

INSCOM Journal



Spring 2008

The Soldiers, their Families and Civilian employees of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command are very much a factor in the Global War on Terrorism, and continue to do their part to keep the rest of the country safe while in persistent conflict. (courtesy photo)

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Never forgotten

Spring 2008

BY Brian Murphy

INSCOM Public Affairs



Sgt. Taurean Harris was killed in action in Afghanistan while deployed with the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade's Task Force Lightning as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Aug. 2, 2007. (photo illustration by Brian Murphy)

With the American flag flying above at half staff, Soldiers stood in formation while distinguished guests and visitors avoided the heat under canopies as the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command honored Sgt. Taurean Harris during a Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., May 22.

The 22-year-old Soldier was killed in action in Afghanistan while deployed with the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade's Task Force Lightning as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Aug. 2, 2007.

"We put his name on our stone so that we would not forget him, and so that we will continue to walk his trail, and follow his lead," said Maj. Gen. David B. Lacquement, INSCOM's commanding general. "When we have tough days, we will remember Taurean. When we have days of ease, we will remember Taurean. For Taurean Harris is a Soldier. It has been our great honor to know Taurean Harris, to serve with him and to know that he is our Soldier too."

Country boy

The importance of a positive role model in a child's life cannot be overstated.

Yolanda Wagner, Harris' mother, lived on the South Side of Chicago and knew that it was no place she wanted to raise a family. In hopes of keeping her sons away from the gang lifestyle that she saw too many young boys fall into, Wagner moved more than 800 miles away to the small town of Liberty, Mississippi.

With a population of just over 600 people, Wagner felt Liberty was the perfect place to raise a family.

“Everyone knows everyone, so if one of my boys got into trouble, I’d know about it before they even got home,” she said.

Away from the big-city pitfalls that worried Wagner, Harris excelled. He was an honor student and member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Amite County High School. During his four years of JROTC, Harris formed a close bond with Maj. David Terrell, who was in charge of the JROTC program then and now serves as the school’s principal.

And if Terrell wasn’t enough of a positive influence in Harris’ life, he had his own mother, who works security at Dixon Correctional Facility, in Jackson, Miss., to guide him down the right path.

“Taurean was always a good child,” Wagner said. “He never got himself into any trouble. He never got into a fight growing up, except maybe with his brothers. Even though he was only a child, he was the person everyone in the family looked up to. And because he was so friendly and was always smiling, people just seemed to be drawn to him.”

Harris enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating in 2003. He graduated from Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and then went to Advanced Individual Training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., where he learned how to become a heater and air conditioning mechanic. Upon completion, Harris was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, before being assigned to the 513th MI Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga.

In December 2006, Harris volunteered for a yearlong deployment to Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan with Task Force Lightning.

First impression

Sgt. Vladimir Ayala will never forget the first time he crossed paths with Harris during preparation for the Task Force Lightning deployment in September 2006.

“Our entire formation got dropped and had to do push-ups because he was telling jokes in the back of the formation,” said Ayala, a human intelligence collector with the 202nd MI Battalion, 513th MI Brigade.

While mass punishment is never enjoyable, Ayala couldn’t stay mad at Harris.

“He had such an infectious personality,” he said. “He was this big, muscular guy and he was always happy. He’d just bust out laughing for no reason and the next thing you know, everyone was laughing.”

With a linebacker-like frame and a hearty laugh, Harris easily commanded whatever room he entered.

“He was sort of a contradiction,” said Lt. Col. John Birdsong, Task Force Lightning commander. “Here was this big, imposing figure, but there wasn’t anything scary about him. He was just a nice guy, who really cared about people. He was funny, and he always had that big grin on his face. People were naturally drawn to him.”

As fate would have it, Ayala was transferred to Kala Gush, Afghanistan in February and ended up on the same HUMINT team with Harris and Sgt. Michael Tang. Almost immediately, the trio formed a close, family-like bond.

“There was a stereotype with some of the commanders over there that intelligence Soldiers weren’t real Soldiers,” Ayala said. “They didn’t think we could shoot, run and communicate, and we took that personally. We knew we could do the same thing the infantry guys could, and we set out to prove it.”

Over the next several months, Harris, Ayala and Tang spent a good chunk of their days patrolling the barren mountains

and desolate villages of Northern Afghanistan. To help pass the time, the guys would talk about anything and everything – ranging from music to sports to family. Once Ayala and Harris learned they both had young daughters, the girls often became the topic of conversation during those long summer days.

Because Harris' father wasn't a part of his life, Taurean did everything he could to ensure his daughter, Tiana, had a better upbringing than he did. Harris planned on one day becoming the sergeant major of the Army, and late-night conversations with Ayala in Afghanistan had a way of ending up focusing on Tiana's future – whether it was saving money for college or just making sure her day-to-day needs were met. Even though "his angel" was half a world away, she was never far from his mind.

"The day before my baby was killed he called me," Wagner said. "We were visiting family in Chicago and he wanted to make sure that her second birthday was done right. He wanted to make sure we had bought her presents and that we took plenty of pictures. He loved his baby so much, and he wanted to make sure we gave her everything he could think of."

The next day, Harris was killed when their convoy came under attack while returning back to their forward operating base after completing a mission.

When the deployment ended and Task Force Lightning was set to return to Georgia, Wagner was faced with the difficult decision of whether to attend the welcome home ceremony or not.

"I was in denial," Wagner said. "I couldn't deal with it, and I wanted to be there when the unit returned because they were the last people to be with him. I wanted to hear from them what happened to my baby, and see for myself that it really happened. I wanted to see that he didn't get off that plane with everyone else."

"Physically, he wasn't there, but emotionally, he was there with every one of those Soldiers," Wagner continued. "Until then, my heart was so heavy and I was so sad, but the moment I went and met with those Soldiers served as such a blessing. It lifted the burden from my heart."

"Seeing all of those people who cared for my baby, I didn't want to cry anymore," she said. "I wanted to be there for them because they're still in the military. They still have a job to do. I told them what Taurean would have said – 'get tough.' I wanted them to see that I am okay, and I wanted to make sure that they were okay."

Larger than life

"One time, we were on vacation in Chicago and out of nowhere, this man jumped out and started hollering, 'The Chicago Bears need you! The Chicago Bears need you!'" Wagner said. "We just started cracking up. That's the kind of stuff that really happened with Taurean."

Even after his death, Harris still has a way of ending up the center of attention.

"When I left Fort Gordon and was heading home, I stopped at a gas station in Alabama," Wagner said. "When we went inside, my son had a t-shirt with Taurean's picture on it. The cashier asked me what the shirt meant, and I said that my son was killed in Afghanistan. Before I could finish what I was saying, this complete stranger – a white man in Alabama – had come around from behind the counter with tears in his eyes and could barely speak. He said, 'Ma'am, could I hug you?'"

"I was shocked and really didn't know what to say, so I said 'okay' and he hugged me," she said. "And then the other people in the store came up and rubbed me on my shoulders. I was so overwhelmed that I had to go into the bathroom for a minute and take a couple deep breaths. When I came out, the guy was gone."

That random act of kindness from a stranger in an Alabama gas station helped the healing process for Harris' family, and especially for Wagner.

"Because so many people were there for me, when I hear of a fallen Soldier, I reach out," Wagner said. "I feel what they feel, so I want them to know that I'm with them. Just like moms did for me, I'm now there for other moms.

"I've been so overwhelmed by people in general," Wagner said. "So many people taking the time to tell me they care. It's helped a lot. People have been so kind to me, and it's not just one or two people – everyone I come in contact with has been really kind and supportive."

Back in Mississippi, Amite County High School dedicated a wing of the building in memory of Harris, and his is the first name on their wall of fame. Nearby, there is a stone in the West Jerusalem Baptist Church cemetery that honors Harris. Amite County officials also have plans to add Harris's name to their veterans-of-foreign-war memorial, near the county courthouse.

Harris is also honored at Fort Gordon, where a motor pool with a plaque bearing his likeness and his name were dedicated to his memory. And finally, Harris' name was added to the INSCOM memorial wall in front of the headquarters building at Fort Belvoir.

"The unit Sergeant Harris served in, the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, will forever know of him, and remember him as a dedicated Soldier, a happy warrior, a man of whom his brigade commander said, 'he always wanted to do better,'" Lacquement said. "But all of these stones together don't show us the entirety of Sergeant Harris' life, they just show a few of the many places he has touched the lives of others and where he will always be remembered. They remind us of his spirit, and his get-it-done attitude, and of his honor, and of his sacrifice."

