



## *Capt. Darrius Glover Assumes Command of HHC 160th*



Capt. Darrius Glover assumed command of Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 160th Signal Brigade in a ceremony at Camp Arifjan Mar. 31.

Glover takes over for Capt. Arthur Brong, who heads for his next assignment at Ft. Knox, Ky.

“We have a company commander who has gone through both a marathon and a sprint,” Brigade Commander Col. Maria B. Barrett told the assembly. “Because that’s what company command is—you test your strength. And when you’re done with company command you come out stronger than when you went in—and then you’re ready to go to the next level. And so, as bittersweet as today is, Capt. Brong must give up the flag.”

In his remarks, Brong thanked everyone at the brigade for their hard work. “It has been my honor to be a part of this team of Soldiers, DA civilians and contractors,” he said. In closing, he

borrowed a favorite phrase from brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald L. Tyce. “My name is Brong, and I am an ADJUTANT!”

In his first remarks as HHC 160th Company Commander, Glover spoke to his Mom. “YOU have

### Special points of interest:

- BRIG. GEN. BROCK VISITS CAMP BUEHRING
- 151 HOSTS IRAQ DRAWDOWN CONFERENCE
- 25TH CONDUCTS CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY
- 54TH COMMEMORATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY
- 3Q & 4Q SOLDIER/NCO OF THE QUARTER WINNERS
- AND MUCH MORE

always maintained an Olympian calm, a heart that has always given everything and never asked for anything while knowing that once again your only son will leave your physical reach,” he said. “THAT is STRONG!”

To his Soldiers, Glover had a different message. “We will be innovators of change. Because we SET the standard, we ARE the standard.”

**For additional photos of the HHC 160th Change of Command ceremony, check out the 160th Signal Brigade Facebook page:**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/160th-Signal-Brigade/87217168899>



### **From the Command Team:**



**COL Maria B. Barrett**  
Brigade Commander



**CSM Gerald L. Tyce**  
Command Sergeant Major

Frequently, when Command Sgt. Maj. Tyce and I are at the same function, whether it's an award ceremony, promotion, or town hall, we flip a figurative coin to see who will go first. The reason? Because we often have the same thoughts or messages about that event, the one who goes first steals the other's thunder! This is a good thing and I wouldn't have it any other way. So this month, our newsletter message will be combined.

We recently attended the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter ceremony and recognized the outstanding performance of two of our best. During that ceremony, the CSM and I discussed three reasons why this program is important:

First, it builds the bench. Command Sgt. Maj. Tyce often will ask you, "who is your replacement?" Leaders who mentor their Soldiers and NCOs, and encourage them to achieve their full potential, are training their replacement. They impart their wisdom, their desire to excel, and their commitment to serve into their subordinates.

I remember the first time I started running sprints in order to train for a 5K team, it was tough. I was used to going out for long runs at my "normal" pace, with only incrementally faster days. After only two months of integrating sprint sessions into my regular routine, I was amazed not only that my first mile split time was smoking fast (for me), but that I could sustain that pace for all but the last 400m of the race.

Leaders in this process push their Soldiers further than what they thought possible, and in doing so, they become more "conditioned" to a higher level of performance and stronger in the end...this is building the Army's bench *with depth*.

Second, our recent NCO of the Quarter, SGT Martin said it best: "Exemplary performance begets exemplary performance." Being part of a winning team inspires others to "pick up the pace." They attract people to the unit or team.

People seek assignments with leaders and/or teams with superior reputations—they don't seek the opposite. And good teams take on whatever the challenge of the mission is, and it is inevitably easier because of their attitude, talent, and commitment to the best. This environment in which we serve the Warfighter, from Afghanistan to Iraq, to the rest of SWA, demands a top-notch team to meet the mission's challenges.

Third, people might ask why we have these competitions during a deployment? Don't they detract from the mission? Absolutely not—they compliment the mission when done right. If preparation for these events is getting in the way of the mission, you're executing it the wrong way. Whether it's the Soldier/NCO competitions, Sergeant Audie Murphy, the Supply Excellence Award, or annual facility awards, the preparation for each of these individual or team awards strengthens us and achieves the objectives in the previous two paragraphs—building our bench, and fostering a habit of exemplary performance in order to accomplish our mission.

