

Expect continuing change, transformations

Signaleers,

Having taken two years of French in high school, I was disappointed when I arrived in Belgium and could only remember the French phrase, "plus a change, plus c'est la meme chose" which basically translates "the more that things change, the more they stay the same." Oh, I could also say, "I cannot speak French" in French; but my ability to pronounce it well only caused more attempts by the French speaker on the other side of the phone to try to use French until I stated plainly, in English, "I cannot speak French!" While my ability to communicate was greatly hindered, this phrase became a sort of motto our unit lived by; "the more that things change, the more they stay the same."

Change continues to be a constant today.

In 1993 a search for the words "Blue Force" would render the 1993 computer game released by former Police Quest designed Jim Walls. A search today includes links to our Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below and Blue Force Tracking systems; terms that were not even in our vernacular in 1993. But we are not done yet. Leveraging the Network Integration Evaluation and Capability Set fielding efforts, CS13 equipped units will see

differences to what they may have grown used to in the past (see the article on CS13 BFT by Nancy Jones-Bobbest). And this is just one of a plethora of systems continuing to change. Even our educational principles are under transformational review (see the article by Michael McMurphy and Gregory Thomas). To transform means to change in composition or structure and it seems that every structure is under scrutiny today; what an opportunity to excel!

The Signal Regiment has always lived within this environment. Moore's Law, the observation made in 1965 by the Intel co-founder Gordon Moore, has been the accepted term used to characterize change expectation within the information technology environment. His paper noted that since the invention of the integrated circuit in 1958, the number of components populating the IC chip had doubled every year; he predicted that it would continue to do so for at least another decade.

Many have associated second and third order effects to Moore's Law that include the doubling of computing speed, the doubling of computing power, the doubling of computing volume, and the necessity for IT refresh in order to keep up. It is noteworthy to also list the inception of newer technologies and methodologies as results of the observations of Moore's Law. Everyone one of these has its own second and third order effects, challenges that we must face head on. My challenge for you today is to be a part of shaping our future; get ahead of the technology curve and help to influence the transformation of our Signaleers' capabilities. Our adversaries have proven themselves quite adept at leveraging IT to their advantage; how much more so the most Professional Army on God's green earth?



Let me conclude with another challenge, a fun challenge. This may show your age. Without using Google, can you tell me where the phrase, "plus a change, plus c'est la meme chose" comes from?

As always, thank you for your dedication and service in being ever watchful for our country.

Pro Patria Vigilans!