that Chaffee said he had ever climbed on a marathon. With four hours of walking already under their belts, it seemed insurmountable. They all has hopes that the trail would go around it, not up ... but up it went, and with one foot in front of another, the group slowly made their way to the summit. Everyone gathered together at the top for more snacks, and a few bravely climbed the lookout tower (did they really want to get higher?). Others bouldered on the rocks, and some removed shoes and socks to rest aching feet.

With yet a couple of hours left to walk, the aches and pains were setting in for everyone, and the Gummy Bears were in high demand, but the trail started heading downhill, and the dreams of bratwurst and beer kept feet moving. Chaffee said that he was focused on the marathon prize, which included a certificate and a patch. Everyone else found motivations of his or her own, and rolled back into the start hall at a time of eight hours flat. Not too fast perhaps, but all fourteen people finished; and along the way, shared stories, made friends, and wondered what life would be like without another marathon to look forward to. And yes, the beer at the start hall was worth every step.