



signal
REGIMENT

I am Signal, the voice of command.
I am the nerve center of our nation's defense.
I connect companies, brigades, entire armies.
I am Signal.
I have spoken for my country's freedom and
my voice has never faltered.
This is the way it will always be, for
I am Signal and I will never fail
the corps, the Army
or my country.
I am ready, I am willing and
I am strong.
I will shoot, move and
communicate.
I will get
the message through.
I AM SIGNAL!
HEAR ME!



INFORMATION DOMINANCE

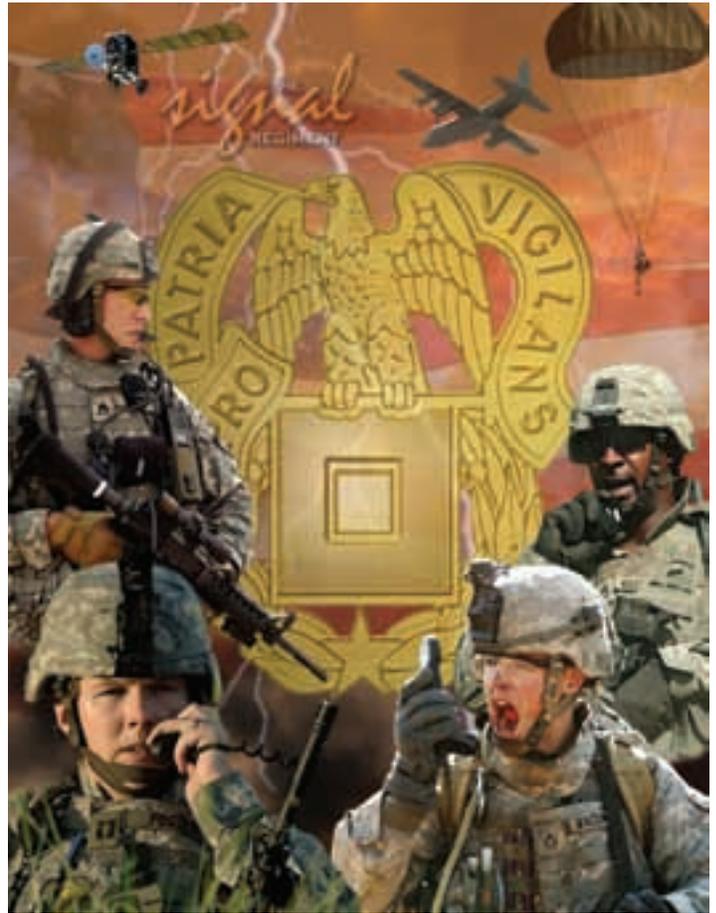
"These are exciting times in the military, and particularly the Signal Regiment. Never before in our history has change been so commonplace. And we are transforming while at war. The new equipment and capabilities we are fielding will significantly enhance not only the Army's ability to communicate, but also our joint and coalition partners."

- BG Randolph P. Strong
Chief of Signal

The U.S. Army Signal Regiment is leading the nation's defense into the 21st century with rapid and reliable information systems and services. To do this, we are seeking smart, innovative, highly motivated officers, warrant officers, and enlisted Soldiers to make it happen, and allow the Army to attain information dominance to the fullest extent. Technology is growing faster than we ever could have imagined, and career opportunities in the Signal Regiment for capable young men and women are wide open.

The Signal Regiment is playing a vital role in Operation Iraqi Freedom, with Signal Soldiers everywhere on the battlefield and throughout the globe, supporting the war to ensure America's victory. The next ten years are critical as we continue to transform our Army into one envied for its ability to communicate with the latest equipment used by world-class Soldiers, led by the finest Signal leaders - you. Our mission - why we need the best and the brightest to join our ranks - is to ensure we achieve victory wherever sent and whenever called upon by our country.

Being a member of the Signal Regiment will also prepare you for life in the 21st century, one characterized by an information technology structure barely imaginable now.



The Signal Regiment is at the forefront of operations across the full spectrum of the battlefield. Our mission is to provide the warfighter with a fully-interoperable communications network that is global, secure, real time, reliable and user-driven.

Because of the phenomenal growth of the power of the computer, things such as the worldwide web, multimedia, distance learning, and many other IT-based capabilities, will transform the way we live and the way we fight and win our nation's wars. Success on the battlefield can occur only with leaders skilled in the use of Information Technology. Regimental officers are trained to manage networked information and telecommunications systems, and they can specialize in engineering and management of information systems and communications networks.

The 21st Century presents tremendous challenges for the Signal Regiment because our Regiment will lead the Army into the New Information Technology Age. This booklet briefly describes who we are, what we do, and why we need YOU. The Signal Regiment offers fantastic opportunities for young men and women seeking mental and physical challenges. We're an organization rich in heritage with an exciting and dynamic future. We take pride in the contributions we've made and will continue to make, in ensuring our country's freedom and safety.

We want you to join us.

The Signal Regiment is one of the largest and most diverse branches of the Army. Its mission is to provide worldwide information systems and networks for real-time command and control of Army, joint and combined forces.

Today's Signal officers encounter unpredictable challenges that test their tactical and technical abilities. Along with these challenges, however, are tremendous opportunities for advancement and personal satisfaction. From the foxhole to the White House, Signal officers plan, install, integrate, operate and maintain the Army's strategic, operational and tactical information-systems infrastructure. This includes communications and computer systems and networks, as well as information services and resources supporting wartime and peacetime operations.

As members of the Signal Regiment, Signal officers work hand in hand with Functional Area 24 Telecommunication-Systems Engineering) and FA 53 Information-Systems Management) officers to provide seamless, secure, continuous and dynamic information systems at all levels – from the fighting platform to the sustaining base – supporting Army, joint, Defense Department, combined and coalition warfighting missions with allied nations. The Regiment's enlisted Soldiers and warrant officers are also essential to the Regiment's success.

Signal officers command Signal units engaged in installing, operating, administering and maintaining wide-area networks and information systems supporting tactical, theater, strategic and sustaining base operations. As commanders, Signal officers plan, coordinate and supervise training, administration, operations, supply, maintenance, transportation, security activities and resource allocation for Signal units and facilities.

Signal officers also serve as technical advisers by providing detailed technical direction and advice to commanders, staffs and other command, control, communications and computer users at all echelons on installing, operating and maintaining distributed database systems, teleprocessing systems and data communications supporting battlefield automated systems.

Signal officers are typically assigned to maneuver units, such as infantry or armor battalions and brigades, as Signal platoon leaders and as primary staff and technical adviser (S-6) to the commander. With technology's advancements and the Army's initiatives – such as the digitized division, network-centric operations and the Army's transformation – the S-6's role has become increasingly critical in providing the right information to the right individuals at the right time.

The S-6 provides non-Signal units linkage to the wide area network (WAN) or the global information grid (GIG). As the S-6, Signal officers ensure that voice and data connectivity between higher, lower and adjacent units is secure and reliable. S-6s are also responsible for planning, employing and operating state-of-the-art digital voice, imagery and data distribution systems and networks from combat net radios, local-area networks and WANs to satellite systems that span the globe.

Signal officers also serve in a variety of other positions such as:

- Platoon leaders, company commanders, supply and maintenance officers, operations officers, executive officers, other staff officers and battalion/brigade commanders within Signal units;



1LT Randle E. Christian
Officer Candidate School
Wesley College
 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Position: ARNG – Plans officer for S-3 (Operations Section), 261st Signal Brigade, Delaware Army National Guard
Full-time Job: Assistant plans branch chief for the NGB/ Joint C4 Coordination Center (JCCC) and Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Coordinator.
Location: Smyrna Readiness Center, Smyrna, Del.

The Signal Experience

1LT Christian has served in the military for 18 years, including active duty in Germany and Dover, Del., prior to receiving his commission through the state OCS program. In his civilian career, 1LT Christian works for J.P. Morgan Chase Bank as an asset and wealth management client service representative.

The JCCC where 1LT Christian works is a component within the National Guard Bureau J-6 supports homeland defense and defense support of civil authority mission requirements. 1LT Christian's role is to assist the branch chief in coordinating communication systems, plans, standards, exercises, and agreements between Army, Air, and commercial entities within the 54 states and territories.

"This job provides me with the opportunity to see in a post-Hurricane Katrina and Rita environment where what I do as a Signal officer has a direct, positive effect on our country and our citizens. We help prepare the country for responding to an emergency or national disaster." 1LT Christian has already served on active duty as the Officer in Charge of a Technical Control Facility located in Camp Taji during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Service Medal. In the Delaware National Guard, 1LT Christian has served as Plans Officer in the operations section of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 280th Signal Battalion, as a Platoon Leader in A Company, 280th Signal Battalion.

