

30th Signal Battalion units named maintenance excellence finalists

By *CPT David Richards*

All three of 30th Signal Battalion's subordinate units were named finalists, on July 15, for this year's Army Award for Maintenance Excellence competition, at the 311th Signal Command (Theater) level.

Company A won the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment Medium category, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment won the Table of Distribution and Allowances Medium category, and 396th Signal Company was the runner-up in the MTOE Small category.

Because of their success, the battalion companies immediately began preparing for a follow-on competition at the Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command level. Last year, as runner-up in the TDA Medium category, HHD was selected to represent NETCOM in the Department of the Army competition. This year's NETCOM on-site inspections were scheduled from 29 August through 2 September.

AAME is an annual competition that allows company-level units to showcase the people and processes that contribute to the success of their maintenance programs. Units compete in categories including MTOE small (10 to 100 authorized personnel), medium (101 to 300 authorized personnel) or large (301 or more authorized personnel).

Competing units are expected to develop and refine their programs by re-writing standing operating procedures, delegating additional duties, conducting extensive maintenance

training, and maintaining their equipment through preventative maintenance checks and services.

To be considered for AAME recognition, companies must submit a written compilation of their maintenance program, history and successes. In the competition they must pass an on-site inspection of their maintenance areas and procedures. Company packets and inspection results are evaluated at higher levels of command and assessed against other units within their respective categories.

Company A, the largest company in the battalion, has a maintenance mission that includes over 50 vehicles, 20 generators, 170 weapons, and 20 communications terminals and shelters. During this AAME cycle, Company A not only grew in personnel strength from 30 to 170, but successfully fielded and validated the newest version of the Army's Joint Nodal Transport Capability equipment, which enables their tactical Signal mission.

Although maintenance is a commander's program, its success is guaranteed through the efforts of many individuals throughout the company. Runner-up 396th Sig Co's maintenance program is comprised of four sections:



Photo by SFC Lisa Holloway

SFC Robert Brown, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 30th Signal Battalion, 516th Signal Brigade, checks an M1097A1 for leaks during a preventive maintenance evolution.

the Company Supply section, Satellite Communications section, the Company Arms Room; and the CBRN section, All four teams received accolades for their meticulously-organized records, immaculately clean equipment, up-to-date service packets, and sound knowledge of their areas of emphasis.

CPT David Richards graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 2008 where he studied psychology and life Science. After graduating from the Basic Officer Leaders Course II and III, he arrived to the 516th Signal Brigade in January 2009. Since then, he has served as a platoon leader, company executive officer and S3 training officer. He will attend the Signal Captains Career Course in January 2012.

ACRONYM QuickScan

AAME - Army Award for Maintenance Excellence
CBRN - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
MTOE - Modified Table of Organization and Equipment
NETCOM - Network Enterprise Technology Command
SAMS - Standard Army Maintenance System
TDA - Table of Distribution and Allowances
TMDE - Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment