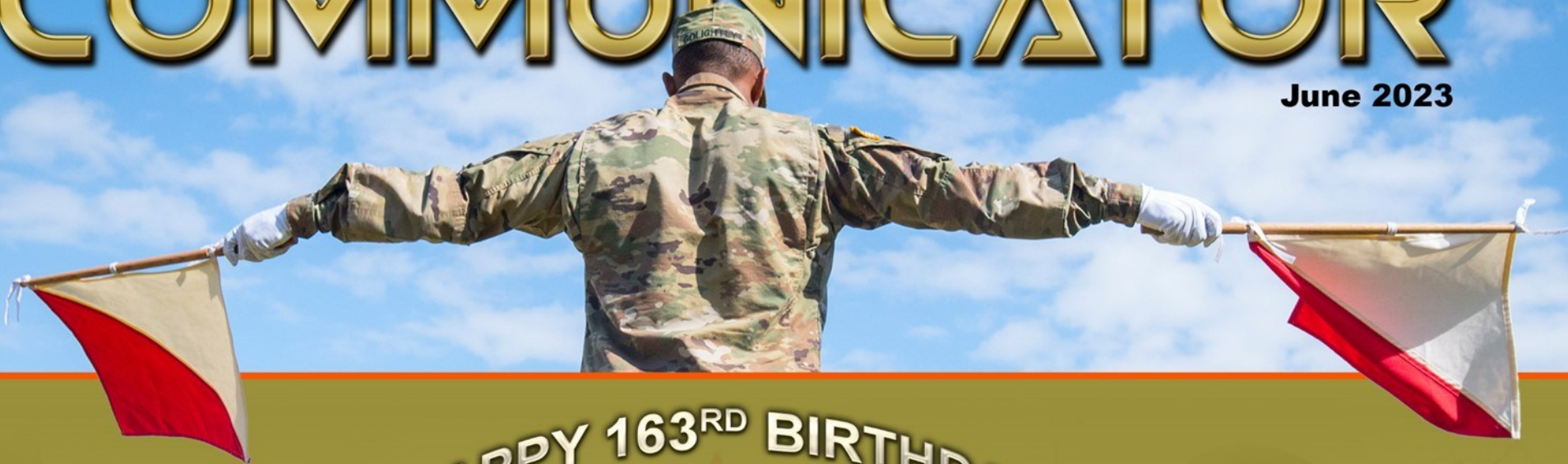


ARMY COMMUNICATOR

June 2023



HAPPY 163RD BIRTHDAY
SIGNAL CORPS



Pro Patria Vigilans



Contents

3. Leadership Page
4. History: Innovative Pioneers
7. Signal, Army Birthdays
9. Reflecting on a Legacy
10. The Signal School of 1973
11. Civilian Direct Commission
12. Decades of Service
13. Friendly Competition
14. 304th ESB-E Modernization
15. 51st ESB-E in the Pacific
17. 160th TSB
18. A CAC Celebration
19. SGM-A Fellowship Program
21. Signal Ball Invitation

June Snapshot:

PRIDE MONTH

- 14: Flag Day
- 18: Father's Day
- 19: Juneteenth
- 21: Signal Corps Anniversary
- 21: First Day of Summer
- 24: DMR Induction Ceremony
- 24: Fort Gordon Signal Corps Ball

The Army Communicator is published as a command information e-publication for the men and women of the United States Army Signal Corps under the provisions of AR 360-1. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Office, Chief of Signal, the U.S. Army or the Department of Defense.

Submit articles, photos, graphics, videos, story ideas, and nominations for the Army Communicator to the editor, Laura Levering, [here](#) or laura.m.levering.civ@army.mil. For additional information, please call 706-791-7325.

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REGIMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Col. Paul D. Howard, 42nd Chief of Signal

Command Sgt. Maj. Linwood E. Barrett, Regimental Command Sergeant Major

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Chris R. Westbrook, Regimental Chief Warrant Officer



On the Cover:

The U.S. Army Signal Corps will celebrate its 163rd anniversary on June 21. Learn about the Signal Corps' history and much more in this issue. Next month's featured topics will include the future and execution of data, cloud, zero trust, the new Data Course, and more.

(Cover photo illustration by Tàì Doick, U.S. Army Signal School)

Proud to ‘get the message through’ since 1860

Team Signal,

Thanks for checking out this month’s Army Communicator. This month’s issue is a little extra special because we also celebrate 163 years of excellence. I am super excited, and you should be as well. June 21 is the Signal Corps birthday, and we should all be busting at the seams with pride.

The Signal Regiment has had an amazing past few months, and we remain reliable, resilient, and ready for whatever mission is next. Signaleers far and wide are doing some truly remarkable things, and everyone’s efforts are truly appreciated. Not just this month, but every month we should all take a few moments to reflect on the fact that we provide the network, and we are the voice of the Army.

Whenever afforded the opportunity, we all should recognize the energy and efforts put forth by our signal formation. A simple “thank you” for what you’ve done and what you are prepared to do goes a long way. See a Signaleer, high-five a Signaleer.

The Signal Corps has been historically known for many things. Whether it be the wig-wag, the telegraph, or Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE), the signal Soldier has always provided reliable communications to the Warfighter. A lineage of pride that has continued over time, our communicators remain adaptable, agile, and receptive to new technologies and new requirements. Innovation efforts, the desire to be the best and provide the best runs through the bloodline of each and every signal Soldier, NCO, and officer. This unique foundation of pride is established one place: Fort Gordon, Georgia - home of the Signal Corps.

Pride is forever, and this month we celebrate the many years of the Corps. The voice is always needed, and the voice will always be there. Commanders will always be provided the command and control capabilities needed to fight and win our nation’s wars, because our Signaleers will always ensure they have it. We’ve done this ever since 1860, and we will continue through infinity! Although there are many things that will change, there is one that will remain the same. The Signal Corps will be ready, and the Signaleer will “Get the Message Through!”

Happy Birthday Signal Corps! Signal Proud! Signal Strong!

Pro Patria Vigilans!



Command Sgt. Maj. Linwood Barrett

Regimental Command Sergeant Major



The enduring Signal Corps: Pioneering innovations since 1860

A proud history

Steven J. Rauch

Signal Corps Branch Historian

Enabling communications is the core mission of the Signal Corps. Commanders must have effective communications to maintain command and control over their forces without regard to physical distance - whether it is on land, on the sea, in the air, in space, in info space, or in cyberspace.

Land Domain

The U.S. Army Signal Corps was established by Congress on June 21, 1860, making it the first military organization of any nation dedicated to installing, maintaining, and operating land communications. The creation of the Signal Corps coincided with technological advances that expanded the size of traditional battlefields, requiring new methods of communication beyond voice commands and couriers.

Albert J. Myer, an Army doctor, had devised a visual communications system known as “wig-wag,” which used a flag by day or a torch at night to rapidly send messages over long distances. Only one flag or torch was used at a time, and telescopes were used to read the messages between signal stations. Upon acceptance of his invention by the Army, Myer was appointed to signal officer at the rank of major, tasked to organize and train Soldiers in signaling techniques. During the Civil War, signal Soldiers deployed in treetops, on rooftops, and on signal towers to send and receive important messages for their commanders. This led to the development of various encryption methods to provide information assurance and safeguard the secrecy of orders during operations.

