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

Recently, I was shown a private collection housed in a large loose leaf binder marked "History of the 101st Signal Battalion World War II and Korea". It was compiled by a former 101st Operations Sergeant, MSG John Morrissey. It is a valuable, one of a kind collection of photos, rosters, newspaper articles, and personal recollections of the 101st members who lived the history from 1939 to 1953.

One of the first items in the book is a twelve page account written by SGT Herb Scherer. Herb and some young friends were Boy Scouts together and they decided to join the National Guard. They enlisted in the 101st Sig Bn in 1939. They made two summer camps and many weekend training trips to Ft Monmouth, NJ. The 101st Sig Bn was called to active duty (Federalized) on 13 Jan 1941 (11 months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and the entry of the US into WWII).

A New York Times article on 14 Jan 41 reported the activation of the 101st (408 Pers) and the 369th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) with 1,450 men and 75 officers. The 101st was stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and took part in extensive training and the largest peace-time maneuvers ever conducted -The "Louisiana Maneuvers".

SGT Scherer makes some comments about his training in his early years in the Guard, “we must have had some smart people in high places. Guess who came to see our maneuvers? German Generals and Japanese military observers, we must have made them laugh at our obsolete equipment, wooden guns, and plywood cutouts of vehicles.”

At this time we went back to Camp Shelby. We were back only a short time when we found out we were being shipped overseas. They managed to find a troop train for us and got us across country to San Francisco. There we embarked on the Army troop ship President Garfield for our destination which turned to be the Philippine Islands. We were packed in like sardines, five men deep in a temporary bunks, head to toe. Latrines were built on platforms cantilevered over the rails. We formed chow lines twice daily. On the morning of our fourth day at sea the ship abruptly made a U turn. The ship had received warning that Pearl Harbor was under attack (7 Dec 41). We were issued 5 rounds of ammo for our 45 pistols. The first issue of live ammo, not on a range. 'what were we to shoot? Submarines? We made it back to Frisco and lived on the Garfield until new orders came through.

Upcoming events

The 101st ESB Battalion will conduct a change of command ceremony on 9 Apr 2017 at the Old armory (PAL). Invite has been posted on the web site at www.nysignal.org

West Point Boat Ride on the Hudson Celebrating Birthday of U.S. Army & Family Day. Saturday 3 Jun 2017 Flyer posted on web site www.nysignal.org

139th NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition September 7-10, 2017 Louisville, Kentucky

Obituaries

1SG (Ret) Ray Gill passed away after a short illness on 23 Feb 2017. Ray was the 1SG in HHC 101st Sig Bn for many years and was also a member of the Liberty Chapter SCRA.
101st ESB Quarterly Activities Jan 2017 to Mar 2017
Provided by MAJ Bernie A. Novoa, BN XO

21-22 JAN 2017 IDT TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

JAN IDT Highlights

Operations and Current Training: The 101ST ESB conducted WIN-T training at HS armories with focus on CPN, JNN, STT, Phoenix, and High Capacity Line of Sight (HCLOS) system operations and crew level proficiency improvement. A change of command ceremony was conducted for A Co transition from CPT Jarod Prill to 1LT Andrew Cronin. Finally, units conducted standard readiness management processed to include ETS counseling, APFT, height/weight, evaluations, active shooter training and other administrative tasks.

WIN-T crew training: 101ST ESB conducted Company level WIN-T crew and section training at Peekskill, Camp Smith Training Site, Orangeburg, and Yonkers Armory. Companies established and operated WIN-T network nodes to include 4 CPN, 1 SSS, 1 Phoenix Terminal, 1 STT, and 2 HCLOS.

BATTALION COMMANDER’S ASSESSMENT/COMMENTS: 101st ESB had a productive IDT from 21-22 January 2017. The Battalion focused on crew level CPN, JNN, STT, HCLOS, and Phoenix training geared toward preparation for deployment. Additionally, the staff focused efforts on planning for May and June 2017 signal exercises and continued concurrent deployment planning. Units began initial stages of DMD integration. Units also accomplished numerous administrative and individual training tasks such as the conduct of APFTs, HT/WT, CSF, OPD/NCOPD, active shooter training, evaluations, ETS counseling etc. No safety or other issues to report.