On behalf of the CSM, I would like to extend recognition to those who foster this climate in their unit—from the smallest team in the brigade, to battalions. Our Soldiers and civilians are accomplishing amazing things for the Warfighter—they deserve to be recognized for accepting tough missions and challenges. Let's make sure they are.



## *Brig. Gen. Brock Acknowledges Challenges During Visit to Buehring Tech Control Facility*

*Story by Christopher Dunne*

Brig. Gen. Lawrence W. Brock III, Commanding General of 335th Signal Command (Theater), focused on upcoming challenges during a site visit to 581st Signal Company's Camp Buehring Technical Control Facility (TCF) in Kuwait.

After a briefing with company and battalion leaders, Brock toured the facility with 54th Signal Battalion Soldiers and discussed the challenges ahead. "We talked a little bit about the Iraq draw-down and how that can potentially impact the 54th," he said. "We have to build an infrastructure that supports whatever contingency mission that comes up."

The Camp Buehring TCF plays a critical role in maintaining effective communications, providing secure and non-secure voice, data, and video services to military units in Kuwait. As communications hubs are closed across Iraq, Soldiers of the 54th Signal Battalion are expected to support increased communications requirements associated with a responsible withdrawal of U.S. Forces.

Brock said the key to successfully managing change is to plan ahead. "We have to look now while we still have the resources and the manpower to be able to anticipate needs and then build for those needs," he said.

Lt. Col. Duane Green, 54th Signal Battalion Commander, agreed with Brock. "I do not foresee a negative impact on the 54th Signal Battalion so long as we receive the customers' requirements in a timely fashion," Green explained. "This will give the 54th and the 335th Signal Command the necessary flexibility to "build out" the network to support additional requirements."



*1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony Severson, 581<sup>st</sup> Signal Company, briefed Brig. Gen. Brock during his tour of the Technical Control Facility at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.*

Managing change is nothing new for 54th Signal Battalion, which recently commemorated 20 years in Southwest Asia. "It's changed dramatically over the past 10 years and once again over the last five years--and it's very possible that it could do it again over the next three or four years. Right now is the transition time," Brock said.

"The 54th "VOICE OF THE DESERT" Signal Battalion has provided quality communications support to U.S. and coalition forces in SWA for 20 consecutive years," Green said. "We will respond to this challenge with the same vigor, tenacity, and commitment as we have in the past. Bottom line--no Warfighter left behind!"

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## 151 ESB Hosts Iraqi Drawdown Conference

*Story by 1st Lt. Brian Hare  
151 ESB Public Affairs Officer*

The 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducted a leadership conference at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, Iraq, March 11-12. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the responsibilities of the 151st ESB as part of the drawdown in the Iraqi theater.

The 151st manages a large portion of the strategic communications network for United States Forces-Iraq.

Some of the concerns that were discussed included logistical issues associated with closing down select pieces of the network, and the timelines involved with a gradual shut-down of the facilities controlled by the 151st ESB throughout the Iraqi Joint Area of Operations (IJOA).

The timelines for shutting down select facilities must meet significant deadlines that have already been pre-determined.

The 151st ESB manages Technical Control Facilities (TCFs) at many different bases throughout the IJOA, to include three TCFs on Victory Base Complex.

Through the TCFs, the 151st ESB provides services such as secure and non-secure internet and phone capabilities to several thousand Department of Defense customers.

One requirement for each officer-in-charge of a 151st TCF was to present a drawdown plan for their respective sites as part of the conference.

Two significant challenges presented at almost every site centered on ways to operate and maintain each respective piece of the network while gradually shutting it down, as well as the responsible removal of associated telecommunications equipment as the drawdown progresses.

The 151st ESB prides itself on providing legendary service to their customers, which becomes more of a challenge as the emphasis shifts towards shutting those same services down.

Lt. Col. Richard A. Wholey Jr., 151st ESB Battalion Commander, pointed out to the attendees that the manner in which we leave the country of Iraq will ultimately determine how we will be remembered by the Iraqi people.



