



SOUND OF LIBERTY



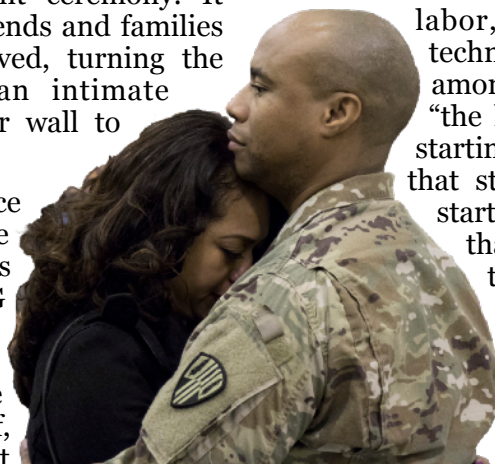
Battalion XO MAJ Bernie Novoa leads the formation at the farewell ceremony for the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion at Fort Stewart ANG Base on March 17th, 2018. (below) Alpha Company's SGT Gary Bennett and his fiancé say their goodbyes prior to his departure. *NY DMNA*

The Comms Before the Storm

by SPC Rich Gilberto

NEWBURGH, NY - Reporting for the last time to their home stations, the Soldiers of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion departed Orangeburg, Peekskill and Yonkers armories to descend upon hangar 102 at Stewart Air National Guard Base, home of the 105th Airlift Wing on March 17th for their deployment ceremony. It wasn't long before the friends and families of the 328 Soldiers arrived, turning the cavernous space into an intimate setting, filling the hangar wall to wall.

Underlining the importance of the mission ahead, the official party for the day's ceremony included BG Michael Natali, COL Isabel Smith, and CSM Corey Cush, the Commander, Chief of Staff, and Command Sergeant



Major of 53rd Troop Command. Command Sergeant Major of the New York Army National Guard, CSM David Piwowarski, spoke on behalf of the state's highest-level command team.

By the time the hangar doors opened and the 101 started the walk across the tarmac, it had been nearly twelve hours since they reported for duty, but after the final goodbyes there was an excited energy to begin the journey. Making the move to Fort Hood was the result of an 18-month coordinated effort involving physical labor, critical planning, and technical expertise. A phrase among the command staff is "the hard part is getting to the starting line." The 101 made it to that starting line with a rolling start, and can look forward to that momentum continuing throughout the deployment thanks to their technical expertise and the support of friends, family, and fellow Soldiers back home.

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FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER



This is the first of our deployed Battalion newsletters. We have been mobilized for two months now and have spent much of that time completing our in-processing and medical readiness, drawing equipment required for mobilization, training in numerous individual and crew-level signal skills, and preparing ourselves for the upcoming deployment. As I write this letter, our movement to 17 different sites in 7 countries is complete and we are ready to assume the mission from the 115th ESB of the Alabama Army National Guard. I cannot express how proud I am to lead this group of Soldiers; they have accomplished so much over this last year and I expect they will continue to do amazing things while deployed.

If you have any questions or concerns, the rear detachment is available and working out of the Yonkers Armory. Please contact CPT Victor Kipp (victor.j.kipp.mil@mail.mil) to see if we can assist.

Respectfully,

Ian Seagriff
LTC, SC, NYARNG
Commander, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion



FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



We have just crossed the two month mark since starting title 10 and our Soldiers have accomplished so much. At Fort Hood, all Soldiers made it through the medical readiness process with no issues. Soldiers had the opportunity to take SEC+, NET+ and CISSP courses to advance their skill sets. Many were given real world experience by supporting the Network Enterprise Center performing customer service functions to include re-imaging of computers for the Fort Hood hospital and rewiring III Corps server room.

In addition to all the training conducted, we validated our equipment in preparation for deployment then moved all the equipment to theater. A lot of work has been put in to get us here. You should all be proud of what your Soldiers have accomplished so far. I look forward to sharing their future accomplishments.

Sound of Liberty!

David Santiago
CSM, NYARNG
Command Sergeant Major, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion



UNIT MINISTRY TEAM

CHAPLAIN (MAJ) BRIAN PIDKAMINY - CPL BRENNAN DELANEY, CHAPLAIN'S ASSISTANT

Hello from the Unit Ministry Team! CPL Delaney and myself are honored and blessed to be part of this team and this family. As for the UMT, we are part of the Special Staff and we work directly for the Battalion Commander and we are here to serve all Soldiers of the 101st ESB. As we travel away from our homes, our family and our friends, please know that our hearts remain. I leave my wonderful wife and blessed children at home, along with my congregation in upstate NY named Delphi Falls United Church.

In our travels, the Lord promises a blessing over His people, and I reiterate His Words over all of us from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 28:1-8 (NKJV) Blessings on Obedience

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

3 “Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

4 “Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

5 “Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

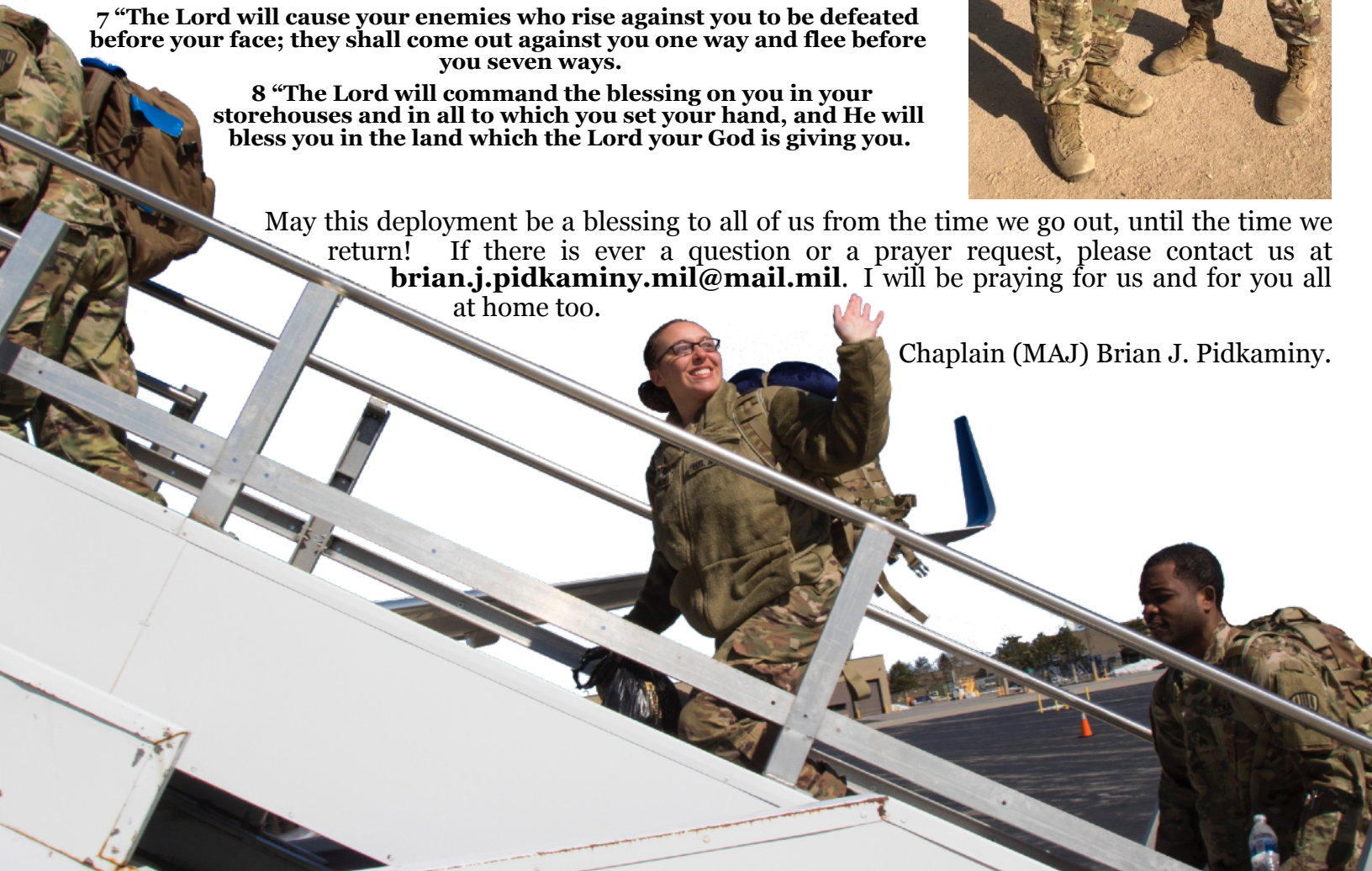
6 “Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

