ARMY COMMUNICATOR

September 2018



SFABS Looking for a Few Good Signaleers

Plus:

- *TechNet*
- *MOS Conversions*
- *Effective Mission Command*

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Submit articles, photos, graphics, videos, or story ideas to usarmy.gordon.signal-schl.mbx.army-communicator@mail.mil. For additional information, please call (706) 791-7384.

BG Christopher L. Eubank
Chief of Signal

CW5 Garth R. Hahn
Signal Corps Chief Warrant Officer

CSM Richard D. Knott
Signal Corps Command Sergeant Major

Nicholas M. Spinelli
Editor-in-Chief

On the Cover

SSG Standridge Cody, C TRP CAT 1333, utilizes ATAK software on his EUD to assess map data during a training event. US Army Photo by CPT Paul Adams.



Chief of Signal Christopher L. Eubank

Welcome to the Army Communicator! It's good to be back!

It is my distinct pleasure to bring back one of the best resources made for Communicators, by Communicators. This is our first edition since March of 2016 and a lot has happened since then. I've been told that for the last two years, one of the most common questions the Signal School received was, "when is the Communicator coming back?" In the two months I've been here, I've heard that question multiple times as well. I'm honored to be part of a publication that means so much to the Regiment, and thankful for the opportunity to bring it back.

Obviously, there are going to be some changes, the most obvious of which is distribution. The Communicator will now be a digital publication. In addition to keeping up with modern publishing trends, this new format will allow for a wider reach to a larger audience and more immediate feedback from our readers. It also allows us to experiment with the layout and incorporate new elements.



One thing that hasn't changed (and never will) is the Communicator's partnership with the Regiment. All content is created by Signal Soldiers/Communicators around the world, providing articles and photos that detail the latest technological innovations being deployed, various opportunities available for Signal Soldiers, and a view of day to day life as a member of the Regiment. As your 39th Chief of Signal, my goal is to build better leaders, teammates and communicators for not only the Signal Corps, but the Army. But I need your help to do it. Our goal is to explore trends in the Regiment and provide a place for members to share good ideas and lessons learned with their colleagues; none of this is possible without YOUR contributions. If you have an idea for an article or feature, please contact us at usarmy.gordon.signal-schl.mbx.army-communicator@mail.mil.

We've got a lot going on for our first issue back. Two officers provide insight into life as part of a Security Forces Assistance Brigade (SFAB) and the benefits of joining. We also have in depth coverage of the recently completed TechNet Conference held in Augusta, Georgia. This issue also covers the upcoming Enlisted MOS Convergence and what it means for Signal Soldiers.

Thanks again for joining us! Pro Patria Vigilans!

BG Chris Eubank
39th Chief of Signal

Regimental CWO Garth R. Hahn

Fellow Signaleers!

As we welcome the Army Communicator back into production, I want to take this time to introduce myself as the newest member of the Signal team and your Regimental Chief Warrant Officer. As the Sixth Regimental Chief Warrant Officer, I join a group of extremely dedicated Soldiers and civilians here at Fort Gordon. We are working tirelessly to provide operationally-focused and relevant leadership development, technical training and personnel policy for the Signal Regiment as we strive to develop leaders, teammates, and communicators that can meet the Army's mission.

The Army Communicator has a long history of providing important, and operationally-focused information to the Regiment. With this publication (the first after a two-year gap) we have a key resource back, and I ask you to consider contributing an article to help share your Signal story with the greater Signal community. For the Warrant Officers out there, you bring a unique perspective as technically strong and operationally experienced Officers; the Army Communicator is an excellent tool to use to share that perspective with the broader community.

I look forward to future editions of the Army Communicator magazine, and more importantly, to read how you present the story of today's Signal Corps.

Thank you to each of you for the great work you are doing for our Army and our Nation!

Pro Patria Vigilans!

CW5 Garth Hahn
Regimental Chief Warrant Officer



Regimental CSM Richard D. Knott

Fellow Communicators!

It is a momentous moment here at Fort Gordon, as we bring back the much-beloved Army Communicator. Throughout its history the Army Communicator has served as one of the key ways Signal Soldiers could share their story with the greater branch community. Much has happened during the magazine's two year hiatus and its reinstatement could not come at a better time. The Signal Branch is undergoing significant changes, like the upcoming MOS convergence and the widespread implementation of Foundational training in the Signal School AIT. The Communicator offers a fantastic way to spread the word of these changes to the Regiment. We are eager to your thoughts on these changes, as we believe they will create better leaders, teammates and Communicators.

Ultimately, the Army Communicator is YOUR magazine. It is your stories and thoughts that make this magazine a vital piece of Signal culture. The contributions made by Communicators like you will help drive the continued growth and success of the Signal branch as well as the Army.

You can send us articles and pictures at usarmy.gordon.signal-schl.mbx.army-communicator@mail.mil.

Thank you for your continued selfless service to our Nation; your actions do not go unnoticed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Pro Patria Vigilans!



CSM Richard Knott
Regimental Command Sergeant Major

Building the Army's Security Forces Assistance Brigade



VOICE OF THE REGIMENT

BG Christopher L. Eubank
39th Chief of Signal/Commandant
Signal Regimental Headquarters, CCoE

The Security Forces Assistance Brigade (SFAB) are trained and built to enable combatant commanders to accomplish theater security objectives by Training-Advising-Assisting-Accompanying-Enabling Host Nation Security Forces (HNSF). The SFABs are the Army's first permanent units whose core mission is conducting security cooperation activities, allowing quick response to combatant commander requirements. Building SFABs is the CSA's #1 force modernization priority.

Currently, the SFABs Signal recruiting priority is 25U and 25B technically talented and tactically proficient NCOs and Soldiers. However, Soldiers in MOSs 25C20/30, 25L/20/30, and 25S/20/30 can be substituted for the 25U/25B requirement and are encouraged to apply. They would be required to serve at least one year in the SFAB. I'm asking for your help in identifying qualified volunteers within your organization and expediting their application process. We are at 69 percent fill for Signal MOSs for the 2nd SFAB. Your leadership is paramount in identifying the right talent to help man this formation with the right people. We still need a Major and a Captain for the 2nd SFAB.

The Army will pay SFAB enlisted Soldiers a $5,000 lump sum Assignment Incentive Pay as long as they are permanently assigned to a SFAB and serve in the unit for at least 12 months. The Army has also created a SGT Special Promotion Category. Corporals and Specialists who have been boarded and are fully eligible for promotion will be awarded 799 points and promoted to the rank of Sergeant on the first day of the month following graduation of the Security Force Assistance Advisor Course. The requirement for completion of Professional Military Education (PME) to attain pin-on eligibility for promotion to Sergeant through Master Sergeant is suspended for Soldiers assigned or attached to a SFAB or to its' supporting Security Force. The Soldiers must be otherwise fully qualified and meet or exceed a monthly cutoff score (to Sergeant/Staff Sergeant) or sequence number (to Sergeant First Class/Master Sergeant). Soldiers promoted under this exception will be prioritized for the next available PME training seat upon redeployment.

Assignment to an SFAB requires Soldiers to be fully deployable, have a PULHES of no higher than 1/1/1/2/2/1, score 240 on the APFT with a minimum of 70 points in each event, have a secret clearance, and pass an Official Military Personnel File check for derogatory information. Soldiers interested in receiving more information about the SFAB and/or assignment opportunities should contact their respective career branch representative at HRC or SFAB Account Managers at usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.epmd-sfab@mail.mil or (502) 613 -6306.

Forming a stronger, more diverse Signal Regiment



An SFAB team prepares to execute a PTTA mission in support of Afghan counterparts. US Army photo by CPT Paul Adams.

CPT Paul W. Adams
SQDN S6 / G6 ADVISOR
3/1 SFAB-CAMP DAHLKE

I am currently serving as the 3/1 SFAB SQDN S6 and G6 advisor for 4/203rd Corps. This position has placed my team in the most demanding situations any of us have faced in our careers. The most common questions I have gotten from those who are looking to serve in an SFAB or from those who are skeptical of our purpose also ties in to one of the first discussions we had as an organization: "What makes you so special? How are you any different?"

Our belief within 3/1 SFAB is that we want to be known as an organization that Soldiers will strive to get into, and leaders will want to send their Signal Soldiers to, knowing this place will grow them into leaders that are capable of influencing Signal operations outside their traditional scope. It doesn't matter if they are a 25U or 25Q, the nature of the mission will place them in situations where they will become more than their MOS designation.



I have a 25U40 as my NCOIC who prior to this unit was very familiar with HF and considered that his specialty. In any other unit that would have been his bread and butter. He will eventually go to another unit and no longer see himself in that light. This unit has exposed him to SBU network architectures, SRW, MANET networks, ATAK systems, and more than a dozen other waveforms and equipment sets that most conventional units won't see for years. Because of our small and mobile size, he has also been cross trained on SNAP systems, GRRIPs, WINTAK SBU COPs, and a great deal many of upper TI systems that conventional units would reserve training for their more network minded MOSs.

I also have a 25Q30 who has not only been almost exclusively responsible for standing up a SWA TIB that supports 300x users on 3x different enclaves (a one of kind setup here in Afghanistan) but has worked lower TI radio systems in all of our Combat Advisor Teams.

From a Signal perspective, an SFAB is where you go to set up the rest of your career. This is the place where you will be exposed to the latest systems in the most austere environments. The hardships and challenges are extensive...it is NOT easy…but the growth you seen in Signal NCOs and the value they will provide to future organizations is the kind of return on investments this Army, and the Signal Corps, will need going forward.



