

THE LIGHTNING WARRIOR



COL DREISBACH

THE COMMAND

CDR's & 1SG's

The Road to WAR

MOSIAC

EO & SHARP

**TF LIGHTNING
INFO**



Editor: CPT Novoa
Co Editor: SSG Barone-Lopez
Photos by: SSG Lorca



Words from the Commander

This is the first one of our Battalion Newsletter while deployed. It only seems like yesterday that we were at Stewart Airbase concluding our departure ceremony. Since then, the battalion has deployed to FT Bliss and conducted additional training in many areas to ensure that we were trained and ready for our deployment. The 101st ESB then deployed to Afghanistan with one of the largest air movements out of Ft Bliss with our equipment and Soldiers. Since then we completed our transition of authority phase with the 115th ESB Alabama National Guard. This transition was seamless with everyone involved and the complexity of tasks was handled with ease. Then along came Hurricane Sandy which brought devastation to many people in NY and the region. I know there are many of our families that were affected by this as well. It is funny how the roles were switched from our families worrying about us to us being worried about them. If you are still in need of anything please contact the Rear Det at your armories. We need to work on rumor control and the constant communication flow to ensure that you are kept informed of the progress of the battalion and your Soldiers. If you hear something that just doesn't sound right, please ask your Soldier or the FRG leads at each company. This will go a long way in ensuring that you are kept informed. On to another subject that affects our Soldiers and families. We have started a Lightning Employment & Education Program (LEEP) to help our Soldiers find employment or schooling after the deployment. Our goal is to help coach and mentor our Soldiers in finding those opportunities that fits their goals. Our future plans also include Rear Det Soldiers and any of our family members. You should see more information coming out after the start of the New Year. Our last point, we would like to thank the 11th TTSB for their guidance and support. Their time served has come to an end and they will be heading home to their families. We would like to welcome the 160th Signal Brigade as our new higher headquarters. We look forward to working and building a strong working relationship with you to accomplish the mission and take care of our Soldiers. Keep up the great work, stay focused, and always look for ways to get better to keep growing and learning both personally and professionally. Keep safety in mind for everything you do both in Afghanistan and at home in the states

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM!

THE COMMAND

COL Greg W. Dreisbach



COL Greg Dreisbach is a 1984 Graduate of Penn State University where he received his Commission through the Penn State ROTC Program as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He entered Active Duty Military Service as a Field Artillery Officer. His first duty assignment was Fort Bragg with the XVIII Airborne Corps. During this time he held many leadership positions at Platoon, Battery, Battalion, and the Corps Level. He attended the Field Artillery Advance Course and then a subsequent assignment to the 17th FA Brigade in Augsburg, Germany. He served as the Alpha Battery Commander, 1-18th FA. Upon his return from Europe, he was assigned to 3-14 INF as a Battalion Fire Support Officer. He then Commanded HHS 2-7 FA at Fort Drum, New York. After completion of his command, he attended the 53 Functional Area School at Fort Gordon. He then returned to Fort Drum as the Division Automation Officer. During this time, he served in a variety of signal related positions. He gained experience as the Assistant Division Signal Officer and as the Director of Information Management for Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division. His real world deployments include Hurricane Andrew, Somalia, Haiti, and Iraq.

Upon release from Active Duty Military Service in 1996, he entered the New York Army National Guard and was assigned as the Assistant Division Signal Officer for the 42nd Infantry Division - the "Rainbow Division". While with the 42nd Infantry, he served in numerous positions in Tikrit, Iraq with Task Force Liberty. He was the Deputy G-6 / Automation Officer for Task Force Liberty. COL Dreisbach was the G6 for the 42nd Infantry Division before being selected to command the 101st Signal Battalion in Yonkers. COL Dreisbach also served on State Active Duty as the Joint Task Force – Empire Shield Commander conducting DSCA missions in New York City.

His Military Schools include the following; the United States Army Airborne Course, Field Artillery Officers Basic Course, Field Artillery Officer Advance Course, Signal Officer Advance Course, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms Staff Service School, Information Operations Course, Army Automation Course, Joint Task Force Commanders Course, Joint Staff Training Course and various other military and Civilian schools.

His awards include; the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Metal, Army Commendation Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Overseas Training Ribbon, the Parachutist Badge, and several other federal and state military awards.

