

Building the bridge to our future

Signaleers,

We are drawing near the end of the year and so this is the last edition of the *Army Communicator* for 2011. While it must be very tempting for an editor to fill such an issue with leftover articles that did not find a place in an earlier edition throughout the year, a quick glance at the table of contents indicates an edition as well written and challenging as any thus far.



I think of this edition as a bridge. It has one foot set firmly in the positive recognitions of our past. A span rises and traverses over our recently identified lessons learned. The other foot reaches out forging the vision for our future in several key areas. All three parts are critically important and have significance.

We can take pride in our past. Our Regiment has charted some very significant accomplishments. Since the release of our 150th year anniversary edition, I have tried to remain mindful of the many contributions of those who have gone before us; while remaining cognizant of the fact that we are now effectively writing the next chapters of history.

We can confidently forge a vision for our future because we have some of the smartest and most committed Signaleers who have ever stood in our ranks. During the nearly three decades of my Signal service, I have never been more encouraged than I am today.

Our Regiment is fully immersed with key Signal personnel assigned in the CIO/G-6, G-3/5/7, G-8, the Brigade Modernization Command, as well as both the 2/1 AD (which is the test brigade used in the NIE) and the 86th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (the first ESB to fall under the μ Cyber concept and transform into an ESB-Enhanced). You and I are postured, motivated and well able to press into our future the best way ahead. We have the opportunities to influence and select the technologies and methodologies giving our forces undisputed and overwhelming advantage against any adversary our nation may face.

However, God forbid we fail to learn lessons, from either past mistakes, shortcomings, or even our successes. George Santayana, in his *Reason in Common Sense, The Life of Reason*, wrote "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Just over the last decade we have made a number of subtle shifts in our tactics, techniques and procedures that have aligned us precisely to make our next leap forward. Many have spent great amounts of sweat, tears, and unfortunately even some blood in this last decade. Let us not be condemned to repeat any of the mistakes due to a lack of lessons learned.

I am cautiously optimistic and unashamedly excited as we march into 2012. And as always, thank you for your dedication and service in being "Ever Watchful for Our Country."



Pro Patria Vigilans!