A Signal NCO briefs on the SFABs unique SBU communication architecture. Army photo by CPT Paul Adams.

NCOs key to SFAB success

CPT Joseph "Cody" Lucas
Signal Advisor
Task Force 5
5BN/1SFAB

Currently I am serving as a Signal Company XO, BN S6, and Signal Advisor all in one. The challenges are large at times, but the vast knowledge I am gaining to operate as a Signal Leader for the Army far outweigh the workload.

We are an organization of senior leaders, with minimal junior enlisted Soldiers, so again this creates a challenge, but when you are surrounded by senior leaders from every branch, the level of "want" is much higher and all Soldiers within the unit carry their fair share of the task.



The NCO Corps of Leaders I am surrounded by are not only the key to our success, but also a privilege to serve with. The shift in their duties and responsibilities is wide, encompassing more than doing exactly what an MOS calls for. For instance, currently I have an NCOIC that is a 25N operating as the NCOIC of the section. He is operating above and beyond his normal range and will bring a unique set of skills to the Signal Corps for many years to come. Prior to coming to this job, he only worked Joint Network Node (JNN) team initiatives and had a lack of understanding of the tactical radio capabilities we have in the Army. He now has operated in austere environments, coordinating COMSEC draw through two separate tactical systems, Spectrum analysis with coalition forces, direct feedback with PEO-C3T for new radio waveforms, direct coordination with Mission Command elements for Blue Force Tracking systems, alignment of SNAP systems, and supported multiple small teams operating in austere environments just to name a few.

The Command Staff has looked to our team for the answers in regards to Signal Operations and Architecture for an entire region forward, not only for the Army but also for our partners. Our NCOIC has advised our partners on Signal Architecture, working with equipment many of us has never seen, relaying the importance of NCO development within their ranks and Signal training to ensure they operate seamlessly in regards to communication.

Again, not easy, but this NCO has been afforded the opportunity to operate in an element that breeds leadership and his level of expertise has expanded vastly due to the opportunities the SFAB has presented him with. He came here knowing JNN. . .he will leave here with the ability to effect operations on any Signal element from a BCT to a strategic communications unit across the Army, both as a Subject Matter Expert and Signal Leader. Not only has he expanded his Subject Matter Expertise, but he has managed Soldiers (25U30

and 25S20) operating on the same team, and roughly 13 additional 25Us operating on supported teams, who are the enablers on the ground throughout our region.

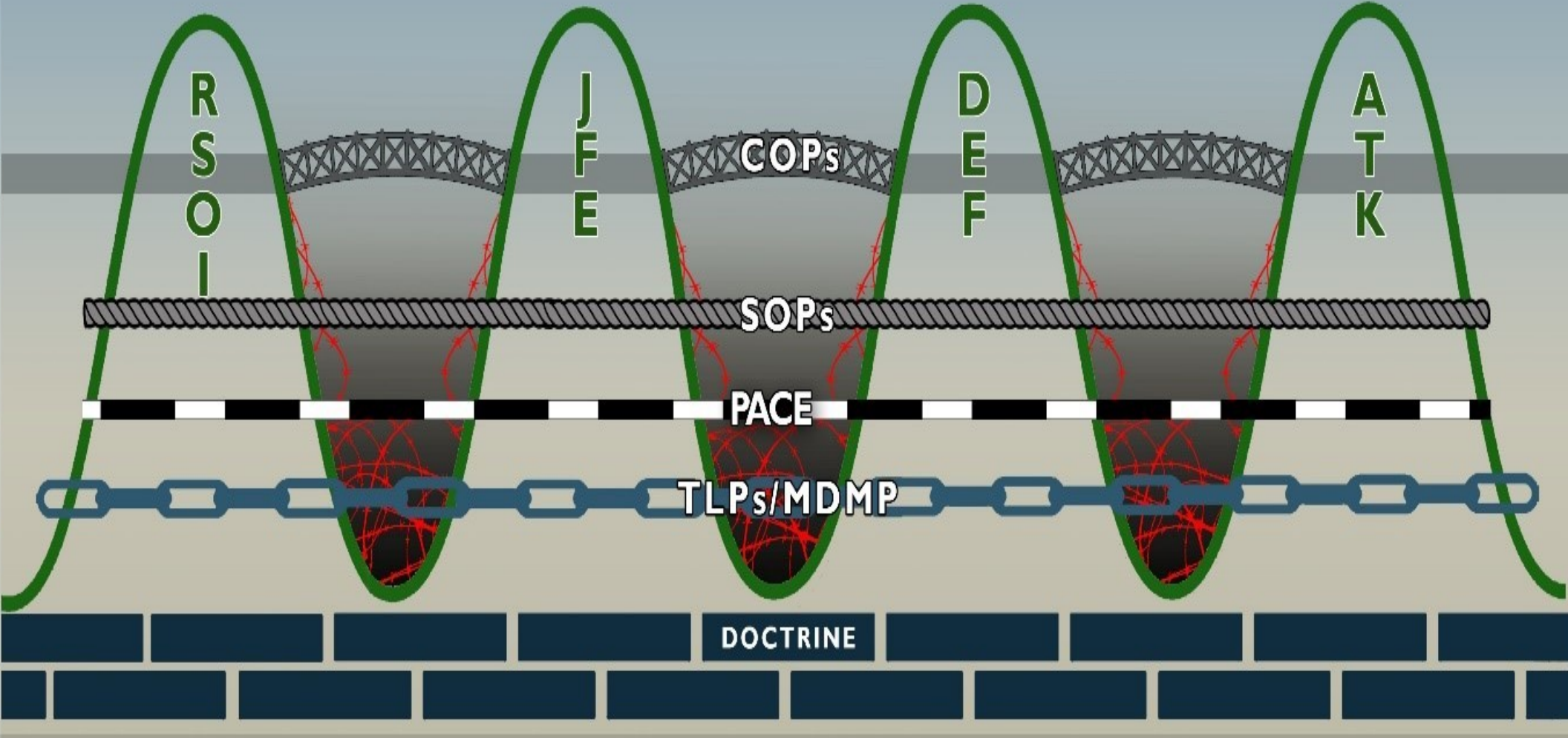
I understand Soldiers are being directed to HRC for information and assignment to an SFAB, but my NCO's are also willing and able to respond to any RFI's from the field in regards to their responsibilities, challenges, and rewards this job has afforded.



Soldiers conduct validation on a 117G radio via TACSAT. US Army photo by CPT Paul Adams.

Eighteen S6 Imperatives

for Effective Mission Command



CPT Carl Wigington
TF4 S6 / Signal OCT

The squadron or squadron S6 faces a daunting task at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in the decisive action training environment: establishing and sustaining effective mission command. A JRTC rotation begins with reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI) at an intermediate staging base. From RSOI, the rotational training unit (RTU) begins a series of phases in the rotation. Next comes the Joint Forcible Entry (JFE) followed by the defense, and later the attack. The transition zones between those phases are valleys of death for the unprepared RTU; for an S6, they can be the pits of hell.

These 18 imperatives represented the critical considerations that will carry the S6 and the S6's unit across the Valleys of Death at the JRTC:

1. Commander Intent, Unit Mission, and Training Objectives

When an S6 fully understands the commander's intent, unit mission, and training objectives, they can develop a concept of mission command that provides the commander the most effective capabilities. Most S6s do not understand the squadron mission well enough to place their assets throughout the battlefield appropriately. Additionally, when the S6 does not understand unit training objectives, they are unable to nest those objectives with the squadron.

2. S6 Intent, S6 Mission, and S6 Training Objectives

Most squadron S6 officers show up at the JRTC without published intent, mission, or training objectives. An S6 is much like a platoon leader; the section owes critical information to the S6. Publish it! This provides additional information (specified tasks) the section can act on. Frequently, important



A radio retransmission team sets up antenna systems after jumping to an alternate location during RETRANS team validations. US Army photo by CPT Derrick Dejon.

tasks are passed over because someone in the S6 section did not understand what was happening.

3. Squadron Annex H and Scheme of Mission Command

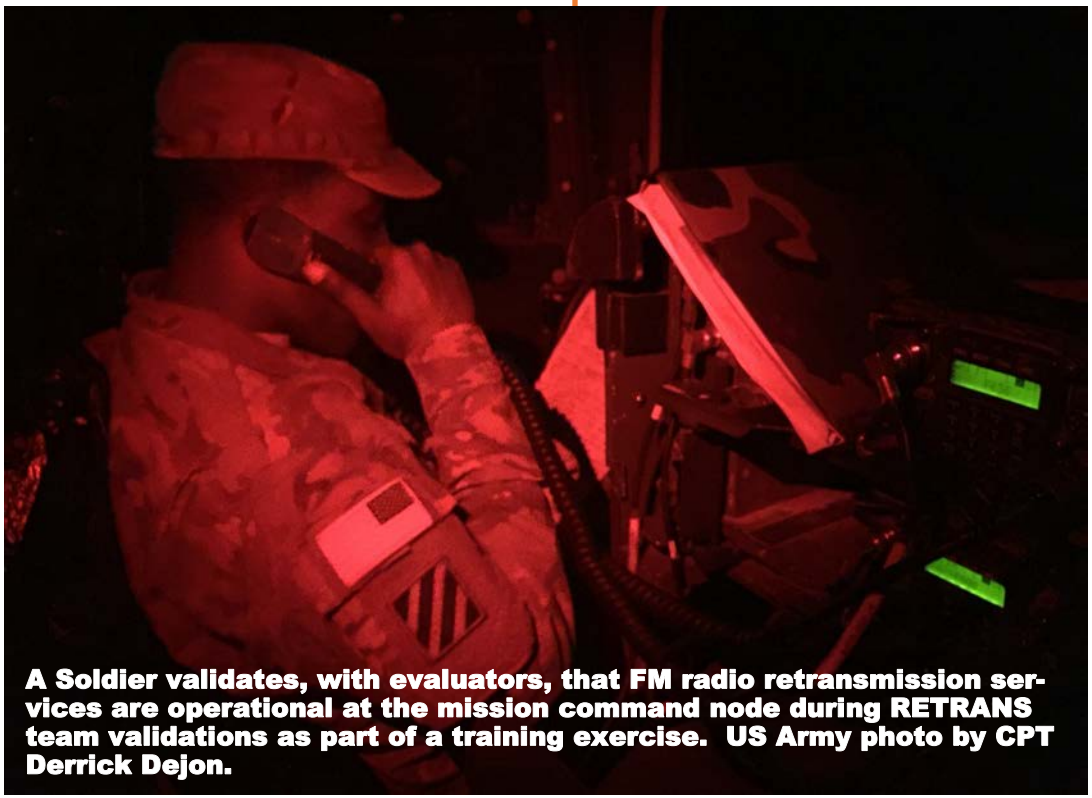
During the operations order (OPORD) brief, the S6 must address the key information in Annex H so subordinate commanders and fellow staff officers understand important signal battle drills. The brief should include the scheme of mission command to help leaders in the unit visualize where other mission command nodes are. In addition to briefing this information, the S6 must provide the subordinate commanders with products to assist them when they are developing their OPORD.