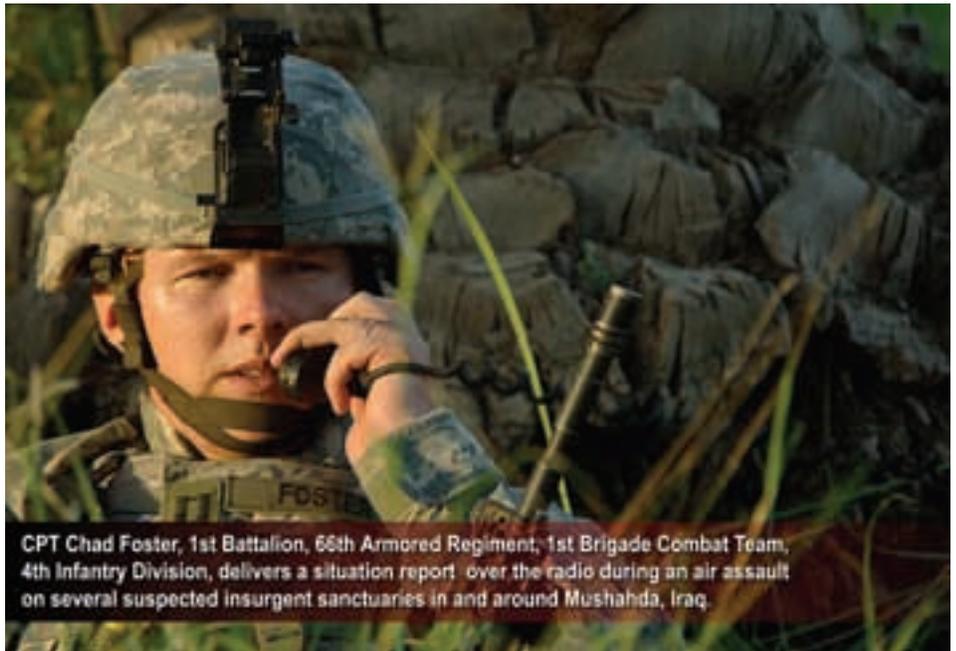
- Staff and joint duty officers at major command, Department of the Army and Department of Defense levels, planning, managing and operating information systems around the world;

- Action officers, branch and division chiefs in Training and Doctrine Command to develop doctrine, organizations and equipment for the Signal mission area;

- Instructors and training developers at the Signal Center, other branch schools and combat training centers;

- Signal instructors at pre-commissioning programs such as Reserve Officers Training Corps, military academies and service Signal schools and service colleges; and

- Signal advisers to U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard organizations.



CPT Chad Foster, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, delivers a situation report over the radio during an air assault on several suspected insurgent sanctuaries in and around Mushahda, Iraq.

As mentioned earlier, Signal officers work closely with their Regimental counterparts (FA 24 and FA 53 officers) to provide seamless, secure, continuous and dynamic information systems at all levels – from the fighting platform to the sustaining base – supporting Army, joint and combined warfighting missions. In particular, Signal officers coordinate and plan the information-systems operations piece (installation, operation and maintenance) of the information exchange; FA 24 officers engineer the networks (telecommunication and data communication) portion of the information pipeline; and FA 53 officers manage the information systems (mostly computer systems

and local area networks - LANs) to ensure needed information is provided to the right decision-maker.

Signal Regiment officers combine technical and tactical expertise to provide decision-makers with communications, data and other multimedia instruments to gain information dominance on the battlefield. They integrate information systems -- military and commercial -- terrestrial, airborne and space based -- that provide real-time data to higher, lower and adjacent units almost simultaneously. Whether it's through video teleconferencing, data

or voice communications, fax, email or commercial access, Regimental officers ensure the information gets to the right place at the right time.

FA 24 is a functional area in the operations support functional category. Telecommunication-systems engineering officers provide the Army with a core of professional engineers to support the nation's full-spectrum-dominance strategy for the 21st century. FA 24 officers engineer, design, develop, install, implement, integrate, test, accept and upgrade telecommunication systems and networks supporting Army, joint, combined and DoD operations worldwide.

FA 24 officers must have a bachelor or master of science degree in electrical engineering, telecommunications engineering, math, physics or a related discipline.

FA 53 is also a functional area within operations support. Information-systems management officers provide the Army with a core of professional managers and engineers to support the nation's full-spectrum-dominance strategy for the 21st century. FA 53 officers plan, manage, administer, maintain, and protect, information technology systems, networks, and associated resources supporting Army, joint, combined and DoD operations worldwide. Also, IT officers may apply computer and software



A soldier from Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, communicates with other vehicles during patrol of a housing area in the Deshir Market area of Baghdad, Iraq.

CPT John Harrell
Louisiana State University
Bachelor of Science in Education
Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics
Masters Degree in Education Administration

The Signal Experience

“During my deployment to Iraq with 6-8 CAV as the S6, Battalion Communications Officer, I was in charge of many different types of communications equipment. I positioned the Command Post Node and established digital communications which provided secure and non-secure telephones and data terminals. I mounted and maintained FM Communications on wheeled and tracked vehicles, and rotary-winged aircraft as my communications team linked Tactical Satellite equipment for our long range scouts and Special Forces personnel. As the Signal Officer, I also established and maintained Blue Force Tracker equipment so that my battalion commander could see all our maneuver units in real time. All of this was accomplished during my second tour in Iraq. I had the opportunity to cross the border from Kuwait into Iraq in March 2003 during OIF 1. At that time, my battalion had one FM radio and access to one non-secure computer at our brigade headquarters. To personally see where we have come in three years is astounding. The future of the Signal Corps is amazing. One of the most unique jobs I had during my time in Iraq was assisting in the training of the 5th BDE, 6th Iraqi Army. I was in charge of providing resources and communications equipment they needed to complete their mission. I also developed and trained the Brigade Communications teams on the use of hand-held Radios, repeaters, vehicle-mounted radios, and the Iraqi Defense network. I worked with CPT Karben Qussay, a former Signal private in the old Iraqi Regime. He was very willing to learn and understood the simple communication ideas that we presented. I left Iraq truly believing I had contributed to the redevelopment, stabilization, and security of not only the Iraqi Security force, but the entire country of Iraq.”



engineering theory and principles to design, develop, install, implement, integrate, test and accept IT hardware, software, systems and networks.

Officers from all branches are eligible for FA designation into either FA 24 or FA 53 during their fourth and seventh year of service. After completing service in a key developmental position, officers may receive state-of-the-art technical training, followed by an assignment within their FA.

SPC Nathaniel Ohrum receives instruction on the SSSv3 system from SPC John Ron.



The Signal Experience

1LT Joseph Payton
U.S. Military Academy,
West Point, NY
Bachelor of Science in Spanish

Heavy Signal Platoon Leader,
Company C, 63rd Signal Bat-
talion, 93rd Signal Brigade,
Expeditionary Signal Battalion
Transformation

“My battalion is currently
undergoing transformation into

the first Expeditionary Signal Battal-
ion in the Army. My Soldiers are en-
gaged in intense training to prepare
them to operate this equipment and
protect themselves in support of our
upcoming deployment to Iraq. As
part of this fielding, I have gone to a
three month Network Management
Course that covers state of the art
tactical and commercial communica-
tions systems. After this class, I will
be even better prepared to efficiently
and effectively manage the assets

my platoon has. I now have more
than enough information to plan
the employment of my platoon in
Operation Iraqi Freedom V. I am
proud to be a part of an operation
that is blazing the trail for other
units to follow.”



The Signal Experience

2LT Daniel Castle
U.S. Military Academy,
West Point, NY

“The Signal Corps afforded me the
opportunity to do things I never
would have imagined. A few weeks
after I finished OBC, I was on a plane
to Qatar. Soon after that, I found
myself taking over as the OIC of the
Tech Control Facility at Camp
Phoenix, Afghanistan. With three
NCOs and 18 Civilian Contractors,
we run the network for the entire
camp, as well as providing the hub
for more than 10 Embedded Training
Teams (ETT) spread throughout
Afghanistan. These ETTs help train
the newly formed Afghan Military and
Police forces. Responsibility for the
network is broken up by section into
Integrated General Switch (IGX), Tech
Control, Outside Plant and Network
Operations.

The IGX Section is responsible for
the DSN switch. As new phones are
added they manage toll access. In
particular we keep toll 0 access under
40% of the total number of phones.
This includes both copper lines as
well as Voice Over IP (VoIP) phones.

The Tech Controllers make sure our
microwave links to the rest of the



2LT Castle splices fiber optic cable.

network stay active. They manage COM-
SEC and troubleshoot any problems with
the main backbone links. In particular they
are responsible for the configuration of the
Promina.

Outside Plant (OSP) is responsible for run-
ning new lines, fixing old ones and other
installation including: running fiber, phone
lines and Cat 5 Cable.

The Network Operations Section is respon-
sible for the routers, switches and servers
on the network. Another large part of their
job is Information Assurance (IA). They
make sure computers are updated and have
the correct security software and patches.

Weekly meetings with the section leads,
as well as the site leads, keep us all on the
same page.

As the OIC, I also work closely with the J6.
An important part of the job is balancing
customer service with managing resources.
Day-to-day issues are organized by a help
ticket database. If, for example, a customer
has a problem with their phone line they
go to the J6 Help Desk. The Soldiers at the
help desk assist the customer the best they
can. If they are not able to assist the cus-
tomer, they enter the problem into the help
ticket database. The help ticket will include
a short description of the problem and
contact information. Usually for a phone
problem, the ticket goes to the IGX Section
first. They check to make sure it is not a
problem at the switch. If their troubleshoot-
ing isolates the problem as being in the
line, then the ticket goes to Outside Plant.
From there, OSP goes to find the break in
the line. Once it is fixed, the actions taken
are added to the ticket and the ticket is
closed.

This job is both interesting and fulfilling. It
is interesting because you get to see where
your internet access and phone calls come
from. It is fulfilling because you know you
are helping people stay in contact with their
families back home and supporting the
Warfighter.”

The Signal Experience

CPT Floyd C. Forrest
AOC 25A
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
Company Commander
252nd Signal Company
Fort Gordon, Georgia

The 252nd Signal Company provides direct communications support to the United States Army South (USARSO). Our Area of Operations encompasses all of Central and South America and the Caribbean. USARSO conducts a variety of humanitarian and "ally building" missions in this region. These missions are critical to The United States' interest in maintaining a friendly relationship with these nations which occupy key terrain to our south.

USARSO sends several Task Forces per year consisting of engineer and medical professionals to this region to build schools, health clinics, dental clinics and water wells to increase the quality of life of the citizens of ally nations. 252nd Signal Company provides DSN and commercial telephone as well as internet services to these Task Forces for the duration of their four to five month "New Horizons" missions.

