

Chief of Signal earns second star

By Wilson A. Rivera

The 35th Chief of Signal pinned on a second star during a promotion ceremony 16 Feb., 2011 at Fort Gordon.

Following in the legacy of his father, MG (Ret) Robert G. Lynn, BG Alan R. Lynn was appointed to the rank of major general during a promotion ceremony held at Leitner Lake Conference Center.

Like his father, a Signal Corps officer during the Vietnam War, the Chief of Signal continues serving his nation and country as generations of Army officers have done in the past within his family.

"Although I walk in your footsteps, I could never measure up to my father," said Lynn. "As a young boy I saw my father as this great big man; huge shoulders, taking on huge responsibilities."

The newly promoted MG Lynn has made significant accomplishments and achievements during his career, said Director of the Army Staff LTG William J. Troy.

LTG Troy said, he [MG Lynn] changed how the Army does things fundamentally in the world of communications that were never done before--such as connecting channel networks as a captain with the 101st Airborne Division in the largest historic air assault during Operation Desert Storm. He linked NATO switchboards to U.S. switchboard standards, which was a huge achievement since it, again, was never done before.

LTG Troy, chief of staff of III Corps at the time, said he first recognized what type of leader MG Lynn was working as the G-6 Chief Information Officer assigned to the 3rd Signal Brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2004. He would ask a signal question and the reply was always, "Sir, we're professional, why don't you leave it to us. Don't try understanding it," LTG Troy said.



Photo by Wilson A. Rivera

Newly promoted MG Alan R. Lynn honors his father MG (Ret) Robert G. Lynn after he donned his father's beret with two stars during a promotion ceremony held 16 Feb., 2011 at Leitner Lake Conference Center.

As the Chief of Signal for the Regimental Signal Corps and the Signal Center of Excellence, MG Lynn continues his military career redesigning the signal force with the best equipment available. The Signal Corps is training the brightest people on how to get more commercial use out of communications, creating smaller packages with smaller team formations making them much more capable, using the best electronics at the lowest level possible.

"[MG Lynn] is fashioning the signal force to how we are going to do things in the future, how we are going to communicate, and what type of networks are we going to build,"

said LTG Troy. "How are we going to figure that out? ... We always send our best officers to command at our schools and centers of excellence," said LTG Troy. "They have so much influence on the future of the Army. These students, Soldiers, officers that come through here want to see the model of how it's supposed to be done."

"It was the people on Fort Gordon, the great Soldiers and families that brought me to this promotion, and I'm giving thanks to them for the place I am now," MG Lynn said.

Wilson A. Rivera is editor of the Signal Newspaper at Fort Gordon.