25 Feb 17 Signal Ball

Signal Ball: The battalion successfully held its 13th Annual Signal Ball at the Times Hotel in NYACK, NY on 25 FEB 2017. The turn-out was outstanding, better than any other year. COL Smith, 53rd TRP CMD Administrative Officer, was the guest of honor and gave a heartfelt speech. Awards were given out to deserving Soldiers and raffles were an exciting portion of the night’s activities. This was LTC Armbruster’s last Signal Ball as Commander the 101st ESB.
13th Annual Signal Ball, TIMES HOTEL, NYACK
25 Feb 2017

13-17 MAR 2017

OPERATION WINTER STORM STELLA -

The 101st ESB successfully deployed Soldiers to the NY area in support of Operation Winter Storm Stella from 13-17 MAR 2017. Approximately 60 Soldiers and 18 vehicles from the 101st participated in operations ranging from blocking exits, snow removal, and assisting law enforcement during the snow storm emergency. The 101st ESB was commended by the 53rd TRP CMD for their quick response to the emergency and hard-work during the ongoing missions.
MAR IDT Training Highlights

Operations and Current Training: The 101ST ESB March IDT included Battalion and Company Task force integration, WIN-T system inventories and validation with a focus on crew-level training and team integration and familiarization. Concurrently, staff conducted Annual Training, SRP and PMT planning. Additionally, the 101ST ESB conducted ETS counselings, APFT, height/weight, NCOER and OER completion, change of command inventory for C Co, on ground reconnaissance, sensitive items inventories and other administrative tasks.

WIN-T Crew Training: 101ST ESB successfully conducted consolidated crew level WIN-T Training. Companies inventoried systems and established 45% of all WIN-T network nodes at Fort Drum, NY.

BATTALION COMMANDER’S ASSESSMENT/COMMENTS: 101st ESB had a very productive IDT from 23-26 March 2017. This weekend’s focus was on deployment task force integration, WIN-T system inventories and training, mobilization preparations, staff administrative tasks, and other individual training and administrative tasks such as SSD, OER/NCOERs, ETS counseling, and mandatory briefings. No safety or other issues to report.
The Officers, Noncommissioned Officers, and Soldiers of The 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion request the honor of your presence at the Change of Command Ceremony

Honoring the Outgoing Battalion Commander

LTC Diane M. Armbruster

&

Welcoming the Incoming Battalion Commander

MAJ Ian J. Seagriff

On Sunday, the Ninth of April, Two Thousand Seventeen at Ten Hundred at the Police Athletic League Center

127 N Broadway

Yonkers, New York 10701

Located across from Yonkers Armory

Military: ACU/OCP

Civilian: Casual Attire

"Lightning Strikes"
Celebrating: Birthday of U.S. Army & Family Day

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Boat departs from West Point Boat Dock.
Boarding 1:00 P.M. departs promptly 1:30 P.M. returns 4:30 P.M.

Dr. Steven Groves, West Point Historian will be our guide for the day.

Boat Ride includes lunch, refreshments

Cost: $22 Adult Member of Above Organizations
Non-Members $25.00
$5 per child (6 to 12 years, 5 years or under free)

Dress: Casual

____________________________________________________

Boat Ride limited to 125 Participants - Reserve Now !!

Make checks payable to: Statue of Liberty Chapter, AUSA and mail by 15 May 2017 to:

LTC (R) Joseph Schroder, 37 Cambridge Drive W., Copiague, NY 11726
Phone: 516-398-0171              E-mail: Ltcjoe104@aol.com

NAME, GRADE: __________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: _________________________________________________________________________________________
HOME PHONE: ____________________ E-mail ___________________________
ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION ___________________________________________________ RETIRED: YES___ NO ___
MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION: YES___ NO____ CHAPTER________________________________________________
CHECK / MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED FOR _____ADULTS @ $ 25.00 = $ ________ Adults @ $22.00
________ CHILDREN @ $ 5.00 = ___ # of children free
TOTAL $ ___________ ~ ~

**Boat sails rain or shine**
Membership Application for Liberty Chapter & National SCRA
Due 30 April 2017

Name & Rank:__________________________________________________________

Address:_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Military Unit or Retired:__________________________________________________

Telephone #________________________E-Mail Addr:_________________________

Terms & Amount SCRA National Chapter at FT Gordon
(Check One) New Member ( ) Renewal ( )

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Liberty Chapter SCRA Annual Dues
E-6 and Above $12.00 ( ) E-5 and Below $2.00 ( )

Total Amount Enclosed:________________________

Check your mailing label for Liberty Chapter & National Membership Expiration Date

Make Check payable to: Liberty Chapter SCRA and mail to:
Liberty Chapter SCRA
ATTN: SSG Carlos Rodriguez
PO Box 242
Orangeburg, New York 10962

Organized 1 May 1996 at Camp Smith, Peekskill, New York