THE COMMAND

CSM Daniel Bien



CSM Bien started his assignment as the 101st Signal Battalion CSM in 2008. With over 29 years of service, his prior assignments include: 1SG A Co 101st ESB, 1SG D Co 1-101st CAV, PSG D Co 1-101st CAV, Tank Commander D Co 1-101st CAV, Armor Crewman A Co 1/210th Armor, CPL MAG-49 USMC Avionics.

Before Mobilization, CSM Bien worked as an Instructor at the Defense Cyber Investigations Training Academy (DCITA) teaching Computer Forensics to Federal Agents in Maryland. Prior to teaching, he had a 24yr career with the NY State Police and the last 10yrs working in the Computer Crimes Unit. CSM Bien has one prior combat tour, serving as the 1SG of D Co 1-101st CAV and assigned to the 1/69th INF, where he conducted combat patrols in and around Baghdad, Iraq. CSM Bien earned a Bronze Star and a Combat Action Badge for his actions in combat. CSM Bien earned his degree through Excelsior College in 2006 and has completed every level of NCOES, including the Sergeant's Major Academy.

CSM Bien has earned the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Metal(2), Army Achievement Medal(3), Army Good Conduct Medal, USMC Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal w/ Bronze Oak Leaf, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, GWOTSM, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ "M" Device and Hourglass, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon w/ Numeral 4, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon(3), New York State Commendation Medal / Silver Shield Device, New York State Long and Faithful Service Award w/ 3 Silver Shield Devices, Defense Of Liberty w/ WTC Device, New York State Aid To Civil Authority w/ Silver Shield Device(2), New York State Humanitarian Medal(2) and the Combat Action Badge.

CSM Bien resides in Pine Bush, NY. He is married to Erin Bien and has two daughters; Sally Riggall and Rebecca Bien.



CDR's and 1SG's

HHC



CPT Brian Clark grew up on Long Island, the second of 3 boys. CPT Clark attended Fordham University in the Bronx and enrolled in the ROTC program. He commissioned in 2006 and joined the NYARNG and became a Platoon Leader for Bravo Company 101st Signal Battalion. Shortly afterwards he became the Executive Officer for Charlie Company 101st Signal Battalion. After nearly 4 years with Bravo/Charlie, CPT Clark assumed command of HHC Company in March 2011. Even as HHC has doubled in size to its current number of 155 and has added many new faces from across the Battalion, HHC is a better, stronger, and more cohesive force than what it has ever been before, leaving CPT Clark challenged but fortunate.



1SG James Kent grew up in Nebraska. He joined the military after graduating High School. After 12 years on Active Duty, 1SG Kent settled down in Western New York after a tour at Ft. Drum. He joined the NYARNG and has moved up the ranks to 1SG first with the 42nd Division Signal Company and then the 101st ESB. This deployment to Afghanistan is the fourth tour for 1SG Kent as he has experienced deployments in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He takes the experience he has gained over the past 27 years of service to this deployment with HHC company and serves as a mentor and guide to the commander and the NCO's and officers of the company.

A Co



1LT Jon Santana was raised in Bronx, NY. He earned an Associate's Degree at Dutchess Community College and enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1999. While serving at the World Trade Center after 9/11 with A BTRY 1/258 FA, he decided to put more emphasis on his military career. He completed his Bachelor's Degree in 2005 at Purchase College and pursued Officer Candidate School. He commissioned in 2008 and was assigned as a Platoon Leader to A CO 101st ITSB. In 2010, 1LT Santana became the Executive Officer of Alpha Company. In February 2012, 1LT Santana assumed command of the company he watched grow from 58 Soldiers to over 165 strong. He is proud to serve his country in Afghanistan and lead fine Soldiers from all over the state of New York in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



SFC Michael Frye grew up in Northvale, New Jersey. He is one of six children. He moved to Rockland County, NY and attended Tappan Zee High School. In May of 1982, SFC Frye joined the New York Army National Guard. He attended Basic Training in Fort Jackson and then Fort Gordon for AIT. Upon his return to New York, he joined Delta Company in the 101st Signal BN. SFC Frye became an NCO three years after joining the military. He attended the Battle Focus Instructor Training Course and began worked as a 25L instructor at the Empire State Military Academy Signal MOSQ School in Farmingdale, NY. He has dedicated 30 years to the New York Army National Guard and the 101st Signal BN. This is his first deployment and he couldn't be happier to accomplish the mission with his 101st family.