Often the wig-wag tactical networks changed the outcome of a battle, such as Gettysburg in July 1863. During this battle, the Signal Corps provided timely information to enable Union commanders to seize tactical and geographic opportunities before the enemy could react. Signal teams provided a fully integrated Wig-Wag network to support Union defensive operations. One critical Wig-Wag station was on Little Round Top where Signaleers observed and provided early warning of the Confederate’s attempt to outflank the Union left on July 2, 1863. Though there were many episodes of individual signal Soldiers performing great feats on the battlefield, the infant Signal Corps was still seen after the war by many Army leaders as an interesting, but non-essential organization, especially when fiscal and manpower resources became scarce.

Sea Domain

During the Civil War, the U.S. Navy had conducted numerous joint operations with the Army along the coasts and major rivers to provide transportation of troops and supplies as well as ship to shore fires capability. To facilitate command and control, Signal Corps personnel were embedded on U.S. Navy ships so that ground commanders could quickly transmit requests for supplies, transport, or fires through the wig-wag system.

In fall 1864, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman began a march through Georgia with over 60,000 men to the seaport of Savannah. As the Army closed on its objective in mid-December, Sherman sought to establish contact with Navy ships that were carrying much needed supplies, medical support, and artillery capability. One remaining obstacle to be overcome was Fort McAllister, a small confederate outpost located on the Ogeechee River that needed to be seized so that ships could safely navigate the river and link up with Sherman’s Army. The embedded signal teams within the Union Army and Navy command structure enabled coordination for this mission. During a span of about 30 minutes, the signal teams had demonstrated how Myer’s wig-wag system could provide combat commanders long range, line of sight, command, and control to support both ground combat and naval communications.



The U.S. Navy employed the wig-wag system as illustrated by the flags and telescope to communicate with Army signal teams. (Photo from Signal Historical Collection, circa 1863)

After the Civil War, the success of this Army-Navy cooperation inspired Myer to institutionalize and standardize signal training within both services with the hope to synchronize signal equipment, doctrine, and training to ensure interoperability during future joint operations.

Myer's promotion of joint communications influenced leaders in Congress, and in 1869, they established the chief signal officer of the U.S. Navy position. They also directed both Army and Navy chief signal officers to develop common signal training, message encryption, and any other methods to promote, improve, and synchronize communications between the land and sea warfare domains. This harmony was demonstrated in 1870 when the Navy Department adopted Myer's *Manual of Signals*, the signal doctrine for that time, and began sending Navy and Marine officers to attend the Fort Whipple (later Fort Myer) Signal Training School.

Information Dimension

After the Civil War, the Army was reduced to a skeletal force for the mission of policing western U.S. territories, and many Army leaders sought to protect their organizations from cuts by finding new missions. One civil concern focused on meteorology and how that science could be harnessed to improve information about weather conditions vital to an agricultural America. In 1869, these agricultural interests lobbied Congress to create a national organization to observe, report, and forecast the weather. Myer took the initiative and contacted congressional supporters who later said he had "a most intense desire that execution of the law be entrusted to him."

On March 15, 1870, the secretary of war assigned the meteorological duties to the Signal Corps, undoubtedly saving it from passing into history as a curious fad rather than an enduring organization. From 1870 to 1891, the Signal Corps successfully operated the nation's first modern weather service using telegraph lines to report weather observations to Washington D.C.

Observation stations were manned by three Soldiers and equipped with a barometer, thermometer, hygrometer, anemometer, anemoscope (wind vane) and pluviometer (rain gauge). After Soldiers collected hourly and daily readings, they sent them via telegraph to the Signal Corps headquarters in Washington D.C., where civilian and military scientists compiled and analyzed the data to predict the weather for the next few days. The Signal Corps produced an average of 35 weather bulletins and 60 weather maps each day, which were then distributed to post offices and local newspapers for publication.

When a new generation of government and military officials began questioning why the Army was doing a function that was essentially

civilian in nature, a bill was introduced in Congress that recommended the Signal Corps be abolished since it seemed to no longer have a military function. The bill was defeated, but another was offered that recommended the weather service be transferred to the Department of Agriculture. The legislation also specified that Signal Corps missions would be restricted to "strictly military matters" and set the authorized strength at one brigadier general, one major, four captains, four first lieutenants, and 50 sergeants whose focus became the application of communication technology for the U.S. Army.

Air Domain

Since its beginning, the Signal Corps explored any technology that enabled clear line of sight for communications, and as such, the Army recognized the Signal Corps as a branch with the skills and technical knowledge to pursue early military aeronautical technologies in the air domain. In the late 1890s, the Signal Corps explored the use of aerial communications, employing balloons as portable observation platforms. An anchor rope carried a telephone line from the basket to a ground station below manned by a team that could quickly relay the information obtained aloft to the appropriate ground commander. During the Spanish-American War, the Signal Corps applied this capability in Cuba to conduct reconnaissance for planning the attack on Spanish defenses at San Juan Hill.

Brig. Gen. James Allen, chief signal officer, placed considerable emphasis on aviation, and on Aug. 1, 1907, the Signal Corps established a small aeronautical division to take "charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects." On Feb. 10, 1908, the Wright brothers and the Signal Corps entered a formal contract for delivery of an aircraft to Fort Myer, Virginia. Following several tests, evaluations, and unfortunately accidents - one of which killed 1st Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, the Army accepted the Wrights' airplane on Aug. 2, 1901, at a cost of \$30,000, and designated it Signal Corps Aircraft No. 1.

By October 1912, the Signal Corps had purchased 11 aircraft from the Wrights and their competitor Curtis Aircraft. On Dec. 8, 1913, the first U.S. aviation unit was activated: the 1st Aero Squadron. The Signal Corps' 1st Aero Squadron was later deployed in combat operations to assist Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing with command and control during the Punitive Expedition into Mexico during 1916.

On May 24, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson created the Army Air Service organized directly under the War Department, which officially ended responsibility for air matters by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. The Army Air Service thus became the forerunner of the U.S. Army Air Corps, the U.S. Army Air Force, and in 1947, the U.S. Air Force.

Space Domain

The next domain in which the Signal Corps played an important role was determining the feasibility of communications beyond earth's atmosphere into space. On Jan. 10, 1946, Signal Corps scientists using a modified SCR-271 long range radar antenna succeeded in bouncing radar signals off the moon. Project Diana, named for the Roman goddess of the moon, demonstrated that very high frequency radio waves could penetrate the ionosphere encircling the earth and into space.

After Project Diana, the Signal Corps broadened its space domain activities. In 1949, the Signal Corps provided electronic support for guided missiles, an effort that grew into the U.S. Army Signal Missile Support Agency. The first communications satellite,



Project Diana, 1946 - Radar installation at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, juxtaposed against the moonlight sky to illustrate the accomplishment of bouncing communication signals through space. (Photo from Signal Historical Collection)

Project SCORE (Signal Communications via Orbiting Relay Equipment) launched on Dec. 18, 1958. This satellite demonstrated that multiple voice and teletype-writer signals could be received, stored, and then retransmitted by an orbiting satellite.

The Signal Corps mission for developing satellite payloads ended in 1962 when the Army formed the Satellite Communications Agency, but that was only the beginning of using these platforms for warfare. Thus, the Signal Corps could add another domain to its resume of breaking new ground for communications outside of Earth's atmosphere.