4. S6 Battle Rhythm

The S6 battle rhythm is a simple way to manage knowledge within the section. It ensures you have the right people in the right place at the right time and allows for the appropriate level of coverage at external events like the brigade S6 synchronization or squadron commander's update brief.

5. S6 Troops-to-Task

Every staff section must pay "tax" to the headquarters company (HHC) or troop. Security is the number one priority of work. Since the S6 section is normally the largest in the headquarters (HQs), they have to pay the most tax.



A Soldier validates, with evaluators, that FM radio retransmission services are operational at the mission command node during RETRANS team validations as part of a training exercise. US Army photo by CPT Derrick Dejon.

Developing an accurate troop-to-task (T2T) helps the troop command team understand the signal requirements. Additionally, the T2T is a tool that helps S6 leadership understand the cost of pulling each Soldier from their assigned duties.

6. S6 Running Estimates

Running estimates must be updated routinely. A best practice is to make sure you have "update running estimates" on your battle rhythm so you don't forget about them. The running estimates allows you to provide fast and accurate input to emerging problem sets.

7. S6 Commander Critical Information Requirement (CCIR) and Wake-up Criteria

When the S6 publishes CCIR and wake up criteria, the section knows how to respond to certain situations. The squadron or squadron

commander needs to know when communication systems fail or when communications are lost with subordinate units. This allows the S6 to quickly and clearly articulate the current communications status (COMSTAT) and any significant issues with in the mission command war fighting function.

8. Communication Exercise (COMEX)
The COMEX must be done prior to starting the force on force. The S6 must get the S3/XO to put the COMEX on the squadron or squadron battle rhythm so all subordinates participate. The COMEX should include all mission command nodes at a minimum. Drivers and truck commanders must get communication checks from their vehicle mounted systems before they start any movement.

9. Communication Cards
Communications cards must include adjacent unit FM, HF, and tactical satellite (TACSAT) frequencies in addition to the squadron internal frequencies.



Student are given a more detailed view of the Win-T architecture and components they will be working with. They work with and familiarize themselves with the Win-T signal flow diagrams This will help them to trace how the systems works and assist in future troubleshooting. US Army photo provided by 442nd Signal Battalion. US Army photo provided by 442nd Signal Battalion.

Include azimuth and elevation of TACSAT and the satellite transportable terminal (STT) as well. A best practice is to have a master communications card and create a separate one for each subordinate unit. These must be passed out no later than the initial squadron OPORD.

10. Priorities or Work

The whole section needs to know the current priorities of work. When they change, the information needs to be disseminated quickly. It is best to have the current priorities posted at the help desk so Soldiers have a central place to check for updates.

11. S6 Rehearsals

Rehearsals are almost always overlooked for non-tactical missions. It is challenging to find enough time to complete a full rehearsal. At a minimum, talk through the event to make certain you address all critical steps. Completing rehearsals will identify flaws before it is time to execute. Some of the most important tasks to rehearse are listed below:

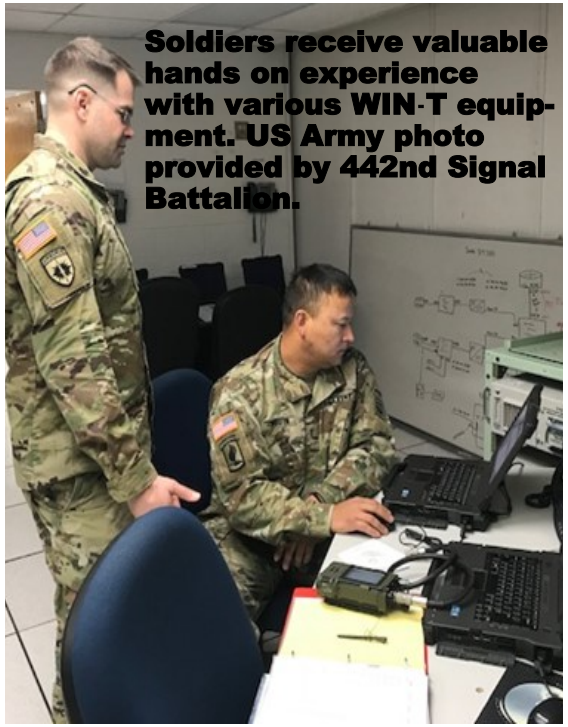


Students employ TOCNET during a simulated TOC exercise in SBOLC. US Army photo provided by 442nd Signal Battalion.

- Communication Security (COMSEC) Changeover – Ensure all members of the communication section (at a minimum) understand what to change and when.
- Communication Security (COMSEC) Compromise – Distribute pro-words and make sure leadership determines the best time to complete the COMSEC compromise procedures. There is an associated risk with conducting COMSEC compromise process and if subordinate units are in contact or out on a mission, it might be best to wait for a better time.
- Asset Tracking – The enemy has a say in the status of your personnel and equipment. Maintaining an accurate asset tracker will allow you to adjust the primary alternate contingency and emergency (PACE) plan or reorganize your assets to cross level throughout your squadron.
- System Failures – Systems include Upper Tactical Internet (UTI), High Frequencies (HF), FM, etc. Each capability can fail for a wide range of caus-

es. Understanding what is down, the process for fixing the issue, and projecting a time for the system to be operational, will allow for rapid adjustments to maintain mission command.

- SPEED Analysis – SPEED is a must! This software provides a more accurate terrain analysis than any other method except an actual leader reconnaissance. Section leaders need to know how to use the software and have it on a computer before they show up to the JRTC.



Soldiers receive valuable hands on experience with various WIN-T equipment. US Army photo provided by 442nd Signal Battalion.

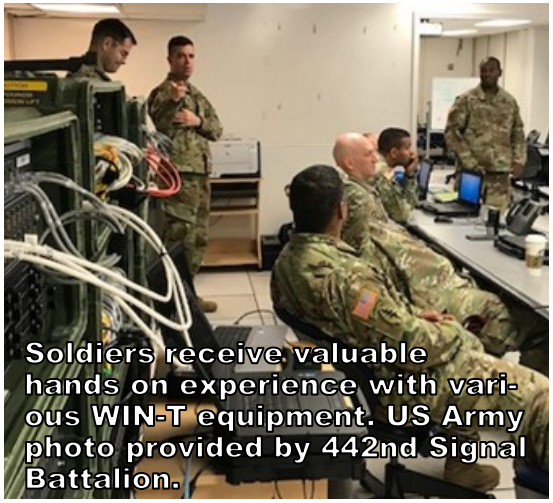
- Cyber Protection – Cyber is an upcoming threat that is typically forgotten about at the squadron or squadron level. Although the squadron or squadron does not have a firewall to manage, they need to ensure users are logging out of work stations and not sharing passwords.
- Retransmission (RETRANS) / RETRANS Placement – RETRANS will make or break mission command for any tactical mission. If RETRANS is placed well and the Soldiers have a good understanding of their task and purpose, FM communications can be flawless. Time and time again, RETRANS is placed in a poor location or the Soldiers are not aware of what they need to do. Typically, when the squadron does not have good FM communications with all of their subordinate units, the mission suffers.
- Mission Command Transition (squadron and brigade) – A good mission command transition will have authorized service interruptions (ASI) that are known about prior to the execution phase. This will allow the most uptime for all UTI services.

12. Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) / Antenna Placement

Proper STT placement will make or break the network connectivity. The STT needs to have a clear shot. Even a single tree branch will degrade the connectivity. Signal leaders need to have a precise location picked out and marked for the STT before it arrives. Communicators waste too much time troubleshooting FM communication simply because antennas are too low. Place all FM radio antennas as high as possible to provide the best coverage. Higher antennas can eliminate RETRANS requirements and free up the S6s time to focus on other position improvement tasks.

13. Communication Status (COMSTAT)

A comprehensive, accurate COMSTAT allows for the S6 to adjust the PACE when equipment fails and it will start failing as soon as the force on force begins. The only way the S6 can maintain an accurate COMSTAT is to require the troop communication representatives to send COMSTAT updates on a regular basis. Squadron leadership understand equipment will become non-mission capable for several reasons and they charge the S6 with making the best use of what is left in the fight.



Soldiers receive valuable hands on experience with various WIN-T equipment. US Army photo provided by 442nd Signal Battalion.

14. Battle Tracking Units

An S6 who battle tracks units and understands the Squadron scheme of maneuver is able to accurately predict where units are moving to. This allows for proper planning and site selection for the RETRANS teams. Pushing out your RETRANS team before there is a problem will greatly increase the mission command capability and shared understand throughout the squadron.

15. Planning

The S6 must ensure proper planning. It must be a deliberate decision to plan because there is not “white space” at the JRTC. If the S3 or other staff sections are planning, you must inject yourself! Too often, signal if not addressed and that only makes it more challenging for the squadron to operate effectively.

16. Radio Operator (RO) Duties and Responsibilities

The S6 must ensure the ROs fully understand their duties and responsibilities. The RO is an important job and must be treated as such. When an untrained Soldier is working as a command post RO, information can get lost and not properly reported. ROs walk away from their workstation very frequently and calls are missed and reports are delayed. Missed calls reduce confidence in the radio system and cause undue stress in the S6 section.

17. PACE by Net by Phase

A good PACE plan makes everything easier but we typically only get it right for the squadron/squadron command net and the fires net. We need to assist the appropriate staff section and develop PACE plans for each net / war fighting function, we will ensure the squadron performs at its best. We also need to think about the best way to distribute fighting products to the subordinate units. I would suggest thinking about using logistical and recovery elements as options for this part of your PACE. Consider what will change when the squadron completes the JFE and sets a defense or when that defense serves to launch an attack.

18. Communications

S6 sections that do not have internal synchronization meeting struggle to maintain a good current operations (CUOPS) picture. It is a best practice to use checklists for shift changes briefs and any other battle rhythm events to keep them short and effective. The S6 must also have regular interaction with the brigade S6 to help the squadron understand the brigade concept of signal support.

Ultimately, enabling mission command is certainly challenging but proper planning over the course of several months will allow a S6 section to address most of these tasks. Our goal is to leave the unit better than it was when we got there and hopefully this helps us do that.

TechNet takes Augusta



The annual TechNet event was held Aug. 21-24 in downtown Augusta. Photo by Nick Spinelli.

Nick Spinelli
Office, Chief of Signal

Military members from Cyber and Signal regiments joined Industry Leaders and partners for TechNet Augusta, Aug. 21-24 in Downtown Augusta. The annual event was sponsored by AFCEA, a professional association designed to "enable military, government, industry and academia to align technology and strategy to meet the needs of those who serve."

The four-day event offered attendees the opportunity to see the latest innovations and advancements available, as well as attend forums and discussions on the future of the industry.

"TechNet Augusta gives participants the opportunity to examine and explore the intricacies of the cyber domain," AFCEA representatives said, describing the event on the organization's website. "With assistance from the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and industry experts, the conference is designed to open the lines of communication and facilitate networking, education and problem solving. Leaders and operators also discuss procurement challenges the military, government and industry face during a time of uncertain budgets and runaway technology advances."

The TechNet conference began with opening remarks by Robert Shea, AFCEA President and CEO, and MG John B. Morrison, Jr., US Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon Commanding General, who explained the importance of events like TechNet during what he referred to as an unprecedented time of change for the Army.

"What we are doing with Cyber, Electronic Warfare, and Signal, is the nexus of that change," he said. "This is an opportunity come together, share ideas, and drive that change across the force."

The theme of change was carried over into one of the first keynote addresses, as LTG Theodore D. Martin, Deputy Commanding General and Chief of



TechNet offered Soldiers the opportunity to engage with Industry partners through a number of panels and lectures. Photo by Nick Spinelli.



Exhibitors displayed the latest technological innovations at the conference. Photo by Nick Spinelli.

Staff of US Army Training and Doctrine Command, spoke about the evolving battlefield and how it required a different kind of Soldier.

"The way we train, educate, and inspire is radically different than even 12 months ago," he said.

This idea led into a discussion of the role of Army Future's Command.

"Modernization is going to happen because the Army Future's Command has been empowered like no other," Martin said.

In addition to the numerous speaker and panel presentations, TechNet also provided a showcase for the communication industry's latest innovations.

"I'm really impressed with the number of vendors on site, and how much of the different technologies are available to view and demo," said CW3 Phillip Dieppa, a TechNet attendee.

In addition to being an event attendee, Dieppa was also one of a handful of participants in the Training with Industry (TWI) workshop being held in conjunction with the conference. This activity within an activity offered a panel of Cyber and Signal officers, warrant officers, and noncommissioned officers to learn "Best Practices," from industry leaders and discuss lessons learned from developmental assignments at technological companies such as Verizon and Microsoft.

"Our goal is to send out the best, have them learn and develop new skills, and then bring them back into the force in order to improve organizational processes," explained Jim Busler, Force Integration Specialist for the Office, Chief of Signal Officer Division.

The TWI workshop covered a range of topics, including network modernization, operational integra-

tion, and more.

"Our goal was to provide the opportunity for this team to be in the best position for success," Busler said.

During his meeting with the TWI panel, BG Christopher L. Eubank, Chief of Signal and Commandant of the US Army Signal School, discussed professional opportunities available to those attending the workshop and encouraged them to use the skills they've earned at developmental placements with industry partners to build a better Army.

"As you come out of your industry assignments, we're looking for your feedback," Eubank said. "Take what you've learned and bring it back to the force." According to Dieppa, that's exactly what he believes those attending the workshop should be doing.

"We're all embedded with different companies, so this is a great opportunity to come together and discuss different ideas and different areas – how one organization operates in comparison to another," he said. "It's also an opportunity to reunite with people you've worked with in the past, catch up, and trade ideas."

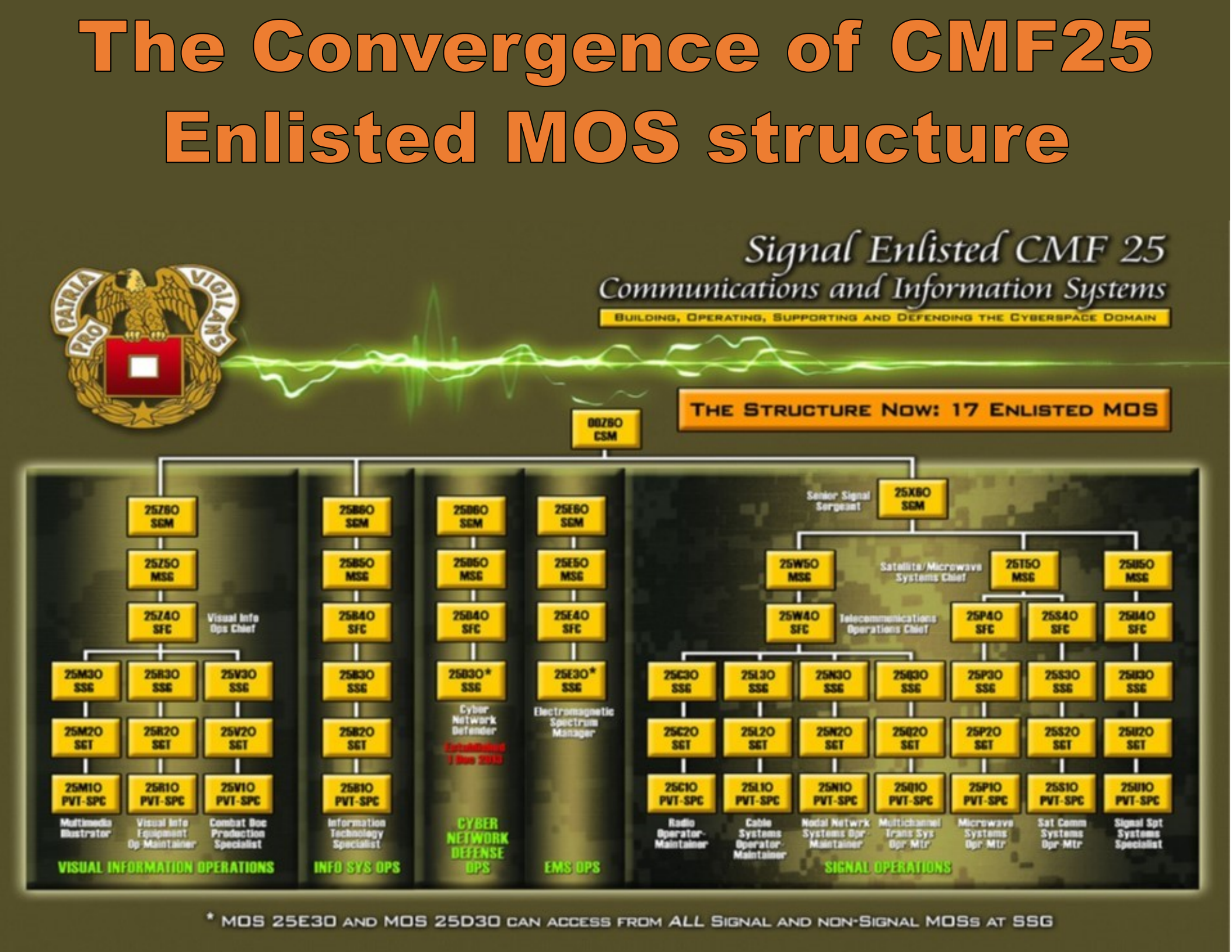


A Training with Industry Workshop was held in conjunction with the TechNet Conference. Photo by Nick Spinelli.

Ultimately, the goal of TechNet was to bring together the best and brightest of both private and public sector communication professionals and allow for the free exchange of ideas. According to LTG Bruce T. Crawford, the Army's Chief Information Officer, this goal was more than met.

"This conference is the realization of what can be accomplished when like minds work together towards a common goal," he said.

The Convergence of CMF25 Enlisted MOS structure



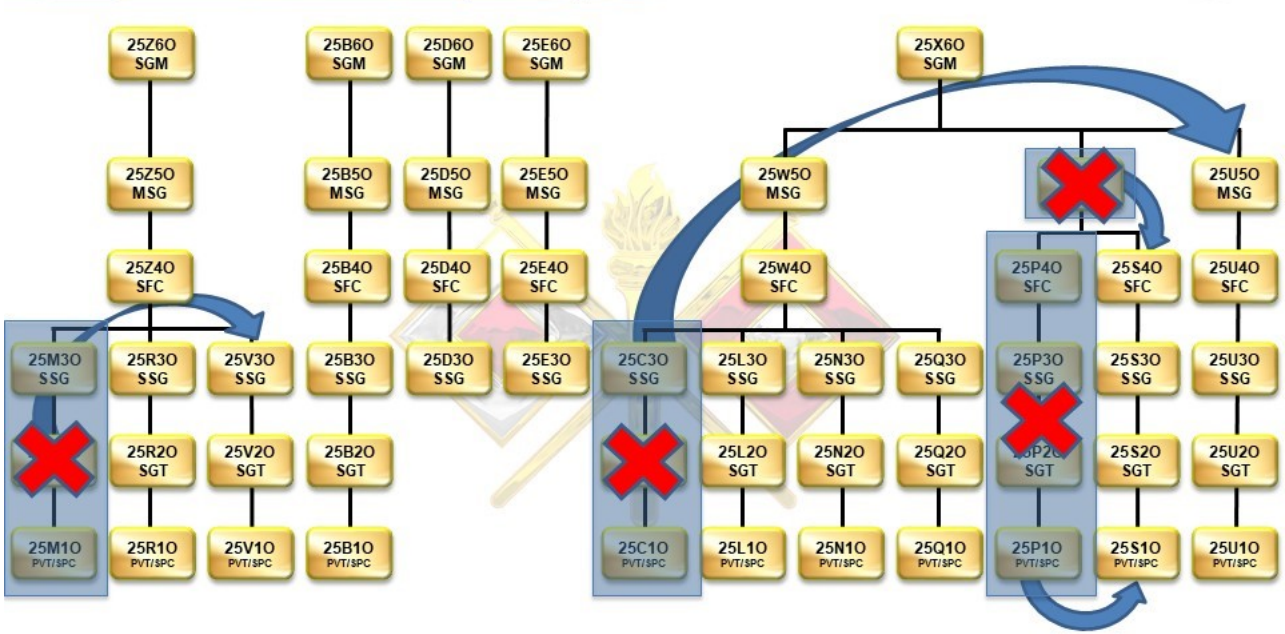
* MOS 25E30 and MOS 25D30 can access from ALL Signal and non-Signal MOSs at SSG

MSG Mike Garcia Jr.
Senior Career Management NCO
Office of Chief of Signal - Enlisted Division

During the past 15 years of conflict, the Signal Regiment has grown leaders with operational experience in the Middle East spanning from the early days of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom to Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Inherent Resolve. The knowledge garnered from the broad use of the art and science of warfare made it evident that the Regiment's 17 Career Management Field (CMF) 25 Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) were not structured to meet the Army's current requirements let alone future requirements. This generated friction from the force, particularly from the more senior cohorts of Field Grade Officers and Senior Noncommissioned officers with extensive operational experience.

To keep par with near-peer competitors, senior members of the Signal Regiment began to think beyond the status quo to anticipate the strategic environment of 2025, and beyond. The biggest challenge to this new paradigm is the Signal Regiment's inability to provide foundational capabilities at the Tactical, Operational, and Strategic levels to the joint forces commander. In some instances the United States, allies, and partners have lost freedom of action and freedom of maneuver in the space and cyberspace domains. U.S. adversaries disrupt access to, or actions in, these critical domains from extended distances. In order to prevail in the new operational framework of Multi-Domain Battlespace the Signal Regiment must converge capabilities across domains, mainly cyberspace, space, and land, to integrate capabilities and functions and their application in physical space and time. The Regiment must be prepared to succeed in these increasingly complex and contested domains, especially in these domains where deterrence doesn't apply.

In 2017, the Signal School re-engaged a multi-phased effort to develop a CMF25 Enlisted MOS structure that meets the Army's future communication needs and developed a Signal MOS convergence strategy. This convergence



effort modernizes the CMF25 Enlisted MOS structure from its current 17 MOS structure to a functions-based MOS structure that eliminates outdated functions and task redundancy. This will create a Signal enlisted force that is multi-disciplined, optimally trained, and poised for continued success in the changing operational environment. Great emphasis has been placed on the basic building block of the Soldier's proficiency; which is Foundational training and Signal Sustainment University. The Signal Regiment MOS Convergence Strategy will span multiple years to meet emerging Army operational environment challenges.

The current paradigm employs a mostly equipment-based methodology that trains a Soldier on a particular piece of equipment such as the Joint Network Node (JNN) providing a good amount of depth but this does not provide the Signal Regiment the breadth to operate in this changing operating environment. The theory-based methodology for initial training (Skill Level 1) would foster the condition to begin to create the foundational capability. The character of future warfare is evolving based on emerging technologies and changes in enemy capabilities. Paradoxically, the connectedness of networked devices within the U.S. presents adversaries with exploitable vulnerabilities.

The growing Electronic Warfare threat to the Army's Cyberspace operations makes it critical to realign existing Signal Regiment MOSs to better protect and defend information systems and infrastructure against increased Cyber threats for the United States. The Signal Regiment must create a viable structure that is poised to excel in the midst of future challenges.

Our Army's networks are converging from multiple independent systems owned by multiple regiments to a streamlined network owned solely by the Signal Regiment. Furthermore, expeditionary forces are becoming leaner and more agile. The Army is shifting its focus from developing Soldiers to fit specific capabilities to producing a relevant, multidimensional Soldier equipped with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to excel in the ever changing landscape of our joint operational environment. The Signal Regiment is reacting to this change in landscape by developing multifaceted communicators capable of excelling in signal formations that are becoming increasingly more robust, scalable, and flexible.

The Signal MOS convergence strategy has three phases to implement the changes. Several MOSs have outdated duties and functions as the result of conceptual, technological and organizational changes in the last ten years, such as the two-level maintenance concept, wireless and cloud-based capabilities, and ever-adapting organizational needs. The remaining critical functions of these MOSs must be merged with other viable MOSs to maintain mission essential wartime requirements.

Phase I of the convergence strategy began in June 2018 to functionally align and reduce CMF25 MOSs from 17 to 13 and will go into effect Fiscal Year 2022. The key tasks in the phase are:

- Delete the MOS 25C and revised MOS 25U to incorporate the duties and functions.
- Delete the MOS 25P and capper MOS 25T and revise MOS 25S to incorporate the duties and functions.
- Delete the MOS 25M and revise MOS 25V to incorporate the duties and functions.

- Revise MOS 25W following the deletion of feeder MOS 25C

Phase II of the convergence strategy will begin in June 2019 to functionally align and reduce the CMF25 MOS, and will be effective in Fiscal Year 2023. The key tasks in the phase are in development, but will focus on reshaping MOSs 25L, 25N, 25Q, 25W, and 25X.

Phase III of the convergence strategy will began in June 2020 to functionally align and reduce CMF25 MOSs even further and will be effective in Fiscal Year 2024. This phase will focus on completing Visual Information convergence.

The Signal School is using guidance from the Army Strategic Planning Guidance (ASPG), the U.S. Army Operating Concept (AOC), and the CIO/G6's Army Network Campaign Plan to take a holistic approach in shaping our regiment to meet the challenges of 2025, and beyond. The AOC requires regionally aligned and engaged forces to establish a global land power network, and shape security environments; it further identifies Army operations as inherently cross-domain operations.

The End State for the convergence of CMF25 Enlisted MOS structure is to better operate and defend the Department of Defense Information Network – Army (DODIN-A) information systems and infrastructure against increased Cyber threats for the United States by shaping and aligning the Signal Regiment into five doctrinal functions. These functions consist of Visual Information Systems, Information Systems, Network Security, Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations, and Network Systems. Also, the realignment of the work roles and responsibilities by functions directly links to the accession prerequisites for Signal Warrant Officer MOS 255A (Information Services Technician), 255N (Network Management Technician), and 255S (Information Protection Technician). Furthermore, meeting the Army Operating Concept of providing a network that is a secure, integrated, standards-based environment that ensures uninterrupted global access and enables collaboration and decisive action throughout all operational phases across all environments.

Disclaimer: Phase II and Phase III are subject to revisions





Branch Week at U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, September 2017. Photo by Hector Mosley.

ARMY COMMUNICATOR

November 2018



Signal at Branch Week

Plus:

- *Combat Camera*
- *Windows 10 Migration*
- *Signal Innovation Day*

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Submit articles, photos, graphics, videos, story ideas, and nominations for "Signaleer in the Spotlight" to usarmy.gordon.signal-schl.mbx.army-communicator@mail.mil. For additional information, please call (706) 791-7384.

