Signal Regiment still leading the way

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On 28 March 2014, the U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, was renamed the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence.

"This historic transition to the Cyber Center of Excellence is reminiscent of another one that occurred 151 years ago..."

The quiet ceremony, with over 150 guests and local civic leaders on hand, belied the significance of the event—a recognition of the increasing importance of cyberwarfare in our Profession of Arms. The ability to exploit the digital domain will usher in a new form of warfare—and the Signal Regiment is already at the leading edge of this shift.

As the Army winds down from two large-scale wars overseas, it is facing a fiscal climate that is forcing it to reevaluate its priorities. Our manpower is shrinking along with our budgets. This new era of reduced manpower and shrinking budgets calls for a new strategy, and senior Army leaders have delivered. Joining with our Marine Corps and Special Operations partners, the Army is exploring the concept of Strategic Landpower—namely, how the elements of landpower can be best employed to support national strategic objectives. Central to this concept is the confluence of land, human, and cyberspace domains in pursuit of those objectives.

The very fact that senior leaders across three disparate sections of our Armed Forces place cyberspace on equal footing with the land domain and newly-developed human domain, reveals the truly important nature of our signal and cyber missions. Just as land can be seized and exploited, and human populations engaged and influenced, cyberspace is a domain that can be dominated to prevent its use by an adversary.

And that is the focus of both the Cyber Center of Excellence and the Signal Regiment.

Within the Signal Regiment, this paradigm shift has already taken hold. Instead of viewing communications networks as only a means of transporting voice and data, we have increasingly focused on the necessity of securing it from incursions. Recognizing this reality, we have led the way during the last seven years with the development of two new cyber-focused Signal MOSs—255S Information Protection Technician for warrant officers and 25D Cyber Network Defender for non-commissioned officers—both of which are presently in high demand!

As the Cyber Center of Excellence, we will take the Army's Unified Land Operations definition of "seize, retain, and exploit the initiative to gain a position of relative advantage" and apply it to cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum. We will still build, operate, and maintain the network—that has not changed. But we will also defend it against emerging threats, taking the fight to the enemy to deny them the use of this key terrain.

This historic transition to the Cyber Center of Excellence is reminiscent of another one that occurred 151 years ago that same month. In March of 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation authorizing the creation of a permanent Signal Corps.

It is fitting, then, that in March of 2014, the same Signal Corps announced to the world that it had moved into a new era, and that it possesses the tools, professional warriors, and training to win the fight.

Pro Patria Vigilans!

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