This year the 252nd is supporting three separate New Horizons missions located in Guatemala, Panama and Belize. The Platoon Leaders are the communications experts on the ground to help the Task Force staff devise an effective communications plan to command and control the multiple missions that happen simultaneously during the New Horizons missions. They work for months with the Platoon Sergeants to train and prepare a team of Soldiers to operate Multi-Channel Tactical Satellite (MCTACSAT) terminals and Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) equipment so that we are able to provide these services immediately to the Task Force commander once on the ground at the mission site. Additionally, the Company provides two man teams with smaller Single-Channel Tactical Satellite (SCTACSAT) radios to support smaller off-site missions. These teams can support missions on short notice in very remote locations, allowing the Task Force commander more versatility when it comes to accomplishing the mission. The Soldiers assigned to the 252nd Signal Company that accomplish these missions time after time are technical experts and professionals in all that they do. They are the best in the business hands down.

252nd Signal Company is a contingency based organization which also provides communications support in the event that there is a natural emergency or disaster. The unit was alerted and deployed in support of the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts in 2005. Within 24 hours of the alert the 252nd had their first SCTACSAT teams on the ground providing much needed communications support to the first responders. They were followed shortly by the rest of the unit which provided support to many different disaster relief organizations such as FEMA.

Being a platoon leader in 252nd Signal Company is one of the most sought after jobs in the brigade. It is one of the rare opportunities in the Army allowing a lieutenant to deploy their platoon for an extended period of time. The platoon leader is completely responsible for all aspects of the mission and is allowed to make decisions as the Task Force communications officer that can enhance the success of the overall mission.

Being the company commander of this unique organization is an opportunity like no other. It is a once in a lifetime chance to lead a company with a real world mission outside the normal routine.

CPT Forrest was recently selected for the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the Department of the Army Staff (ARSTAF) Intern Program. He will be attending Georgetown University earning an Executive Masters in Policy Management followed by a tour with the Joint Staff and the Army Staff.



CPT Ravl Wagh (left), commander of Company E, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, 2nd BCT, discusses the communications requirements for a cordon and search with his unit during an operation in the Al Jara area of East Baghdad, Iraq.

“Regardless of your academic major, you’ll find the Signal Regiment to be a rewarding, challenging branch. The skills you’ll develop in professional schools and on the job are more critical today than ever before as the Army enters the Knowledge Age.”

- LTC Steve Bullock, former Signal Corps branch representative, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

Career as a Signal officer

Pursuing a career as a Signal officer is both a challenging and rewarding venture allowing officers to serve in their nations Army and gain a tremendous set of leadership skills. Signal officer training coupled with operational deployments ensure that an officer build a tremendous leadership portfolio as well as stay current in innovative information technologies. Signal officers are multiskilled communications and information

services leaders who command, manage, and plan Department of Defense communications and computer networks. The training received by signal officers is academically tough and physically challenging, but is geared to prepare signal officers to serve across the full spectrum of the Signal Regiments core competencies, which are:

- Network Management/Enterprise Systems Management
- Information Assurance/Computer Network Defense
- Information Dissemination Management/Content Staging
- Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations
- Visual Information

The depth and breadth of information technology requirements are limitless. Therefore, the Signal Regiment seeks the best and brightest young men and women to commission as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army’s Signal Regiment. Coupled with Basic Officer Leadership Phase I and II training, the United States Army Signal Center produces the finest IT Warrior Leaders.

Most Signal Lieutenants attend the Signal Basic Officer Leader Course (SBOLC) at Fort Gordon, Georgia and are then normally assigned to Signal companies and detachments to gain troop-leading experience and to enhance technical and tactical competence.

The Signal Experience

CPT Jason R. Cody
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Company Commander, Company C, 63rd Signal Battalion, 93rd Signal Brigade, Operation Iraqi Freedom III and Expeditionary Signal Battalion Transformation

“I had the great fortune of taking command of Charlie Company, 63rd Signal Battalion while the unit was deployed to various camps in Kuwait in support of Iraqi Freedom III. The company was responsible for providing communication support to three major camps (including the newly created Air Point of Debarkation, or APOD). During the deployment, I was responsible for leading the company in support of extremely complex commercial communications upgrades on all three locations. These projects included working closely with incoming and outgoing combatant commanders, contractors, various camp commanders,

and many commercial vendors. Regardless of the difficulty or complexity of the project, my Soldiers continued to impress me with their flexibility and ingenuity. They successfully completed every mission thrown at them and provided excellent customer support the entire time. Following the deployment, the battalion became the first Expeditionary Signal Battalion and fielded a large array of cutting edge communications systems. My experience with this unit is characteristic of where the Signal Corps is going. Providing viable communications assets to combatant commanders and constantly working to improve those assets and our level of expertise is what the Signal Corps is all about and I am proud to be a part of it.”



Lieutenants should expect to serve in company level positions to develop leadership and signal technical skills and, when required, gain additional skills by serving in staff positions at the battalion level or higher. Typical duty positions include platoon leader, Direct Signal Support Team (DSST) OIC, company executive officer, or Signal battalion staff officer.

The focus during this phase is on acquiring and refining troop-leading skills as well as Signal unique technical skills required to plan, install, operate and maintain signal equipment and systems. In addition to branch unique tasks, Signal lieutenants also require proficiency in common core warrior tasks and in-depth knowledge of Signal operations and its integration into combined arms operations.

Some signal officers are branched detailed in combat arms branches during their first three years of service. Branch detailed officers obtain invaluable operational and leadership experience which further adds to the development of multiskilled and multidisciplined Signal officers. Upon their return to the Signal Regiment, branch-detailed officers attend the Signal Captains Career Course–Leveler (SCCC-L) followed by the Signal Captains Career Course (SCCC). After completing these required courses, the development of detailed officers follows the same path of their non-detailed counterparts.

Officers generally return to Fort Gordon to attend the Signal Captains Career Course (SCCC) between the 4th and 7th year of service. SCCC is a permanent change of station (PCS) course. In preparation for the duties of a Major, it is recommended that Signal captains serve as a company commander, a battalion S6, or as a Transition Team (TT) Signal Mentor/Advisor following SCCC.

Captains must aggressively prepare for and seek the skills and experience that will qualify them for promotion to major. Signal captains continue to gain an in-depth understanding of combined arms operations and become proficient in both Signal operations and common core competencies. These competencies provide the foundation required to serve in the Signal branch as a tactically and technically proficient leader at company, battalion, and higher levels in all aspects of signal operations and in leading Signal Soldiers. Captains gain a working knowledge of command principles, staff operations, and combined arms operations.

Army requirements may dictate assigning Signal captains to serve in branch immaterial generalist positions, which include U.S. Army Recruiting Command command and staff positions,



Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor, and Active Component/Reserve Component advisors. There are also limited opportunities for Signal captains to serve in a utilization tour as functional area (FA), pursue a graduate degree through the Expanded Graduate School Program (EGSP), Army Foreign Officer Exchange Program, or the Training with Industry Program.

Signal officers will undergo a functional designation board at the 4th and 7th year of service. This board is conducted to determine which of the three functional categories an officer is best suited to serve. Decisions are based on Army requirements, officer preference, rater and senior rater recommendations, and the officer's skills and training. The three functional categories are Maneuver, Fires and Effects (MF&E); Operations Support (OS); and Force Sustainment (FS). A limited number of officers may have the opportunity to participate in the four-year functional designation board. This board is conducted as required based on Army requirements. Officers functionally designated into a functional area are no longer managed by the Signal branch but are managed from within their newly designated functional area.

Signal officers at both the 4th and 7th year of service may elect to stay within the Signal Regiment but serve as a functional area officer. Within the Signal Regiment are two functional areas in addition to the branch in which officers may serve. Functional area 24 Telecommunications Systems Engineer and FA53 Information Systems

Managers provide an opportunity for a Signal officer to serve in areas that focus in the more technical aspects of the Regiments mission.

Seeking the skills required for success as a Major is a task that Signal captains must endeavor to pursue aggressively. The gaining and acquiring of in-depth understanding of combined arms operations and Signal operations is necessary for Signal company commanders and the equally challenging Battalion S6. Additionally, refining and maintaining common core competencies enable the Signal captain to serve at all echelons of command as well as within the operating or generating force. Captains gain a working knowledge of command principles, battalion-level staff operations, combined arms operations and signal operations throughout the Army force structure..

Signal Captains should seek to serve at least 24 months in one or a combination of the following key developmental assignments:

- Company Command
- Battalion S6
- Transition Team (TT) Signal Mentor/Advisor

Following serving in any of these positions, Signal officers will serve in other developmental assignments that are consistent with current Army requirements to include:

- Combat Training Centers (CTC) Observer Controller (OC)
- Recruiting Command –

- command or staff position
- Active Component/Reserve Component AC/RC duty
- Signal Battalion/Brigade principal staff
- USMA Staff, ROTC Instructor
- Service School Instructor
- Education Opportunity (Advanced Civil Schooling (ACS))
- Training with Industry (TWI)
- Joint Chief of Staff Internship (JCS), etc)
- Functional Area positions
- Other Generalist positions

Typical key developmental assignments for Majors include:

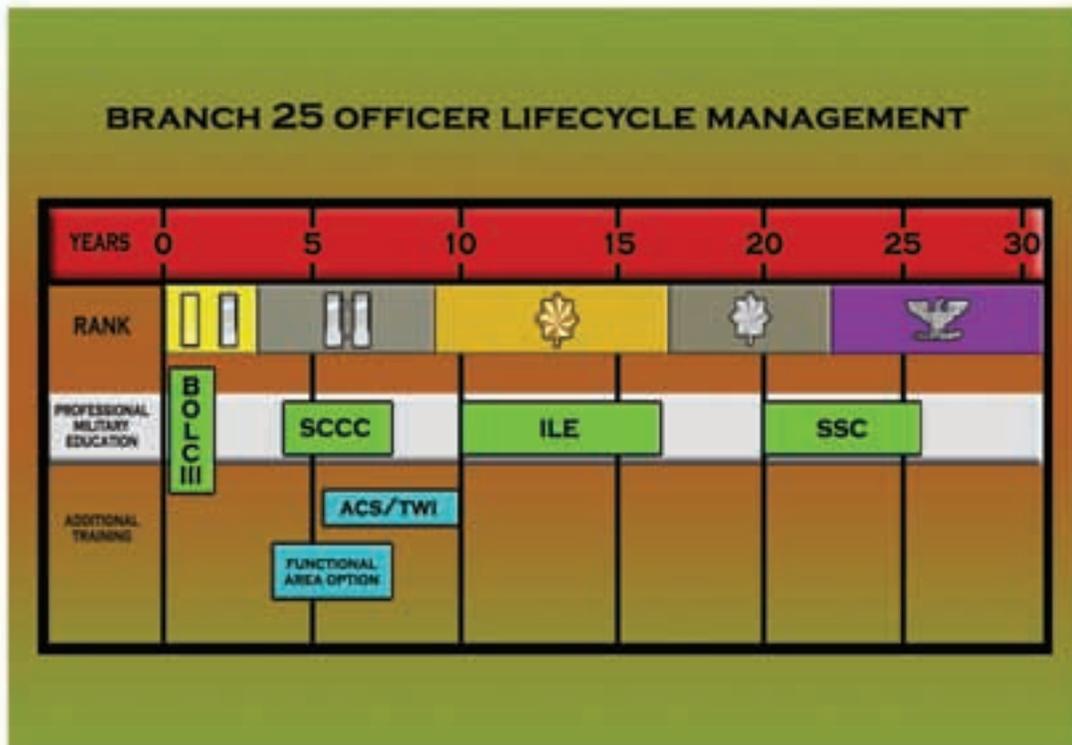
- Brigade-level S6
- Brigade and Battalion Executive Officer or S3
- Major-level Command
- Deputy G6
- Network Operations Officer
- Combat Training Center Observer Controller
- Transition Team

Once an officer has completed the 24-month aggregate time in these positions, they will have the opportunity to work in developmental assignments

Through the first ten years of a Signal officer's career, the development of technical and tactical skills lends strongly to future promotions and assignments of increased responsibility. The experiences gained during this period are focused on developing multiskilled and multidisciplined officers who after promotion to Lieutenant Colonel are capable of commanding and leading at the enterprise level and beyond.

Generalist assignments

Officers above the rank of lieutenant can expect to serve in assignments related or unrelated to the Signal branch but which are important to the Army. These positions are used to fill Army



Windows for a Signal Officer's Career

Time frames for promotions are shown at the top of the chart, while windows for attending Basic Officer Leader Course, Intermediate Level Education and Senior Service College are shown below. Between 6 and 8 years of service fall opportunities to attend Training with Industry and advanced civilian schooling. Between years 4 and 7, officers make a decision on whether to become Functional Area S3 or 24 officers. Then they attend Information Systems Operations Leveler Course, and another course, depending on FA.

Signal majors are encouraged to serve in key developmental assignments and other developmental assignments that will refine their leader attributes, skills, and actions. Officers should strive to complete an aggregate of 24 months in key developmental assignments prior to consideration for more senior Majors' assignments. Majors must complete an Intermediate Level Education (ILE) to remain competitive for LTC. Officers that have successfully completed ILE and completed an assignment (goal of 24 months) in a key developmental assignment time will have built the right competencies and knowledge required to prepare them to be successful in future Army, Joint, Combined, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational leadership and staff positions.

such as

- AC/RC support,
- Signal School instructor
- DA Inspector General
- USMA Staff/Instructor,
- ROTC Instructor
- ILE Staff
- JIIM Staff Officer
- Army General Staff Positions

All officers must continue to seek jobs, experiences, and educational opportunities that will help them become multi-skilled leaders. Some officers are afforded additional opportunities within the JIIM (Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational) arena.

requirements as well as to integrate officers into the total Army concept. Examples of such positions are inspector general; ROTC assistant professor of military science; or aide-de-camp.

JIIM (Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, Multinational) assignments

Signal officers can expect consideration for joint duty assignments worldwide. Joint experience is important to the Army and is essential to individual officers for their advancement into senior leadership positions. Signal officers are afforded numerous opportunities to serve in joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational (JIIM) assignments.

Special assignments

Signal officers are also assigned to organizations and duties beyond those indicated earlier. These other assignments may include White House Fellows; duty with the National Security Council or United Nations; as well as Signal branch representatives at allied service Signal schools. The spectrum of possible assignments is large, but these assignments are characterized as highly responsible and important, requiring mature, skilled officers.

Signal officer training

To accomplish its mission, the Signal Regiment provides newly assigned Signal Lieutenants the military leadership and technical training required to fulfill the communications and information systems operational requirements of their first several assignments.

Most of this training is conducted at the Signal Center, Fort Gordon, Ga., in the Signal Basic Officer Leadership Course (SBOLC). SBOLC is 13 weeks and covers Army common core subjects: military leadership, combat operations, organizational logistics and maintenance support. The course also includes Signal-specific instruction in electronics, information technology, tactical radio operations, tactical satellite, multiplexing and network routing. In addition to classroom instruction, officers participate in a field training

exercise to reinforce Signal platoon leader and S6 staff officer-related training. The FTX is a culminating event and “Rite of Passage” tailored to make lieutenants employ the combat and Signal operational concepts and skills they learned throughout SOBC.

Signal officers normally return to the Signal Center for advanced training after they complete their first or second assignment around the 4th year of service to build on skills learned as lieutenants, officers attend the Signal Captain Career Course. The SCCC is 19 weeks long and provides training that prepares officers to command Signal companies and detachments and to serve in staff positions at battalion, brigade and higher levels.

The Signal Center also provides advanced technical training to officers (Captains and Majors) and Army civilians selected to work in



The large spectrum of assignment possibilities requires responsible, mature and skilled officers.

Functional Area 24, Telecommunications Systems Engineering, and FA 53 Information-Systems Management. Officers selected for an initial FA24 or FA53 assignment must attend the Information Systems Operations Preparatory Course before attending their functional qualification course. The functional qualification course for FA24 officers is the Telecommunications Systems Engineering Course (TSEC), and for FA53 officers is the Information Systems Management Course (ISMC).

In addition to attending functional qualifications courses, officers may achieve their Master of Science degree in a discipline related to their branch or functional area. As officers progress through their careers, they may receive other branch, functional area or other Army-unique educational opportunities based on their performance of duties, educational background and Army requirements.

The Army has restructured the Command and Staff College (CSC) career courses for field grade officers into Intermediate Level Education (ILE) program that consists of the Command and General Staff Officers Course (CGSOC) common core and separate branch or functional area courses tailored to the needs of each functional designation. All officers selected for Major will attend and complete the common core. All Signal officers will complete the CGSOC Core followed by the Advanced Operations and Warfighter Course (AOWC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Most FA24 and FA53 officers will complete the CGSOC Core and the TSEC or the ISMC at Fort Gordon. ILE is approximately 10 months for all the Regiment’s BR25, FA24 and FA53 officers.



The Signal Center at Fort Gordon provides technical training to officers selected to work in Functional Areas 24 and 53.

Selected senior Lieutenant Colonels and Colonels may attend the Senior Service College to prepare them for service at the senior executive level.

Optional training

Signal officers are afforded the opportunity to further develop leadership and combat functional skills by attending the three-week Airborne course and/or nine-week Ranger course. Currently a Signal officer requires an approved billet for a Ranger assignment for eligibility to attend the Ranger course. Officers are also eligible to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course, Air Assault Course and/or Jumpmaster Course when assigned to units that use this specialized training.

Functional training

All Signal officers are eligible to attend more training to prepare them for jobs requiring extensive knowledge of specific systems or disciplines. Some of the courses available are:

- Tactical Signal S6 Course – five weeks and 2 days of training that prepares officers for assignment as the battalion or brigade S6 or member of the S6 staff within a tactical combined arms unit.
- Battlefield Spectrum Management Course – 10 weeks of training designed to teach future frequency spectrum managers a variety of skills required for allocating and regulating management of the radio frequency spectrum. This training will become an MOS producing course in the near future.
- Joint C4 Planners Course – six weeks of training on planning and managing communications-computer support networks for joint warfighters.
- ACES/JACES (Automated Communications Engineering System / Joint) Course – two weeks of training on standardized instructions and associated computer hardware required to manage the joint automated communications engineering system used in joint operations.
- Standardized Communications Security Custodian Course – two weeks of certification training on safeguarding, accounting and controlling communications-security material.

Civilian education and Training with Industry

Not only are Signal officers afforded many opportunities to serve in highly visible positions they are also offered opportunities to attend fully funded graduate school and to train with civilian industry.

Advanced Civilian Schooling

Opportunities for selection to the Army's fully funded graduate-level educational program are available to officers interested in pursuing advanced degrees. Graduate degrees are normally offered in areas that fill Army requirements as well as support an officer's professional-development.

Graduate degrees that support the Signal Regiment include information-systems management; telecommunications management; information-technology management; joint command, control and communications; computer science; electrical engineering; computer-systems engineering; and software engineering. A limited number of advanced degrees are offered in other disciplines based on Army requirements.

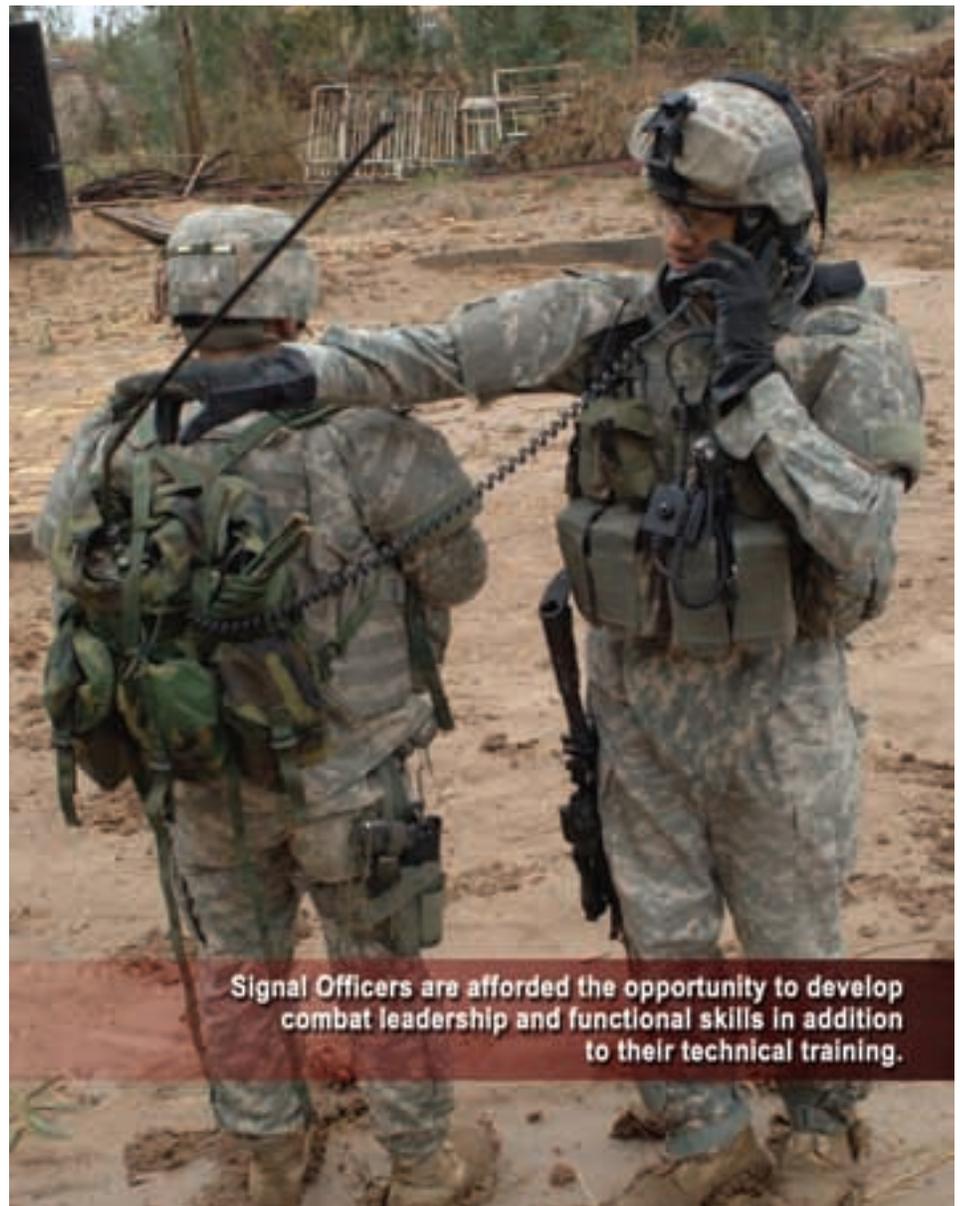
The Army's cooperative degree program enables selected officers to complete degree requirements concurrent with and following attendance at certain military courses. After

completing a military course that qualifies for graduate credit, participating officers are granted up to six months of permissive temporary duty to complete degree requirements as a full-time student.

Officers who pursue advanced degrees on their own may apply for the Army's degree completion program, which allows up to 12 months to complete the degree at no cost to the government.

Expanded Graduate School Program (EGSP)

As a retention incentive, the Army offers fully funded graduate-level educational opportunities to junior officers in exchange for extended active duty obligations. Officers taking advantage of the EGSP are afforded the opportunity to attend specified universities later in their career. The EGSP is extended to non-functional area officers to provide



Signal Officers are afforded the opportunity to develop combat leadership and functional skills in addition to their technical training.

an additional opportunity for developing multiskilled and multidisciplinary officers.

Signal Regiment Graduate Education Program

The Signal Regiment graduate education program (SRGEP) is a partnership between the University of Maryland University College and the Signal Center that provides members of the Regiment (Soldiers, civilians, and family members) the opportunity to pursue a graduate degree in an information technology field.

Degrees offered are Masters of Science in computer systems management, telecommunications management, information technology and technology management. Members of the Regiment can take these degree programs online worldwide. Courses are delivered in an asynchronous mode so students do not have to be online at a particular time of day to participate.

The SRGEP also offers resident technology information technology graduate seminars at Fort Gordon. Seminars are 10 weeks and meet on Saturdays. A student who completes one seminar earns six graduate credits towards several of the degree programs. Tuition rates are low and Soldiers can use various programs such as tuition assistance and GI Bill to pay for all or part of the tuition.

The Signal Regiment and Webster's University established a cooperative degree program for the FA53 Information Systems Managers course (ISMC) and the BR25 Signal Captains Career course. Webster's University will accept up to 15 graduate credits from ISMC or SCCC towards an IT related discipline. Students are required to earn the remaining 15-18 credits through Webster's provided courses.

More information can be found at www.gordon.army.mil/ocos/edu.

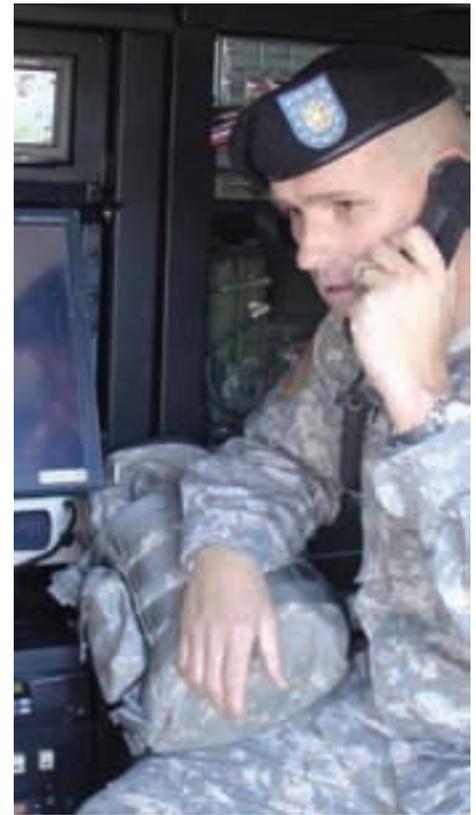
Training with industry

The Training with Industry program was initiated in the 1970s in response to the Army's critical need for officers with state-of-the-art skills in industrial practices and procedures not available through military or civilian education programs. The first students participated exclusively in programs supporting the development of material-acquisition and logistics-management related skills. Today the TWI program has evolved to include training programs supporting marketing, public

affairs, artificial intelligence, physical security, finance, computer science, IT, tactical Internet and many other fields.

The Army's main objective in sponsoring TWI is to develop a group of Soldiers experienced in higher-level managerial techniques and with an understanding of how their industry relates to specific functions of the Army. Once the TWI student is integrated back into an Army organization, he or she can use this information to improve the Army's ability to interact and conduct business with industry. Participants may also be exposed to innovative industrial management practices, techniques or procedures that may apply to and benefit the Army. A prime example of this would be the Signal Regiment's Warfighter Information Network, an architecture designed to use commercial-off-the-shelf equipment in fielding the 21st century's tactical and strategic communications systems.

The Signal Regiment tailors its TWI program according to the Army's needs in the extremely dynamic and constantly evolving communications and information systems field. Some industry training sites for example are: General Dynamics, Taunton, Massachusetts; CISCO Systems Inc., Triangle Park, NC.; Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington; Electronic Data Systems, Plano, Texas; and many others.



MAJ Daniel Markert, the information operations officer for the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conducts a communications check in the interconnected C4 unit (IC4U) during an emergency response rehearsal in Santa Rosa, CA.



1LT Peter Kilpatrick, commander of Charlie Troop, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, chats with an Iraqi army officer while assessing a location for a joint-service communications station in Baghdad, Iraq.

CPT Alexander Vukcevic
Oregon State University
Bachelor of Science in Business Management
Battle Captain, 86th Signal Battalion, 11th Signal Brigade

The Signal Experience

“In less than three years, the Signal Corps has provided me with opportunities that would never have been available to me in the commercial telecommunications industry. My first assignment after the Officer Basic Course was with the 86th Signal Battalion, just as they return from OIF 1. I didn’t know what to expect taking over a platoon of 28 Soldiers and \$3 million worth of equipment. In my first field exercise, we rolled out to the most desolate piece of southern Arizona and, in less than 12 hours, installed a communications package that provided 100 customers with commercial phones and internet access. That was amazing to me, and I’ve been in love with Signal ever since. From that time until we deployed 2 years later, I had the opportunity and pleasure to support the entire joint community with the means to command and control their formations. I advanced from running a platoon to battalion operations, where I supported OIF 06-08 as the Battle Captain for the 86th Signal Battalion, attached to the 3rd Signal Brigade. As a newly promoted Captain, I was responsible for managing 1/3 of the network for the entire country of Iraq, which is one of the largest communications networks in the world. Our network rivaled the complexity and leading edge technology implemented in major US cities, while integrating both tactical and commercial terrestrial- and satellite-based transmission and switching systems. We provided critical and robust voice, video, and data capabilities in the war zone...what a rush! I also participated in the implementation of emerging Internet

Protocol-based line-of-sight radio system technology that was not yet available to the civilian industry.