Brig. Gen. Christopher L. Eubank
Chief of Signal

Command Sgt. Maj Richard D. Knott
Signal Corps Command Sergeant Major

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Garth R. Hahn
Signal Corps Chief Warrant Officer

Nicholas M. Spinelli
Editor-in-Chief

On the Cover

A West Point student discusses career opportunities with Cpt. Ryan Torres, training, advising, and counseling officer (right), during Branch Week. U.S. Army photo by Ron Frame.



Chief of Signal Christopher L. Eubank

So as I finish my first 90 days as the 39th Chief of Signal and the Commandant of the Signal School, I want to first say that I am extremely excited to be working for the Regiment and all of its communicators. I have spent my first 90 days conducting an assessment and spending time with students in order to understand where we are and where we should be headed as a Regiment. As the Chief of Signal and Commandant there are several parts of the DOTMLPF-P construct that I am responsible for inside the Office of the Chief of Signal and the School. I would like to spend time in this message talking about the first "P", Personnel, and our methodology for creating a great communicator for the Warfighter.

Our motto/methodology in the organization for working the personnel piece of the construct is "Building Leaders, Teammates, and Communicators" which is the foundation to everything we do for the Army when creating world class communicators. I get asked all the time why this order and not the reverse order? It is my belief that if we make you a good leader, then a good teammate, you will ultimately become a good communicator.

LEADER. If you are a good leader and understand what it means to take care of Soldiers and equipment then those people and things will eventually take care of you and the mission will get accomplished. Being a fair, caring and empathetic leader is one of the cornerstones of our profession and Leadership is one of our Army Values; here in the school house we believe that to be a good leader you must be willing to learn. John F. Kennedy once said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." In the end, being a good leader is the foundation for all other things and allows you to inspire people to accomplish the mission in all conditions.



TEAMMATE. The key here is to be a good teammate, you must be willing to help the team in any way to accomplish the mission. Understanding that helping your immediate team as well as all adjacent teams (left and right and up and down) will make you an invaluable asset. As a teammate, you are integral to the entire organization and critical to mission success. You must be inside the planning and execution team from day one. You must be willing to put the team before self.

COMMUNICATOR. Finally, you must be proficient in your duties as an Army Communicator. We will give you the foundations here at the institution and you will hone these technical skills in your operational assignments by working with and learning from your Signal teammates in the force. You must be willing to spend time learning about your tradecraft in every opportunity, whether in the garrison or the field, on or off duty. Technology is changing rapidly and you must keep up in order to provide capability and services to the warfighter anytime, anyplace.

In the end, it is about being a valued member of the formation and the key to that is being a great Leader, Teammate, and Communicator. Be passionate about being an Army Communicator and remember that you are critical to the Army every day.

Pro Patria Viglians!

Regimental CSM Richard D. Knott

I want to begin first by thanking each and every one of you for the phenomenal work you are doing. Over the past few months I've been able to witness firsthand the hard work and dedication of communicators stationed at Fort Carson, Schofield Barracks, Shephard AFB, Fort Gordon, and Joint Base McGuire -Dix-Lakehurst. The Chief and I look forward to getting out to your areas of operation to spend time with you and your Soldiers.

In this edition of the Army Communicator, the 39th Chief of Signal asked that we provide our personal insight on what being a Leader, Teammate and Communicator means to us. Below is my perspective.

There is an expectation that all members of our profession, both military and civilian, will possess a personal desire to continuously over time develop the attributes and competencies required to be a **LEADER**. As leaders, we are responsible for ensuring the growth and development of our subordinates. To do this we must challenge them tactically and technically while encouraging intellectual curiosity and creativity. We must push subordinates to complete certifications, pursue bachelor's and master's degree programs, seek training with industry opportunities and take the hard and challenging jobs. The bottom line: the more we, as leaders, invest in our subordinates, the better prepared they will be to replace you and I as future Army leaders.



Another integral quality of our profession is our ability to be a good **TEAMMATE**. Being a good teammate means showing the team to your left and right as well as the team up and down that you are passionate about their success. We enable success within our organizations by being there for the team. We must be willing to put the team ahead of ourselves. What we do as communicators only supports that effort.

We are the Army's **COMMUNICATORS**, and as such, we have an inherent responsibility to be the subject matter experts in our craft. I am aware it is impossible to be an expert on everything, but as a communicator, we should be able to speak with confidence six inches deep and 100 yards wide on everything Signal. This requires being dedicated to developing ourselves by staying up-to-date on the most current publications and emerging technology. This also requires protecting training opportunities as well as ensuring training is tough and realistic. The Army depends on our expertise!

Please allow me to leave you with these three statements. Continue to treat everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of their grade, position, or duty title. Continue to do the right thing, no matter how difficult the task or how challenging the situation. Continue striving to be the best you can possibly be each and every day, the world deserves your greatness.

Again, thank you for your dedication, service, and for always being ever Watchful for Our Country.

Pro Patria Vigilans!

Regimental CCWO Garth R. Hahn

Thank you for your efforts, your dedication, and the extraordinary competence you display every day. Over these past two months, I've had the opportunity to discuss our Signal Warrant Officers with leaders from multiple echelons, and each of these leaders is impressed with the capabilities and value that warrant officer brings to the fight. Keep up the great work, and check out the articles in this issue of *Army Communicator*.

This issue of the *Army Communicator*'s theme is Leaders, Teammates, and Communicators, and you will see this reflected in each of the articles. I believe this theme embodies the skills and attributes our Signal Warrant Officers bring to the fight every day. DA Pamphlet 600-3 defines the Army Warrant Officer as a "self–aware and adaptive technical expert, combat leader, trainer, and advisor." Today's Signal Warrant Officers are experts in their Network, Information System, and Protection Technician fields and stand as the Army's premiere technical communication force. These experienced men and women are trained and ready to be the technical leaders, supportive teammates, and the consummate technical communicators the Army needs to install, operate, maintain, and protect the DOD Information Network thereby enabling the Army's ability to communicate during the fight.



Today's Signal Warrant Officers have experience in multiple organizations, and many have served in combat and conducted Signal operations at multiple echelons of Army and Joint Force units. This experience, combined with world class training, has prepared them to be technical **leaders** that help their organization innovate within the cyberspace domain, and by being masters of their craft they are aware of the latest tools available to improve the operation of the unit within the information environment. As **teammates**, they support their leader's efforts to meet mission requirements and train their fellow Soldiers through mentorship and coaching as they work to support the mission. They are **communicators** that bring forth their expertise developed through experience and training to meet the Commander's network requirements to enable Mission Command. Today's Signal Warrant Officers are leaders, teammates, and communicators and prove that in the field every day.

Thank you again for the difference you make each day!

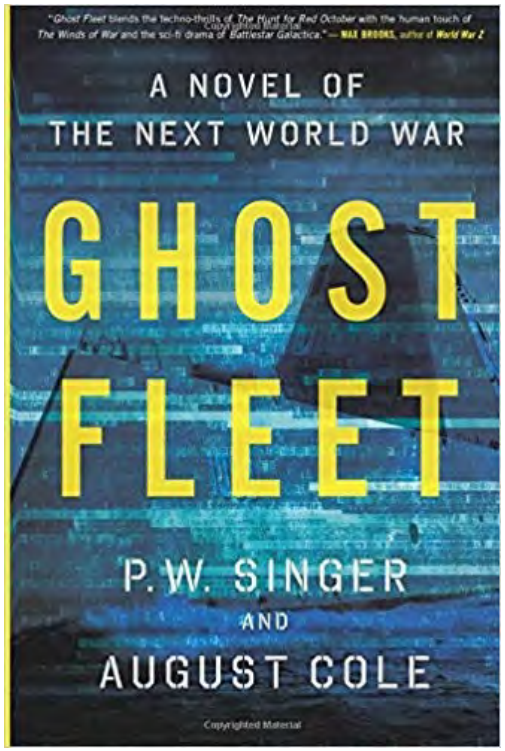
Pro Patria Vigilans!

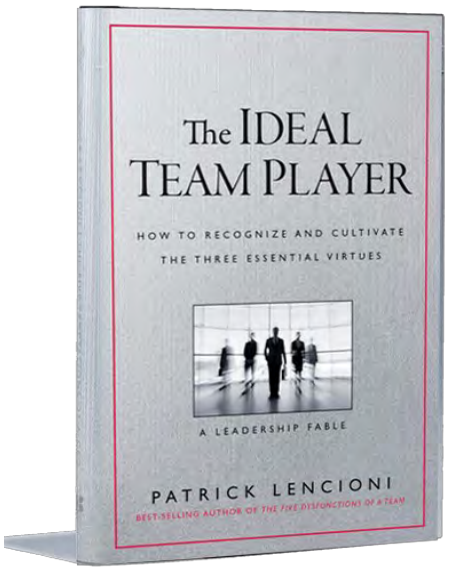
Commandant's Reading List

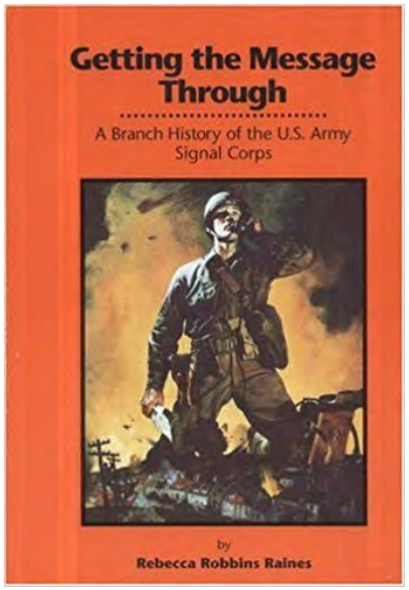
Brig. Gen. Christopher L. Eubank
39th Chief of Signal/Commandant
Signal Regimental Headquarters, CCoE

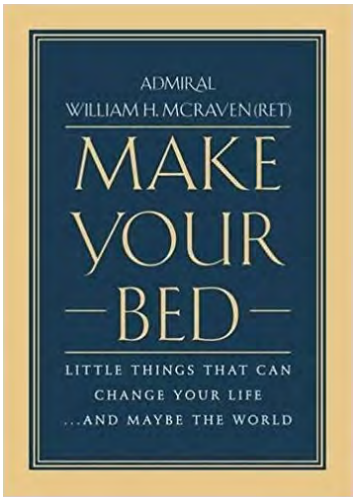
Communicators, here are the Top 10 Books I currently recommend:

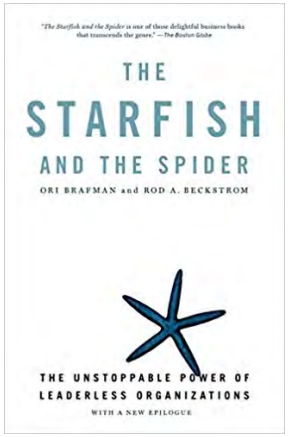
1. The Ideal Team Player – Patrick Lencioni
2. Radical Inclusion – Ori Brafman and Gen. (Ret.) Martin Dempsey
3. Ghost Fleet – PW Singer
4. The Big Stick – Eliot Cohen
5. The Starfish and the Spider – Ori Brafman
6. Make Your Bed – Adm. (Ret.) William McRaven
7. The Leader's Bookshelf – Adm. (Ret.) Stavridis
8. Thank You for Being Late – Thomas Friedman
9. The Speed Of Trust – Stephen Covey
10. Getting the Message Through – Rebecca Raines











Signal enlightens cadets on communication careers



West Point Cadets examine modern Signal Corps equipment during The U.S. Military Academy's Department of Military Instruction hosted its Branch Week,. U.S. Army Courtesy photo.

Cpt. Chad Cooper
35th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade

The U.S. Military Academy's Department of Military Instruction hosted its Branch Week, Sept. 10-14, bringing in several hundred tons of military equipment, vehicles and weapons for the academy's spin on a college career fair.

Soldiers from the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB), 35th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade (TTSB) stationed at Fort Stewart, GA., were in attendance to show cadets that the Army's Signal Corps has the core strategic function of establishing communication networks in remote areas.

While the tanks, helicopters and armored vehicles attracted crowds, the week-long event was really an opportunity for the Corps of Cadets to learn after 16 years of warfare in the Middle East and with the constantly growing importance of electronics in the Army, the challenges facing this generation of cadets are different than any before.

Representing the Signal



Soldiers assigned to the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade instruct cadets from West Point on the intricacies of modern Signal Corps equipment during The U.S. Military Academy's Department of Military Instruction hosted its Branch Week. US Army Courtesy photo.

Corps were Soldiers from A Company, 63rd ESB. They introduced hundreds of cadets to static displays with state-of-the-art communications equipment and explained how today's Army uses more than the gear cadets are currently using during training.

"The static display was initial education for the first and second year students as they begin to think about what academic majors to consider and learn more about the different branches available in the Army," Cpt. Shevez Freeman, career program manager, said. The branch symposium was to provide third year students with a more in depth explanation about what a Signal Corps Officer does, with a focus on talent priorities and what the Signal Corps is looking for in an officer. Finally, the mission of the formal classroom education was to reiterate to the fourth year students what they had previously learned, as they were just days away from locking in their final branch preferences."

The Soldiers demonstrated rapid insertion Signal Corps capabilities, to include use of the satellite communications radios. The 35th TTSB Soldiers explained their communication capabilities, and how as Signal Soldiers within an Expeditionary Brigade are always ready to deploy world-class communications anytime and anywhere. Cadets were introduced to how vital communications are in every operation that the U.S. Military operates and informed cadets that signal support missions are not just limited to mili-



Representatives from the US Army Signal Corps set up displays at West Point's Branch Week Sept. 10-14. US Army Photo by Ron Frame.

Lessons Learned from the Windows 10 Migration



Courtesy photo

Maj. Keith J. Caldwell, CW3 Jamarcus K. Nettles, and Justin D. Landes
US Army Human Resources Command

The Department of Defense mandated the migration of all workstations to the Windows 10 (Win10) environment in 2015, but the migration was a long and difficult road for many Commands. The suspense to complete the upgrade in February 2018 required the focused effort and unwavering commitment of the entire DOD Information Technology (IT) workforce in order to overcome the obstacles of migrating all mission applications and enabling software to the new operating system baseline. For Personnel Information Systems Directorate (PERSINSD), one of the four Directorates of the Human Recourses Command (HRC), the task to upgrade was made all the more arduous due to the unique mission and network environment supported by the Command.

The migration to Windows 10 was challenging for HRC PERSINDS for three particular reasons. With regards to the NASE workstations used at HRC, PERSINSD needed to plan and execute an upgrade which included the more than 180 GOTS applications developed wholly in-house at HRC. The migration also required the testing and upgrade of all development tools used by the software developers in PERSINSD. These applications and developer tools required an extensive testing process on both the NASE and RSN networks. When an application was found to have a compatibility problem, testers had to identify the issue and develop a code-release to patch the application so that it was fully compatible with Windows 10. This proved to be problematic due to the interdependencies and interactions which regularly occur between many of the GOTS applications.

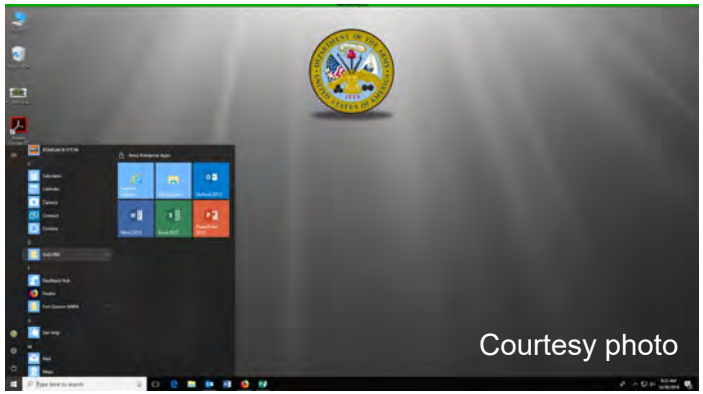
The second challenge, especially for the RSN, was how to transition workstations to the new operating system. On the surface, this problem did not seem very different than any other NEC supporting a traditional post, camp, or station. However, the major different was in the scope of the network itself. Traditional NECs support user populations located in just a few places, with workstations connected to a Local Area Network (LAN) at all times. The exact opposite is true for the RSN, were only 2% of the user population's workstations are connected to a traditional post, camp, or station LAN environment. In the RSN, the remaining 98% of the workstations exist in field work sites, and the bulk of those mobile computers may be disconnected from the network at any given time while being used to



Courtesy photo

perform recruiting and accessioning missions.

The third and final issue had to do with the authentication microchip, otherwise known as the Trusted Platform Module (TPM), which was present on each workstation in the computer fleet. To reach full cyber-security protection, the Windows 10 baseline needs to run on computers which include a TPM version 2.0 chipset. Unfortunately, most of the Army's (and HRC's) computers only had the TPM version 1.2 chipset. With the upgrade to Windows 10, all Commands had to decide if they wanted to do an in-place upgrade for computers already deployed, or buy a lifecycle replacement to implement new hardware. After careful consideration, HRC and the partner Commands determined that a lifecycle replacement of the workstations was more cost-effective and timely than attempting an in-place upgrade of the geographically-dispersed computers. In other words, a single lifecycle event was found to be more feasible than a more time-consuming process of collecting all workstations then


Courtesy photo

performing two separate upgrades (one chipset and one operating system) on each computer.

Once the decision to lifecycle the workstations was made, PERSINSD had to plan the best way to image and ship more than 18,000 RSN-based workstations to all locations. PERSINSD also had to establish imaging operations to support more than 3,000 NASE-connected workstations within the HRC Maude Complex. To meet these competing but equally critical requirements, PERSINSD established two separate imaging depots which were customized to deliver a fully built and tested workstations in the most expedient manner possible. PERSINSD also tailored supporting processes, such as software installation and shipping procedures, to meet the needs of each specific environment.

PERSINSD learned several valuable lessons while executing the move to Windows 10, including:

- Thorough regression testing of a new operating system image is absolutely essential to success, especially if home-grown or highly-modified software is present on the user workstations
- A centralized imaging depot can gain far greater throughput than a decentralized imaging methodology, but the workforce must be staffed, trained, and supported by an effective logistics process
- An operationally-effective depot requires dedicated power, network infrastructure, imaging servers, and cyber-security pathing systems in order to insulate imaging traffic from the production environment
- A strict quality control process must be enforced, to ensure 100% of all computers comply with the imaging baseline and to prevent time-consuming rework

The Soldiers and Civilians of PERSINSD answered the call of duty and demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the mission. In the months since the successful deployment, PERSINSD has utilized several of the lessons learned to build and deploy Windows 10 SHB updates in a more timely and effective manner than ever before.

Combat Camera
“The Eyes of the Army”



U.S. Army Spc. Steven Hitchcock assigned to 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), takes photographs during a mission on Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Hitchcock's mission was to document Task Force Training conducted by Rangers from 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Rashene Mincy.

2LT Colt Skeen
2nd Platoon Leader, 55th Signal Company

"Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past."
-George Orwell, 1984.