CDR's and 1SG's

B Co



1LT Howard Brito is a native of Bronx, New York. He comes from a military family but did not enlist in the military until after college. He has spent his entire career in the signal field serving 6 years on Active Duty and 7 years in the New York Army National Guard. He commissioned in 2007 and began his assignments in the 101st Signal Battalion which included Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, and Operations Officer. In December 2011, 1LT Brito assumed command of Bravo Company, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion. He is privileged to have been chosen to plan, prepare, and guide Bravo Company to efficiently executing signal missions throughout Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



1SG David Peeler is from Shelby, North Carolina. He enlisted in the Army in 1978 as a Field Artillery Canon Crewman. Upon leaving Active Duty, he joined the New York Army National Guard, where he has proudly served for 31 years in the Signal Corps. He is currently the 1SG for Bravo Company, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Since 11 September 2001, 1SG Peeler has been working for Joint Task Force Empire Shield assisting in the safety and protection of his fellow citizens. He has held numerous positions and gained valuable experience managing Soldiers on a full time basis. This is 1SG Peeler's first deployment; he has gained the experience necessary to lead Bravo Company into a successful deployment.

C Co



CPT Paul Mulligan was born in Alaska. CPT Mulligan enlisted as a combat medic in the New York Army National Guard in 1999. He attended Siena College located in Loudonville, NY. He enrolled in the ROTC program after completing Basic Training and AIT. In 2003, he was commissioned as a Signal Officer in the NYARNG. In 2005, he deployed to Tikrit, Iraq as the 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion S6. Upon his return from deployment, he served in the 42d ID as the full time Communications Planner for the Division G6 for 5 years. Additionally, during drills, he was assigned as a Network officer and later the Executive Officer for the 42d Network Support Company. In May of 2011, he assumed command of C Co, 101st ESB in order to prepare the unit for their deployment to Afghanistan.



1SG David Santiago joined the military in 1980 as an 11B Airborne and served 3 years on Active Duty. In 1989 he transferred over the A Co, 101st Signal Battalion as a mechanic. In 1992, he made the transition into signal and became a Multi-Telecommunications Systems Operator. In 2006, he was selected as the 1SG for HHC 101st Signal Battalion. In 2009, he deployed with the 1108th EOD as 1SG. When he returned from his deployment, 1SG Santiago was selected as the 1SG for C Co, 101st ESB on July 2011.

MOSIAC



THE LIGHTNING WARRIOR



The mission of the LEEP– Lightning Warrior Education and Employment Program is to assist Soldiers in setting individual goals for employment and education opportunities after deployment.

Background: The 101st ESB has a large number of unemployed Soldiers in its ranks, approximately 40%. Many have had employment with Active Duty Operational Support, State Active Duty and/or attended Military Operational Specialty Schools, Noncommissioned Officers Education School, Officer Education School. Once we demobilize many of these opportunities will no longer be available. Leadership of the 101st is involved by coaching and mentoring Soldiers on their path to their goals.

STAFF SECTIONS

S1



Human Resource Support encompasses the following functions: manning the force, personnel support, and personnel services. These activities include: strength & accountability, finance, officer actions, casualty management, essential personnel services, awards, postal operations, medical, and moral & welfare, and recreation. Our mission is the “commitment of excellence” in providing outstanding customer service to resolve administrative issues and discrepancies in a timely manner. Our team includes: OIC - CPT Bernie Novoa, AS1 - 2LT Jarrod Rostron, NCOIC - SSG Theresa Barone-Lopez, Strength & Accountability NCO - SSG Rebecca Santana, Finance NCO - SGT Myrnaliz Ramirez, Office Manager/BCC - SGT Jeanette Arizaga, Medical Readiness NCO - SPC Lauren Charles, Mailroom NCO - SPC Feliciano, Flagging Action/MWR Coordinator - PFC Crystal Hunter, and Mail Clerk - PFC Juan Figueroa.

S2



Combat is oft, and aptly, characterized by uncertainty and fog; the inequities of informational asymmetry that beset domestic, civilian life are refocused to awe-striking magnitudes in the combat zone. The S2 (intelligence) section seeks to mitigate such disparities of information and knowledge with a concrete, military-centric, fact-driven epistemological approach to “find, know, and never lose the enemy.” The 101st ESB S2 section primarily collects, analyses, and disseminates relevant information regarding the enemy within the Area of Responsibility. As the primary intelligence arm, the section also provides geospatial intelligence support (e.g. maps, imagery, overlays, etc.), and manages the personnel and physical security programs. As subjects cognizant of the undeniable and intrinsic dichotomy of intelligence work, which dictates the diametric opposition of time and quality, the 101st ESB S2 ultimately seeks to deliver products and services of the highest quality, and in the timeliest of manners. Staff includes: SSG Gao, SGT Cruz, SPC Weinrich.

