

3rd Signal Brigade "TRIPLE THREAT"

by Capt. Randy
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3rd Signal Brigade

The 3rd Signal Brigade was activated on 17 September 1979 at Fort Hood, Texas, to replace the 1st Signal Group. The brigade includes Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 16th Signal Battalion (Corps Area), the 54th Signal Battalion (Corps Radio), and the 57th Signal Battalion (Command and Control Operations). Additionally, the 278th Signal Company (Cable) was attached to the 57th Signal Battalion, and the 313th Signal Company (Light Tropic Scatter) was attached to the 54th Signal Battalion.

Because it supports all three combat arms branches, the 3rd Signal Brigade's motto is "TRIPLE THREAT." Its unit insignia depicts this "triple-threat" capability by showing three rounds of ammunition connected by three Signal flashes. The insignia's colors are blue, gold, and scarlet for infantry, armor, and artillery, respectfully.



16th Signal Battalion

16th Signal Battalion "COMMUNICATIONS FIRST"

The 16th Signal Battalion was constituted on 9 October 1942 as the 16th Signal Operation Battalion. It was activated on 31 October 1942 and assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Soon after, the unit was assigned to U.S. Army Forces, Southwest Pacific Area, enroute to Australia. On 26 July 1943, the unit departed San Francisco, California, aboard the *Willard A. Halbrook* and arrived in Australia on 14 August 1943, where in a few months it was reorganized and assigned to the 6th Army.

On 4 December 1943, the unit moved to New Guinea in support of MacArthur's campaign; it sustained operations there for almost a year.

The battalion continued the "island hopping" in October 1944, sending an advanced party along with the 19th Infantry Regiment, which landed on Red Beach near Pewing, Leyte, the Philippines. The unit then participated in the Luzon Campaign.

On 29 September 1945, just two years after leaving the United States, the 16th landed at Wakayan, Japan, where it was later inactivated on 20 February 1946. During World War II, the unit received credit for four campaigns: New Guinea, Bismarck-Archipelago, Leyte, and Luzon. Individual members of the battalion received three Silver Stars, one Legion of Merit, one Soldier Medal, 20 Purple Hearts, and 231 Bronze Service Arrowheads.

The 16th Signal Operations Battalion was allotted to the Regular Army on 21 December 1950, and reactivated on 10 February 1951 at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Before training could commence, the battalion was moved to Camp Cooke, California.

On 8 June 1952, the battalion was reorganized as the 16th Signal Battalion (Corps). The new mission of the battalion was to install, operate and maintain communications for a corps headquarters. The years 1952 through 1960 saw the battalion participating in many field exercises and training tests. Exercise and test locations included Camp St. Luis Obispo, California; Fort Hood, Texas; and San Diego, California. During this period the battalion made two moves, first to Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1953, then to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in 1959.

From Fort Huachuca, the battalion moved to Schloss Kaserne Butzbach, Germany, on 17 September 1961, and was assigned to the 505th Signal Group under the 7th Army Support Command.

On 21 September 1972, the battalion was ordered to return to Fort Hood, Texas, and attached to III Corps. The unit later became assigned to the 1st Signal Group as a part of the Army evolution to the Echelons Above Division Organization Concept. Finally, when the 1st Signal Group was replaced by the 3rd Signal Brigade in September 1979, the 16th Signal Battalion became a subordinate battalion in the newly formed brigade.

In recent years, the battalion has regularly participated in the REFORGER exercises.

The battalion's distinctive insignia includes three arrowheads, which represent the three assault landings that the battalion participated in during World War II: New Guinea, Bismarck-Archipelago, and Leyte. A wavy blue band alludes to its being overseas at the time of its inactivation. The total number of symbols (the three arrowheads and the blue band) correspond to the number of campaigns the unit participated in.