George Orwell's literary classic, *1984,* gives a unique and truly terrifying take on the importance of history and information: control these and, well…you control the future. While Orwell's work of fiction may have you screaming hyperbole, there is still a vital lesson to learn from its narrative. Society's history, as well as its access to information, has an influence on the everyday decisions and beliefs of rational, thinking individuals and consequently on the society as a whole.

Visual media plays a central role in this influencing both in shaping our history and our flow of information. A recent study done by emarketer.com on the average consumption of media among adults in the United States has shown that it has now exceeded 12 hours a day. That is more than half of our day that the general public is influenced by various forms of media including visual information. This fact is why Combat Camera is essential to the efforts of the United States Army, and more broadly, to the Department of Defense.

As the Army's only active duty Combat Camera Company, the 55th Signal Company is the "Eyes of the Army." It provides high definition still and video imagery documenting and capturing the U.S. Army's full spectrum of operations in support of Commanders' Strategic, Operational, and Tactical Objectives. The 55th Signal Company covers the gamut of operations across the Department of Defense (DoD) from unconventional operations and rapid deployments to joint and multinational operations, affecting not only mission command on the battlefield but also the DoD's strategic messaging to both the American people and the world.

Sgt. Quince Lanford is one of the exceptional soldiers that has demonstrated the capabilities of the 55th Signal Company. As the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of a six personnel team supporting the 8th Army operations in South Korea, he was selected to cover the historic transfer by the United Nations Command of the 55 cases of remains from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea on the 65th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement. He was the only photographer selected to be onboard the aircraft and document the iconic images that circulated major news outlets worldwide, such as the front page of the Wall Street Journal, ABC News, The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, The Military Times and Fox News. So far, the images have garnered over 54,000 shares and more than 14,000 reactions on social media. One iconic photograph alone of United Nations Command Chaplain U.S. Army





Remains of US Soldiers were returned by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at Osan Air Base, July 27. Combat Camera was assigned to document the historic event. US Army photo by Sgt. Quince Lanford.

Colonel Sam Lee performing a blessing of sacrifice and remembrance received more than 4,800 reactions and more than 12,000 shares on social media.

Sgt. Lanford's work, as well as the work of many other 55th Signal Company service members, both past and present, will continue to be a tremendous tool for the Department of Defense as it navigates murky waters in a rapidly changing and complex world. The 55th's visual information capabilities are both a lens to see the world through and mechanism to influence the future. The 55th Signal Company Combat Camera truly is, "The Eyes of the Army."



Maj. John Delassio, Sgt. 1st Class James Kennedy, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Ebinalcome forward to receive their Regimental Insignia. Photo by Tammy Moehlman.

Cyber celebrates anniversary

welcomes Electronic Warfare to the team

Nick Spinelli
Office, Chief of Signal

The Cyber Corps held a dual purpose ceremony outside Signal Tower last week: celebrating its Four-Year Anniversary and welcoming Electronic Warfare Soldiers into the Cyber Branch.

"I think it's important to take some time to reflect on how much progress we've made as a branch over the past four years…and celebrate the exciting transition of Electronic Warfare into the Cyber Corps," said Brig. Gen. Neil S. Hersey, Cyber School Commandant and Chief of the Cyber Corps, during the ceremony, Sept. 28.

During his remarks, Hersey discussed how Electronic Warfare has changed and adapted over the years, constantly evolving to combat an ever changing, ever growing threat.

"Now the Army is calling on Electronic Warfare to evolve once again – reinvesting in readiness to counter near-peer adversaries," he said. "The future fight requires a fully integrated Cyber and Electromagnetic Activity, commonly known as CEMA, capability. As we field new integrated CEMA capability throughout the Army, we can harness the lethality of both the Cyber and Electronic Warfare disciplines – we need to evolve together to compete in this new information environment."

As part of the ceremony, Hersey recognized three Electronic Warfare Soldiers – Maj. John Delessio, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Ebinal, and Sgt. 1st Class James Kennedy – officially welcoming them to the Cyber team with the Cyber Regimental Insignia.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jose Cardenas, Chief Warrant Officer of Cyber Corps, officially welcomes Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Ebinal, a technical director and electronic warfare Soldier with the Cyber Center of Excellence, into the Cyber Corps by pinning the Cyber Regimental Insignia on Ebinal's uniform. US Army photo by Anne Bowman.

“The fact that the Cyber branch incorporated me into their ceremony was a humbling experience and one that I'm extremely appreciative of,” Delessio, who serves as Executive Officer for the Cyber Training Battalion, said.

Approximately 1,100 Soldiers, officer enlisted, and warrant, were authorized to wear the Cyber Regimental Insignia beginning Oct. 1. However, many have already been working as a part of the Cyber community.

“I've been immersed in Cyber Branch since April, when I was assigned to Fort Gordon as the Senior Career Manager for the Electronic Warfare Enlisted cohort,” Kennedy said. “I've represented Cyber Branch at major events like Augusta TechNet 2018; so while I was honored to participate in the ceremony, I very much already felt like part of the Cyber team.”

Stood up in 2014, the Cyber Center of Excellence works to enable commanders and leaders to operate successfully in both the real world and cyberspace. According to Hersey, the incorporation of Electronic Warfare will ensure the continued success of that mission.

“The incorporation of Cyber and Electronic Warfare is the right move for the Army – toward a fully integrated force….educated, trained and equipped for Multi-Domain competition,” he said. “We’ll move together toward truly technical education, effective materiel solutions, and organizational constructs that build the capabilities our Army and Joint Forces need.”

The transition is also welcomed by Electronic Warfare Soldiers, who see the benefit of falling under Cyber, and recognize how it will help with their own mission.

“Ultimately, the Electronic Warfare mission is not going to change,” Kennedy said. “We're going to keep producing the effects our ground force commanders need to win the battle for electromagnetic spectrum dominance and keep denying the same to our Nation's adversaries. We did so as Fires branch, we did so as Electronic Warfare branch, and now we'll do so as Cyber branch.”



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Ebinal, a technical director and electronic warfare Soldier with the Cyber Center of Excellence, and Sgt. 1st Class James Kennedy, a career manager and electronic warfare Soldier assigned to the Cyber Center of Excellence, march back after receiving their Cyber Regimental Insignia. US Army photo by Anne

Signal School hosts Innovation Day



Several “Tech Talks” were held during the Fort Gordon Innovation Day Oct. 17. Photo by Nick Spinelli.

Nick Spinelli
Office, Chief of Signal

The US Army Signal School on Fort Gordon hosted Innovation Day Oct. 17.

"Innovation Day is an opportunity for industry to present unique new capability options while potentially creating a more realistic environment, than something as large as the recent Augusta TechNet, which was held a few months ago," said Dwayne Williams, Deputy Commandant of the US Army Signal School. "It provides an opportunity for our Instructors, Training Developers and Managers to experience industry products and have discussions about issues that could potentially change and enhance training and education with in the school."

The event, which is held semi-annually, fluctuates sponsorship between the Signal and Cyber Schools.

"Each Innovation Day is sponsored by one of the two schools," Emilee Leichman, Senior Event Manager, said. "This event is sponsored by the Signal School, so exhibitors and educational forums are ca-



As part of Innovation Day, exhibitors set up displays of the latest in communication technologies. Photo by Nick Spinelli.

tered to their specialties. Our last Innovation Day, held in March, was sponsored by the Cyber School which means it was more focused on that component."

Nineteen exhibitors set up booths at the event, providing information and demonstrations on the latest communication products, services, and innovations available. Tech Talks on a variety of topics – ranging from Identity Assurance and Cyber Security – were also held as part of the day's activities.

"As an added bonus, participants received one Continuing Education Credit for each Tech Talk they attended," Leichman said.

According to Leichman, October's Innovation Day received more than 200 visitors, including a group of senior leaders who received a tour and presentation before the event opened.

"Both the industry and military have reported back that the right companies for those in attendance were there, and we had a good flow of attendees throughout the day," she said. . "Also, the Tech Talks were well attended throughout the day. Overall, I would definitely call the event a success."



Attendees check in at the main entrance of Fort Gordon's Innovation Day. Photo by Nick Spinelli.

Signaleer Spotlight

Master Sgt. Brian Hamilton
Army News Service

Sgt. 1st Class Mario King, an Information Technology Specialist career advisor demonstrated the Army Value of selfless service, May 13.

While travelling with his wife, King saw a tractor trailer loaded with 8,000 gallons of fuel abruptly jack-knife to avoid hitting a swerving car, roll several times down the road, and burst into flames. The pair ran over to see if they could help, and SFC King joined two other bystanders in rescuing the driver from the burning truck.

For his heroism, King was awarded the Soldier's Medal, the highest medal the Secretary of the Army can bestow during peacetime.

"This is a great honor," King said. "I am fourth generation military and countless members of my family have served this country. I could never have imagined this day when I joined the Army more than 16 years ago. We live the Army values and that one value, that one day, stood out. You don't have to know them. They don't have to be your battle buddy, your friend or even your family. If someone is in need, you step in and help them out. That's how I live each day."



Sgt. 1st Class Mario King receives the Soldier's Medal from Maj. Gen. Jason T. Evans, HRC commanding general, for his heroism in saving a man from a burning truck. US Army photo by Master Sgt. Brian Hamilton.

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-Gen. Paul Nakasone, commander of US Army Cyber Command

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US Army Signal School

CONTACT US:

COM: (706) 791-8163/8187

DSN: 780-8163/8187

email:
usarmy.gordon.cyber-coe.mbx.sigcoeocosed mailbox@mail.mil

website:
https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/838

Building 29808
506 Chamberlain Ave.
Fort Gordon, GA 30905



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