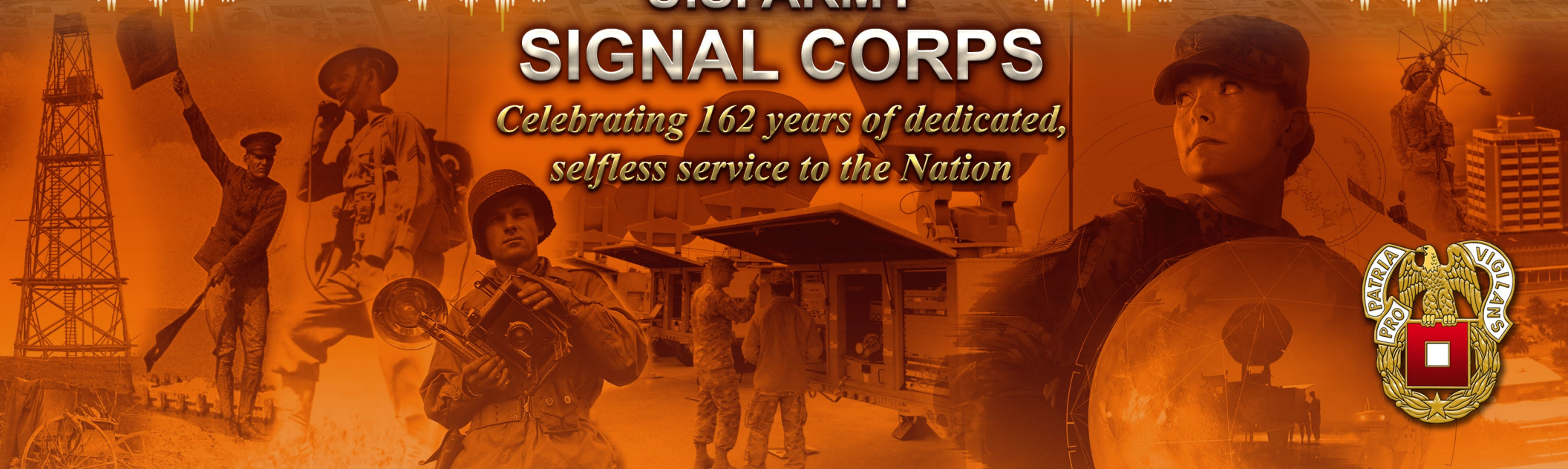
ARMY COMMUNICATOR

June 2022

U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

Celebrating 162 years of dedicated, selfless service to the Nation



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Submit articles, photos, graphics, videos, story ideas, and nominations for "Signal Spotlight" to the editor here. For additional information, please call (706) 791-7325.
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On the cover:

The U.S. Signal Corps will celebrate 162 years on June 21. Learn about the Signal Corps' history, including the selection of its first officer, and more on page 9. (Cover photo illustration by Tài Doick, U.S. Army Signal School)

Team Signal,

This month we celebrate the 162nd birthday of the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the upcoming deactivation of the storied 40th Signal Battalion. The unit's deactivation is part of our solution for the Large Scale Combat Operations Communications Gap, which included the transition to expeditionary signal battalions – enhanced and providing additional cyber security personnel, communications and electronics maintainers, and signal support systems specialists (25Us) to the division, brigade combat team, and maneuver battalion and company/troop levels.

The Signal Regiment is known for innovation. This month we are conducting the Critical Tasks Site Selection Board (CTSSB) for information systems engineers (26Bs) and the CTSSB for information technology network engineers (26As) will occur in August. These two events are instrumental in supporting our main effort (along with the information services technicians/255As) for the Army's data and cloud professionals of the future. You will read about the latest Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal (CSS VSAT) fielding and training, but know that the sustainment and signal communities are already working a more secure replacement – the Sustainment Transport System. The 71st Ordnance Group shares their effort to create a more rapidly deployable tactical operations center (TOC) kit. Innovate, innovate, innovate … Be the problem solver.

And finally, we have some articles on unit training, almost a lost art. I have gained a newfound appreciation for training, mostly the importance of technical self-development. Next month we will share some opportunities to improve your cloud and data skill sets. As always, thank you for what you do for the Signal Regiment and our Nation.

Pro Patria Vigilans!



Col. James Turinetti IV
Signal School Commandant



Command Sgt. Maj. Darien Lawshea
Regimental CSM



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Chris Westbrook
Regimental CWO

The 1860 Senate debates and the birth of the Signal Corps

Labor pains

Steven J. Rauch
Signal Corps Branch Historian

Albert J. Myer was an imaginative and enterprising man whose determination resulted in the creation of a distinct organization responsible for military communications: the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

In 1856, Myer approached Secretary of War Jefferson F. Davis about the Army adopting his wigwag system of line-of-sight tactical communication. Unfortunately for Myer, Davis was known for being very fiscally conservative and it was hard to sell him about new expenditures or an increase of the Army budget in any way. After Davis was elected to the U.S. Senate, the new secretary of war, John B. Floyd, arraigned for Myer to demonstrate his invention to a board of officers in 1859. Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee was the president of the board and after listening to Myer's proposal, he prepared a report stating the wigwag system would be a useful supplement to the methods of sound or messenger.

Floyd granted Myer a leave of absence from his medical duties to conduct further testing of his wigwag system. On Nov. 29, 1859, Myer reported to Floyd that not only did he feel the system was simple, strong and cheap, but if the War Department adopted the system, then someone needed to oversee the implementation of the new system.