*Boxer Oscar De La Hoya and fighters from his Golden Boy Promotions visited service members in Iraq and Kuwait in March. De La Hoya, a gold medalist at the Barcelona Olympic Games, won 10 world championships in 6 weight classes during his professional career. Left, the fighters pose for a group photo with Soldiers from 160th Signal Brigade.*



## NETCOM Visits 160th Signal Brigade



*NETCOM Commanding General Maj. Gen. Jennifer L. Napper and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald W. Williams visited the brigade area in February. Left, Command Sgt. Maj. Williams talks to 25th Sig Battalion Soldiers in Afghanistan; left, Maj. Gen. Napper is briefed by 1st Lt. Anthony Severson at the Camp Buehring Technical Control Facility in Kuwait.*

## Command Sgt. Maj. Williams Assumes Responsibility at 25th Signal Battalion

“We are a nation at war, and because we are a nation at war we must do our absolute best with what we have to sustain mission success. We owe that to our country and we owe it to our fellow Soldiers. I will accept nothing less and you should expect nothing less.”

With those words, Command Sgt. Maj. Edward J. Williams III assumed responsibility as Command Sergeant Major for 25th Signal Battalion in a ceremony Feb. 21 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

“As a Soldier, as a leader and as a noncommissioned officer there are two words that I live for,” Williams said. “Those two words are *mission success*, and if need be I will die to ensure mission success.”



*New Command Sgt. Maj. Edward J. Williams, III addresses 25th Signal Battalion Soldiers immediately following his Assumption of Responsibility ceremony.*



## 54<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Commemorates 20 Years Service in Southwest Asia

Story by Christopher Dunne  
Photos by Spc. Jacob Massey

The 54<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion commemorated 20 years of service in Southwest Asia during two days of activities Mar. 1-2 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Duane Green got the idea for the celebration a year ago while he was checking out artifacts from the unit's history on the headquarters wall. "I noticed the battalion had been activated on 1 March 1991," he said. "I felt it was my duty as commander to make sure that the organization was recognized."

A battalion run kicked off the celebration, which also included an Organization Day, Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) Induction Ceremony and Town Hall meeting. The anniversary events culminated in a formal Dining In.

Col. Maria Barrett, 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade Commander, and Col. Keith June, U.S. Forces-Iraq Deputy J6 and a former commander of the 54<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion, joined Soldiers for the 5 a.m. battalion run. Col. June was also guest speaker for the Dining-In.



Fourteen recently promoted Sergeants were inducted into the ranks of the professional non-commissioned officer corps during the NCO Induction Ceremony.

54<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Darris Curry led the new inductees in reciting the Charge of the NCO, and guest speaker Gerald Tyce, 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade Command Sergeant Major, talked about setting examples.

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities closed with a battalion Dining In. It was an affair to remember for officer and enlisted alike, with Cpt. Darius Glover as Master of Ceremonies and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Yara Silva serving as Madame Vice; as battalion commander, Green presided over the evening.

*(Story continued on next page.)*



*Above: Command Sgt. Maj. Darris Curry leads new noncommissioned officers in reciting the Charge of the NCO.*

*Left: Soldiers from 581st Signal Company return after completing the anniversary run.*



## 54th Marks 20 Years in SWA

*(Story continued from previous page.)*

Theater regulations regarding the prohibition of alcohol necessitated a few modifications to event protocol. The wine sampling and official toasts included a recent vintage of grape juice, and the “Desert Nectar” produced during the Grog Bowl Ceremony was a potent mix of carbonated beverages, juices, brown sugar and a dirty sock.

Col. June congratulated the battalion for 20 years of service in Southwest Asia. “Since it’s reactivation in 1991, the 54th has roamed throughout the desert,” he said. “Like nomads of old, you have roamed from Saudi Arabia to Kuwait to Iraq—all over Iraq—back to Saudi Arabia, then back here to Kuwait--all over Kuwait--and to Qatar. And only the good Lord knows where this battalion will end up.”

June noted that the 54<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion has grown, while the rest of the Signal Corps has gotten smaller. “Perhaps better than any entity in the Army, you have successfully combined Soldiers, Dept. of the Army civilians and contractors into an effective, cohesive and respected organization,” he said.

