

NEWSLETTER

ALWAYS CONSTANT

51st Expeditionary Signal Battalion - Enhanced



ISSUE TWO | FEBRUARY 2026 | VOLUME THREE

Companies

HIGHLANDERS



ATLAS



BRUINS



COBRAS



Commander's Corner

The new year is off to a busy start as our teams have been hard at work preparing for I Corps support, including missions to Keen Edge in Japan, the 62nd Medical Brigade on JBLM, JPMRC in Alaska, and Cobra Gold in Thailand. Looking ahead, we will continue our momentum with upcoming missions supporting SN/BK in the Philippines and the train-up and execution of Courage Lethality. By the end of all that, we will have 40 teams in the fight around the world. I want to recognize all our companies and Soldiers for their dedication and hard work in setting the conditions for success. Your efforts uphold the proud tradition of excellence that defines this battalion. February will also bring important events, including the State of the Battalion Address and CSM Atkinson's farewell as he prepares for retirement. Let's continue to make 2026 a year of success and pride! **ALWAYS CONSTANT!**



CSM's Corner

As we end the month of January, we will continue to focus on preparing and pushing teams to various locations throughout our area of operations to support various units throughout JBLM. These missions are setting the conditions of future operations. This month the Bruins hosted E6 and the Hounds hosted E7 on a grueling PT session. The Battalion had nine Soldiers attend and graduate from the Basic Leaders Course this month with SPC Partel making the Commandants List, job well done. The Battalion also conducted the Promotion Board where SPC Forton, SPC Melgar, SPC Philip, and SPC Olivas were recommend for promotion to Sergeant and SGT Myers recommended for promotion to Staff Sergeant, congrats and well-deserved. We ended the month with executing another Mercury Academy focusing on training and developing our junior leaders. Overall, great work Mercury Battalion. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. **Always Constant!**



XO's Corner

Mercury Battalion launched into the new year with unwavering momentum. January began with Quarterly Training Briefs (QTBs) and professional development initiatives, where NCOs emphasized team building and Officers focused on lessons learned from Battalion and Brigade S6 operations. While preparing SNN teams for Operation Pathways missions and MSC FTX support, the Battalion also prioritized efforts on reorganizing the Brigade Motorpool to support the 54th MP Company's redeployment and successfully executed Equipment Redistribution and Divesture Sites (ERDS), turning in 51 pieces of equipment. Additionally, we deployed Keen Edge teams to Japan, provided critical support for the 62nd MED BDE's FTX, and will conclude the month by deploying teams to Thailand for Cobra Gold and Hanuman Guardian. I remain deeply impressed by the dedication and excellence of the Soldiers and Leaders of Mercury Battalion. Always Constant!**Always Constant!**

S1's Corner

S1s Corner: Understanding Leave Approval Authority In the last few weeks, we have noticed there is some confusion in regard to the Army Regulation for Leave and Passes. Knowing who approves your leave is a key part of managing your time off. According to Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-10, the authority to approve leave is delegated to different command levels based on the type and length of the absence. For most types of leave, your company commander is your first point of contact. Company-level commanders have the authority to approve ordinary leave requests of up to 30 days. For longer periods of leave, or for specific types of leave, the approval authority moves up the chain of command. Battalion commanders typically approve leave requests that are for more than 30 days, but less than 60. For leave outside of the continental U.S. (OCONUS), the approval authority is generally a Brigade-level or O-6 level commander. Always submit your leave requests through the proper channels and with enough time for them to be processed and approved at the correct level. **Always Constant!**



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S3's Corner

January was a month fully dedicated to mission preparation and execution for the S3 shop. The NETOPS team was busier than ever, ensuring teams were ready to support Keen Edge in Japan and 62nd MED during their FTX, while simultaneously setting conditions for Cobra Gold in Thailand. CPT Michaelson in FUOPs worked tirelessly to plan all the Pacific Pathways missions, laying the groundwork for success. He also began setting conditions for Courage Lethality in April and the critical CPXs leading up to it. Meanwhile, the CUOPs team kept day-to-day operations running smoothly, ensuring the Battalion stayed on track while preparing for our range density weeks in February. The S3 shop continues to drive mission success and readiness, and January's efforts have set the stage for an impactful year ahead. Great work, team—let's keep the momentum going! **Always Constant!**