Myer wrote, "If I am rendering the government a service, it is but just I should be secured this duty. To do this my position ought to be fully understood by the department; my detail on this duty be made permanent; and my rank rendered operative so far as relates to signal duty by a special order of the President."

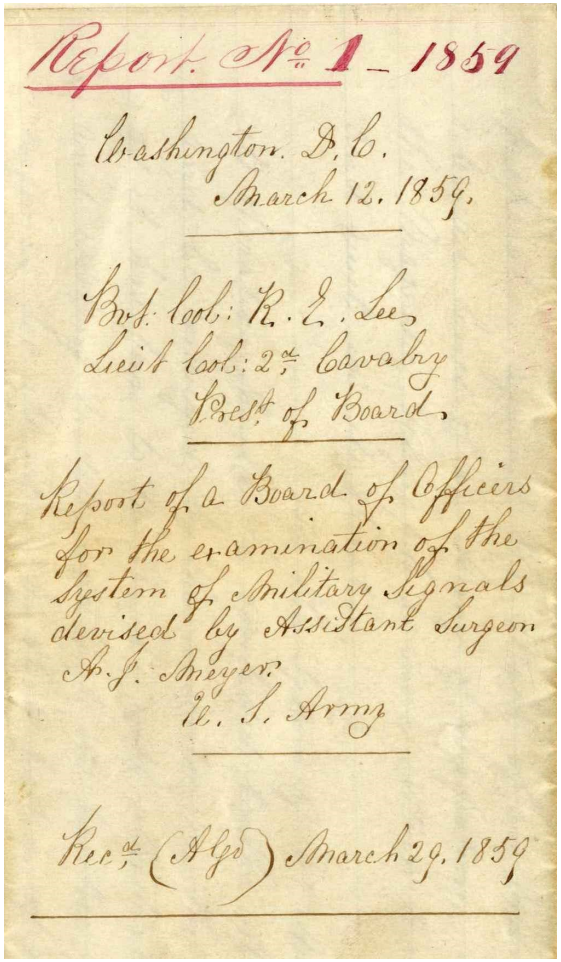
Myer made it clear that he wanted to be the signal officer for the U.S. Army and no longer wanted to serve as an assistant surgeon or in any further medical capacity.

At this point, the story shifts to the Senate, where a resolution had been passed to consider improvements to military communications. Jefferson Davis, now a senator from Mississippi and chair of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, contacted Floyd about this matter. Floyd replied that a special board had reported favorably on Myer's system of signals and experiments had demonstrated its usefulness for military operations.. Floyd recommended to Davis, "There . . . be added to the staff of the Army one signal officer with such rank, pay and allowances as the committee may determine and that there be added to the appropriation for the Army [funding] to be expended . . . for bringing into the service this mode of communication."



Known as "the father of the U.S. Army Signal Corps," Albert J. Myer became the first-ever signal officer, appointed in 1860, at the rank of major. The Signal Corps was not formally recognized until 1863, by which time Myer was promoted to colonel.

Floyd told Davis that Myer was in Washington, and if Davis wished, he could appear in person before the Senate committee to demonstrate the wigwag system. Davis agreed and Myer appeared before the Senate committee on Feb. 23, 1860. The demonstration was impressive, and Davis later said he would like to see the wigwag introduced to the Army; however, he did not want to see any more positions added to the Army staff. Myer, of course, wanted to be the officer who would implement it within the Army, and he really needed Davis's support. At the next meeting, Davis chastised Myer about adding the signal officer position. In addition, he told Myer that the correct legislative procedure was for the proposal to come from the House of Representatives and not originate in the Senate. Turning that rebuke into an opportunity, Myer obtained a hearing before the House Committee on Military Affairs, which unanimously recommended the appointment of a signal officer with the rank of major to the Army staff.



Report No. 1 – 1859

Washington. D. C.
March 12. 1859.

Brvt. Lieut. Col: R. E. Lee
Lieut Col: 2d Cavalry
Pres't of Board.

Report of a Board of Officers for the examination of the System of Military Signals devised by Assistant Surgeon A. J. Meyer.
U. S. Army

Rec'd (Adjt) March 29. 1859

Scanned image of Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee's report submitted to Adjutant General Samuel Cooper in 1859.

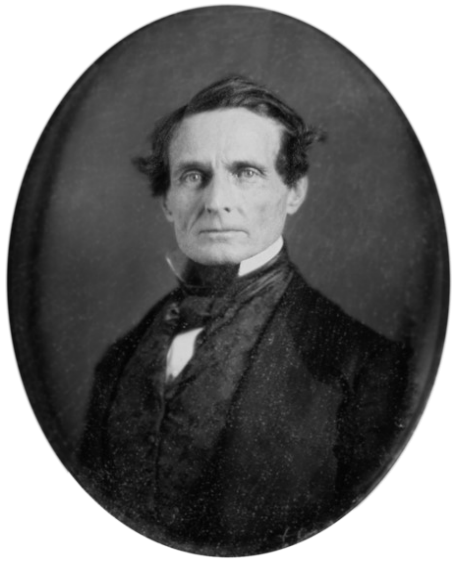
On March 28, 1860, HR 305, the Army appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1861, was amended to provide for the manufacture or purchase of the wigwag equipment for $2,000, and to add to the Army staff one signal officer in the rank of major. March 29, 1860, the House passed HR 305 with those provisions.

