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FULLY 'RECOVERED' FROM DEPLOYMENT, V CORPS SIGNAL COMPANIES GET RIGHT BACK TO TRAINING

By 1st Lt. Valencia Burns
440th Signal Battalion

DARMSTADT, Germany – After nearly six months of recovery and maintenance work that followed their deployment from Iraq, Soldiers from A and C Companies of V Corps' 440th Signal Battalion got right back to training, recently testing their ability to set up communications during a seven-day field exercise.



LT COL EDWIN DROSE
Soldiers from Companies A and C of V Corps' 440th Signal Battalion set up communications during the battalion's recent "Runner Strike" training exercise.

The field exercise, called "Runner Strike," ensured teams from each company could complete the technical set-up and tear-down of signal equipment in an hour or less.

"The teams are allotted this amount of time to complete (the) process in order to ensure that proper safety techniques and mechanisms are in place," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Bryant, an operations NCO from the corps' 22nd Signal Brigade.

During the first four days of the exercise, one "Cobra" Large Extension Node and six "Cobra/Gator" Small Extension Node teams supported the V Corps main and tactical command posts.

The remaining elements of both companies occupied sites throughout the training area in preparation for SEN certification training. That certification is based on tactics, techniques, and procedures developed over many years by the 22nd and compiled into a standardized process that ensures SEN teams are prepared to complete their communications mission as well as other vital "warfighter" tasks.

Following that process, SEN teams were allotted either 45 or 60 to complete the certification process. The certification tests a crew's technical abilities on tasks such as placement and grounding of shelters and generators; antenna set-up, and installation of cable connections.

The certifications didn't stop when the rain came. In fact, the wet weather just made the exercise more realistic.

"It is vital that Soldiers experience the necessary survival skills during all types of weather in the field to better prepare them for deployments and future exercises," said Staff Sgt. Dwayne Allen of A Company.

"The week was an excellent opportunity to train my soldiers for the duties we have to accomplish during war," added Sgt. Matthew Currey, a C Company team chief.

Eleven SEN teams were certified during the exercise.