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CSI: INSCOM

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BY Capt. Aimee Jaskot

NGIC Public Affairs



Lt. Gen. John F. Kimmons, the Army G-2, was one of the guest speakers as more than 120 representatives from across the intelligence community gathered for the Biometric-Enabled Intelligence Combatant Command Summit, in Charlottesville, Va., March 4-6. (courtesy photo)

In the movies, a savvy detective is able to turn a partial fingerprint from a crime scene into the evidence needed to stop a serial killer. While that is an over-the-top dramatization, this type of technology has been helping police identify criminals for decades.

The ability to collect biometric signatures – including fingerprints, voice prints, iris scans, and other unique, measurable characteristic of an individual – is now utilized by deployed Soldiers to identify insurgents worldwide.

“The ability to positively identify individuals allows servicemembers to strip away the cloak of anonymity from insurgents, giving our forces a powerful new capability in dealing with irregular conflict,” said Dave McKee, the U.S. Central Command Biometrics Automated Toolset project manager. “As each day passes, our forces are becoming more and more creative in the use and execution of biometrics on the battlefield, making it virtually impossible for any insurgency or combatant recidivist to hide. As with any newly fielded capability, the techniques, tools, and procedures of biometrics are rapidly changing.”

Attempts to codify the roles and responsibilities for biometrics have resulted in a recently-published Defense Department Directive on Defense Biometrics and efforts by the Defense Intelligence Agency to codify Biometric-Enabled Intelligence, or BEI, which is simply the association of biometric signatures with other collected intelligence.

The use of BEI has been so successful in current operations that the Army, the DoD, and the intelligence community are looking at how to incorporate it into all military operations. While BEI is widely used in the Central Command area of responsibility, it isn't fully implemented in other Combatant Commands.

To help facilitate the implementation, the National Ground Intelligence Center hosted the Biometric-Enabled Intelligence Combatant Command Summit, where more than 120 representatives from across the intelligence community discussed the future of the technology, in Charlottesville, Va., March 4-6.

Opening remarks at the summit were made by Lt. Gen. John F. Kimmons, the Army G-2, who lauded the effect BEI has had on operations overseas. He praised BEI for putting intelligence capability into the hands of non-intelligence Soldiers and for being easily sharable with our allies, and repeatedly complimented its effectiveness, calling it is "hugely productive."

With the use of BEI, he said, "you don't have to speak anyone's language to positively identify people."

Through the course of the summit, representatives from each COCOM presented their viewpoints on the utility and challenges of using BEI in their AORs.

"The COCOMs were able to demonstrate through their presentations that there is not a uniform model of application, that each COCOM faces different challenges," said Russ McIntyre, a DIA analyst and one of the summit organizers.

The attendees then worked to identify the major issues for the future in areas such as information sharing, analysis, watchlisting and architecture. NGIC representatives co-facilitated each of these working groups, making key contributions to their efforts.

"NGIC pioneered BEI concepts and capability in 2004 to address the Improved Explosive Device problem," said Greg Sieminski, acting chief of NGIC's Biometric Intelligence Project. "Since then, NGIC has demonstrated how critical and valuable it is to have an analytical capability that provides the 'so what' behind the growing number of biometric encounters in the battlespace. Without BEI, the collection, storage and matching operations conducted by theater elements and the Biometric Fusion Center would have little value to the war-fighter.

"While NGIC will continue to provide BEI support to CENTCOM, as well as to the other COCOMs as they expand their collection efforts, we would like to see them stand up their own BEI capability in accordance with their assigned intelligence production responsibilities," Sieminski said. "We are eager to assist them in this process so that they too can harness the power of BEI, not just to address irregular warfare problems but any intelligence problem where individuals, networks or populations are of intelligence interest, such as terrorism, weapons proliferation, drug trafficking, and foreign intelligence operations."

The potential of BEI looks very strong for the Army, the Defense Department and the intelligence community.

"We are not near the end of this at all," McIntyre said. "We are just at the beginning, and there's still a lot of work to do. We have scratched the surface of the types of signatures to collect."

The fact that BEI will have a future within the military is certain, for the utility of biometrics as an enabler to intelligence has been demonstrated on the battlefield.

"The great part of biometrics is it's forever," Kimmons said. "The signatures we capture today will last as long as the individual lives, or beyond. Biometrics is not a solution, but an enormously powerful enabler."