When the Senate took up the appropriations bill on June 2, 1860, Davis moved to strike out the provision for a signal officer but leave only the $2,000 for signaling equipment. Disagreeing with Davis, Senator Joseph Lane of Oregon commented that, "We had better have that officer." Thus, the Senate began to debate the signaling proposal.

In general, the quality of debate was not very high because many participants were not prepared to discuss the issue. Jefferson Davis was the primary spokesperson for the opposition, if not the entire opposition himself. He was opposed to adding a signal officer to the Army staff because he believed that it would lead to an entirely new branch of the service. He thought that oversight and control of signal equipment and training should be assigned to an established branch or staff agency.

Senator King stated he thought the secretary of war had already approved adding the position of major as signal officer. Davis replied that if King had been more regular in attendance at committee meetings, he would know that neither the committee nor the secretary had made that recommendation. Senator James Pearce of Maryland then stated that Myer, "as a medical man, a gentleman of property, not greedy after money," had devoted considerable time to improving military signals. Davis told Pearce that signals were "older than pontoons and breech-loading guns" and demanded to know if a major should be appointed for each of these.

On June 5, 1860, the Senate rejected Davis's amendment to delete the signal officer position by a vote of 25 to 13. On June 7, 1860, when debate resumed, Senator Wilson introduced several documents to include Lee's report that was favorable to Myer's system. Davis then directed sharp words at Myer for not following accepted military protocol and his lack of awareness of how the Army worked. He said of Myer, "If this doctor had been an educated Soldier, trained to the usages of the Army, he would never have thought of such a reward. It was because he came from a learned profession and knew nothing of the rules of promotion or the character of rewards that follow military service." In spite of that, the Senate approved the appropriations and returned it to the House on June 11, 1860, with all signaling provisions intact.



Jefferson F. Davis served in multiple positions throughout his political career from 1845 to 1861.

On June 21, 1860, President James Buchanan signed the law:

For the manufacture or purchase of apparatus and equipments for field signals, $2,000. And that there be added to the staff of the Army one signal officer, with the rank, pay, and allowances of a major of cavalry who shall have charge … of all signal duty, and of all books, papers, and apparatus connected therewith.

Secretary of War Floyd recommended that Myer be appointed to the signal officer position at the rank of major, which was confirmed by the Senate on June 27, 1860, without opposition. Thus, the Signal Corps was born in spite of the labor pains encountered during a prolonged political and bureaucratic process.

Signal Corps has a bright future, key part in transformation

Here to stay

Laura Levering
U.S. Army Signal School

As word spread that the demolition of Signal Towers was a part of Fort Gordon's transformation plans, some wondered if it was a sign of the beginning of the end for the Signal Corps. The reality is that could not be further from the truth.

Although Signal Towers will in fact be demolished over the course of several months, as indicated during a memorialization ceremony held April 22, the Signal Corps' mission is more critical today – and will remain in the future – as it has been in past years.

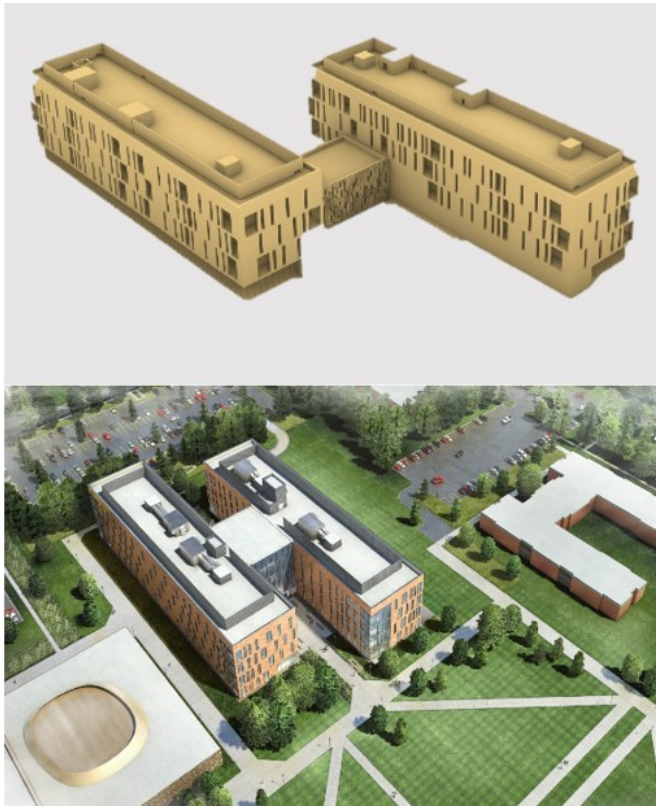
Hoping to dispel any speculation that the Signal Corps is "going away," one of its longstanding members provided some insight on its future.

"I've seen a lot of movement here over the years, so for me it's good to see what we're doing now," said Dwayne Williams, referring to various ongoing projects that has collectively become known as the Fort Gordon campus transformation.

Williams, U.S. Army Signal School deputy commandant, first came to Fort Gordon in 1984 as a newly commissioned signal officer. He went on to serve in a variety of roles over the years, ultimately retiring from active-duty at Fort Gordon in 2009. But his service with the Signal Corps didn't end there. Instead, he continued his service as a Department of Army employee. And ever since then, at least one thing has remained the same: change.

"Since I've been here, as the deputy, I've now been in three buildings," Williams said. "It's a bit of a pain, but I'm OK with it because it just shows that you're constantly evolving."

