TEXT 14

Signal Corps

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia, the Signal Corps is a military branch usually subordinate to a country's army. Many countries have a Signal Corps whose main function is usually communication (in modern times, usually radio or telephone communication on the battlefield). The word corps is used in the British sense (meaning a branch of military service, such as Corps of Engineers), rather than the American sense (meaning an organizational unit below army and above division). Subordinate units include signal regiments, battalions, etc.

"The mission of the Signal Corps is to provide and manage communications and information systems support for the command and control of combined armed forces. Signal support includes Network Operations (information assurance, information dissemination management, and network management) and management of the electromagnetic spectrum. Signal support encompasses all aspects of designing, installing, maintaining, and managing information networks to include communications links, computers, and other components of local and wide area networks. Signal forces plan, install, operate, and maintain voice and data communications networks that employ single and multi-channel satellite, tropospheric scatter, terrestrial microwave, switching, messaging, video-teleconferencing, visual information, and other related systems. They integrate tactical, strategic and sustaining base communications, information processing and management systems into a seamless global information network that supports knowledge dominance for Army, joint and coalition operations."

Warfighters must be linked constantly to satellite-based systems. The command and control needed for force projection can only be achieved by using the modern information technologies emerging on the global arena. The Signal Regiment is charged with leading the Army into the new information-technology age.

The need for integrated joint-service operations (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines) emphasizes the requirement for commonality between audio, visual and data networks. The goal is a "seamless global architecture" where information can be passed between users securely and effortlessly in a manner transparent to the user. The Signal Regiment is well on its way to making this a reality. The goal is to provide the commander and staff with continuous secure communications in garrison, during deployment and on the battlefield.

To do this, the Signal Regiment embraced the battle lab concept for new combat developments. In the areas of communications and automation, technology changes faster than acquisition. In the past, new product development and fielding could take 10-15 years; the battle labs' goal is to cut this cycle to 2-4 years. This will be done through focusing on the warfighter, rapid prototyping and testing by soldiers in realistic simulations.

The Signal Regiment's mission is to provide and manage seamless, protected, survivable, integrated and dynamic information services; to acquire and integrate relevant information technologies and related doctrine into the force; and to provide highly trained soldiers, leaders and organizations to achieve information superiority for the full-spectrum force.