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Raising the bar

Spring 2008

BY Staff Sgt. Christopher Fincham

116th MI Group



After more than 26 years of service, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Leonard “West” Lewis, the senior warrant officer advisor to the commander of 116th Military Intelligence Group, became the first and only Soldier within the 352S career field to be promoted to the highest grade of warrant officer, Feb. 1. (courtesy photo)

The ranks of the Army warrant officer are historically known to be composed of specialized troops – technical experts within their respective career fields.

Not every Soldier is cut out for inclusion in this exclusive corps, which makes up a small percentage of the Army’s total force. Even more exclusive is the rank of chief warrant officer 5, which makes up only .02 percent of the Army.

After more than 26 years of service, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Leonard “West” Lewis, the senior warrant officer advisor to the commander of 116th Military Intelligence Group, became the first and only Soldier within the 352S career field to be promoted to the highest grade of warrant officer, Feb. 1.

“Twenty-five years ago I didn’t have any goals set until I met two great warrant officers in our career field. Just working with those individuals help me set goals to reach for,” Lewis explained. “You have those individuals that do the impossible and you say, ‘I want to be like them,’ so you work hard to achieve that goal.”

With his goals on his mind, Lewis took a rather untraditional and unexpected route on his way to this significant achievement.

Not part of the plan

Growing up in a military family with two brothers and two sisters, Lewis considered Fort Knox, Ky., home. While his father, an Army engineer and military police investigator, retired from active duty service in 1979, Lewis made it very clear that he had no intention of making the Army a career.

“I flat told my dad that there was no way on God’s earth that I would follow in his footsteps,” he said.

But two years out of high school he joined the Army in search of the structure the military lifestyle offered.

“I missed the camaraderie that you have with the military,” he said. “I missed the discipline.”

Lewis enlisted in 1981 as an electronic warfare non-Morse interceptor, and found himself in Pensacola, Fla.

“To be honest with you, when they said we had to learn Morse-code, I told them I don’t want to be here. You either love it or hate it. I became good at it, and I enjoyed it because it was a challenge. So at that point in my life I realized that to be successful I had to work very hard.”

Assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, following his training, Lewis discovered quickly that things outside of the school-house were a bit different. Using Vietnam-era equipment, much of his time was spent sitting in a hut copying code. Not the most awe-inspiring job in the world, but for Lewis, searching for the “unknown” became intriguing.

“When you think of signals – you realize they’re all around us in the environment – you take a receiver, a demodulator, you collect the signal out of the air, and you break it for intelligence. It is fascinating to me when you think of all the information that is around us and we’re totally unaware of it.”

Taking off

While searching out the unknown motivated him to excel within the military intelligence field, the opportunity to fulfill a promise led him in a very different direction.

“I had a brother who passed away about 14 years ago from muscular dystrophy,” he said. “He loved anything to do with helicopters and I promised him one day that I’d be a pilot. He always wanted to fly, and we had always talked about it. And I told him that if I ever had the opportunity to fly, that I would do it for him.”

Lewis went on to fly helicopters for nine years in the Army Reserves, before realizing that he “missed Active Duty.”

The decision to return to active duty in May 1995 meant that Lewis went from chief warrant officer 3 to specialist overnight, after resigning from the Reserves.

“It was an opportunity to do something that I really liked – being on active duty and on the SIGINT side,” he said. “I came back on active duty, busted my butt, and 18 months later I was a staff sergeant. The Army then said, ‘Here’s an opportunity for you to fly again. Guess what – you’re going to fly the Apache.’ So it kind of took me on a different tour for a while to achieve those goals, but I never lost interest in signal analysis.”

Yankin’ and bankin’

While the chance to get back into signal analysis lured him to active duty, the chance to fly one of the world’s most elite attack helicopters was considered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“It’s hard to describe this feeling of having a \$17-million aircraft and you’re flying it at tree-top level, yankin’ and bankin’, blowing stuff up, shooting a gun – it’s an unbelievable feeling,” he said.

Lewis, a warrant officer once again, flew Apaches at Fort Bragg until 2003, when a serious back injury took him out of the pilot seat.

“I got injured and was paralyzed for 11 days. I was running and I slipped and landed on my back. It didn’t happen right away; a cyst formed and compressed my spinal cord. The injury actually happened in 1999, but it just took time to develop,” Lewis explained.

After recovering from the injury, and armed with a new point of view, Lewis’ desire to fly had diminished.

