

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AT THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE

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and
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The Signal Regiment continues to make substantial curriculum contributions at the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Since 2007, coordination with and through the college's Department of Army Tactics provides important educational opportunities to our Iron Majors. But before describing the transformation, a short examination of what the Regiment is currently doing is necessary.

Beginning in 2009, the then Chief of Signal received approval from the deputy commandant of the college to conduct Signal specific education for U.S. Army Signal officers. The course was an end-of-year elective at CGSC

The Signal Center of Excellence and the Command and General Staff College team up to give Signal Iron Majors a demanding, relevant and changing course that includes three significant Military Decision Making Process opportunities.

consisting of 12, two-hour class sessions. The U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence, through the 442d Signal Battalion, led the elective. CGSC's Department of Army Tactics was serving as a supporting effort for coordination with the college. Iron Majors would enroll in the class and be presented with eight of the

twelve meetings consisting of guest speakers from throughout the Signal Regiment. The significance of the elective is that the SIGCofE leaders select and CAC provides funding for the speakers to travel from their duty location to Fort Leavenworth and present Signal-specific instruction and mentoring. In this manner, the SIGCofE is able to harvest CGSC elective hours for the Regiment's institutional education by providing their own instructors, Signal specific curriculum, and funding. The Signal elective is a premier educational opportunity that no other branch can duplicate. No other elective in CGSC can match the weight of the educational value presented by senior Signal leaders such as a current corps G6, the senior Signal observer-controller from the Joint Readiness Center, the commander of the 106th Signal Brigade and a subordinate network enterprise center director, and so on. The success of the elective is evident by the resoundingly positive feedback from the Iron Majors.

Signal Soldiers prepared for certifications

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ner described a new 25-week training course for warrant officers in the information security field.

"The course is taught by the premiere information security experts in the world," he said. "Their instructors come here and train our warrant officers, who can then apply for the voucher program in order to take the tests."

To learn more about job certification and credentialing for a specific Army MOS and get a leg up on the competition, check out Credentialing Opportunities On-Line, the Army's COOL website at www.cool-dev.com/army/search.htm.

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Arguably the best elective offered through the Department of Tactics, the question remains “why transform the Signal elective?” The answer to that question is the lost of educational opportunities of conducting an elective at the conclusion of the year.

At the Command and General Staff College, educational outcomes include Signal officers being capable organizational leaders within the Army’s Operation Process as outlined in ADP 5.0. The current curriculum includes three iterations of the Military Decision Making Process. Signal Iron Majors are offered the opportunity, and their classmates expect them, to make significant contributions as part of a planning staff. In other words, at CGSC Signal Iron Majors execute their roles in the Military Decision Making Process three times in order to produce Paragraph 5 and Annex H of an operations order.

The relevance of the operations process and MDMP in the CGSC curriculum, compared to the signal elective being offered at the end of the school year, is obvious. The educational content of the elective needs to move from the end of the CGSC school year to the start of the CGSC school year in order to provide signal Iron Majors the opportunity to first, learn doctrinally correct branch-specific skills at the start of CGSC from the Signal Regiment, then secondly hone their professional skills during three iterations of MDMP from the Department of Army Tactics. In addition, Signal officers can also perfect their craft at planning Joint operations from CGSC’s Department of Joint/Interagency/Multinational Operations.

And that is what the Signal Regiment is doing, transforming the elective into a preparatory course at CGSC.

Beginning in January 2012, CGSC will conduct a preparatory course, Signal branch-specific, for all active duty U.S. Army Signal Officers attending at Fort Leavenworth. Its catalogue name is P943, U.S. Army Signal Officers Preparatory Course, but what it does is carry all of the important lessons from the old elective into what is quickly becoming a normal partnership between CGSC and some branches.

Special Forces, the Field Artillery, and the Engineers will also reap the benefits of having their specific Iron Majors receive education from their respective branch leadership prior to conducting the curriculum of CGSC. CGSC already conducts preparatory courses for sister service and international officers. Beginning in January 2013, three

U.S. Army branches will conduct preparatory courses, led and funded through their respective center of excellence, with CGSC’s Department of Army Tactics as a partner in a supporting role.

P943 will be led by the Regiment through the 442d Signal Battalion. They will provide the funding, curriculum, and set educational end-state conditions. P943 is a five-day, 40-hour course that provides branch-specific education for the Iron Majors in order for them to possess the ability to execute their craft during CGSC in a more relevant, precise, and accurate manner. P943, like all other preparatory courses at CGSC, will be conducted prior to the start-day of CGSC and its Intermediate Level Education curriculum.

P943 is transformational. It bridges the educational gap from the Captain’s Career Course to CGSC so that Signal Iron Majors can conduct the Operations Process in either Wide Area Security or Combined Arms Maneuver core competencies. P943 provides Signal branch-specific education from the Regiment. It will facilitate a deep and broad educational opportunity for Signal officers during three MDMP sessions in CGSC.

The proof of success will not only be found in December 2013 from student after-course feedback, but through continued success of Signal Iron Majors as they significantly contribute to their gaining formations accomplishment of mission, caring for Soldiers, and growing the organization.

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ACRONYM QuickScan

CGSC - Command and General Staff College.
MDMP - Military Decision Making Process
SIGCofE - U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence