



AOC ANNUAL AWARD

The 54th Signal Regiment has been committed to Afghanistan since 4th December 2001 in the frame of NATO-led Operation HERACLES and Operation PAMIR. It has taken part in frequent missions beside British soldiers as it has developed collaboration with the British Army since the 1990's throughout bilateral exchanges and exercises with light electronic patrols. The Regiment has also been distinguished twenty-six times by the CJCS, and has received more than ten letters of commendation. The great value of the EW support provided to the CJTFs in the field in Afghanistan made their commanding officers praise the job of the 54th Signal Regiment. The quality of the interceptions, of the translations and the analyses of its NCOs helped to conduct several law and order operations. Their help has then become essential throughout the different commitments of the Regiment, which has been in self-relief for ten years. Some of its personnel have even been deployed four times to Afghanistan, which means two years of their life in the heart of the conflict.

Being involved in actions by the enemy contact and in the middle of hostile areas, the interceptions of the 54th Signal Regiment contributed to the protection of the Force and to the neutralization of several insurgent groups including their leaders. Jamming actions were decisive as they disorganized the enemy maneuver and prevented their communications.

Counter-IED jammers offered a very efficient protection during the transportation of the freight between Kabul and the areas to be supplied and provided a direct protection to the logistic convoys.

On 20th November 2013 in the courtyard of "Les Invalides", the French ACOS awarded the medal of "Valeur Militaire" (more or less equivalent to the US Commendation Medal) to the flag of the 54th Signal Regiment. Among the actions that needed to be underlined, one can mention the essential part played by "les traqueurs" (the French nickname of the EW specialists of the regiment is "les traqueurs d'ondes – the wave hunters"):

- From 25th June to 1st July 2009: members of the regiment intercepted communications between insurgents and took an active part to place them under arrest;
- On 26th July 2010, an EW support platoon was engaged but successfully carried out the location of an insurgents position, while maintaining the electronic surveillance, despite enemy direct fires;
- Attached to a special operation mountain capable infantry unit in January 2012, a light electronic warfare team successfully operated its location and interception equipment under fire; it then had the capability to monitor surveillance and to provide guidance to friendly troops retaliation fires. Supported units adopted the motto: "Not a single step forward without...".

Seasoned by those commitments worldwide, the Regiment enabled to protect hundreds of French and foreign servicepersons all along the ten past years out in Afghanistan. Under NATO framework, the 54th Signal Regiment permanently met the various requirements. It selflessly and professionally remains faithful to its motto "Never affirm anything that you cannot prove" throughout all its deployments, without any boastfulness and in all humility. The 54th Signal Regiment has developed close links with the 14th Signal Regiment, its British counterpart, in operations as well as during trainings around a productive partnership based on LEWTs (light electronic warfare teams). Several exercises are now organized every year between the two regiments, in the absolute spirit of the Lancaster House agreements.

Colonel BRUN DE SAINT HIPPOLYTE, commanding officer of the 54th Signal Regiment.

Nicolas BRUN DE SAINT HIPPOLYTE was born in 1970. He joined the Saint Cyr Military Academy in 1990. He has spent most of his career in Electronic Warfare units. He participated in a bilateral exchange with the 14th Signal Regiment (British EW regiment), during the creation of the brand new light EW patrols. His operational credentials include missions in former Yugoslavia, Kosovo and Lebanon. He served twice as a Staff Officer at the Army Staff headquarters in Paris where he was particularly in charge of the relationships between the Army and the Congress. As the commanding officer, he now develops new collaborations between his Regiment and the French Special Forces to provide EW support to the forward units.