The estimated $1 billion Cyber Center of Excellence campus modernization project is a prime example. While on the surface it may appear that cyber is the sole focus, one look at a blueprint of the campus indicates otherwise. The Signal Corps accounts for a sizeable portion of the transformation project.



The future Fort Gordon campus will include a new Signal School, seen here. The facility is expected to have 35 classrooms and 41 labs spread across 220,000 square feet. Boasting more space and the latest in technology, the new Signal School will be better suited for the demand to continue training Signaleers in an ever-evolving force.

Four new buildings will replace the Vietnam-era facilities used for training over the past 50-plus years. These new training buildings will enhance the Signal School's ability to inject new technological changes into the curriculum at a faster pace, Williams said. Two of the four facilities will house the Signal School; the Signal School Headquarters and Advanced Individual Training in one, and senior leadership development courses in the other.

In addition to new construction, numerous buildings and sites will receive major renovations including the satellite training facility (Vincent Hall), the WIN-T training facility (Brant Hall), and Willard Training Area. Alexander Hall will be transformed into an auditorium with a 2,000 seating capacity and approximately 10 classrooms. The end state will be a walkable campus where signal and cyber Soldiers can move and train with minimal to zero disruption.

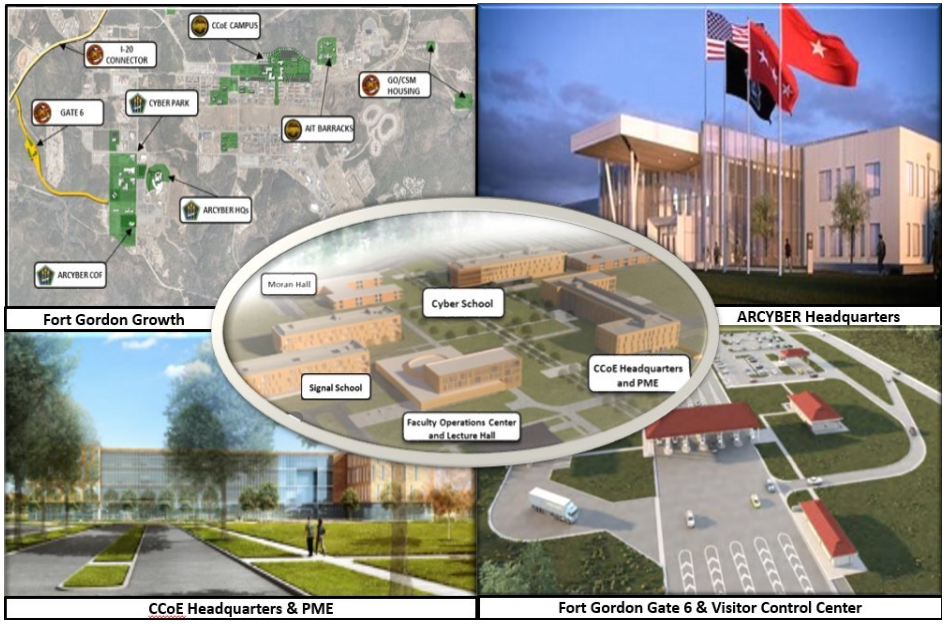
"The intent is for Soldiers to be able to walk back and forth to classrooms inside these buildings," Williams said.

As the Army continues to evolve while training the best and brightest in the force, Fort Gordon is meeting its demands.

"When I was a lieutenant, (signal) was very network focused … now I think we're much more focused on the data side of it," said Col. James Turinetti IV, U.S. Army Signal School commandant. "It's not just that you have to build, maintain and defend a network, but now you're looking at the data – how are we managing the data, how are we protecting the data – going to more of a data-centric network as opposed to a network focus … we are a major part of cyberspace operations."

Looking back on his nearly 30 years of service in the Signal Corps, much like Williams, Turinetti is very optimistic about the future.

"If you're going to be wedded to things that are in the past, I think you're going to lose," Turinetti said. "We have to be evolving. We have to be on the cutting edge of technology."

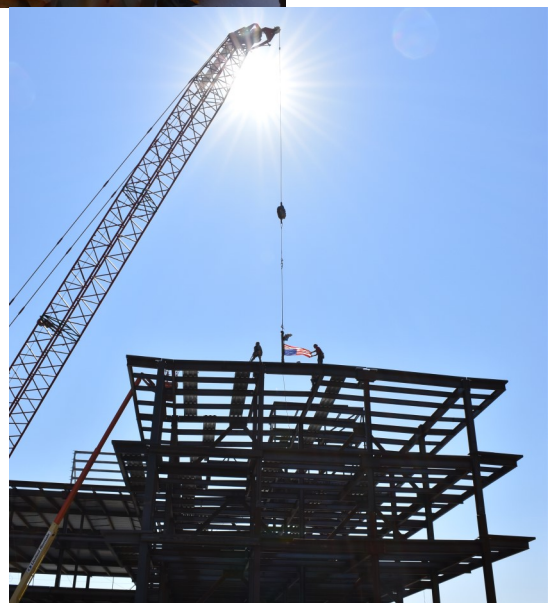


A graphic depicting an overview of the future Fort Gordon Campus includes a brand new U.S. Army Signal School and additional facilities where Signaleers will work and train.



(Left) Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon Command Sgt. Maj. Delia Quintero signs a construction beam during a "topping off ceremony" at the Fort Gordon Campus site June 1. (Photo by Laura Levering, U.S. Army Signal School)

(Right) A beam carrying the American flag and signatures of several Fort Gordon leaders and construction workers is carefully lowered into place at the Fort Gordon Campus site following a "topping off ceremony" held June 1. The time-honored tradition marks a milestone in the project's process. In this case, it signified one of the new buildings being about one-third of the way completed. (Photo by Laura Levering, U.S. Army Signal School)



Marne Signal University creates expert signal Soldiers

Learning never stops

Pfc. Michael Udejiofor
3rd Infantry Division

Marne Signal University trains 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers on advanced radio networking and signal communications capabilities. MSU is based upon a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command initiative that the division uses to build upon basic skills learned in initial entry training and grow experts within the communications enterprise. They train, knowing the nation's global competitors relentlessly pursue modernization of their own technology and equipment.

Daniel Schultz, MSU director and formerly an enlisted satellite communications system operator in the Army, has firsthand experience on the difficulties Soldiers face in the field employing the equipment.

"With my experience as a field support [representative]," said Schultz, "I've seen all the stuff out in the field that goes wrong and I try to inject that in my class as much as possible, so they're not only touching it every six months when they go out to the field."

MSU offers a variety of classes in tactical signal functions such as employing Advanced System Improvement Program radios, high frequency radios, Multiband Inter/Intra Team Radios, tactical satellite radios, Harris handheld radios, and information technology networking and Cisco routing. Soldiers can also gain certificates for training that can earn points toward noncommissioned officer promotions, depending on their military occupational specialty. Most importantly, the training ensures Dogface Soldiers are flexible and agile by effectively leveraging the technology. The commanders have the flexibility to tailor training to fulfill identified deficiencies and prepare for future deployments.

"Yeah, the tactical routing class, high frequency radio class, they're usually around 40 hours," said Schultz. "The certification classes are usually two weeks, 80-hour courses, and also they get a voucher if they pass a test to earn one that's paid for by division."

To ensure the ability to protect the nation and support allies and partners across a wide range of future challenges, sustainment training of the current and future Army relies on constantly upgrading equipment and communications skills. An average of 300 to 500 Soldiers take those courses each year and apply the skills learned once they are out training in the field as well as a civilian.

"Many IT jobs in the private industry require some type of certification either before being hired or shortly after onboarding." said Ronald E. Nixon Jr, civilian deputy and mission support element for 3rd Inf. Div. G-6. "Getting your certifications while on active duty will provide you with an edge over many applicants. Having the certifications and experience places you in a better position to get the job you want and also helps your resume stand out."

Benefits Soldiers gain from the MSU experience include industry certification training and testing, convenience, flexibility, interaction with instructors and other students, and a more comfortable learning environment to continue developing their professional achievements.

"I recommend all Soldiers to join this class," said Staff Sgt. Cameron Green, an attendee at the Marne Signal University. "Whether you're technically savvy or you're not technically savvy, to come out and do the certifications is great for military progression and promotion points. Also for the future when you decide to get out of the military."

As the world of technology continues to develop, so does the need to enhance training value and help Soldiers keep up. In the near future, the MSU will provide other certification classes in areas that they haven't offered before.

Classes are for all Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, with priority given to signal military occupational specialties for certain classes.

Marne Signal University

Learn more about this tailorable training program which includes opportunities to earn promotion points.

To view upcoming courses and register, use your military common access card and government computer to visit: https://rockofthemarne.stewart.army.mil/sites/g6/Lists/cybersecuritySchedule/schedule

Soldiers trained on inflatable satellite antenna

CSS VSAT

Kenji Thuloweit
Eighth Army Public Affairs

The "Ready First Brigade" will be prepared to order vital parts and supplies thanks to recent training received on the Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal, or CSS VSAT, an inflatable satellite antenna.

Soldiers of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, from Fort Bliss, Texas, were taught how to set up and operate the Army's new Inflatable Satellite Antenna, or ISA.

For Army logisticians who sustain their units with critical supplies, repair resources and parts, one of their most important tools is the CSS VSAT, a mobile satellite terminal found at every major subordinate command within Eighth Army.

Eighth Army was the first unit to receive ISA systems. It is a lightweight, versatile satellite terminal, which Soldiers can set up and connect to a satellite to conduct logistics operations in the field. Soldiers can order anything from vehicle parts to medical supplies.

"In the [supply support activities], we support the requisition process of parts for customers, so in order for us to do that we have to put the order in the system of record, GCSS-Army, we depend on this internet connectivity that the ISA provides," said Cpl. Faustina Fetalaiga, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st ABCT, 1st AD. "This week we learned how to set up and operate the ISA and how to get the right azimuth to get the correct signal, so we are able to use the internet to order parts when we go to the field."

For a week, the students from various 1st ABCT units from Camp Humphreys and Camp Casey took classroom lessons and later set up their ISA systems, which then connected to a satellite. The goal is to have each Ready First Brigade Soldier able to return to their units and set up and employ the ISA.

The class was taught by instructors from the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command Logistics Training Team.

The ISA system looks different than the legacy version; its dish sits inside a 1.2-meter inflatable ball. The ISA is more expeditionary than the legacy version because it only weighs approximately 150 pounds and packs into just two cases. It is designed so two Soldiers can set up the ISA in less than 30 minutes, compared to more than 45 minutes for the previous system, according to U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command



Soldiers of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, from Fort Bliss, Texas, were taught how to set up and operate the Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal, or CSS VSAT, Inflatable Satellite Antenna at U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys, South Korea. (Courtesy photo)

"The ISA is more compact, you can pack it up very quickly and bring it to another location if you need to move," said Sgt. Tony Harrington, Sustainment Automation Support Management Office noncommissioned officer in-charge for 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st ABCT, 1st AD.