Chaplain's Corner

In January, the UMT had the privilege of walking alongside HHC CPL Beat during an important milestone in his life—his marriage. The UMT provided pre-marital counseling, officiated, and supported the wedding ceremony, helping prepare the couple not only for their special day but for a strong and healthy marriage ahead. We celebrate this joyful beginning and extend our heartfelt congratulations to CPL Beat and his spouse as they start this new chapter together. To begin the new year, the UMT also gathered with the Top 5 Command Team for a Spiritual Luncheon. In a time of constant and unpredictable change in the world, we shared meaningful conversation about how Soldiers—and especially command teams—can remain prepared, resilient, and spiritually grounded. Over lunch, we discussed the importance of inner readiness, spiritual strength, and leadership that is rooted in character and faith. The time of fellowship and reflection strengthened our shared commitment to care for Soldiers holistically in the months ahead. **Always Constant!**



Hounds...

Greetings Soldiers, Friends, and Family of Hound Company. January has been a busy month preparing for high tempo training coming up. The battalion staff have been busy preparing SNN teams from the line companies for missions here in JBLM, in Alaska, and across the Pacific. Teams of communicators can't accomplish their missions without NETOPS activating satellite missions, S4 ensuring funds are allocated, S1 processing soldier readiness actions, and maintenance preparing equipment for operation. These, and many others in HHC, are essential to the success of the Battalion's SNN teams, and therefore the Battalion's mission. Outside of that busy work, we will kick off February validating the company's mission as a Headquarters through a communications exercise followed by a Command Post Exercise. Testing our command and control functions in an austere field environment is a difficult but rewarding opportunity to train and develop our team of professional leaders. **Raise Hell!**



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Atlas...

In January, A Co launched several key initiatives to enhance operational readiness, improve facilities, and foster esprit de corps. Following their return from HBL, Alpha Company leadership attended the Holiday Reception hosted by the 22nd CSB command team, COL Joel Feltz and CSM Anthony Hill, reinforcing camaraderie and professional relationships. The company is actively preparing for Pacific Pathway missions, deploying 10 nodes to support operations such as Keen Edge, Cobra Gold, and Salaknib/Balikatan, while also providing local support to MSCs during the Courage Lethality Exercise. Over the next 30 days, efforts are focused on mission preparation through individual readiness checks, team rehearsals, and COMMEXs, with a transition to a 3-man team structure to optimize operational capacity and maximize team availability. During the Battalion CPX/FTX, A Co will validate its proficiency in MET #3 by prioritizing CP operations and ensuring sustained communication support for dispersed teams. Additionally, the company is leveraging the Equipment Redistribution Divesture Site to expedite equipment turn-ins and replacements, working closely with adjacent supply personnel and the BN S4/PBO. Notably, SPC(P) Renard Philip and SPC(P) Conner Olivas were recommended for promotion to Sergeant at the Promotion Board, with SPC(P) Philip graduating from the Basic Leaders Course and earning a distinguished spot on the Commandant's List. **Always Constant!**



Bruins...

Bravo Company has had a high-tempo January, focusing on mission readiness and field training support. The company conducted critical COMMEXes to ensure all teams are proficient in their technical and tactical duties for future deployments. Concurrently, Bravo Company continues to provide outstanding support to the 62D Medical Brigade's FTX, with six teams currently integrated and enabling robust communication networks across the brigade. Looking ahead, the company is diligently preparing for the BDE CPX and its upcoming missions as part of Pacific Pathways this February, ensuring all personnel and equipment are set for the strategic deployment. Culminating a month of hard work and achievement, we congratulate SPC Garza and SPC Foster on their graduation from the Basic Leader Course (BLC). Their dedication and leadership potential are a great asset to the team. **Rise Above!**



Cobras...

Greetings Cobra Family! Over the past month, Cobra Company has demonstrated exceptional readiness and teamwork through rigorous training and logistical preparation. The company expanded its NVG driver qualifications, training 49 personnel and six from Alpha Company, ensuring proficiency in low-visibility operations. Logistical efforts included reorganizing rolling stock and preparing to move company containers next week. Collaborative initiatives included a Technical Integration Working Group (TIWG) with the 201st and final conditions checks for the 555th Engineer Brigade's upcoming COMMEX. Cobra Company is also postured for its own FTX COMMEX and ready to support the Battalion Staff Exercise (STAFFEX). Congratulations to two Cobra Company soldiers, SPC Hernandez and SPC Ozuna who graduated BLC! Additionally two Cobra soldiers received BDE coins, PFC Kane for his performance in the Soldier of the Quarter competition and CPL Roman for achieving commandant's list. Amidst the hard work, the Cobra Family celebrated a joyous milestone as SSG Cortez and his wife welcomed their daughter, Jasmine Yuzu Yokokita Cortez, into the world. **Always Constant!**