“Take-offs are optional, but landings are mandatory. For me, I’m not a young cowboy anymore; it takes a different mentality. The older you get, you start to get a little wiser,” Lewis said.

Later in 2003, Lewis had the opportunity to go work for the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command on a special project to help develop an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle helicopter. Following that, he requested a return to military intelligence.

A lot of experience

Throughout his unique career path, Lewis credits his success to the unwavering support he receives from his wife, Beth, of 18 years, as well as his three children.

“She’s my best friend,” he said. “I just can’t say enough about her. It’s just great to have that support chain. When I injured my back and was paralyzed, that takes a lot out of a family. There’s the uncertainty of where you’ll be tomorrow. It’s had an impact that you don’t take anything for granted. The sacrifices that my family has made for me to get to this level, there’s no way in the world that I can thank my family enough.”

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Not just for kicks

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BY Brian Murphy

INSCOM Public Affairs



Hector Cuevas, of the National Ground Intelligence Center, was named the starting center midfielder and captain of the All-Army soccer team. He's also played at the professional level in Germany, spent six seasons on the All-Army team and finds time to coach a girl's soccer team during his free time. (photo illustration by Brian Murphy)

Drenched in sweat, he methodically heads off the soccer pitch to the locker room where heavy doses of ice packs, sports bandages and ointment await. That night, a lengthy warm bath will be mandatory to help the aches and pains that come with two-a-day practices when you're closing in on 40.

Long gone is the typical 20-something's training regimen of beer, pizza and late nights, and while it might not sound glamorous, there isn't another place in the world Hector Cuevas would rather be.

Cuevas is a chief warrant officer with the National Ground Intelligence Center, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. But for 30 days, his role as an imagery intelligence technician is put on hold so he can focus on his new role – starting center midfielder and captain of the All-Army soccer team.

Cuevas is one of 18 Army players facing the best the Air Force, Marines and Navy have to offer in the Armed Forces soccer tournament at Cherry Point, N.C., the first week of February.

"It is a tremendous honor to be able to represent the Army," he said. "This is my sixth season on the All-Army team and I feel lucky to be a part of this."

While Cuevas is originally from New York City, when he closes his eyes and thinks back, some of his fondest memories come from Fort Campbell, Ky., where his mom first signed him up to play soccer back in 1976. After playing in a few Kentucky recreational leagues, the family packed up and moved to Germany, where they would spend the next seven years and where Cuevas truly blossomed into an above-average talent on the soccer pitch. By the time the family relocated back to New York, scholarship offers were already pouring in.

“I’ve always taken soccer very seriously,” he said. “Up until the terrorist attack in 2001, I’ve always been very serious about my training regime and pushing myself to play against the best competition available.”

No one could ever question Cuevas’ hard work and dedication when it came to soccer. Unfortunately, the same could not be said about his off-the-field commitments.

“I originally had a full-ride scholarship to play soccer at Fairleigh Dickinson in New Jersey back in 1990,” he said. “I graduated from high school and spent two years partying a little too much and ultimately had to make a very hard life decision, and I joined the Army. That being said, it’s probably been the best decision I’ve ever made in my life.”

While Cuevas was ready to grow up and embrace a radically different lifestyle, he wasn’t willing to give up soccer just yet.

“I’ve been able to play soccer pretty much everywhere I’ve been throughout my career,” he said. “While I was in Germany, thanks largely to my supportive chain of command, I was able to play on a third division team. It was a great experience, but I had to quit after a year. My first child was born and the team could only offer me a one-year contract.”

With family obligations his chief concern, Cuevas walked away from the chance to continue his dream of playing professional soccer and opted to stay Army. It was only a matter of time before Cuevas and the All-Army soccer program crossed paths.

At 5 feet 8 inches, Cuevas isn’t one of the tallest players, and at 35-years-old he certainly isn’t one of the quickest. But now, the flow of the game comes much easier to him because he plays on a more cerebral level.

“In those days he was younger and a little bit faster,” said Sgt. 1st Class Agustin Mendez, who has coached the All-Army soccer team for 12 years. “Now, he’s not quite as fast, but he’s much wiser, stronger and a more mature player.”

Mendez should know – back in 1994, during Cuevas’ first year with the All-Army soccer team, he played alongside Mendez.

“He’s got very good ball control,” said Mendez, who is also a chaplain assistant at Fort Myer, Va. “He distributes the ball very [well]. He’s a playmaker – someone who looks to set up his teammates.”

When deciding on who would captain this year’s team, Mendez wanted someone with experience, but most importantly, he wanted someone who the rest of the team respected. As Mendez put it, Cuevas was an easy choice.

“In my book, the captain position is an extension of the coaching staff,” he said. “I can’t be everywhere at once, but I never have to worry when things are left in his hands. I look at him as an extension of myself, and the team certainly gives him the same respect.”

One of the reasons teammates may take to Cuevas is because he’s always been up front and honest with them.

“When he was younger he was a very good player, but he was kind of wild,” Mendez said. “Now, with all the experience

he has, he's very willing to pass it along to the younger players on the team. He's learned from his mistakes in the past and works with the younger guys to help them from making the same mistakes."

Cuevas knows he can't play soccer forever, so he relishes each moment – two-a-days, ice packs and warm baths included – as he heads into what very well might be his final tournament.

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The path ahead

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BY Sgt. Jason A. Merrell

470th MI Brigade



The 470th MI Brigade has begun the complex transformation from a theater intelligence group to a theater intelligence brigade, and is on track to become the largest MI brigade in the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. (courtesy photo)

Five years after the abuses that transpired in Abu Ghraib prison, the military intelligence community is still feeling lingering effects of the resulting skepticism, and continues the fight to prove itself as an invaluable part in the Global War on Terrorism, according to Col. Cheryl A. Harris, commander of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade.

The 470th MI Brigade is at the forefront of this battle and is on track to become the largest MI brigade in the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command.

During a 2006 visit, Maj. Gen. George Fay, the lead author of the Army's investigation into the scandal at Abu Ghraib, praised the Soldiers of the 470th MI Brigade as "heroes of America and the solution to this problem."

However, there is a long path ahead for the 470th MI Brigade and its members as they go through the complex transformation from a theater intelligence group to a theater intelligence brigade.

"We have been working this transformation process for several years," Harris said. "As we continue to work toward transformation and support the war, there are some issues with personnel and just how we're going to manage that transformation. We are working courses of action to do that now."

Over the next few years, the brigade is looking at a number of changes and challenges before reaching this goal, including the transformation of operations battalion, which requires many shifts in staffing and personnel that have slowed the process.

As of now, the operations battalion fulfills the manning of the 470th MI Brigade's Analysis and Control Element –

specializing in a number of intelligence fields, including human intelligence, counterintelligence and signals intelligence.

Once the transition is complete, the operations battalion will become the 511th MI Battalion.

“Many of the issues that we face are complex,” said Command Sgt. Maj. George Range, command sergeant major, 470th MI Brigade. “All we can do is keep everyone informed as to what the ripple effect is for any decisions that are made.”

Another aspect of the brigade’s transformation will be the standing up of a new interrogation element, the 14th MI Battalion.

“It’s the Army’s third iteration of a purpose-built battalion for interrogation missions,” Range said.

As of now, the 14th MI Battalion is expected to stand up in October, and affiliated Soldiers are expected to start coming in early spring.

“I think it’s obvious that the linchpin for this organization is that it is seen as the way ahead for the Army, if not the military, as far as interrogation is concerned,” Range said.

The intelligence community reached a milestone when ground was broken June 5, 2007, for the INSCOM Detention Training Facility, a first of its kind for the Defense Department.

“With the IDTF, and two interrogation battalions, it’s no doubt that this is going to be the way forward,” Range said.

With such a large focus on interrogation, the 470th MI Brigade has become a valuable asset in the Global War on Terrorism. Even when the 201st MI Battalion was deployed in support of joint task force missions in Iraq, the brigade’s primary mission remained in Latin America.

“Our major role in the Global War on Terrorism, aside from our direct support in Iraq, is to be the Army’s vigilance in Latin America, due to its transient nature for possible terrorist activity,” Harris said.

While Latin America has not been the focal point in the Global War on Terrorism, countries in the region have struggled with domestic terrorism for decades and international terrorist groups have at times used the region as a battleground to advance their causes, according to the Congressional Research Service.

This is the priority that the 470th MI Brigade has revolved around for several decades. Only a few years ago, the 470th MI Brigade was located in Puerto Rico, where it had been reactivated after years of operating in Panama.

With such deep roots in the South American region, the 470th MI Brigade is at the forefront for all related intelligence efforts.

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