

Signal Transformation--Micro-cyber

Leaders,

Eight months ago, the Signal Corps was given a problem: provide network connectivity to more command posts and to lower echelons without increasing the number of Signal Soldiers. The Regiment's answer is **μCyber**, (the "μ" being Greek for micro).

μCyber is the overarching term for our current effort that is revolutionizing Signal. It consists of six main tenets that will require the support of all Signal leaders to implement. They are: (1) change the way the Signal Regiment operates, (2) upgrade the types of equipment used, (3) increase the level of support provided, (4) update the process used to purchase equipment, (5) modernize the approach to educating Signal Soldiers, and (6) decrease the number of Signal military occupational specialties by combining some to make Soldiers more capable, while maintaining the same number of Soldiers.

The term *micro-cyber* or μCyber captures the continuing miniaturization of electronics, hence the "micro." Today we can buy smaller, lighter weight systems that are more capable than our current systems. For example, one of our current satellite systems provides a four megabit throughput, weighs 3,900 pounds and requires a truck for transport. A newer and equally capable satellite system only weighs 36 pounds and can be carried in a backpack. Our Soldiers demand this kind of change on the battlefield.

The new Army Operational Concept requires the Signal Regiment to support combined arms maneuver and wide area security operations, extend support to company level and below, support corps and divisions as the warfighting headquarters, and operate and defend a 24/7 Army single network enterprise. By 2014, we will leverage smaller teams with more capable communications packages to enable newly organized expeditionary Signal battalions- enhanced to engineer and manage more networks while providing support to headquarters at all levels.

This edition of the *Army Communicator* discusses some of our developing strategies, how we plan to merge the Signal military occupational specialties, and some of the very real challenges that we face as we begin to execute some daunting yet vital changes in how we do business.

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serve as Chief of Signal at a time when we are recruiting the best volunteers, making our Army the most capable Army in the world. I have the utmost confidence in each of you to execute the greatest transformation the Signal Corps has seen in its 151 years of service. The plan is approved by the Chief of Staff of the Army. We need to work together now, and be Signal Strong.

For the Nation!