7 “The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

8 “The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

May this deployment be a blessing to all of us from the time we go out, until the time we return! If there is ever a question or a prayer request, please contact us at brian.j.pidkaminy.mil@mail.mil. I will be praying for us and for you all at home too.

Chaplain (MAJ) Brian J. Pidkaminy.





Deep In The Heart Of Texas

For 45 days, the Soldiers of the 101st lived in North Fort Hood, Texas as they prepared for deployment. Here are some highlights from "The Great Place."

For all of our photos, go to www.nysignal.org/kuwait2018





BATTALION STAFF

The Battalion staff is organized into numbered sections which cover different aspects of the mission. Here's a brief summary of what each one does.

S1 - PERSONNEL

The S-1 is the Battalion's Human Resources section, which is responsible for manning the force, providing human resources services, coordinating personnel support, and conducting human resource planning and operations. We ensure the Battalion maintains full accountability of its Soldiers, work with higher headquarters to fill vacancies, and provide HR services to further the overall health of the command and each individual Soldier's aspirations, health, and career goals.

The Section completes personnel actions, provides essential personnel services, processes awards, runs postal operations, monitors medical cases, assists in finance issues, provides casualty management and coordinates morale, welfare, and recreation activities. We are committed to providing the Commander with the best information and advisement and giving each company and every Soldier outstanding customer service to resolve administrative issues and discrepancies in a timely manner.



S2 - INTELLIGENCE

The S-2 section is comprised of two 35F All Source Intelligence Analysts who are responsible for collecting intelligence and provide analysis and updates to the 101. Intelligence covers a wide range of conditions including weather, terrain, and enemy activity and influences. This analysis is disseminated to the Battalion Commander and the S-3 section in order to mitigate its effects on the signal mission.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

MARCH					
CPL Anindya Sarker	14	PFC Feillon Blaize	6	2LT Albert Ames	28
SPC Josue Felizcampos	16	PFC Angel Ramos	9	SPC Pendazis Alexander	28
CPT Bradley Bortree	17	SPC Ashley Rodriguez	9	MAY	
PFC Joshua Heubach	17	SGT William Kuang	12	SOC Jonathan Guanabermo	2
SPC Derby Polanco	17	SFC Donald Breakenridge	16	SSG Luis Odar	2
SGT Abela Burgosdavila	18	SGT Kesniel Daniels	17	SPC Francis Kondelka	3
SGT John Paniagua	18	SGT Kai Williams	17	SPC Kendall Harrison	4
SSG Terica Watson	18	SGT Ruben Abreu	18	SGT Fabio Veras	4
SGT Jonathan Iliev	19	SPC Dyerson Bolive	20	SGT Bron Lowe	7
SPC John Mann	20	SPC Sacha Dussek	21	SSG Wilfredo Mercado	7
SSG Jason DeFazio	24	CPL Christopher Saintmire	22	CSM David Santiago	7
SPC Faith Rabat	26	PV2 Omar Valdez	22	CPT Robert Smith	7
CPL Omayra Lugo	28	SGT Vicente Torres	23	1LT Michael Vaughn	7
APRIL		SPC Alexander Vissuskus	23	SSG Dwight Williams	7
SFC Herard Joseph	1	SPC Mark Griffin	24	SPC Carlos Armas	8
SGT Joseph Billalba	2	SPC William Grill	24	SPC Kenneth Beltran	9
SSG Yesenia Ochoa	2	SGT Nicholas Flaz	25	MSG David Colliton	13
MSG Alexander Vargas	5	SSG Krystal Macpherson	26	MSG John Reid	13
PFC Michael Ye	5	SPC Luis Torres	26	SSG Justin Wolcott	14
		SPC Wilson Fung	27	MAJ Delbert Gustave	15