Cyber domain

The Department of Army decided in the mid-1980s to combine five information-related functions into what was known as the Information Mission Area (IMA). IMA's purpose was to give commanders information they needed more efficiently. The Signal Corps was assigned proponentcy for the functions of communications, automation, visual information, publications and printing, and records management. This decision resulted in renaming everything "communications" to "information" across the Army. A crucial part of this process was the transfer of the Army's computer science school from the Adjutant General School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, to the Signal School at Fort Gordon, Georgia, in 1988. This reflected the evolving concept of a desktop computer from being just a more efficient word processor to a unique communications platform for transferring information through an electronic (or cyber) network. Now both automation and communication proponentcies would be merged at one location under the direction of the Signal Corps.

The mission for managing information technology saw its first test during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-1991. In addition to its traditional role of providing communications via radio, telephone, and satellite, this was a test for transferring data. This nascent information network also included the first in theater email system, which linked commercial and military systems that could handle up to 15,000 email messages a day. After Desert Storm, Army leaders understood the potential of information technology systems to provide real-time situational awareness in what was becoming a new domain of operations: cyberspace. A result was the digitization of the tactical force, known as Force XXI. The 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, became the test bed for experiments using applied digital technology in combat systems, such as M1 Abrams, to achieve information dominance over future adversaries.

The Enduring Signal Corps

This short review illustrates that whatever domain or dimension of warfare it may be, the enduring constant through 163 years of Signal Corps history has been the need for competent, trained, and dedicated Soldiers to provide communications. The Signal Corps has consistently demonstrated it can adapt and function within all types of battle space - whether land, sea, air, space, or cyber domains. Each change of technology has offered challenges, but the Signal Corps historical record demonstrates that it can provide reliable, rapid, and secure communications within any domain. More important than technology are the people of the Signal Corps who have made success possible. Whether by wig-wag or WIN-T, the Signal Corps will continue to ensure that the message always gets through.

The nation celebrates Army and Signal Corps' birthdays

Preserving history

Susan Thompson

U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command

June marks the celebration of both the Army and Signal Corps birthdays. A recent U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) chief of staff-led visit to the National Museum of the U.S. Army (NMUSA) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, provided the opportunity for the participants to see the interconnected role that the development of the Signal Corps and its technologies has had on the advancement of Army history that has challenged, empowered, and equipped Soldiers to be all they can be.

The NMUSA has a collection that spans the entirety of the Army's 248-year history. The U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of expert riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year. In 1814, with the War of Independence still fresh in the minds of Americans and the War of 1812 still being waged, Congress enacted legislation directing the Secretary of War, the precursor of today's Secretary of Defense, to gather symbols of combat from the young nation's military struggles. The British invasion of Washington, and the subsequent burning of the White House and many other federal buildings, would occur just four months later.

The main galleries at the NMUSA are located on the first floor of the museum, laid out in chronological order. The size of the gallery is proportional to the number of Soldiers who served in that conflict. Smaller conflicts are highlighted in cases between main galleries. Beginning with the Founding the Nation gallery, covering the colonial period to the War of 1812 and extending through the Changing World Gallery, chronicling the period from the fall of the Soviet Union through our nation's current conflicts, the museum tells the story of the Army through stories and artifacts of the Soldier.

The Preserving the Nation Gallery highlights the Army's part in the Civil War and includes artifacts from the founding of the Signal Corps in the Getting the Message Through display. Albert James Myer, an Army doctor, first conceived the idea of a separate, trained professional military signal service. He proposed that the Army use his visual communications system called "wig-wag" while serving as a medical officer

in Texas in 1856. When the Army adopted his system June 21, 1860, the Signal Corps was born, with Myer as the first and only signal officer. Since that time, the Signal Corps has contributed enormously to the scientific and military advancement of our country, and at CECOM, we are proud to recognize our Signal Corps roots - even as we adapt and advance in the face of ever-changing missions and priorities. A separate display highlighting Myer is located in the Army and Society Gallery.

The Nation Overseas Gallery covers the time period 1898 to 1918, and includes a Communications display. This display highlights many of the innovations that were developed and fielded from the radio and Signal Corps laboratories. Construction of the radio laboratory at what would become Fort Monmouth began in mid-December 1917, and was mostly finished by the end of January 1918.

Research initially centered on vacuum tubes, circuits, testing of



(Courtesy photo)



(Courtesy photo)

manufacturer-submitted equipment, and application of new inventions. There were 90-95 flights a week flown for testing. The laboratories provided all the technical facilities needed for the development of ground and air radio.

Both the Global War Gallery, highlighting the period between 1919-1945, and the Cold War Gallery, featuring artifacts from the period 1947-1991, feature displays that emphasize the important and integrated role that Signal Corps technologies had on supporting and protecting the American Soldier. Fort Monmouth laboratory developments during the World War II period made communica-

tions more transportable, more secure, and more reliable.

Technical contributions of the Signal Corps during World War II included the development and introduction of carrier equipment, spiral-four cable, facsimile equipment, frequency-modulated radios, crystal-controlled radios, microwave radar sets, other equipment, and facilities.

Fort Monmouth's introduction of Automatic Artillery and Mortar Locating Radars AN/TPQ-3 and AN/MPQ-10 proved to be a major success during the Korean War era, helping Soldiers to detect the source of incoming enemy attacks and to potentially launch counter-attacks.

Other developments of the period included lightweight field television cameras, pocket radiation detectors and super-small experimental field radios. Advancements in communications and electronics systems came so far that in 1957 the Army discontinued the pigeon service, which had been a fixture on post since the end of World War I.

One of CECOM's predecessor commands, the Electronics Command (ECOM), supplied communications and electronics equipment during the Vietnam era to include radios, radars, mortar locators, sensors, surveillance systems, aerial reconnaissance equipment, air traffic control systems, night vision devices, and even cameras. Many of these are the predecessors of items currently in the field.

Many of the Signal Corps innovations found their way into everyday life, but don't doubt that they were on the cutting edge of technology for the time. The Army and Society Gallery highlights a large number of innovative Signal Corps thinkers and equipment. There are displays about Signal Corps founders, who are honored on our C5ISR Campus, as well as some of the many technologies developed and fielded by the Signal Corps, including radar, communications, night vision, and space technology. There are also displays that highlight some other ways the Signal Corps served the Army, with the development of films, aimed at both the Soldier and the civilian populations, including one that was given an Oscar Award.

As the Army celebrates its birthdays in June, it is an opportunity to explore the ways that CECOM and its predecessor have contributed to the growth and development of the Army and the Signal Corps. If an in-person visit isn't possible to the NMUSA, there are many valuable resources available on their website to explore. Visit the website [here](#).



Reflecting on the history, accomplishments of the Signal Corps

163-year-old legacy

Master Sgt. Clarence Durst
U.S. Army Signal School

The U.S. Army Signal Corps is one of the oldest and most important branches of the Army, responsible for providing communication and information systems to support military operations. On March 3, 1860, the Signal Corps was officially established as a branch of the Army, with the mission of providing visual communications over long distances. This year marks the 163rd anniversary of the Signal Corps. It is a time to reflect on the history and achievements of this branch of the military.

The early years of the Signal Corps were marked by innovation and experimentation. The use of flags, torches, and other visual signals were quickly replaced by the use of telegraph lines, and later, wireless telegraphy. The Signal Corps was also responsible for the creation of the first aerial reconnaissance unit, which used hot air balloons to gather intelligence during the Civil War. In the years that followed, the Signal Corps continued to innovate and adapt to new technologies. During World War I, the Signal Corps played a critical role in providing communication and information systems to support the war effort. They were responsible for the development of the first portable radio sets, which enabled Soldiers to communicate with each other and with their commanders in real-time.

During World War II, the Signal Corps continued to play a vital role in the war effort. They were responsible for the development of radar and other electronic communications systems, which were critical to the success of the Allied forces. The Signal Corps also played a key role in the development of the first electronic computers, which were used to break enemy codes and decrypt messages, adapting to new technologies and changing mission requirements. They played a critical role in the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Gulf War, providing communication and information systems to support military operations.

Today, the Signal Corps continues to play a critical role in military operations. Signal Corps Soldiers are responsible for developing and operating the Army's communication and information systems, including computers, radios, satellites. They also provide cybersecurity and information assurance to protect Army networks.

The Signal Corps has also played a key role in developing cyber warfare capabilities, which have become increasingly important in the era of

modern warfare. The Signal Corps is also responsible for training and educating military personnel in communications and technology. Located at Fort Gordon, Georgia, the U.S. Army Signal School is responsible for developing and gathering material for Soldiers to learn and train on use of communication equipment.

Over the past 163 years, the Signal Corps has faced many challenges and overcame many obstacles. But through it all, they have remained committed to their mission of providing communication and information systems to support military operations. As we celebrate the Signal Corps' 163rd anniversary, we should take a moment to honor all those who have served in the Signal Corps.



Soldier-students assigned to 369th Signal Battalion prepare to plot and locate points. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Quantavius Benton, 369th Sig. Bn.)

Major changes to the Signal School - 50 years ago

A look back

Susan Thompson

U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command

In April 1973, a long-rumored move was officially announced – the U.S. Army Signal Center and School, which was established at what was then called Camp Little Silver (later Fort Monmouth) in 1919, was to move all activities from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, to Fort Gordon, Georgia. The move was initially to be completed by the end of June 1974, but the final class graduated from what was then called the Fort Monmouth Army Communications Electronics School in June 1976, ending a run of more than 56 years at Fort Monmouth.

Although Oct. 1, 1919, marks the formal establishment of the Signal School at Fort Monmouth, training in some courses dated back to 1917, when Camp Little Silver was first established. At that time, curriculum included physical training, dismounted drill, pitching tents, first aid, cryptography, heliograph, semaphore and wig-wag. At the time of the final graduation, training focused on educating Soldiers to operate, repair, manage and engineer satellite and computerized systems for worldwide communications.

When requesting authorization for setting up the Signal School, Col. F.R. Curtis, acting chief signal officer, wrote, “The war with Germany has demonstrated the fact that only technically competent officers should be assigned to the Signal Corps company duty, that junior officers of the Signal Corps should have a technical knowledge of telephone, telegraph, and radio activities.”

The first Signal School class was made up of 225 students, and classes were conducted in four hangars, built in 1917, to house aircraft and equipment used in airplane direction-finding experiments. The common course work for officers throughout the 1920s included over 1,000 hours of instruction, while the enlisted courses were nine months in length (offered courses included Radio Electrician, Telephone Electrician, Telephone and Telegraph Electrician, and Meteorologist).

The advent of World War II resulted in more extensive demand for communications specialists. An Officer Candidate Department was active in 1941, and 21,000 second lieutenants graduated within the first three years. In addition, the Replacement Center had already trained 13,000 specialists by 1941, adding an additional 45,000 by war's end.

Upwards of 11,000 Soldiers were trained in the first months of 1951 with the advent of hostilities in Korea. In the 1960s, during the build-up for the Vietnam War, the school was utilizing 500 classrooms in 175 separate buildings. Classes were conducted in three shifts over the course of the day, five days a week. In 1970, a peak year, 13,229 enlisted and 1,788 officers passed through the school. A combined military and civilian staff and faculty numbered 2,500.

Recognized by educators as one of the world's leading technical institutions, the Signal School pioneered many innovations in training and education, including systems of programmed learning. It was the first Army school to use television for instructional purposes. As early as 1951, it operated a closed-circuit TV system. During training for Vietnam, the school's TV Division operated as many as 21 channels at once, 24 hours a day.

The Signal School was also selected as the site for the implementation of the prototype of the computerized training system project. The system utilized a computer to present self-paced training material to a student over visual devices and guided them through practical exercises called Computer Aided Instruction, or CAI. The school also researched and developed the Common Basic Electronics Training System, which provided a standardized functional entry-level training for use through the entire Training and Doctrine Command service school system.

When the school finally closed its doors at Fort Monmouth, the school could boast of having graduated some 280,000 service men and women of all ranks, and of all arms and services.



Photo courtesy of CECOM command historian

Signal Corps receives its first civilian direct commission

Growing the force

Col. Stan M. Reed Sr.
U.S. Army Signal School

On May 25, the U.S. Army Signal School was the recipient of its first Department of the Army civilian from the Direct Commission Course, Capt. Eric Evans. Historically, direct commissioning has been available to qualified professionals in the medical, legal, and religious fields, but under this program, it's now available to Signal Corps and Functional Area (FA) 26 professionals (information network engineers).

This program allows civilians with specific, highly specialized skills and education to be directly appointed as a commissioned Signal Corps and FA26 officer performing critical roles for the U.S. Army.

The Direct Commission Course is a six-week course held at the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Moore, Georgia. All of the qualified candidates who are selected as part of the Signal Direct Commission Program must go through this program as part of the commissioning criteria.

Evans was selected on the second board of first quarter, Fiscal Year 22. He will next attend the Signal Captains Career Course and the FA26 course before reporting to his first duty station at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Col. Stan M. Reed Sr., assistant commandant of the U.S. Army Signal School, attended this momentous occasion and lauded Evans and his family on his achievement.

Getting started

In March 2021, the Signal Corps became the third branch to execute the program, following the Cyber Corps and Military Intelligence Corps. The Signal Corps made history on Nov. 16, 2022, when it direct commissioned its first warrant officer to captain.

To be considered for the program, candidates must have a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering, math or similar field.

Candidates must also be a U.S. citizen, able to obtain and maintain a Top Secret Clearance, meet basic physical standards, and have a strong background in cloud and information network-related skills.

Interested candidates should go to www.goarmy.com to request more information. From there, the candidate will be contacted by someone at



Capt. Eric Evans poses for a photo with Col. Stan M. Reed of the U.S. Army Signal School. Evans is the first civilian from the Direct Commission Course to be selected as a signal officer. (Courtesy photo)

the Signal School who can assist with the next steps, which will include an application.

We are looking for more bright and talented officers to continue to join our ranks.

To learn more about direct commission opportunities in the FA26 career field, visit <https://talent.army.mil/job/fa26>.

Supply technician works for 45 years in 1st Signal Brigade

Celebration of commitment

Sgt. Noah Sladek

1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office

It is not every day you meet someone who has been working in one place for so long, let alone decades. Considering the average person experiences 12 different jobs in their life, as well as a medium tenure of 6.8 years, an employer would be very lucky to have someone stay with them past that. For Chang Park, none of that mattered, because he was not leaving his job and would end up spending over 45 years in it.

Born in 1955, in the coastal city of Gyeongju, Republic of South Korea, Park began what would be a long prosperous life. In 1976, he would join the Republic of South Korea Army (RoKA) and be automatically selected as a Korean Augmentee to the United States Army (Katusa). Katusas are very unique in their roles as they work directly alongside U.S. forces stationed in the country. Park would be assigned to the 257th Signal Company and become what would be his job for the next 45 years: a supply technician. Park enjoyed working as a supply technician, but most importantly would come to love the relationships he was building with the people he worked with.

“I worked with a lot of the American Soldiers and had the opportunity to travel with them and learn their culture. We played a lot of volleyball and went to the beach to have barbecues there,” said Park. “I was in my 20s and had the chance to make a lot of friends while I was serving.”

Park was good at his job, and with the combination of that and making so many connections with others, there was no reason for him to leave. As his military service end date was coming close, the brigade commander during that time appreciated Park’s hard work so much he asked him to continue on as a Korean National (KN) civilian employee there. It was an easy “yes” from Park.

“I made a lot of connections with the people I worked with. They had become a family to me, so when I had the choice to stay in the 1st Signal Brigade (1SB) as a civilian worker, I chose to stay,” said Park as he reminisced into the past.

Park would officially retire from his military service in December 1978. By this time, as Park would start working as a civilian, and he got married to his wife, Kim. He had a family now, and he moved them to Pyeongtaek, the city outside of Camp Humphreys. Park and Kim have

been together for over 44 years and have two children. Park would spend the next 45 years working in 1SB, becoming the longest civilian worker as of now. Many things change as you work for so long, from technology, the infrastructure, and the people that come and go.

“The buildings looked a lot different back then. We never had two-story buildings, and we had to use typewriters instead of the computers we have now,” Park said. “Life was a lot different back then.”

He was a valuable asset to all the teams he would work with. Master Sgt. Christopher Lockett, the 1SB supply sergeant major, appreciated having someone with such experience on his team.

“When we’re looking for new ideas, he’s the one that brings that extra component to the table. He has so much knowledge and experience being here for so long,” said Lockett. “He brings a lot of value; he’s that one who can bring that extra insight to the team.”

Being able to work at one place for so long is usually a hard task for some, but for Park, it was simple.

“I get a lot of satisfaction from working here. I have been able to learn about my job throughout the many years here. There was no reason to leave after forming such good relationships and having a job that I love,” Park said.

Park will retire in February of 2024. He plans on spending much of his time off traveling with his wife. His service with 1SB has been profound, and he says he is grateful to have been here for so long.



Chang Park poses for a portrait at Camp Humphreys in the Republic of South Korea. (Photo by Sgt. Noah Sladek, 1st Signal Brigade)

Friendly competition promotes positive behavior, camaraderie

Steppin' up

Laura Levering

U.S. Army Signal School

Several U.S. Army Signal School personnel are stepping into the summer season with a healthier body and mindset. A conversation that began between two employees about ways to improve their overall health eventually led to a challenge that would engage and encourage others within the organization to become more active.

De Neiya Goodly, Information Signal and Technology Branch chief, devised a “Step by Step” challenge that was open to all Department of Army civilians and service members assigned to the Signal School. The event ran May 1-21, and top finishers were announced during a Signal School cookout celebration on May 25.

To compete, teams were required to have five contenders with DA civilians and (no more than two) service members. Teams also needed a team captain responsible for tallying daily team totals and submitting them through the Operations Division for tracking purposes.

Thirty people (six teams) signed up and competed, each with various, approved methods for tracking steps. Signs of the competition became obvious on the first day, as competitors were seen around the Signal School footprint squeezing in steps whenever and wherever possible instead of being idle. There were also verbal and texted exchanges of friendly “smack talk” amongst competitors, as each team wanted to out-step the others. Such was the case for Goodly, who said she owes much of her motivation to fellow competitor, Aurora Cantarella, executive assistant, U.S. Army Signal School.

“When I heard day one she was at about 16K steps by lunchtime, I knew I had to kick it into high gear,” Goodly said.

Despite being on different teams, the two ladies often found themselves stepping alongside - and encouraging - each other.

“I had the pleasure to walk aside her in the gym many mornings, and she would always tell me, ‘Stay strong, De Neiya.’ Her drive inspired me,” Goodly said of Cantarella.

That type of exchange became common amongst participants and underscored the main intent of the challenge.

“Initiatives like this build camaraderie and esprits de corps,” said Col. Paul Howard, U.S. Army Signal School commandant. “It results in

a strong bond among the team and a culture that is more productive.”

Cantarella said she joined the competition mainly for the camaraderie.

“Because of my age, I knew I couldn’t compete with the younger folks. I just wanted to be part of the team,” Cantarella said.

A short distance into the competition, it became evident that she had underestimated herself. Cantarella’s competitive nature shone through as she worked to get in multiple walk sessions daily. By competition’s end, not only did she finish on top with 518,050 steps, but she far-outstepped the second top individual, who completed 472,074 steps. Fortunate for both, they were on the same team, and their team came in first place.

At the end of the day, everybody won to an extent. Goodly said she hopes that all participants had a great experience and “took this challenge as a jumpstart to tackle whatever life throws at them.”

There will be another opportunity to compete in September with a challenge that will mimic aspects of The Amazing Race reality series.



Aurora Cantarella, left, and De Neiya Goodly engage in a friendly competition. (Photo by De Neiya Goodly, U.S. Army Signal School)

304th ESB-E continues on the path of modernization efforts

Continuing momentum

Staff Sgt. Noah Sladek
1st Signal Brigade

After completing their conversion in July 2021, the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) became Enhanced (ESB-E), modernizing itself to the military's new methods of tactical communication.

The storied battalion with over 100 years of service now has the capabilities to transport quicker, equip faster, and maneuver across the battlefield like never before.

The Army has been pushing itself to reconfigure the mobility of tactical communications by fielding multiple ESB units with the ESB-E Capability Set 21. With the new capabilities of the set, mainly being the new Scalable Network Node (SNN) that is included, units are finding their transportation requirements reduced by even 60%, including 304th ESB-E. Before the switch to enhanced equipment, the main source of communications came from the Joint Network Node (JNN) and the Satcom Transportable Terminal (STT) which have been completely done away with here. Not having to haul, pull, and maneuver larger communication equipment has been key to modernizing the unit.

“The ability to deploy rapidly with smaller equipment that does not take as much logistics is really beneficial in this environment,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ashton Warrington, senior network technician at 304th ESB-E, 1st Signal Brigade. “We don't have to worry about sling loading, we don't have to worry about as much logistical work it would take if we were using Humvees and trailers, it is a lot easier to deploy with it.”

As the only ESB on the Korean Peninsula, the 304th ESB-E must be able to support virtually all units, which include the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, and Eighth Army. They were the third battalion to be converted under the plan to modernize several brigades with the Capability Set 21 fielding equipment. As the Army aims to keep on track with its modernization process, it will soon unveil Capability Set (CS) 23, and eventually CS 25 and CS 27 for those fiscal years.

Another benefit to the SNN is the ability to use commercial networks to operate. There are even signal units now using Starlink, which is operated by SpaceX and helps speed up communications faster than previous equipment.

“The biggest differences with SNN that we did not have with JNN at the time is the ability to use commercial assets,” said Warrington. “You could not use a Wi-Fi or any commercial asset like that to establish communications, but we have that capability now because it comes with the devices we use today.”

From a Soldier's perspective, all these new devices are made to make their job more simple and easy to move with. The applications being put in place make learning the new processes straightforward and more accessible for commanders.

“With all the experience I have had with the equipment, the SNN has been very simple to use, you can log right in and make any adjustments you need, and the setup is what makes it very easy and accessible,” said Spc. Jamarius Battle, Nodal Network System operator for Charlie Company, 304th ESB-E.

As the Army continues its momentum on modernizing necessary equipment, it is safe to say that the new technologies being fielded are helping in everyday operations. The 304th ESB-E is one of many examples of the innovations being done to support these plans.



A Soldier helps set up signal operations that provide communication between units far and wide. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Estrada, 1st Signal Brigade)

Modernized network equipment fielded to 51st ESB-E

Comms in the Pacific

Amy Walker

Project Manger Tactical Network, PEO C3T

Providing resilient network communications to disparate units on the islands of vast Indonesia-Pacific region comes with a litany of challenges - the tyranny of distance topping the list.

To effectively support large scale combat operations, the Army is modernizing its signal units, converting expeditionary signal battalions to ESB-enhanced formations (ESB-E). By arming these units with scalable tactical network communication equipment that is lighter, smaller, and more capable, units will be able to rapidly deploy and be highly mobile once in the fight, while giving commanders the data they need to make fast comprehensive decisions.

“Getting data to the warfighter is our mission,” said Lt. Col. Stuart Jones, commander of the 51st ESB-E, 22nd Corps Signal Brigade. “But getting from one side of the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility to another is a daunting challenge. Corps needs us to be maneuverable and scalable, able to move from one location to another quickly. We believe this new ESB-E equipment will give us the capabilities we need to do that.”

ESB-Es provide or augment global network connectivity to other Army units that do not have robust network communications equipment organically in their formations or that need additional capacity.

“Providing expeditionary communications to commanders where and when they need it to make decisions is [the main] mission set of the 22nd Corps Signal Brigade,” said Col. Charles Dean Smith, the brigade’s commander. “The unique terrain, multiple mission partners, and creditable threats in the Pacific compound the challenges to provide reliable, redundant, and survivable communications capability at scale. The 51st ESB’s conversion to an ESB-E greatly enhances the unit’s ability to support I Corps and U.S. Army Pacific missions, as well as Army Forces Command missions world-wide.”

The Army’s Project Manager Tactical Network, at the Program Executive Office for Command, Control, Communications-Tactical (PEO C3T), is currently training and fielding this modernized equipment set to the 51st ESB-E, at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, marking the seventh signal unit to be converted to a modernized ESB-E formation.



Soldiers with PEO C3T conduct Scalable Network Node (SNN) new equipment training for the 51st ESB – converting the unit to a modernized ESB-E formation – at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, on April 11. This is this first unit to be efficiently trained on both the SNN baseband and satellite antenna equipment during the same training event. (Photo by Amy Walker, Project Manager Tactical Network, PEO C3T)

By this fall, the office expects to complete fielding the unit with the remainder of the current ESB-E baseline systems – which include various -sized expeditionary satellite dishes and baseband equipment, high-throughput backhaul radios, wireless command post technologies and network enclaves that enable coalition data exchange.

The reduced system complexity and size of the new equipment enables ESB-Es to significantly increase their network support to other units with more nodes and less manpower, while reducing the transportation requirements by over 60 percent. Systems are also easier to use and much faster to set up and tear down. This equates to a more agile, mobile, and survivable force.

“With these new transit case-based systems, we will be able to support larger elements with a much smaller physical footprint,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Lisa Gandy, 22nd Corps Signal Brigade. “In essence, this equipment is really going to make us more expeditionary - easier to deploy and faster to the fight.”

These benefits are not just for the Army, but across the joint force in the Pacific, where the Navy and the Air Force have to prioritize assets for transport, added Maj. Nicholas Christensen, deputy commanding officer at the 22nd Corps Signal Brigade.

“When you’re competing for very contested logistics transport space, having these smaller systems with bigger capability is really important for commanders out here. And the smaller the package, the smaller the sustainment trail behind it,” Christensen said.

In support of a more resilient network in congested and contested environments, the ESB-E tool suite increases units’ Primary, Alternate, Contingency and Emergency (PACE) network communication plan options, providing more transport paths to push signals through. The kit includes numerous high-throughput beyond-line-of-sight and line-of-sight capabilities and multiple frequency bands. Following several Army pilot efforts planned for later in the year, future transport options are expected to add high-throughput, low latency, multi-orbit satellite communications, as well as automatic-PACE capabilities that are seamless to users in the fight.

To offset a more sophisticated threat, Jones noted

that during Warfighter Exercise 23-01, the 51st ESB-E supported I Corps’ distributed command and control nodal concept of operations. Corps purposefully distributed its headquarters elements into different nodes at numerous locations throughout the Indo-Pacific AOR, over an operational area larger than the United States. This is much different from a traditional way of fighting with all of the Corps’ warfighting functions in one central static location, or at a single forward tactical command post when relocating. The goal of this new operating concept is to make units more survivable and lethal, and also agile, resilient and scalable to better contribute to the joint fight.

“We have had two decades of COIN [counter insurgency] based operations in the Middle East where we were very big and very slow. We had all of the warfighting functions centralized in one location,” Jones said. “But, as we look to [pivot] to large scale combat operations, the Corps commander needs us to be more agile through [enhanced]

maneuverability. This ESB-E equipment will give us the capabilities to support the Corps [more effectively].”

In addition to the 51st ESB-E fielding, Project Manager Tactical Network is also preparing to field and convert the Nevada Army National Guard 422nd ESB and the Puerto Rico Army Reserve 35th ESB later this calendar year.

On the current plan, the Army will continue to field several ESB-Es per year until all of the ESBs have been upgraded to the baseline capability, supporting the data-centric Army of 2030.



PEO C3T Soldiers conduct Scalable Network Node (SNN) new equipment training for the 51st ESB, converting the unit to a modernized ESB-E formation, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, on April 11. (Photo by Amy Walker, Project Manager Tactical Network, PEO C3T)

The 160th Theater Signal Brigade is ‘Finest of the First’

Mission support

Lt. Col. Kevin J. Weber

160th Theater Signal Brigade

In January of 2003, with al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters in Afghanistan significantly hampered from Operation Anaconda, the focus shifted to stability efforts and the surging hostilities in Iraq.

The United States postured over 100,000 Soldiers in Kuwait in preparation for the commander-in-chief’s order to invade Iraq. The newly established staging locations across Kuwait were austere but provided adequate resources to prepare units for the initial invasion. During this time, little capabilities existed to extend lines of communications to support logistical requirements and command and control efforts from a centralized location. To correct this devastating limitation and synchronize network compatibility across the joint force and coalition partners, the “Finest of the First,” 160th Theater Signal Brigade (TSB), was re-activated Sept. 3, 2003.

The 160th TSB quickly consolidated the South-West-Asia (SWA) domain along with engineering transport requirements for the strategic network. The initial creation of the 25th Strategic Signal Battalion and 54th Strategic Signal Battalion enabled each organization to engineer and manage network requirements in each country of operation. The infrastructure that originated from organic tactical assets began to take form with modernized strategic capabilities to supply the warfighters across Iraq and Afghanistan. As the 160th TSB was “Forged in Fire,” the network expansion requirements were vast and required additional expeditionary resources.

Numerous camps were created across Iraq and Afghanistan to consolidate gains and promote the newly established governments requiring additional Active, Army Reserve, and National Guard communication organizations to deploy to the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). All deploying units would operationally report to the 160th TSB during their rotations to enable a unity of effort across the combatant command. As the realization of permanent fixed structures and installations was acknowledged, so was the hardening of network systems and centralizing services to support ongoing efforts across the entire SWA enterprise.

