

# Signal warrant officers forging new relationships in nontraditional roles

By CW2 Kenneth Jenkins and CW2 Matthew Jeffcoat

Signal warrant officers are serving key roles in an ever-widening arena of non-traditional postings.

Over the past four years the Army's criminal investigation units have extended communication between their law enforcement assets due to change of the unit's Modification Table of Organization and Equipment. A Signal warrant officer has been added to the 6th Military Police Group-Criminal Investigation Division, located at Joint Base Lewis McChord and the 3rd MP Group-CID, located at Fort Gillem, Ga. The groups' overall automations support to the units' special agents in the field has been improved.

One of the main functions of the Signal warrant officer is to enable rapid, robust and reliable communications for the unit whether it is a Stryker brigade or a criminal investigation group.

While investigations may be processed locally, when there is need for additional resources or more support, the agents in the field or investigative operations can count on being able to reach out to those senior agents and staff wherever they might be. The video teleconferencing systems have been revamped to support secure VTC and are leaning forward to be ready for the switch from integrated services digital network to Internet protocol.

Haphazard replacement of equipment has been streamlined into an item-for-item swap regulated at the group level and vali-

dated against documented requirements coordinated through operations channels. As part of the organizational inspection program, the S6 shop has visited every battalion in order to inspect and assist with policy compliance and leveraging current technology to optimize battalion detachments support.

The group S6 is where the Signal warrant officer resides. In this position the Signal warrant officer coordinates with the network enterprise centers of all of the detachments. This includes 24 NECs along with Hawaii, Alaska, Korea, and Japan. Warrant officers working alongside CID agents have a unique perspective that brings valuable feedback to quickly resolve questions and develop new capabilities. Additionally, the units' computer crimes coordinators have specialized technical abilities in the field of digital forensics.

This is just one example of the relevancy of the Signal warrant officer outside the traditional Signal unit position. More and more we find non-Signal units relying on the complex technology that Signal warrant officers are trained and ready to plan, install, maintain, operate, and administer.

## ACRONYM QuickScan

CID - Criminal Investigation Division  
IP - Internet Protocol  
ISDN - Integrated Services Digital Network  
MP - Military Police  
NEC - Network Enterprise Center  
VTC - Video Teleconference