STAFF SECTIONS

S3



The 101st ESB S3/S2 Operations cell is led by Major Shannon Jones, Captain Frank Quintana, Sergeant Major Gina Lippi and a team of highly-motivated Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. The S3 mission is to coordinate and synchronize operations and training conducted by the 101st ESB. The largest staff section, it is comprised of eight sub-sections, including: Engineering, Current Operations, Future Operations, Projects, Intelligence, Communications Security, Regional Network Control Center (RNCC) and Enterprise Operations; over 60 personnel! Each staff proponent engages daily in a wide variety of support functions that provide war-fighters with the ability to communicate throughout the battlefield via computer-based or voice-based resources. Overall, each effort combines to support a diverse and complex communications network, which includes satellite and line of sight capability, fiber optic cable expansion, with an ultimate goal of commercializing Afghanistan's communications network to ensure an enduring post-war infrastructure.

S4



The 101st ESB BN S4 Logistics Section is the lifeblood of the battalion. All staff within the S4 have a very dynamic role within the battalion. The BN S4, CPT Ketchum provides logistical guidance and ensures the staff is providing all the logistic needs to the battalion. The BN S4 NCOIC, SFC Violet Plaza along with her assistant SPC Charles, work diligently with the four company supply sergeants. Her duties include meeting suspense's and ensuring that all Soldiers within their companies have the creature comforts of life such as food, lodging and clothing. CPT Myones and his staff, SFC Peter Spencer and SGT Gonzalez play a crucial role in the battalion's mission success. They work hard at ensuring Soldiers have flights to out-sites and closely coordinate the transportation of equipment across the battlefield. The Unit Movement Section's constant dedication to duty fostered a successful transport of all 101st ESB equipment from Fort Drum to Fort Bliss for training and finally to Afghanistan on ten planes and one ship. The S4 Property Book Section overseen by Mr. Ozuna and his assistant SGT Alberto ensure that all the 101st equipment is accounted for on company hand receipts and enforces strict accountability standards. The BN S4 has a robust maintenance section run by CPT Gulliver, CW3 Hays and CW2 Fernandez. Together they ensure that all the 101st ESB equipment is maintained and fully functional.

“Road to War”

by CPT Bernie Novoa



My journey at the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion started a few years ago and I have never been more proud to be a part of an organization than now. I watched this battalion go from severely under strength and under estimated to a highly trained and proficient unit ready to complete its mission. The ‘Road to War’ has been a long and arduous one and it has taken everyone as a team to pull together to make history. This is more than a mission but a historical moment since this is the first time in 60 years this battalion has deployed to combat.

I believe our ‘Road to War’ tale began before the Notification of Sourcing. The assumption of command of COL Greg Dreisbach in 2009 was the first significant impact to the 101ESB. Prior to his command, I worked for COL Dreisbach on Task Force Empire Shield and soon learned

that he was a great leader due to his high standards and military experience. When he took command of the 101st ESB, I was confident in his leadership and reassured by his past deployment experience that positive changes were ahead of us but it would take dedication and hard work from all Soldiers to accomplish the mission. The establishment of a leadership team built a strong foundation to prepare the battalion for war. All key leaders are commended for their dedication and persistence of excellence that allowed for our current success of trained and proficient Soldiers. As we move forward, our journey will not be easy and we will have ongoing challenges but I am reassured of our success knowing that through proficient Soldiers, hard-work and good leadership, we will meet every challenge encountered.

In April 2012, New Equipment Training was a major milestone in our path that we were able to meet head on. Millions of dollars of new signal equipment that most Soldiers had never seen or used before was very exciting to our Soldiers but at the same time daunting. However, with the help of the trainers and good leaders we were able to train to standard and validate all the new signal equipment.

Pre-Mobilization Training was another huge obstacle on the “Road to War” that took up approximately 6 weeks from July to August. Although our summer was taken up with pre-mob training, everyone was motivated to be there and successfully completed the training. The team who conducted the training was absolutely essential and prepared us well for the next step of the journey.

Heart-breaking as it was to leave our families and loved ones behind, it was a special day for the 101st ESB as we stepped on the plane headed for the mobilization station. Fort Bliss mobilization station and Camp McGregor was the first time we had everyone together as one team. We also realigned into our deployment formation and had to take some time to adjust to those changes while managing the challenges of mobilization requirements. Again, Soldiers and leaders alike stepped up and made sure that we were a success in individual training and in the culminating training events.