Harrington is an information technology specialist team leader who will help fix any issues Soldiers have with the ISA in the field.

"The legacy VSATs back in the states come in big boxes that you have to carry around to different places," Harrington said. "We learned the setup and tear down process for the ISAs and my team and I have a lot of experience with the legacy VSATs so we'll be able to troubleshoot any connectivity problems with the ISA if needed; it's almost the same process."

Harrington added the training is good for the Soldiers because it will help them set up the ISA properly and limit the amount of trouble calls his team gets so he'll be available to help other Soldiers with trouble-shooting issues.

Despite its appearance, the ISA will not pop like a balloon if punctured. The new system is also designed to withstand interference because wind tends to travel around its round shape as opposed to an exposed satellite dish. The ISA also can operate in additional spectrum bands, according to U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command. According to David Moody, 19th ESC, logistics management specialist instructor, Eighth Army and U.S. Army Pacific, are the only U.S. Army units to use the ISA right now. He and his team have been conducting continuous training on the ISA since it arrived and are fulfilling Eighth Army G4's request to have rotational brigade Soldiers trained to set them up for success.

"I was asked back at Fort Bliss if I wanted to attend this class before we deployed," said Fetalaiga. "This class has been great and I appreciate the civilian instructors. I'm glad I told them I wanted to attend."

Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal (CSS VSAT)

Provided by U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command

In 2004, the Army fielded CSS VSAT. As the Army looks toward the next long-term solution, it is addressing the weight issue of CSS VSAT and challenges associated with the auto-find feature to locate a satellite signal. Readiness remains the Army's number-one priority readiness to fight tonight, in any location and under any conditions. That means the equipment and a modernized network that enables that fight, like the ISA, must be expeditionary: light, easy to transport and quick to configure with only a moment's notice. A Soldier's ability to shoot, move and communicate is dependent on a reliable, unified network coupled with the hardware and software that makes that connection a reality.



***Top**: Cpl. Faustina Fetalaiga, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, assembles an Inflatable Satellite Antenna during a training class at U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys, South Korea.*

***Bottom**: Brig. Gen. Joseph D'costa, Eighth Army deputy commanding general (second from right) visits with Soldiers while they were setting up a Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal (CSS VSAT), Inflatable Satellite Antenna at U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys, South Korea. (Courtesy photos)*



Soldiers create rapid deployment tactical command system

Making a difference

Walter Ham
20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives Command

A Soldier from the Fort Carson, Colorado-based 71st Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) developed a rapid deployment command and control system that reduces the time required to deploy to hotspots around the world.

Cpl. Kobie Roemisch created the Mobile Expedient Tactical Operations Center kit (MET-K) with equipment that was already available in the group.

"I was sitting down in the office one day when we noticed we had some old equipment lying around we didn't use in the green boxes," said Roemisch, a Bedford, Texas, native who has always had an interest in engineering and figuring out how things work.

"I was told to utilize them or throw them away," said Roemisch. "Then the idea came to put the (Joint Battle Command-Platform) system and the radio mount system in the boxes. From there, I just got to work."

The result of Roemisch's efforts is the MET-K, a system that takes up half the space and takes about 15 minutes to set up.

The system is currently being tested and ran a proof of concept during the annual all-Army EOD Team of the Year competition on Fort Carson, Colorado, May 16 – 20.

Maj. Shawn M. Gutierrez, the communication officer for the 71st EOD Group, said the upcoming proof of concept will test many areas.

"The plan is to build this capability all the way down to the EOD company level," said Gutierrez, an 18-year Army Veteran from Calhoun, Georgia, who has deployed to Afghanistan. "The Soldiers will take the lessons learned from the Team of the Year and see what we can do to continue to perfect our design."

Gutierrez said they are putting together an instruction guide that other EOD units can use to build the MET-K system.

The 71st EOD Group commands all Army EOD Soldiers west of the Mississippi River, including three EOD battalions and 18 EOD companies on 11 installations in nine states. The group is part of the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command, the U.S. Department of Defense's premier all hazards command.



The Mobile Expedient Tactical Operations Center kit (MET-K), seen here, only takes about 15 minutes to set up. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Apolonia Gaspar, 71st Ordnance Group Public Affairs)

Soldiers and civilians from the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland-headquartered 20th CBRNE Command deploy from 19 bases in 16 states to take on the world's most dangerous hazards.

Gutierrez said that MET-K will help EOD technicians to be more nimble, agile and adaptable during large scale combat operations where speed is critical.

"With the advances of technology and precision fires from a near peer adversary, our lethal formations must have the ability to expeditiously move from one location to another or jump TOC," said Gutierrez. "The variable that could mean life or death on the battlefield is time."

"Cpl. Roemisch played a significant role in fabricating the design of the Mobile Expedient Tactical Operations Center-Kit … the term that Cpl. Roemisch and his team coined for the design," said Gutierrez.

Spc. Mason Armijo, Sgt. Devin Hawk and Sgt. 1st Class Scott Reckell assisted with developing the MET-K.