*Top: 54th Signal Battalion Company Commanders meet at the Grog Bowl to share a drink.*

*Right: Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Brown is a two-fisted drinker!; Capt. Regina Hubbard and her staff organized the Dining In event; Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Duane Green and Command Sgt. Maj. Darris Curry toast the best Signal Battalion in the Army!*

*Below: Lt. Col. Green and his LTs.*

“Never forget the incredible legacy of our great Army, the Signal Regiment, and the 54th. Never forget those that came before you. In so many ways, you are the unsung heroes of our digital age and along the way, you have made history.”

Green commended his staff for their hard work in creating a successful and enjoyable anniversary celebration. “As the commander it did my heart proud to see everything come together,” he said. “It was grand.”



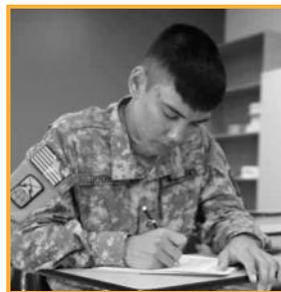


*Third Quarter 2011*

**Soldier/Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter Competition**



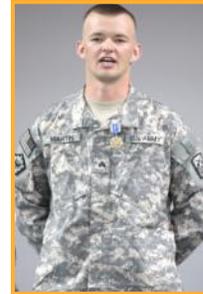
*Soldier of the Quarter: Pfc. Jonathan Budnik, 519th Signal Company*  
*NCO of the Quarter: Sgt. Carlos Eggins, 160th Signal Brigade HHC*





*Fourth Quarter 2011*

**Soldier/Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter Competition**



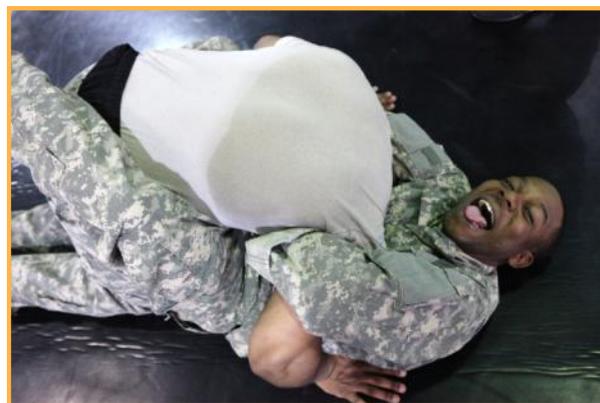
*Soldier of the Quarter: Pfc. Mykael Quinones, 519th Signal Company*

*NCO of the Quarter: Sgt. Jared Martin, 519th Signal Company*





## *Brigade Soldiers in Action!*



*A round is expelled from 54th Signal Battalion Pfc. Gina Castillo's M16 rifle during training at the range near Camp Buerhing, Kuwait; Staff Sgt. Jonathan Menendez, 54th Signal Battalion, checks his score at the range; Sgt. 1st Class Pearl Welch, 56th Signal Company First Sergeant, demonstrates proper technique during combatives training; Sgt. Jeremiah Young, Brigade S1, is ALWAYS smiling; Pfc. Casey Donnelly, HHC 160th, takes a shot to the side of his head during clinch drills.*

*Brigade Soldiers in Action! photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Chargualaf, Sgt. 1st Class Francis Mensah, Spc. Jacob Massey and Christopher Dunne, 160th Signal Brigade Public Affairs.*



## *Brigade Soldiers in Action!*



*Company C, 63rd Signal Battalion deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan to support 25th Signal Battalion's mission. As they prepared to return to Ft. Gordon, Ga., all vehicles and equipment required a Customs inspection. Clockwise, from top left: Soldiers gather around the fire to warm themselves; a Soldier lays out his equipment as a Customs agent stands by to inspect; after initial inspection, vehicles must be thoroughly washed before being allowed on departing aircraft.*



*Left: Spc. Richard Halverson and Pvt. Steven Wagy, 580th Signal Company, string cable inside the South Technical Control Facility compound in Bagram, Afghanistan.*



## *Equal Opportunity Advisor: Prepping the Battlefield*

*Story by Sgt. 1st Class Tyshia Taylor  
160th Signal Brigade Equal opportunity Advisor*

In June of 2010 when I first arrived at the 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade to be the Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA), I thought this assignment would be interesting but not very challenging...was I wrong!