S3 - OPERATIONS

The S-3 section is responsible for any and all operations and training the battalion requires. During field operations it runs the Tactical Operations Center (TOC.) At its head is the Battalion S3, an officer who oversees the creation of the Battalion's plans, and then follows through on their implementation and execution. The S3 also coordinates activities between the other members of the Battalion staff, including logistics, intelligence, and others. The S3 acts as an advisor to the Battalion Commander in all matters pertaining to training and operations.

The S3 is supported by a large staff of Officers and Enlisted Soldiers that make up the rest of the S3 "Shop." They consist of the Assistant S3, the Operations Sergeant Major, Plans Officer, Current Operations Officer, and the NCOIC's of each subsection of the S3.

Besides the overarching responsibility of operational success, the S3 shop in a Signal Battalion such as the 101st contains even more specialized components. Since the primary mission is to provide effective communication throughout the battlespace, the S3 shop must also work to plan for and maintain the network services it provides. The S3 shop does this through the Engineering and Automations sections, which fall together under the branch of "NETOPS" or Network Operations. These two sections are instrumental in helping to plan for and maintain any operations where communication or transmission of data is required.

S4 - LOGISTICS

The S-4 is the Battalion's Logistical Support section, which is responsible for the coordination and integration of all supply, maintenance, transportation, and services for the Battalion. The S-4 section assists and supports the Companies in maintaining logistical visibility with the Battalion and the rest of the staff. The section identifies logistical resources and allocates appropriately to the subordinate Companies, while recommending based on Command priorities the allocation of logistical support. The S-4 section maintains internal logistical SOP's, while providing all Battalion elements with all tenants of logistical support to include, but not limited to; arming, fueling, fixing, mobilizing, demobilizing, and sustainment operations.



Learn Arabic!

As part of our training, the 101 was given a crash course in basic Arabic. Here are some common phrases:



Yes	na'am	نعم
No	lā	لا
Hello	as-salām 'alaykum	السلام عليكم
Hello (response)	wa 'alaykum as-salām	و عليكم السلام
How Are You?	kayfa ḥālak	كيف حالك؟
What is your name?	mā ismak?	ما اسمك؟
My name is ____	ismee ____	اسمي ____
Thank you	shukran	شكرا
You're welcome	afwan	عفواً
I miss you	inni mushtaaqun ilaykum	إني مشتاق إليك

AWARDS



Army Commendation Medal

SSG Cynthia Alberto (HHC)
SGT Quianna Biggs (B Co)



Army Achievement Medal

SGT Carlos Alvarez (HHC)
SPC Samantha Cottman (HHC)
SSG Terica Watson (HHC)
SGT Corey Berke (A Co)
SGT Joseph Dagostino (B Co)
SSG Omar Laureano (B Co)
SGT Andrea Estacio (C Co)
SSG Luis Odar (C Co)

RECENT PROMOTIONS



MSG Patrick O'Neil (A Co)



SFC Neketa Clarke (C Co)



SGT Omolade Adeleye (A Co)



SPC Dimitre Richards (A Co)
SPC Tyrell Cook (HHC)
SPC Kenneth McCarthy (HHC)

Send a letter or package to a Soldier via USPS for the cost of shipping to Manhattan:

**[Rank] [Name]
[Company], 101st ESB
APO, AE 09330**