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Soldiers' Highlights February Soldiers' Birthdays



Master driver

FESSENDEN CONNOR MICHAEL
BIGGS SETH KAMERON
CASTRO ASHLEY VICTORIA
CORABO CHRISTIAN ANGELO
DELONEY FRANKLIN ELLIS
DIAZ DAMIEN JASON
FOSTER JONATHAN MICHAEL
FREE RILEY SCOTT
GRAY JARED A

GRIEGO TAYLOR BRANDON
GRIFFIN DANANGELO MAURICE
GUTIERREZ MACIAS BRYAN J
ISLAM DILLON SHAFIQUE
JESSUP JOSIAH MILES
JEWELL CHRISTIAN ANTONIO
LARMORE JR MORTON
LOGAN MALIK MAR KEIS
MAJOR JAKIYAH RENE

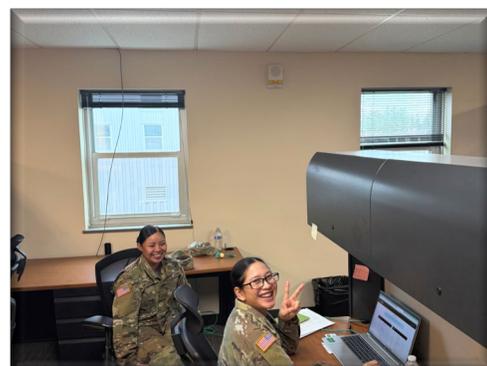
MANLEY IVETTE STEFANIE
MARFO EMMANUEL
MONTGOMERY MILLION MARKEL
PETTIT JONATHAN WYMAN
SANDERS NOAH ALLEN
SENIOR KEENAN GIOVANNI
STOCKMAN MORGAN ZACHARY
WEBSTER AVION DESHAWN
YOUNG SHEKEM KEMONTAI



HHC Farewell



HHC Farewell



Junior Soldiers in BN



E5 Promotion Board



E6 Promotion Board



Promotion to SGT



SFC Mitchell's Promotion



Promotion to SFC



Promotion to SFC



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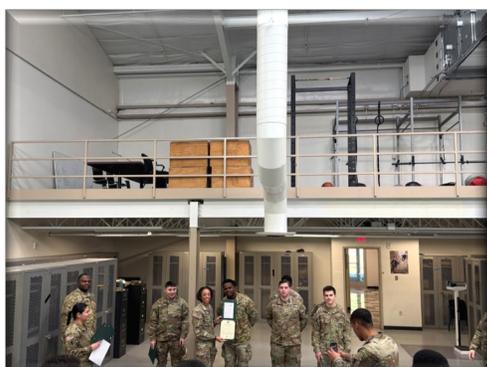
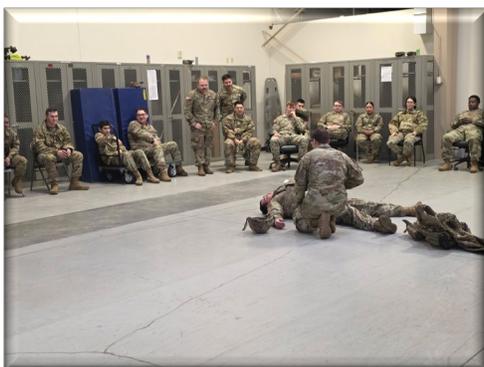
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Training



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51ST ESB-E UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pizza & Bowling		NAF Job Fair		Prayer Breakfast		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	BN FTX	BN FTX	BN FTX	BN FTX	DONSA & HOLIDAY	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
DONSA & HOLIDAY		BN Promotion Board				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Alpine Climbing Course				BN Polo Day	
					NCO Run	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

OFF DAYS
JBLM EVENTS
BN EVENTS

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		NAF Job Fair				JBLM Pickleball Tournament
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Saving time					SFH Basketball Tournament	
					AGSU	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		BN Promotion Board		LEGO Club	Lifeguard Training	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					BN Polo Day	
				Pool tournaments	NCO Run	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Pizza & Bowling						



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