"Together these Soldiers leveraged their experience and technical expertise to efficiently design a mobile TOC kit that could save set up time and save operational space," said Gutierrez.

101st Soldiers cross-train on communications equipment

Operation Lethal Eagle II

Spc. Jordy Harris
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Soldiers received HCLOS (High Capacity Line of Sight) training on during Operation Lethal Eagle II at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The training was conducted by Sgt. Orlando Valentin, HCLOS section sergeant in Signal, Intelligence, and Sustainment Company Headquarters & Headquarters Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

When integrated within Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) Increment One, HCLOS radios combine communications within a user's sight range or line-of-sight, or those that expand beyond their line-of-sight, to a receiver at a distant location to facilitate internet connectivity and communication.

"HCLOS is a great system to use as a redundant link in case our satellite communication (SATCOM) drops or our fiber optics get damaged," said Valentin. "It is an easy link to set up and push communication through as a backup. We also were able to teach our help desk how to set it up."

For this training segment, setup included a 15-meter mast, a parabolic antenna, and a radio receiver set at a separate location for communication testing. Valentin said the Soldiers were receptive to the training and performed the tasks to standard while ensuring they adhered to safety measures and met operational requirements.

"The Soldiers did excellent, they were all open to the training and wanted to participate," said Valentin. "I had fun teaching them, and they picked it up quick. We were able to certify the Helpdesk Team on setting up the HCLOS, when their daily duties are usually just end user troubleshooting and administrative stuff. It was great to teach them and get them outside to cross-train."

Pfc. Juan Rodriguez participated in the training and said it will prepare him to be able to perform another Soldier's tasks if required.

"It gave me the chance to expand my knowledge base on signal equipment so I can cover down on multiple jobs if I need to, especially if someone goes down," said Rodriguez.

Training sessions in the Army are designed to be inclusive, where Soldiers are given the opportunity to learn new skills from their peers who have expertise in other areas. This demonstrates to Soldiers how their tasks all contribute to the bigger operations of the Army, and fosters cohesion among the ranks.



Sgt. Orlando Valentin and Staff Sgt. Alfredo Flores participate in HCLOS training at Operation Lethal Eagle II, Fort Campbell, Ky. (Photo by Spc. Jordy Harris, 101st Airborne Division)

"It is important to learn each other's jobs," said Rodriguez. "It gives you a better understanding on how all of our jobs work together."

Staff Sgt. Natasha Noel, platoon sergeant (PSG) in SIS Co., HHBn., said she feels proud of her Soldiers and their ability to train others on the duties and responsibilities associated with their job.

"I love watching my NCOs conduct training," said Noel. "It had been a minute since I was able to get my hands on the HCLOS, especially setting up the antenna mast. One of my favorite things about being a PSG is watching my NCOs lead and train the Soldiers and do it well. Sgt. Valentin is a great NCO and did a great job instructing the training, making it possible for the Helpdesk Soldiers who had never seen a HCLOS put it up and operate it with no issues."

Operation Lethal Eagle II was designed to give leaders maximum time to focus on training their Soldiers while building cohesion in the division. The intent is to train Soldiers as a division in order to increase readiness and lethality as one of America's most lethal fighting forces. As the exercise continues, Soldiers will partake in foundational training to better prepare them for the battlefields of the future.

40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion inactivates

A mark in history

Lt. Col. Joseph Smith and Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Halstead
40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

After more than 79 years of sterling and storied service to the Army and Signal Corps, 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) will case its colors on July 22.

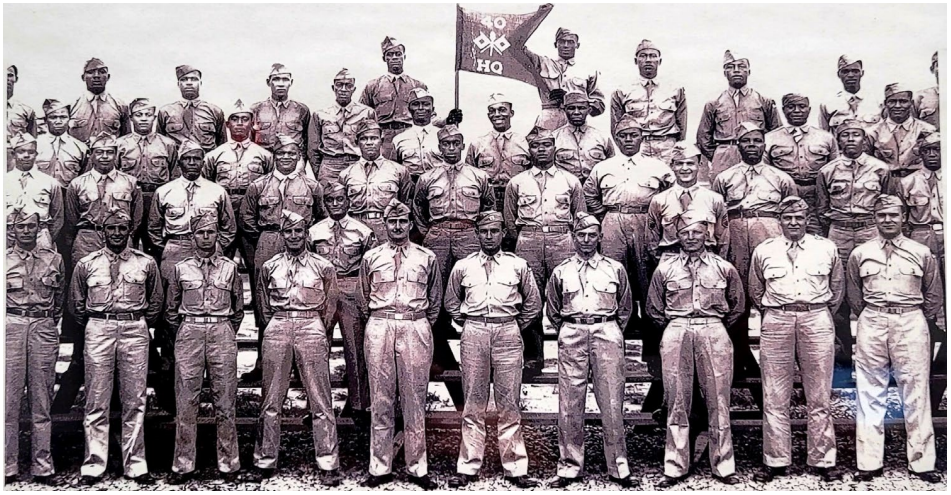
Constituted July 31, 1942, as the 40th Signal Construction Battalion, it was activated on Sept. 21, 1942, at Camp Campbell, Kentucky. At its inception, the 40th was a segregated unit that had an exclusively African American enlisted force.

Team 40th's first combat service occurred in Normandy with the allied invasion of Europe in 1944. We would go on to serve throughout Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and into Germany. The 40th was the only signal unit north of the bulge, during the Battle of the Bulge. It would be the first signal unit to go into Germany and the first signal unit to cross the Rhine River. It was because of 40th's outstanding service during World War II that we earned our first five battle streamers. We were also given the motto, "Bene Factum" which means "well done."