As my time here comes to an end and I sit back and reflect, I am realizing that this assignment was not only challenging but very rewarding. "Sgt. 1st Class Taylor, you have got to prep your battlefield!" was the best advice Command Sgt. Maj. Tyce gave me while serving in this position.

The EOA's "battlefield" is the commanders' organization. The footprint of this brigade is so vast that I had to drive, fly and convoy to reach many of my battlefields, but I did it. I learned that in order to prep my battlefield I had to build a rapport with the command teams throughout the brigade so they would open their organizations to me, which they did.

The most rewarding part of my mission was being able to help Commanders keep their fingers on the pulse of their organizations and being the sounding board and change agent for Soldiers throughout the theater.

I will be moving on soon to Ft. Belvoir Va., but Master Sgt. Carolyn Wilding from CENTCOM will replace me to continue the mission of ensuring that diverse Soldiers are treated the same...based on their merit, their fitness, and their capabilities.

It has been a pleasure serving you.

## **Notable Quotes:**

*"Behind every American in uniform stands a wife, a husband, a mom, a dad, a son or a daughter, a sister or brother. These families, these remarkable families are the force behind the force. They, too, are the reason we've got the finest military in the world."*

- President Barack Obama, at the launch of "Joining Forces," an initiative to raise awareness about military families, at the White House, April 12, 2011.

*"I think it's going to take sunshine, and by that I mean shining the light on it, talking about it, not sweeping it under the rug ... which means leaders have to talk about it, think about it, talk to their subordinates about it and put it up in front of everybody ... top down, bottom up approach."*

- former Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., at the fourth Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention summit titled "Achieving Cultural Change" March 29.



## Reenlistment Options: Making the Right Choice

*Story by Master Sgt. Michael McGee  
160th Signal Brigade Career Counselor*

Reenlistment Options are designed to give the Soldier the opportunity to have input in the direction of his/her military career. However, eligibility for various options depend on several factors such as current length of service, rank, etc.

With many factors involved in qualifying for options it's very important for Soldiers to utilize their Career Counselor as their primary source for determining which options they qualify for, especially since Retention Policy changes from time-to-time.

Once the options you qualify for are identified, there is one thing you should keep in mind. That is, in some cases the most desired option such as an assignment you've always wanted may not be the best choice career-wise. For example, if you are in a Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) that historically has high cut-off scores, you may want to reclassify into another specialty to increase your chances for promotion. This is just one example of possible factors to consider when making your choice.

Many of us have unique situations that affect what options may be best for us and our Families. When your time comes to make your decision ensure you utilize your Career Counselor or Battalion Reenlistment NCO to guide you through what options are available and which one is best for you. Lastly, please remember that reenlistment is not a right it's a privilege.



**Master Sgt. Michael McGee**  
**Brigade Retention NCO**



### ***More Than 460 Fans and Growing!***

The 160th Signal Brigade Facebook page covers major events from across the command. The page is updated regularly with photos and information, from awards and ceremonies to daily activities across the brigade. Follow us at:

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/160th-Signal-Brigade/  
87217168899](http://www.facebook.com/pages/160th-Signal-Brigade/87217168899)

### **160th Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office**

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## Safety Commentary

### **M16-series and M4 RIFLES M9 PISTOL**

**Point weapon into clearing barrel for all steps.**

1. Remove the magazine from the rifle.
2. Place the weapon on “safe”.
3. Lock the bolt/slide to the rear.
4. Visually inspect the chamber/remove any ammunition.
5. Let the bolt/slide go forward.
6. Place the weapon on “fire”.
7. Pull the trigger.

**For M16-series Rifles:**

8. Charge the weapon.
9. Place the weapon on “safe”.

**For M9 Pistols:**

8. Place the weapon “safe”.
9. Return weapon to holster.



*Step 3: Lock the bolt/slide to the rear.*



*Step 4: Visually inspect the chamber/remove any ammunition.*



## **Chaplains' Blessing Unit Ministry Team**

The past three months proved bountiful in ministry to the tremendous people associated with the best strategic signal brigade in the Army, our own 160<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade. Over Mar. 22-25 I made my way to Victory Base Compound (VBC) to once again visit my favorite South Carolinian National Guardsmen from the 151<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion.

