

Mobile technology revolution underway

Signaleers,

First, please allow me to communicate a hardy Army HOOAH to soon to be promoted LTG Via, our first Signal four-star general officer. Go Signal! This is truly an exciting time in the history of the Army Signal Corps.

This edition of the *Army Communicator* presents more history in the making; the emergence and integration of mobile computing devices and applications into the Department of Defense communications infrastructure and our LandWarNet. What was once just a prop in a popular science fiction television series has now become a game-changing capability to extend mission command.

According to Wikipedia, 'throughout Star Trek Enterprise and The Original Series, on-ship communication is achieved via communicator panels on desks and walls, and sometimes through the use of videophones. While on away missions, the crew carried hand-held communicators that flip open. The top section contains a transceiver antenna and the bottom contains user controls, a speaker and a microphone.'

Although we still do not have a handheld device yet that can "use subspace transmissions that do not conform to normal rules of physics [and] can bypass EM interference [in

order to] allow nearly instantaneous communication at distances that would otherwise require more time to traverse," we seem to have beat our Trekkies' heroes in that we are not only able to move voice traffic via a handheld device, but also data as well as still and moving imagery. In fact, herein lies the power of such devices; digital applications that bring actionable intelligence and powerful capabilities to the point of need to enable an overwhelming advantage to our planet's most powerful professional warriors.

Unfortunately, many misunderstand the necessity to carefully integrate these devices and applications under approved processes, proven standards, and structured governance. While Certificates of Networkiness, Army marketplace governance, Federal Information Processing Standard certifications, and Security Technical Implementation Guides are often seen as obstacles to progress, we must help our customers understand their necessity; many do not understand that almost any weakness introduced at almost any location within our LandWarNet has the ability to infect an area well outside the physical location of the vectored vulnerability. And since we seem to have moved past technology enabled to technology dependant, such an infection could result in grave loss, to include loss of life.



It can be likened to the public use of rivers and streams for water and waste. If you own land across which such a source of water flows, you might feel that you have a right to draw upon that water and pump your waste into it as well. You might even take offense or at a minimum be frustrated at the myriad of paperwork you are made to complete just to connect to your own water. However, you begin to think quite differently when you hear of a neighbor's desire to connect his septic tank to this same stream; especially since this neighbor happens to live upstream. In a domain where, for all intents and purposes, everyone is upstream, we must ask ourselves, is it not extremely important what gets connected to our source of life?

This and many other aspects of mobile computing are addressed in this edition. Additionally, we solicit your thoughts, expertise, and support in integrating these game-changing technologies into our warfighting efforts. And as always, thank you for your dedication and service in being ever Watchful for Our Country.



Pro Patria Vigilans!