Typical of the post-World War II Army, the 40th inactivated in 1946, only to be reactivated in 1950 at then-Camp Gordon, Georgia. After being reorganized in 1953, the 40th was re-designated as 40th Signal Battalion and sent to participate in the occupation of Europe. While in Europe, and pursuant to President Truman's Executive Order 9981 of 1948, the 40th was the first signal battalion to de-segregate. It would go on to become the first signal unit to integrate genders.

Team 40th's next combat service came during the Vietnam Conflict. Beginning in 1966, the 40th was an active participant in every phase of the Vietnam War, ending with the Cease Fire in 1973. Fourteen battle streamers were added to the Battalion Colors, along with two Meritorious Unit Commendations.

Team 40th would return from Vietnam in 1973, and would be reassigned to its current home of Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in October 1981.



Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Signal Construction Battalion, Camp Campbell, Kentucky, June 4, 1943. (Courtesy photo)

The 40th would next see combat with the Iraq War in 1991. Three more battle streamers would be added along with another Meritorious Unit Commendation. In 1993, the 40th was called upon to participate in the Somalia conflict, earning another battle streamer.

In 1995, the 40th would participate in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and in Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia in 2000. Elements of the 40th participated in the invasion of Iraq in 2003, and the battalion earned credit for participating in five more phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom, earning five battle streamers and four Meritorious Unit Commendations. Additionally, Company C was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation as well as a Meritorious Unit Commendation (Navy). In all, the 40th has earned 28 battle streamers and seven Meritorious Unit Commendations. With additional service in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Afghanistan, Poland, and the Horn of Africa, as well as extensive service throughout U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) areas of responsibility, Team 40th's rich history is unmatched in the Signal Corps.



An example of an Expeditionary Signal Battalion—Enhanced's footprint and Scalable Network Nodes after ESB-E conversion. (Courtesy photo)

Over the last two years, 40th ESB has continued to deploy across the globe, providing unparalleled communications support to the warfighter, at every echelon, throughout U.S. Africa Command, U.S. European Command, and INDOPACOM. In November 2020, Company C, 40th ESB, completed a nine-month rotation to Djibouti, Africa, in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), part of U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM). Their unmatched communications support enabled the task force to conduct critical operations in the Combined Joint Operations Area to enhance partner nation capacity, promote regional stability, dissuade conflict, and protect U.S. and coalition interests, which is critical to building partner capacity to counter violent extremists and address other regional security partnerships.

Later in November 2020, the battalion deployed and exercised its Combined Network Operations and Security Center (CNOSC) at Fort Carson, Colorado, in support of 4th Infantry Division (4ID) during Warfighter 21-02. During this mission, the CNOSC assisted in planning, managing, and monitoring of all communications throughout the duration of the exercise. The CNOSC mission support directly enabled 4ID to test and certify warfighting capabilities, which enhanced the division's overall readiness to fight and win against any adversaries.

In February 2021, Company B, 40th ESB, set off on a nine-month deployment to Poland in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, where they seamlessly projected communications capabilities across the European Theater. This critical support enabled EUCOM to exercise the deployment of combat-credible U.S. forces to Europe. Company B's efforts enabled EUCOM to continue to build readiness, increase interoperability, and enhance bonds between ally and partner militaries through multinational training events in Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania.

In April 2021, the battalion deployed, established, and exercised a Coalition Network Operations and Security Center (CNOSC) at Fort Hood, Texas, in support of III Corps, the Joint Network Operations Control Center, 3UK DIV, and 3FR DIV during Warfighter 21-04. During this mission, the CNOSC assisted with planning, monitoring, and managing communications for all subordinate organizations throughout the exercise. CNOSC's mission support directly enabled III Corps to test and certify their warfighting capabilities, which enhancing the Corp's overall readiness to fight and win large-scale combat operations.

In July 2021, the 40th deployed to Guam, establishing the CNOSC, and Company C, 40th ESB employed communication nodes across the theater, in support of Defender Pacific 21 (DP21). Company C's seamlessly projected Teams and nodes across Guam, providing communications that enabled mission command for I Corps, JNCC, 8th TSC, 593d ESC, 17th CSSB, 1st Multi-Domain Task Force, and subordinate down trace organizations across the Indo-Pacific region. During DP21, the CNOSC provided technical oversight, support, and management of communication requirements in coordination with the JNCC and I Corps G6.

Lastly, from July through November 2021, the battalion deployed communications teams from Company A, 40th ESB, to Camp Atterbury, Indiana; Fort Riley, Kansas; and Fort Irwin, California. Company A, 40th ESB also provided tactical communications support to V Corps during their Command Post Exercise, Warfighter 22-01, and NTC 22-02.

The 40th is the second of two battalions being inactivated as part of the Army's Signal Corps modernization initiative: Expeditionary Signal Battalion –Enhanced (ESB-E). ESB-E is a modular, scalable, more agile version of the ESB that is being fielded across the Army. It provides alternative tactical network capabilities that reduce reliance on legacy Warfighter Information Network Tactical (WIN-T) equipment and supports the Army's tactical network modernization line of effort to unify the network by providing assured network transport in congested environments. The ESB-E's tactical network communications support will enable a more lethal and mobile joint and coalition force, helping the Army retain overmatch against increasingly capable adversaries.