I stood on the runway as the torch party took off from Fort Bliss to set us up for success in Afghanistan. As I watched, I felt a surge of different emotions pulling at me. Proud of our Soldiers who were leaving, yet upset that I wasn’t going with them. I think a lot of people felt like that; anxious to get out there and start accomplishing the mission that we have all so diligently been preparing for.

When we arrived to Afghanistan, we had a great opportunity to meet our outstanding predecessors, the 115th ESB and smoothly transitioned into our positions. Although the movement of equipment and personnel overseas was an enormous feat, we surpassed expectations. In full speed, from the torch to advance party to the main body, we moved with purpose and direction. 101st ESB Soldiers quickly replaced the out-sites, all areas, and staff sections to allow the 115th ESB a smooth transition out and back home to their families and love ones.

Nine months will come and go rapidly and before we know it our replacements will be knocking on our door. However, we cannot lose sight of our goals. As we move forward we need to stay focused, work as a team, and accomplish the mission. This will be one of the battalion’s crowning achievements and know that you will be proud to have served and deployed with the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion. We have come such long way from those days when I first arrived to the 101st ESB. The ‘Road to War’ is the road less traveled by and I am very proud to have made this journey with each and every one of you and look forward to a safe return trip home with you.

The Road to War...



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LEADERS

“ To ensure fair treatment for individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, or national origin ... ”



BN
SSG Barone-Lopez
NIPR: 318-421-7037
theresa.k.barone@afghan.swa.army.mil



A Co
SSG Blake
NIPR: 318-421-5224
kizzy.l.blake@afghan.swa.army.mil



C Co
2LT Seda
NIPR: 318-421-3072
alicia.m.seda@afghan.swa.army.mil



BN
SGT Ramirez
NIPR: 318-421-5612
myrnaliz.ramirez@afghan.swa.army.mil



B Co
SSG Fleischhauer
NIPR: 318-421-6003
james.a.fleischhauer@afghan.swa.army.mil



C Co
MSG Ayala
NIPR: 318-421-0224
herman.r.ayala@afghan.swa.army.mil

SHARP

“We will provide Sexual Assault Harassment Response and Prevention program training, advice, and victim advocacy to all Soldiers and Civilians.”



BN Alternate
ILT Vunibobo
NIPR: 318-421-5183
berenado.vunibob@afghan.swa.army.mil



BN Primary
SFC O'Neil
NIPR: 318-421-8961
patrick.a.oneil@afghan.swa.army.mil



A Co
SSG Chen
NIPR: 318-421-6724
robert.o.chen@afghan.swa.army.mil



A Co
SFC Tuffour
NIPR: 318-421-6724
allan.a.tuffour@afghan.swa.army.mil



B Co
SFC Rizzi
NIPR: 318-421-6842
frsnk.s.rizzi@afghan.swa.army.mil



C Co
SFC Breakenridge
NIPR: 318-421-2238
donald.breakenridge@afghan.swa.army.mil



C Co
MSG Ayala
NIPR: 318-421-0224
herman.r.ayala@afghan.swa.army.mil

SAFETY

Our mission is to provide for a safe and healthful work environment, free from accidents and injuries that are well-suited with the mission of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion throughout all levels of command in every operation and activity. The Battalion Safety Program here in Afghanistan is designed to promote safe and healthful practices for Soldiers on and off duty and to preserve the fighting force.

Staff includes: OIC - 2LT Devon Dawson, NCOIC - SFC Derrick Hardy. Duties include developing and issuing policies and directives covering health, safety and the environmental control programs, providing professional guidance, assistance and training to all Soldiers as required or needed; attend monthly safety council meetings, conduct risk assessments and management, accident prevention, reporting and investigation of accidents, and visiting all job sites on a routine basis to conduct safety checks.



When in doubt remember:

S.T.O.P.P.

Stop, Think, Observe, Plan, and Proceed!!!



THE LIGHTNING WARRIOR



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

KAF Emergency

911 DSN
079-642-7611

Fire Warden

318-421-5929

KAF Safety

318-421-7024

KAF IG

318-4367260

PAX Terminal

318-421-7868 (Lima RAMP)
318-420-2400 (Kilo RAMP)

RED Cross

99-079-804-2979

Provost Marshall's

318-436-7237

AID Station

318-421-5222

Chaplain

318-421-7074

Signal University

318-421-5182