Greetings Signaleers,

As the Army transitions to a more cyber-centric future, it is easy to lose sight of the role the Signal Corps has played—and will continue to play—in shaping that future. But the truth is that the Signal Corps plays not just a critical role in Cyberspace Operations, but also possesses the keys of innovation that will enable the rest of our Army to achieve its strategic goals.

In my 32 years of service, I have seen the Signal Corps change. As you’ll read in this issue, we’ve undergone several major realignments since our inception 154 years ago. As the first to take interest in the capabilities of the airplane, we spawned the Army Air Corps, which evolved its own service—the U.S. Air Force. We created the National Weather Service, which now reports to the Commerce Department, under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. More recently, in the early 1990s, the Signal Regiment lost over 400 of its best and brightest to help stand up the newly-created Army Acquisition Corps.

It would be false to claim that the Regiment did not experience some pain after each of those aforementioned changes. And yet we not only survived, but we grew stronger. In fact, the Signal Corps is stronger now than it was during any of those transitional periods. Our mission is more important than ever. Our modern tools possess unprecedented capabilities previously relegated to science-fiction. And our Signaleers are of the highest educational caliber the nation has yet seen.

One significant Army strategic goal is outlined in “Force 2025 and Beyond.” Intended to prevent future technological overmatch, Force 2025 and Beyond explores how to redesign the Army to match presently unforeseen challenges and ultimately field a tactically-agile Army that possesses greater efficiency and lethality. Crucial to this effort is the development of key technologies that will enable our Signal Corps to provide a network that meets the communication needs of this future Army. We must explore exciting issues such as the challenge of operating in a GPS-denied environment, increased modularity through hardware/software convergence, and the implementation of data fusion to achieve cyber situational awareness. The key to our success will continue to be found in the adaptive leaders—officer, warrant, and NCO—that we possess in our Regiment.

In the days ahead, even as the Chief of Signal position mantle is transferred from the Cyber Center of Excellence level to the Signal Commandant, the Signal Corps will maintain its commitment to technical and tactical excellence. We will continue providing our Army with the tactical and strategic communications it needs to achieve its goals now and in the future. Our role both in Cyberspace Operations and in developing the future of the Army shows us that the Signal Regiment is more relevant than ever. We give our Army ‘The voice to give command’ and we will continue to do so!

Pro Patria Vigilans—Watchful, for the Country!

MG LaWarren V. Patterson

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