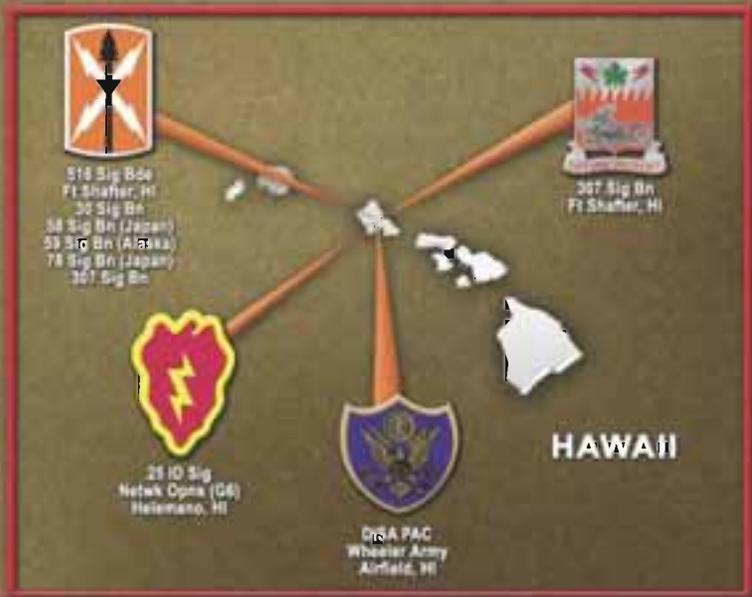
We provided the equivalent of high speed cable access across Baghdad without putting Soldiers’ lives at risk. The efforts of the Signal Officer make it possible for warriors to communicate with each other across the battlefield, as well as with their families around the world. I could not be more proud of the things I have been able to do in support of the Global War on Terror. “Pro Patria Vigilans!”



the *signal* regiment



Active Component



the *signal* regiment



Army Reserve



the *signal* regiment



34 ID
Rosemount, TN



422 Sig Bn
Reno, NV



40 ID
Los Alamitos, CA



136 Sig Bn
Temple, TX



36 ID
Austin, TX



35
Ft Leavenworth, KS

As of May 2007

Army National Guard



WARRANT OFFICER OPPORTUNITIES

Warrant Officers

Warrant officers are a small elite specialized Corps of technically focused military professionals. Commanders rely on warrant officers as their experts on the ground that can be counted on to get the job done no matter what. Warrant officers have all the rights, privileges and prestige that accompany higher levels of responsibility and leadership. The Signal Regiment has four warrant officer military occupational specialties in all three components, with a total population of around 1,775 men and women.

Opportunities exist for Network Management Technician, MOS 250N; Information Systems Technician, MOS 251A; Signal Systems Support Technician, 254A and Senior Signal Systems Technician 255Z. Warrant officers are eligible for retirement after completing 20 years active federal service; however, warrant officers now have the option of serving up to 30 years of active warrant officer service or to age 62, whichever comes first.

Promotion time-in-grade has been accelerated to Chief warrant officer three and four. Chief warrant officer two are promoted at 2 years time-in-grade; three and four will normally be promoted when they have four years time-in-grade; and five are normally promoted in five years.

Warrant officers receive military education at four levels as they progress through the ranks: Warrant Officer Basic Course as a warrant officer one; CW2s with one-year time-in-grade are eligible to attend their Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC); CW3s with one-year time-in-grade are eligible to attend their MOS Warrant Officer Staff Course (WOSC); and CW4s with one-year time-in-grade are eligible to attend their MOS Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course (WOSSC). Warrant Officers are authorized civilian degree completion up to a bachelor's degree, and some jobs are coded for master's degree programs. Warrant Officers are also authorized Training with Industry (TWI), a program that sends an officer to work in civilian industry with a follow-on tour using the training and experience gained in TWI. Outstanding Signal noncommissioned officers who are career professionals, who enjoy serving their country, who are seeking better pay, advancement, training opportunities, and the chance to lead the technological Army in the world into the future may apply for warrant officer appointment. For more information, contact CW5 Wayne H. Jensen Jr. at DSN 780-6545 or commercial (706) 791-6545; email atzh-poo@gordon.army.mil.

The Signal Experience

CW5 Wayne H. Jensen, Jr.
MOS 255Z
Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Management
University of Maryland University College

Signal Warrant Officer Proponent Manager
U.S. Army Signal Center & Fort Gordon
Fort Gordon, Georgia

"The Signal Center is the single point of contact for personnel proponent matters affecting the Signal Regiment within the eight personnel lifecycle management functions: structure, acquisition, individual training and education, distribution, deployment, sustainment, professional development and separation. My role as the Proponent Manager for all four Signal warrant officer specialties is to manage the accessions program, review and update force structure documentation and modifications, review and update all warrant officer personnel regulations and pamphlets, and advise the Regimental Chief Warrant Officer and Chief of Signal on all matters relating to Signal warrant officers. I have been fortunate to have had a wide variety of Information Management positions in almost 30 years of Army service. Every assignment has provided me with the opportunity to grow in a challenging and rewarding environment of rapidly changing technology in the Signal field, and the chance to work with the superb caliber of Active, Reserve and National Guard soldiers and DoD civilians keeping us all "Army Strong".



CW5 Jensen (right), discusses updates to the Regimental website with CW5 Randall Hirsch.

ENLISTED SOLDIER OPPORTUNITIES

The enlisted portion of the Signal Regiment is the largest and most diverse. Enlisted Soldiers serve in a number of military occupation specialties (MOS). These MOSs are grouped together into one career management field, Communication and Information Systems Operations.

There are three areas of concentration: Visual Information Operations; Signal Operations; and Information Operations. Outlined below is a summary of the overall functions performed in these areas.

Visual Information (VI) Operations consists of four MOSs: 25M, Multimedia Illustrator; 25R, Visual Information Equipment Operator-Maintainer; 25V, Combat Documentation/Production Specialist; and 25Z, Visual Information Operations Chief. This area of concentration envelops graphic arts, still photography, video, imagery collection, equipment maintenance, digital cameras and recorders, automated video switchers, audio mixers/controls, closed circuit systems and visual imagery satellite equipment. Visual information products support combat documentation, psychological operations, military intelligence, medicine, public affairs, broadcast operations, training and other functions supporting Army, joint and combined operations.

Related civilian occupations include illustrator, motion-video photographic equipment supervisor, television and radio repairer, television equipment operator, still photographer, aerial photographer, recording engineer and audiovisual production specialist, broadcast engineer.

Signal Operations consists of 11 MOSs: 25C, Radio Operator-Maintainer; 25F, Network Switching System Operator-Maintainer; 25L, Cable System Installer-Maintainer; 25N, Nodal Network Systems Operator-Maintainer; 25P, Microwave Systems Operator-Maintainer; 25Q, Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator-Maintainer; 25S, Satellite Communication Systems Operator-Maintainer; 25T, Satellite/Microwave System Chief; 25U, Signal Support Systems Specialist; 25W, Telecommunications Operations Chief; and 25X, Senior Signal Sergeant.

The Signal Operations area of concentration is the most diversified of the three concentrations. It encompasses single-channel high frequency radio, message preparation and transmission, multichannel communications, troposphere scatter communications, microwave and satellite systems, network and packet switching systems, Internet Protocol (IP) based high speed electronic nodal systems, combat net radio interface and digital group

multiplexer. Soldiers in this area additionally troubleshoot, maintain, assist and train at unit level for automation and communications systems and Signal support equipment.

Related civilian jobs include broadcast engineer, central office operator, radio mechanic, electrical power lines installer/repairer, telephone and cable-television line installer, computer-peripherals equipment operator, radio officer, general communications superintendent, communications electronics supervisor, electronics inspector, telecommunications specialist, electronic equipment repairer and radio electronics communications equipment supervisor.

Information Systems Operations consists of three MOSs: 25B, Information Technology Specialist, 25D, Telecommunications Operator-Maintainer, and 25Y, Information Systems Chief.

Soldiers in the Information Operations area of concentration are the automation and computer network specialists. They install, manage and maintain the Army's varied information systems and networks, coordinating the communications interface required to ensure network access and continuity. They provide technical advice and assistance to automation equipment operators regarding system initialization, application principles, capabilities, limitations, interfaces and protocol troubleshooting. They perform system administration functions and maintenance on digital message switching systems, computer terminals and associated communications security devices.

Related civilian jobs include information systems administrator, network administrator, network security specialist, database administrator, and web design.

Enlisted jobs in the Signal Regiment are changing rapidly to supply the latest technology in digital communications. Slow, human interface information handling in the form of books, magazines, newspapers and videocassettes is becoming an instantaneous and inexpensive transfer of electronic data moving at the speed of light. The Army's digitization process is a formidable challenge for the Signal Regiment, but achievable. We are additionally a Joint Warfighter branch; our platforms interconnect all military forces: Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps including both Active and Reserve component forces. All military services are globalizing through digitization as technology makes all our forces interactive.

Opportunities for a Signal Soldier in today's Army are endless. We continually field technology that will better support our warfighting Army. You will have the ability to learn, grow professionally and obtain leadership skills that will serve you well in whatever career path you choose to take.

We are looking for enthusiastic and dedicated young Americans to serve with us.

Come join us.



AIT students in the 15th Signal Brigade participate in a convoy live-fire exercise at Ft. Gordon, GA.



The Signal Experience

CPT Christine Pinnick
California State University, Sacramento
Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

TROPO Platoon leader, 578th Signal Company
440th Signal Battalion, 22nd Signal Brigade
Operation Iraqi Freedom I



“In March 2003, I deployed my platoon to Iraq for OIF I. We were attached to 5-52 ADA out of Fort Bliss, Texas and all 8 of my teams were spread out amongst four firing batteries in order to support the Air Defense Artillery mission of providing secure airspace for coalition forces. We provided long haul communications throughout Iraq and served as a crucial link to ensure communication between Patriot Missile launchers spread out from Mosul all the way to Baghdad. I had to command and control my platoon from Baghdad and often made several convoys to different locations in order to ensure all my teams had repair parts to ensure communication remained continuous and also to provide morale support. Throughout my 10 years in the Army, my platoon leader experience has certainly proven to be the most rewarding.”

“Soon I will be getting another awesome opportunity to expand my knowledge and experience when I take command of the Signal Company for the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Armor Division. We will be fielding JNN and possibly have the opportunity to deploy it to Iraq..

“I certainly think that branching Signal has been a great choice for me and recommend that other Officers consider going Signal especially if they want technical training and leadership experience all in one.”

1LT Michael J. Pederson
University of Northern Iowa
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Criminology
Platoon Leader, D Company, 57th Signal Battalion, 3rd SIG BDE
Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08

The Signal Experience

1LT Pederson leads a Cable Task Force consisting of 55 Soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers tasked with the commercialization of COB Speicher, Iraq. "As a young Officer in the Signal Corp, I have been placed on the leading edge of communications technology. The management and teamwork skills I have learned have proven invaluable in my growth as a professional and as a leader (1LT Pederson)." He was tasked with providing the commercial fiber infrastructure for the Multi-National Corps, and the Multi-National Force Iraq as well numerous Subordinate Commands. It was his task to train all Soldiers in the installation and operation of commercial fiber and a manhole conduit duct-bank system. Mike hit the ground running as he took control of a stagnant commercialization mission and facilitated its quick growth, eventually providing over 50 external units with fiber optic connectivity, over 25 miles of fiber optic cable, over 100 engineer design plans, over 63 miles of CAT5 cable and over 200 manholes for the communications fiber backbone. His Soldiers' efforts enabled the BDE Task Force to minimize their tactical footprint and focus on a permanent communications network. He was able to provide high speed data, voice, and video services to the Multi-National Forces through the use of the commercial off the shelf equipment across Northern Iraq. His platoon was able to combine the commercial technology with the tactical and create the tools needed by the Multi-National Forces to maintain Information Superiority over the insurgent forces allowing for the success of the mission.



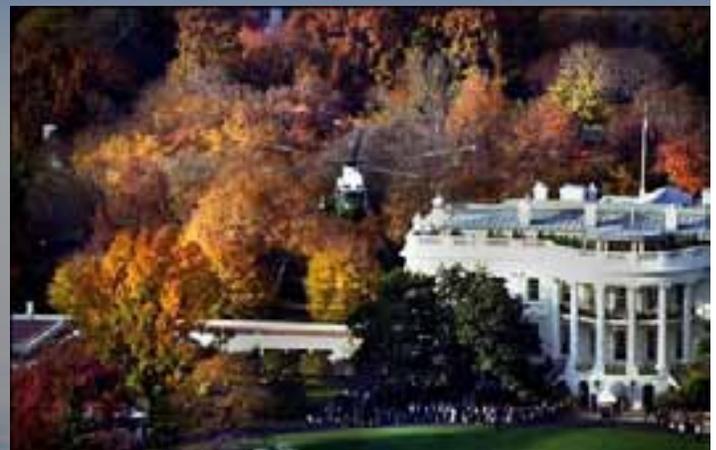
LTC Maria B. Barrett
AOC 25C
Bachelor of Arts in International Relations
Master of Arts in Telecommunications Management
Watch Officer, Operations Center
White House Communications Agency
Washington, D.C.

"An assignment as unique as the White House Communications Agency comes along once in a career. WHCA's mission has been a perfect culmination for my tactical and strategic communications experience. In my role as a WHCA Operations Center watch officer, I am responsible for monitoring a variety of statuses across WHCA - from the communications support teams who travel in advance of the President to install the necessary communications in support of his visit, often jumping from site to site, to the fixed communications infrastructure that sustains WHCA's and the White House's day-to-day operations. In my time here, I've been impressed with the professionalism, technical skills and pride found in WHCA's service members. They are truly focused on their role and the criticality of accomplishing the mission. When faced with a tough mission, where others might say it can't be done, these teams overcome the obstacles and MAKE IT HAPPEN. It is an exceptional opportunity to coordinate with a variety of government agencies, to work among the best the military services have to offer, and to gain

an extraordinary glimpse into the workings of the Executive Branch of our country. Above all, it is the opportunity to provide direct and critical communications support to our Commander-in-Chief, anytime, anywhere in the world. When you hear the words, "We are ready to receive," uttered by a Presidential Communications Officer before the President's arrival, you know that the very best in personnel, equipment and effort has been provided to the President of the United States."



Agency comes along once in a career. WHCA's mission has been a perfect culmination for my tactical and strategic communications experience. In my role as a WHCA Operations Center watch officer, I am responsible for monitoring a variety of statuses across WHCA - from the communications support teams who travel in advance of the President to install



Marine One takes off from the North Lawn of the White House. Selected Signal Soldiers serve with the agency to provide secure communications involving leading-edge technology.

THE SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Signal Regiment is the team of Soldiers and civilians, past and present, dedicated to providing and managing information systems and services for warfighters wherever assigned, regardless of other regimental or organizational ties. The Signal Regiment encompasses more than just the traditional Signal Corps. It extends beyond organizations or activities with defined boundaries and hierarchical relationships. The Signal Regiment is people bound together in a life-long relationship by a rich heritage, a common purpose and a shared vision for the future.

The Signal Regiment was one of the first combat support branches to organize under the Army's regimental system. The regimental system's purpose is "to enhance combat effectiveness through a framework that provides the opportunity for affiliation; develops loyalty and commitment; fosters a sense of belonging; improves unit esprit; and institutionalizes the warfighting ethos."

The Signal Regiment was formed June 1, 1986, under the whole branch regimental concept. This means all soldiers are affiliated with the regiment in a lifelong relationship – no matter where Signal Soldiers are assigned or how often they move, their professional home will always be Fort Gordon, Ga., and their regiment will always be the Signal Regiment.

We also use the term "Regiment" to be more inclusive of Soldiers, warrants, and officers who are in the Signal Corps. Within our Regiment we also include officers who may have as a basic branch Infantry or Aviation but who have now chosen to be designated as Functional Area 24 and 53 officers. We also include those Department of the Army civilians who support the Regiment in any number of ways. The power of the Signal Regiment to support our Army is much greater than the sum of its parts.

Since the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon is Signal's regimental home, the Signal Center's commanding general is the Army's Chief of Signal. He/she is the regimental commander, and the Signal Center's command sergeant major is the regimental sergeant major. The Office Chief of Signal is the operational headquarters for regimental activities.

The Signal Regiment has a coat of arms whose origin can be traced to the 1860s and to Major Albert J. Myer, the first Chief Signal Officer. The Signal Regiment also has a distinctive insignia, worn by all Signal Soldiers on the Army green, blue and white uniforms. Our insignia serves as a symbol

of corps affiliation for Signal Soldiers worldwide.

To formalize affiliation, and to welcome them to the regiment, newly commissioned or branch detailed officers are inducted into the Signal Regiment after they complete the Signal Officer Basic Course or Signal Basic Branch Qualification Course.

The Regimental Induction process consists of a class regimental run; signing the class roster for inclusion in the Signal Regiment's lieutenants' register; and the pinning ceremony. At the induction ceremony's end, the lieutenants are authorized the Signal Regiment's distinctive insignia.



Signal Towers is the Signal Center's Headquarters at Fort Gordon, Georgia – Home of the Regiment.



The Signal Regiment's distinctive Insignia is worn by Soldiers and Civilians affiliated with the Regiment. The insignia is a gold eagle holding in its talons a golden baton, from which descends a red Signal flag. Around the edges is the motto, "Pro Patria Vigilans", which means "Watchful for the Country".

Signal Corps Regimental Association

To further esprit de corps and promote the Signal Regiment, the Signal Corps Regimental Association (SCRA) was established at the Signal Center, with chapters worldwide. SCRA is open to all members of the Regiment: active or reserve officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers, Army civilians, industry partners and others affiliated with the Signal Regiment.

SCRA offers its members close continued identification with the Regiment as well as camaraderie with fellow members. SCRA's objectives include preserving the history and traditions of our Regiment and recognizing accomplishments of people who have made significant contributions with Order of Mercury and Wahatchee awards or Brevet Colonel appointments. SCRA also maintains an official roster of members, publishes a quarterly newsletter, hosts SCRA functions and supports Regimental and chapter activities.



A run with Regimental colors is part of the Regimental induction process.

The Signal Experience

1LT Brent George
Tennessee Technological University
Cookeville, TN
B.S. Electrical Engineering
B.S. Computer Engineering

E CO 67th SIG BN (E CO 25th SIG BN Attached),
93rd Signal Brigade (160th SIG BDE Attached)
Operation Enduring Freedom
Kabul, Afghanistan

"I am currently the Executive Officer and Assistant Projects Liaison for Echo Company 25th Signal Battalion in Afghanistan. I manage 33 Soldiers at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan and I am responsible for the network infrastructure of Camp Eggers, Camp Phoenix and Headquarters International Security Assistance Force (HQ ISAF).

The need for NIPR, SIPR CENTRIXS and other network capabilities is growing as U.S. personnel increase in Afghanistan for ISAF. To combat the need for U.S. communication, me and my 10 member Soldier team prepared for the ISAF X by installing a new fiber infrastructure along with inside and outside plant installs.