Today, the 160th TSB consists of the 25th and 54th Strategic Signal Battalions, Regional Cyber Center – Southwest Asia (ADCON), and attached rotational Expeditionary Signal Battalion and rotational Tactical Installation and Networking-Enhanced Company. The 160th TSB provides services to over 28 camps, post, and stations across 11 countries in the USCENTCOM AOR. Along with 35 tactical assets from a rotational Army Reserve and National Guard force to provide emerging requirements with immediate capability either temporary or until a permanent solution can be engineered. The brigade continuously evolves to supply warfighters with reliable communications in the SWA AOR.

This year, the 160th TSB will celebrate its 20-year anniversary of being fully operational supplying communications consistently to multiple commands across the USCENTCOM enterprise.

The 160th TSB is the only brigade in the Signal Regiment that has always been forward stationed to directly support mission requirements with a complex organizational structure that the “Finest of the First” operates in every day. It’s no wonder the “Desert Dragons” produced so many profound leaders across Army Cyber (ARCYBER), Network Enterprise Command (NETCOM) and a plethora of other signal commands in the past 20 years. The workload is unmatched, with weekends just another operational day to support the warfighters. This challenging assignment is highlighted through annual promotion rates of those who wear the infamous global patch, which many still wear on the right shoulder today.

The 160th TSB enables communicators to operate on a live network supporting customers 24/7 in a forward postured environment. The great opportunities the brigade has for leaders, technicians, and transitioning personnel are robust and allow for unmatched potential and future growth.

September 2023 will mark the 20-year anniversary of the brigade’s activation in SWA. September will also mark the beginning of “The Year of the Desert Dragon” events honoring the Signal Corps, Soldiers of the brigade, and camaraderie among units. To participate or just follow along, many events will be shared live, interactive, or recorded to watch later. Let us celebrate the “ever skillful, ever watchful” 160th TSB and the Signal Corps together in 2023!

Signal, Cyber School DEERS/RAPIDS team reaches milestone *1,000th CAC*

Jacob Neal and 2nd Lt. Jordan Player
U.S. Army Signal School

The Signal/Cyber School's DEERS/RAPIDS team highlights an important milestone in their services since becoming fully operational in late August 2022. On March 14, they officially processed, produced, and issued the 1,000th Common Access Card (CAC).

Many may ask, "What is DEERS/RAPIDS? Or "Why not just go to garrison's Darling Hall DEERS/RAPIDS as before?" The team would like to address these questions, as they are valid ones.

Our team utilizes Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) platforms to issue definitive credentials that give positive access to credentialed Soldiers, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, and government contractors to government installations/facilities and DoD computer systems. The team also provides the aforementioned and their verified dependents with positive access to installations, healthcare facilities, services, benefits, and privileges such as Post Exchange, Commissary, and Morale Welfare and Recreation.

The Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) is a collection of operational programs in support of resources/benefits management, critical defense missions, the Uniformed Services Identification Card program, and awareness regarding benefits. These benefits are screened, validated, and stored in the DoD's "Defense Enrollment Eligibility System (DEERS). These two systems collectively are commonly referred to as the DEERS/RAPIDS system.

Darling Hall, the garrison DEERS/RAPIDS facility, had become inundated with Soldiers arriving from basic training, the National Guard, the Reserves, as well as Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) units lacking either valid CACs or proper credentials within those CACs. The formation of the Signal/Cyber School's DEERS/RAPIDS within the school's footprint enables them to not only address this issue but do so with the flexibility to minimize time lost from classroom instructions. The Signal/Cyber School's DEERS/RAPIDS customer base of over 2,500 is comprised of signal and cyber Advanced Individual Training Soldiers, Basic/Advanced Officer Leader Course, Warrant Officer Basic

Course, Captain's Career Course, as well as DoD civilians and government contractors that work directly in support of the same.

You're probably thinking to yourself, "big whoop" right? Well, did you know the site has over 2,100 bonified DEERS/RAPIDS transactions aside from the milestone 1,000th CAC? This was all done with a single laptop, a portable scanner, and a portable CAC printer - and all done with two Department of Army civilians as their additional duties and some temporary help from the Signal/Cyber Schools. Spc. Sammy Oduka, a human resource specialist (42A) from 15th Signal Brigade, screened, processed and printed the milestone 1,000th CAC to Pvt. Tiara Haney, D Company, 369th Signal Battalion.

The Signal/Cyber School's DEERS/RAPIDS uses an appointment-based system in which you can schedule via <https://idco.dmhc.osd.mil>. If there are any issues navigating the website or finding our location, call 706-791-7131, and one of the verifying officials will assist you.



Members of the Signal/Cyber School's DEERS/RAPIDS team celebrate serving the office's 1,000th CAC recipient, Pvt. Tiara Haney, of 369th Signal Battalion. (Photo by Sgt. Peter Kinder, U.S. Army Signal School)

FY24 NCOLCoE and SGM-A Fellowship Program Cohort 10

Professional development

Sgt. Maj. Kathryn J. Deunger

U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy

The Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence (NCOLCoE) and the Sergeants Major Academy (SGM-A) Fellowship Program is a merit-based scholarship program where select sergeants major will compete for up to 30 scholarships per year for a master's degree in Adult Education through Penn State University or a master's degree in Instructional Design, Development and Evaluation from Syracuse University. The SGM-A Fellowship Program is targeted for sergeants major who have potential and a strong desire to be an educator of future sergeants major.

Selected candidates will pursue one of the two master's degrees. Both degree programs are 30 semester hour online programs focusing on knowledge and skills required to develop professionals who work with adult learners in the academic disciplines of distance and continuing education; program planning, research and evaluation of adult learners; course design and development. All costs (application fee, tuition, and books) will be borne by the NCOLCoE. This program will have no impact on selectees' education benefits (i.e., GI-Bill, Post 9-11 Education Bill, etc.). The National Guard Bureau (NGB) will fund pay and allowances and permanent change of station (PCS) costs while assigned to the NCOLCoE. Applicants may be required to pay for transcripts from previous education institutions as required by Penn State or Syracuse.

Selection Process

The FY24 NCOLCoE and the SGM-A Fellowship Program Cohort 10 Selection Panel will convene Sept. 11-22, at Fort Bliss, Texas, to identify the best qualified list for final selection of fellows. The deadline for submitting applications is Aug. 14. To support this process, NGB conducts video teleconference or in-person interviews for applicants with approved packets no later than Sept. 8.

Selection results for Cohort 10 will be released by Oct. 23. The panel will select both primary and alternate candidates. Should a primary candidate be unable to fulfill the program requirements, an alternate candidate will be notified by the NCOLCoE commandant. Selectees can request a preference to attend Penn State or Syracuse, but the commandant will make final determination. Notification of acceptance by Penn State

or Syracuse will occur once the institutions' application processes are complete. The SGM-A Fellowship Program manager will provide additional information on applying to Penn State or Syracuse.

Assignment Obligations

Assignment will be to the SGM-A, Fort Bliss. Participants will begin the fellowship with a PCS to the NCOLCoE by June 2024, with 60 days early report authorized. During in-processing, fellows will update their DD93/PRR/FRR/SGLV and MEDPROS. During the program, fellows will maintain the currency of their Army Combat Fitness Test and every six months after to include height/weight. There is a requirement to attend monthly meetings and stay current on AR 350-1 training. Before master's degree course work begins mid-August 2024, the NCOLCoE Faculty and Staff Development Office (FSDO) will instruct fellows on several courses that will provide future instructors the opportunity to become enhanced adaptive leaders with the capability to educate others to win in complex world.

Following successful completion of assigned master's programs, active-duty fellows will incur a three-year active-duty service obligation, subject to regulatory guidance. U.S. Army Reserve (USAR)/ U.S. Army National Guard (ARNG) will incur a two-year service obligation after graduation.

Eligibility Criteria

Active component, Army National Guard (M-Day and AGR) (ARNG) or Troop Program Unit (TPU) sergeants major (promoted at the time of packet submission) with DA Form 1059 course completion of the Sergeants Major Resident/Non-Resident Course. They must possess a bachelor's degree with a 3.0 GPA or higher from a regionally accredited university. Applicants must be able to complete full fellowship and utilization without interruption. They must also have interpersonal skills and the ability to interact and form professional educational relationships with individuals of diverse backgrounds. They must meet APFT requirements, FM 7-22 IAW AR 600-9, and be able to meet the requirements of AR 614-200, para 6-9 and 6-12.

Active duty competing for Command Select List (CSL) or nominative positions will be authorized after successful completion of the master's degree program and a minimum of two years as an instructor at the SGM-A. If selected for command sergeant major (CSM) on an Army-

approved CSL list, projected change of responsibility date (PCORD) should be after successful completion of the second year of SMC instructor requirement. Early release from program for Army critical personnel needs, on a case-by-case basis, will be at the discretion of the NCOLCoE commandant. Applicants currently serving as a CSM must be able to adjust their PCORD date to arrive to the NCOLCoE by June 2024. If their command does not concur with an earlier PCORD, or if HRC cannot support due to not having a replacement, they will not be selected for the fellowship.

Active-duty and AGR applicants must have less than 26 years time in service (TIS) as of Aug. 1, 2024. There are no exceptions to policy (ETP) to waive the TIS remaining requirement. ARNG M-day and USAR TPU applicants and are not limited by TIS requirements but must be able to complete the active-duty service obligation requirement before reaching their mandatory removal date or mandatory retirement date. ARNG M-day and USAR TPU Soldiers must have 14 years or less active federal service (AFS) or have already requested sanctuary when entering the SGM-A Fellowship.

Candidates should not be competing for any other Army-sponsored program, fellowship, or scholarship, until selection is made. Applicants must not have been selected for any of the Broadening Opportunity Programs (BOP) within the last 10 years. This does not include the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) or the HQDA Strategic Broadening Seminar Programs.

How to Apply

A complete list of requirements and instructions is located [here](#). Active duty will complete Personnel Action Request (PAR) in IPSS-A. They will attach all documents to the PAR. AGR, ARNG and USAR will submit all documents to their appropriate points of contact. The subject title of the email should be "Request to Compete for SGM-A Fellowship." Deadline for submission is Aug. 14 for all components. Required attachments include the most current DA Form 705 (Army Physical Fitness Test Score Card) and DA Form 5500/5501 (Body Fat Content), if applicable, and the DA Form 1059 (Service School Academic Evaluation Report), course completion of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Resident/Non-Resident Course.

Candidates submitting a packet for consideration into the program must also include a 500-600 word essay, in APA 7 format, that answers one of two following questions: "Why should you be selected for the SGM-A Fellowship?" or, "As a fellow, how will you contribute to the development of future sergeants major?"

A minimum of two and maximum of three letters of recommendation (LOR) are required. One LOR must be from the first colonel (O6) brigade commander, brigade CSM, or equivalent in your current chain of command. The LOR can be in letter or memorandum format, IAW AR 25-50. Address the LORs to the Commandant, NCOLCoE, ATTN: Fellowship Program Manager, 11291 SGT E. Churchill St., Fort Bliss, Texas 79918.

LORs are part of the application packet and are not sent directly to the NCOLCoE commandant. Applicants will prepare a memorandum for record with the following information: grade, name, last four of SSN, bachelor's degree GPA and indicate preference to attend Penn State or Syracuse, and the following statement: "I understand that if I am selected for the 2024 SGM-A Fellowship, I will incur an active-duty service obligation of 3 years (2 years ARNG/USAR) upon successful completion of the 1-year program. I authorize the U.S. Army Human Resources Command to release all documents to anyone who may require them in connection with my nomination and or selection to a broadening opportunity program".

A copy/scan of the official transcript for the regionally accredited bachelor's degree must be submitted. This transcript is needed in order to validate the degree issuing institutions accreditation level. Applicants will also include the Soldier Talent Profile (from IPSS-A) and their last three Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports (NCOER).

All applicants will provide a resume. There is no standard format required for the resume. Additionally, ARNG (M-Day) applicants must include a current Retirement Point Accounting Statement with adjusted basic active service date (BASD) dated within 30 days of Aug. 14.

All nominations will be reviewed by the career branch and Leader Development Division for eligibility, availability, and derogatory information. Students who participate in this funded educational program may be required to reimburse the government the costs if they fail to complete the Master of Lifelong Learning and Adult Education Degree or the Masters in Instructional Design, Development and Evaluation Degree.

Conclusion

The intent of the program is to meet the Army's objective of developing agile, adaptive, and innovative leaders who thrive in conditions of uncertainty and chaos. The fellowship is not something nice to do; it is something we must do to prepare our sergeants major instructors to be much more effective in the classroom. To achieve this, we must have a group of quality candidates to select from each year.



You are invited!



Tickets are going fast! Get ready for a night of elegance, celebration, and camaraderie as the U.S. Army Signal Corps commemorates 163 years of “getting the message through!”

The 163rd Signal Corps Anniversary Ball, hosted by Col. Paul Howard and Command Sgt. Maj. Linwood Barrett, will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center in Grovetown, Georgia, on June 24, from 5-11:30 p.m. There will be a social hour with professional photographs available from 5-6 p.m.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the Signal Corps’ birthday (June 21, 1860) and its rich traditions. Brig. Gen. Marne Suttan, U.S. Army Forces Command G-6, will serve as guest speaker.

This is a formal/black-tie affair that is open to both military and civilian guests. Be sure to wear any applicable Regimental awards.

Cost of ticket includes a catered dinner buffet with desserts, cash bars, entertainment, music DJ, professional photographer, souvenirs, and more. Onsite childcare will not be available, so please be sure to make appropriate arrangements for children.

Please come out and take advantage of this great opportunity to network, reconnect and socialize with fellow Signaleers and those who make up our Fort Gordon community.

The last day to purchase tickets is **June 16**. Don’t wait until the last minute!

For more details and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code or visit the Signal Corps Ball website here: [Signal Corps Ball](https://fort-gordon-signal-corps-ball.ticketleap.com/2023-signal-corps-ball/).

You are cordially invited to attend the

163RD SIGNAL CORPS ANNIVERSARY BALL

JUNE 24, 2023 | BEGINS AT 5 P.M.
COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER
212 PARTNERSHIP DRIVE, GROVETOWN, GA 30813

For tickets or ball info:
EMAIL: signalcorpsball2023@gmail.com | SCAN: QR Code
VISIT: <https://fort-gordon-signal-corps-ball.ticketleap.com/2023-signal-corps-ball/>