I don't know how else to describe it but a *joyous* visit. I'm convinced every single 151<sup>st</sup> Soldier at VBC came out of the woodwork to say hello, and many others supported the combined Prayer Breakfast for the 151<sup>st</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalions. You can see the Battalion Commanders alongside the USFI J-6, Rear Admiral (select) Bond in the photo below. What a joy to hear the testimony of faith from these men and to see how God is blessing their units' perseverance. Go Gamecocks, 151st!



**Chaplain (MAJ) Scott Bullock  
Command Chaplain**

Last week I recall what my Mother often said, along with many other mothers I'm sure: "If at first you don't succeed, try and try again." That's exactly what the Brigade Unit Ministry did to get all our ministry team members to Camp Arifjan from April 3-7. Making our way to Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, on a space-a flight never happened, but we sure made our fine bi-annual training event happened right here at windy and quite dusty Arifjan. What a splendid event!



Now it's hard to believe over 10 months have quickly passed. I anticipate closing out these last two months running with gazelle-like intensity. I stole that allusion from Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* class we recently conducted here at Camp AJ. There's so much to do for God's glory with fleeting time, but I want to highlight some upcoming events. First, although this newsletter will be published after our next Brigade Prayer Breakfast on April 14<sup>th</sup>, I also anticipate the next *Chaplain's Waffle Breakfast* on May 5<sup>th</sup> in preparation for Mother's Day on May 8th.

That's right, are you ready to surprise your Mother? Don't forget! We'll have our Waffle Breakfast the preceding Thursday in honor and long-distance remembrance of our moms. Then shortly thereafter I look forward to coming for a several day visit with the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion.

Finally, I trust everyone will give my replacement a hearty welcome when he comes about the second week of June. CH (MAJ) Mike Reeves is coming from Ft. Stewart, GA, as the Installation Family Life Chaplain. Blessings Chaplain Reeves as you prepare to join the *Forged in Fire* team at Arifjan! And may God richly bless each of you spread throughout our far reaching area of operations.



**MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY**

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

I'm honored to be your 37th Chief of Staff. I want to assure you that I'm well aware of the challenges we face but equally aware of the opportunities we will have in the next four years to do a lot of good both for the Army and for the Nation.

My transition team did a great job helping me "see" our Army, and I want to share two of their observations

1. We are really good. We've accomplished everything that's been asked of us. Our Soldiers and their Families are proud, courageous, and resolute. Our leaders are effective, engaged, and innovative.
2. We are uncertain about the future. The missions in Iraq and Afghanistan appear to be stabilizing. The Nation's economic condition appears to be declining. Senior leaders are questioning our role.

We have been here before, and as I like to tell those who are interested in our Army, "I like the problem we have." We've never been better organized, better trained, or better equipped. Of course, that's at least in part because we've never been better resourced. As our resourcing changes, we'll change -- but we'll be changing from a position of great strength. That's why I like the problem we have.

Over the next few months and in collaboration with our Secretary of the Army, I'll share some thoughts with you about the role of our Army, how we will remain adaptable, how our Active and Reserve Components will contribute to maintaining our position as the Nation's decisive land force, and how we will remain the Nation's preeminent leadership experience.

The "talk on the street" is all about how resource constraints are coming and about how we must act to ensure a "soft landing." You won't hear that from me. I didn't take the job as your 37th Chief of Staff to orchestrate a "soft landing." I took the job as the 37th to team with an incredible group of senior military and civilian leaders to make our Army smarter, better, and more capable -- with the resources we are given -- so that we provide the Nation with the greatest number of options for an uncertain future.

We remain an Army at war. We will provide whatever it takes to achieve our objectives in the current fights. We will keep faith with our Families and with our Wounded.

One other thing you need to know about me. In my 37 years, I've been deployed several times to several different kinds of conflict. In each case, upon notification to deploy I was able to requisition nearly everything my unit needed. What I couldn't requisition was trust, discipline, and fitness. These qualities have to exist in every unit and in every Soldier of our Army all the time. When I come to visit your organization -- whether a tactical formation or part of our institutional Army -- I'll want to know what you're doing to develop a climate of trust, to ensure the discipline of your soldiers, and to increase the fitness of the Force.

I'm proud to serve with you.

Martin E. Dempsey  
37th Chief of Staff