Whenever the Generals travel, they use a Flyaway Kit that allows them to have access on the Afghanistan network no matter where they are in the world. This kit is configured and installed to utilize the existing internet to the Afghan Virtual Private Network. I was fortunate to oversee the development and installation of this new kit which enabled MG Layfield the ability to travel abroad and still maintain command and control of his Soldiers. After several days of troubleshooting and testing, we were able to develop a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the installation and use of the kit. This SOP contained easy to follow instructions that allowed anyone on the General's team to utilize the Flyaway Kit."



1LT George at work during the holidays.

SIGNAL HISTORY

Since its establishment on June 21, 1860, the U.S. Army Signal Corps has fulfilled the Army's communications needs. Major Albert J. Myer, a former Army surgeon and the first Chief Signal Officer, developed a unique and practical visual communications system for military operations called "wigwag." Simple, mobile, and lightweight, the wigwag system used flags during the day and torches at night to quickly pass messages between operating forces.

Wigwag proved well suited in rugged terrain during the Navajo Campaign in New Mexico during 1860-1861. Colonel Thomas Fauntleroy, Myer's commander, said, "[Wigwag] demonstrated not only the practical usefulness of field signals, but that they can be used under any of the contingencies of frontier warfare."

While visual signaling was a mainstay of tactical communication in the field during the Civil War, the Army also used the electric telegraph. The U.S. Military Telegraph Service employed civilian operators, its supervisors held commissions in the Quartermaster

Corps, and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton maintained direct control of it. Myer unsuccessfully tried to gain control of the USMTS and instead developed a mobile telegraph train that used the Beardslee electric telegraph to improve communication in the field.

These telegraph trains consisted of two wagons, copper wire and iron lances for stringing temporary field lines and was called the "flying telegraph." Myer contracted with a civilian company to construct the system to use an alphabetic dial indicator instead of a Morse system to transmit messages. Myer's contract began a long tradition of civilian industry and military cooperation for developing Signal equipment that continues to this day.

From 1870-1891, the Signal Corps established and operated the nation's first weather service. This service recorded meteorological data, analyzed it and then published weather forecasts in newspapers using a map graphic which is still used

today. During contingencies such as the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, the Signal Corps continued innovations in Army communications such as combat photography, telephone, an improvised telegraph switchboard and renewed use of balloons. From 1900-

1903, signalmen constructed the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System. However, traditional land-wire telegraph proved to be ineffective in the Alaskan climate, so Chief Signal Officer Adolphus Greely introduced wireless telegraph to Alaska. Then in 1904, signalmen laid a 1,300-mile cable linking Sitka, Alaska, and Washington, D.C., creating the first direct link between the Alaskan system and commercial telegraph in the United States.

The Signal Corps pioneered U.S. military aviation in 1908, when the Wright brothers made initial tests flights of the Army's first aircraft, which was built to Signal Corps specifications. Signal Corps aircraft were first employed in military operations in 1916 when General Pershing led the Punitive Expedition to Mexico to capture Pancho Villa. U.S. aviation training, development, and operations remained a Signal Corps responsibility until a separate Air Service was established in 1918.

Development of Signal equipment continued during the two world wars. During World War I, the Signal Corps experimented with radio and cooperated with the communications industry to perfect radio tubes. A new Signal Corps Laboratory at Camp Vail, N.J. (later renamed Fort Monmouth), developed small aircraft radiotelephones, the superheterodyne circuit (vital to the development of AM and FM radio) and radar. Signalmen also used pigeons extensively for frontline communications in World War I. Before and during World War II, the Signal Corps was heavily involved in developing radar. A Signal Corps mobile radar set detected the Japanese aircraft that bombed Pearl Harbor. Development of tactical FM radio continued and led to the production of reliable, mobile, and easy-to-use equipment.

At the beginning of the Korean War (1950-1953), existing Signal equipment was old, used and in short supply. Cable was unreliable and telephone not practical. Mountainous terrain hindered signals, and relay trucks were easy targets for the enemy. To improve communications, the Signal Corps introduced new equipment such as very high frequency line-of-sight radio. It was flexible and mobile – it could keep up with the infantry's rapid moves – and provided communication over the mountains, rivers and enemy. It could carry teletype messages. One lesson learned from Korea was that the Signal Corps needed a speedier, more reliable, protected and stable communications system that could withstand a single breakdown. For this reason the Signal Corps abandoned the battlefield's Single Axis Communications System for the Army Area Communications System, and later the Area Common User System.



Much of this equipment was used in Vietnam, but there were problems. The Signal Corps faced the problem of



A Signal Corps soldier leans over a cliff to repair telephone lines in Korea in January 1951.

unreliable and inadequate radio circuits linking Southeast Asia and Washington. Troops carried equipment that was too heavy and of poor quality. The Army relied heavily on high frequency radio that could be easily jammed or affected by dust, overheating and inadequate frequencies.

That era's improvements in Army communications included such innovations as troposphere-scatter radio trunks. Unlike conventional microwave relay links requiring line-of-sight, tropo passed over extensive distances of enemy terrain. Tropo answered the demand for high-quality telephone and message circuits, and enabled multiple circuits to connect locations 200 miles apart. For the first time in combat, the Signal Corps used an experimental satellite ground terminal linking Vietnam, Hawaii and Washington. This system supplied the first reliable, high-quality communications in



In the 1970s, avionics equipment maintenance was a Signal Corps responsibility.

and out of Vietnam.

Modernization efforts moved ahead in the 1980s to lead the Army into the 21st century. Science and technology shaped the Signal Corps' destiny; innovations and equipment such as satellites, fiber-optic cable, digitization, computers and connectivity were just beginning to yield increased mobility, durability, increased frequency selection and overall system reliability.

The Signal Corps was a pioneer in the satellite and space age. Project Diana in 1946 demonstrated Signal Corps' scientists' efforts to use the heavens for new frontiers in communications. Using a WWII-era radar, the scientists bounced a radar signal off the moon, proving that humans could communicate electronically through the ionosphere into outer space. In December 1958, SCORE I, the world's first communications satellite, carried a Signal Corps-developed communications package into space.

However, since 1962, the Army's primary responsibility has been satellite ground terminals, so the Signal Corps developed satellite communication terminals to be reliable, mobile, quick to set up, unlimited by terrain and secure from enemies. These systems are the primary focus of the Signal Regiment's future.

Other innovations have included the tactical Internet, a router-based data and voice network using commercial-standard Internet protocols and designed to provide a seamless flow of digitized information from the foxhole to the brigade commander. New tactical radios have

brought better command and control at battalion-and-below level. New communications architecture has meant better command to division and corps areas, and it's interoperable with existing U.S. and NATO tactical and strategic communications systems, including tactical satellites.

During the Global War on Terror, Signal organizations and soldiers have quickly adapted to changing battlefield conditions and employed new concepts and equipment to enhance communications for tactical commanders. Technology such as the Joint Network Node combined with new division and brigade combat team organizations has enabled a more robust and reliable communications capability in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters of war. A crucial component is training Signal leaders how to think and



not what to think to create a much more adaptive and agile Signal Corps.

Battlefield communications have transformed immensely from the wigwag flag, torches and electric telegraph. The battlefield of the 21st century will continue to offer challenges to be overcome as the Army transforms. The Signal Regiment leads that transformation by the development of equipment, doctrine, and most importantly, Soldiers who provide the best communications possible for the U.S. Army.



“On the battlefield of the future, enemy forces will be located, tracked and targeted almost instantaneously through the use of data links, computer-assisted intelligence and automated fire control. I see battlefields on which we can destroy anything we locate through instant communications and almost instant application of highly lethal fire-power.”

-GEN William Westmoreland, 1969



SPC Ken Geary (left) and SPC Brian Cosson configure settings at the Signal entry panel on the Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) unit at Fort Gordon, GA.



Combat images shot on the battlefield provide commanders with visual information they need to help them make critical decisions.

The web address for our Regimental Division at Fort Gordon, Georgia is:

<http://www.gordon.army.mil/ocos/rdiv>

1LT Todd Vining
Officer Candidate School
BA in Business Administration
Node Center Platoon Leader
A Co, 57th Signal Battalion, 3rd Signal Brigade
Operation Iraqi Freedom '06-'08

“As a Node Center Platoon Leader, I am entrusted with a lot of responsibilities. While I am signed for millions in Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE) and responsible for 25 Soldiers, I’m exposed to all the technically demanding aspects of Signal, working with Soldiers is hands down the most humbling and rewarding experience I’ve encountered to date. As for Signal, guys will always talk trash about us. MG William Webster (former 3ID, CG) once said, ‘I would

The Signal Experience

rather have my son be a pop-up target on an M-16 range than be a Signal officer.’ Evidently he didn’t appreciate his comms too much. With Signal it’s real simple, you can talk about us but you can’t talk without us. Signal isn’t Combat Arms but it definitely plays a critical role in today’s ever-changing, fast-paced, technology-driven Army. Make of it what you will. You can easily make a career in Signal or transfer your skills to the civilian sector if that’s what you’re looking to do. Is Signal for you? You make the call.”



(Mosul, Iraq) 1LT Vining does a radio check with his Node Center



(Mosul, Iraq) CPL David Velez-Perez of 57th SIG BN reviews an AN/CYZ-10 as 1LT Todd Vining looks on

“Pro Patria Vigilans”
“Watchful for the Country”

*"Where **SKILL**
and **COURAGE** Count"*



SIGNAL  **CORPS**
UNITED STATES ARMY

JES WILHELM SCHLAIKJER
ARTIST, SIGNAL SOLDIER
1897-1982



KEEPING IT STRONG. ARMY STRONG.

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