54th Signal Battalion

54th Signal Battalion "COMMAND CONTROL"

The 54th Signal Battalion was constituted on 18 October 1927. Originally it was assigned to the Ninth Corps Area when it was activated on 10 February 1941 at Fort Ord, California. In May 1942, the battalion was attached to the VII Corps and left New York on 1 July 1942 for Iceland, where it was assigned to the Iceland Base Command. The battalion remained in Iceland until 26 July 1944 and was moved to England after the D-Day landings. The battalion arrived in France in October 1944 to support the Normandy breakout, and then joined the race across Europe until stalled during the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign. The battalion continued operating between France and Germany from February to December 1945, when it departed from France on the *USS Portland*. During this time, the unit received credit for the Central European Campaign. The unit was inactivated on 29 December 1945 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

The battalion remained inactive until 1 August 1962, when it was activated at Fort Hood, Texas, and assigned to III Corps. It left for service in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 August 1965. The advance detachment arrived at Tau Son, Vietnam, on 29 October 1965, and was assigned to the 1st Logistical Command. During its Vietnam service, the battalion received three Meritorious Unit Awards and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. The battalion also received credit for 13 campaigns. After its service in Vietnam, the unit was again inactivated on 17 February 1971 at Fort Lewis, Washington.

On September 1979, the battalion was activated in an augmentation carrier status and assigned to the 3rd Signal Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas.

The unit was again activated on 16 June 1980, with the mission to install, operate, and maintain the command communication system and radio teletype stations for III Corps Headquarters and its major subordinate commands. It also currently provides radio wire integration stations to access the III Corps telephone system. The 313th Signal Company was activated and attached to the battalion on 1 September 1980, with the mission to provide light tropospheric scatter communications in support of III Corps.

The battalion's distinctive insignia depicts a wavy diagonal band, which represents the Rhine River and the unit's participation in campaigns in Central Europe. The patterned bands flanking the central band are taken from the Arms of the Ardennes region where the battalion campaigned. The pattern also represents telegraph poles and the battalion's Signal mission.



57th Signal Battalion

57th Signal Battalion "VINCIMUS SPATIUM"

The 57th Signal Battalion was constituted on 18 October 1927 and activated on 10 February 1941 at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. The battalion was commanded by Lt. Col. Richard J. Meyer at the time of activation, and he remained with the battalion throughout World War II.

The battalion left New York aboard the *Florence Nightingale* on 7 February 1943 for Oram, Algeria, and was assigned to the 5th Army in support of VI Corps during the closing stages of the Tunisian Campaign. Later, the battalion operated a message center at Arzow, Algeria, in support of the 5th Army. From there the battalion went to Rabat, French Morocco, where it assisted in the installation and maintenance of communications for allied airborne forces in Miscara, Algeria.

From North Africa, the 57th Signal Battalion landed at Selerno, and on 9 September 1943 established communications for VI Corps from Faestum to Colli al Voltunne. Elements of the battalion also supported Ranger forces during the Anzio landing. During the invasion, the battalion was responsible for communications for five divisions, an independent brigade, corps troops, and numerous Army-level troops. Within a few weeks, the battalion had laid 500 miles of spiral-four cable.

The battalion withdrew from the Italian Campaign and landed in southern France at St. Maxime on 15 August 1944. The battalion established communications for the VI Corps command post and supported Corps operations along the Moselle River and Vosges Mountain Range during the winter of 1944.

The VI Corps offensive began in March 1945, and the battalion supported the Corps' rapid movement from northern Alsace into Germany. A highlight for the battalion during the campaign was the cable crossing of the Rhine River between Ludwigshafen and Mannheim, Germany. After the Rhine crossing, the battalion moved south until it came in contact with forces coming north from Italy near the vicinity of the Brenner Pass. During World War II, the battalion participated in seven campaigns: Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. The battalion was inactivated on 29 September 1945 in Germany.

The 57th Signal Battalion remained inactive until 16 May 1966, when it was reactivated at Fort Hood, Texas, in support of III Corps. The battalion was assigned to the 1st Signal Group as a part of the Army's Echelons Above Division Organizational Concept on 12 June 1978, and remained so until 17 September 1979, when the 1st Signal Group was redesignated the 3rd Signal Brigade.

The distinctive unit insignia depicts four wires forming an antenna to symbolize its Signal mission. Its motto, "VINCIMUS SPATIUM," means "we conquer space."

Capt. Kennedy, who recently completed an assignment as regimental operations officer at Office Chief of Signal at Fort Gordon, is now commander of the 258th Signal Company, 551st Signal Battalion, 29th Brigade, at Fort Gordon. He has had previous assignments as C&E staff officer, C&E systems officer, and Signal platoon leader. Capt. Kennedy has a B.A. from the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio.