

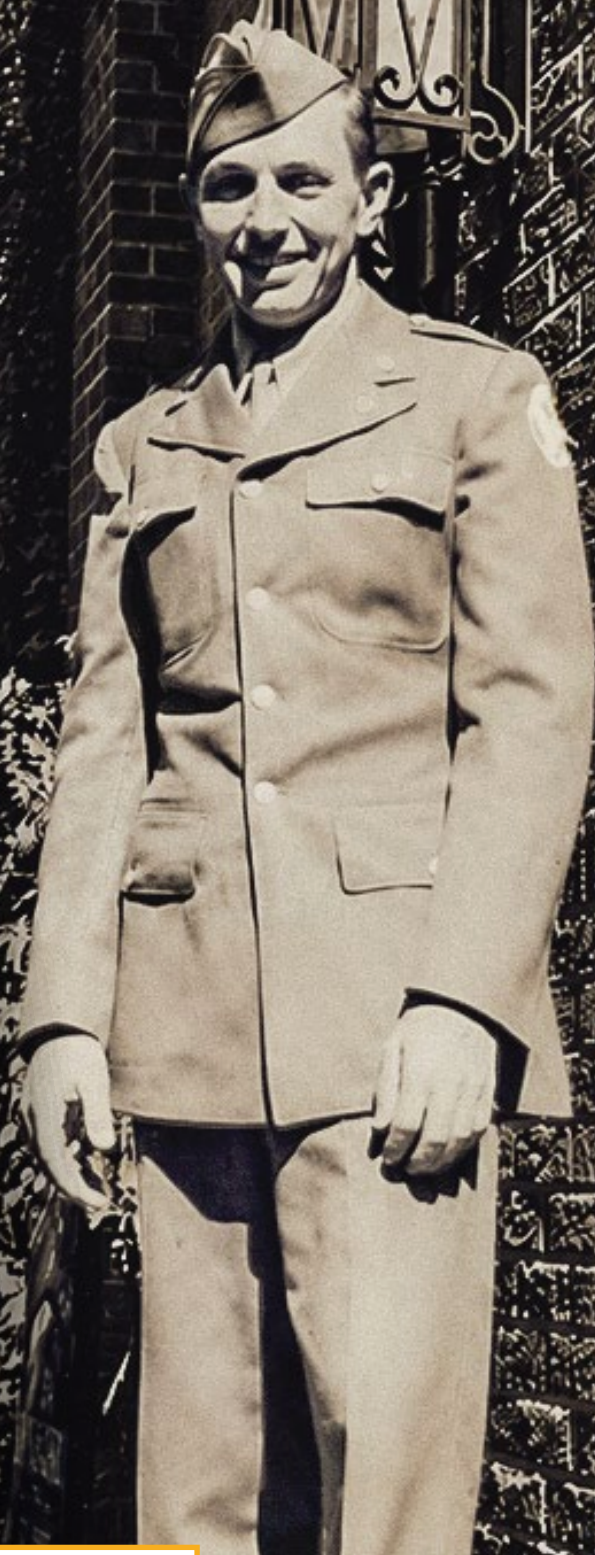
PREMIER SIGNAL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 311TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER)



OUR SIGNAL LEGACY

*A mission that
began long ago*



PREMIER SIGNAL

311TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER) LEADERSHIP

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ON THE COVER

Standing outside his home in Augusta, Georgia, before deploying to Europe during World War II, Robert R. Wilcox represents a generation of Signal Soldiers whose service helped shape the Signal Regiment. Decades later, that legacy continued through his grandson, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ronald Malone, whose own service in the Signal Corps reflects a family tradition of military service.

From field telephones and radio networks to today's digital communications and cyberspace operations, the tools have evolved, but the mission has remained the same: connecting the force and enabling commanders to communicate across the battlefield.

As you delve into the pages within, you'll discover the Soldiers, leaders and families who continue that mission across the Pacific. Their stories reflect the professionalism, innovation and commitment that have defined the Signal Regiment for generations.

(Photo courtesy of Terri L. Malone)

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Contents

LEADERSHIP

- 04 Engineering the Pacific Network**
Michele Bolinger, Civilian Deputy to the Commander
- 05 Passing the Torch**
Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula, 311th SC (T) PAO

PEOPLE FIRST

- 10 One Family's Signal Legacy**
Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 12 Signal Logistician Selected as Service Chiefs' Fellow**
Liana Kim, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 14 Operation Clean Sweep**
Staff Sgt. Kaleb Smith, 516th TSB UPAR
- 16 Signal Leader Signing Off**
Liana Kim, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 18 Signal to Shepherd**
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Goodman, 1st TSB PAO

READINESS

- 22 Signal Enables Disaster Response Readiness**
Liana Kim, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 24 Noble Skywave Global Competition**
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Malone, 30th Sig. Bn. HHD
- 26 Innovation & Engaged Leadership Drive Maintenance Excellence**
Norberto Conde, S4 Maintenance Officer
- 28 Strengthening Arctic Networks**
Spc. Andrew Quemado, 311th SC (T) PAO

- 30 Overcoming Treacherous Conditions**
Sae Mi Chang, 1st TSB PAO

- 32 North to the Future**
Staff Sgt. Justin Brown, 59th Sig. Bn.

- 34 Recognizing Our Best Squads**
Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula, 311th SC (T) PAO

MODERNIZATION

- 38 Innovation Enables Electronic Maintenance**
Maj. Karl McKeeth, 304th ESB-E XO
- 40 5G Network Expansion for Mission Communications at Kwajalein**
Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 42 Students, Vendors, Multi-Lateral Military Leaders**
Capt. Abraham Gonzalezsilva, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 44 Voice of the Alliance**
Sgt. Alejandro Carrasquel, 7th MPAD PAO

PARTNERSHIPS

- 48 Communications Support in Australia**
Sgt. Sean McCallon, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 50 Pacific Signal Partnership in the Philippines**
Spc. Andrew Quemado, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 52 Investing in Our Youth**
Capt. Samuel B. Meaux, 59th Sig. Bn.
- 54 Communications Support Across the Theater**
Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula, 311th SC (T) PAO
- 56 In Memoriam**
Staff Sgt. Nicolas Cholula, 311th SC (T) PAO



Commander's Note

Welcome to Volume 15 of Premier Signal. This edition highlights the extraordinary achievements of the Soldiers, Civilians, and contractors across our multi-component headquarters, Reserve elements, and our dedicated teams in both the 1st and 516th Signal Brigades.

Throughout my tenure as your commanding general, I have challenged you to innovate, collaborate with our partners, and anticipate emerging threats. We must pursue continuous transformation in our training and equipment to securely empower our fellow Warfighters and enable multi-domain operations across the theater.

You have consistently risen to the challenge, achieving significant milestones for the Army Signal Corps. In 2024, we led the theater's migration to the Army Unified Directory Service, leveraging cloud technology for seamless global access. That same year, the 30th Signal Battalion took first place globally in the joint High Frequency radio competition, "Noble Skywave." Our momentum continues today with ongoing 5G upgrades and our vital support to numerous Operation PATHWAYS campaigns alongside the Theater Army and Joint Force.

Beyond the mission, you and your families remain integral to our local communities. From disaster recovery to food drives, you consistently answer the call to serve. Your dedication was clearly demonstrated during the "Operation Clean Sweep" of Oahu's Salt Lake Waterway. Thanks to the massive volunteer turnout from our ranks, a waterway that suffered from a century of pollution is healing, with fish and waterfowl returning for the first time in over fifty years. I know you will continue to roll up your sleeves to care for the islands and communities we call home.

To our Veterans and former teammates: you will always be a part of our Pacific Team Signal. Please know we are always just a phone call or email away.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Premier Signal. I encourage you to share these stories with the youth in your communities who may be considering a military career; let's keep our profession of arms strong by recruiting the next generation of great leaders.

I am immensely grateful for the expertise and dedication you deliver every day. It has been the honor of my career to lead, support, and serve alongside you.

Ray Phariss
Brigadier General, USA
311th Signal Command (Theater)

CSM's Message



As I close out my second year with the 311th Signal Command (Theater), we have achieved notable accomplishments that strengthened and enhanced our operations and capabilities. The successful implementation of new communication technologies that improve the command's ability to transmit and receive critical information in real-time allowed for more efficient and reliable communication between our Warfighters, enabling faster decision-making and response times in the operational environment.

The command's successful coordination of joint training campaigns with partner nations and US armed forces provided valuable opportunities for Soldiers and Civilians to hone their skills, improve interoperability with allied forces, and test new strategies and tactics in a controlled environment. The command's commitment to training and readiness was instrumental in maintaining a high state of operational readiness and ensuring that its personnel are well-prepared to handle a wide range of mission requirements. By investing in the professional development of our personnel, the 311th Signal Command (Theater) ensured that our workforce was well-prepared to address the ever-evolving challenges in the realm of signal support. Through mentorship, leadership, and continuous learning opportunities, the command fostered a culture of excellence and commitment among its personnel, ultimately contributing to the overall success of military operations in the Pacific theater of operations.

At the same time, we must never lose sight of the truth that our Army succeeds because of its people. Quality of life is something we must continue to prioritize. Leaders at every level must remain engaged and present – caring for Soldiers, supporting families, and strengthening our units. When we put people first, we build resilient, cohesive teams capable of overcoming any challenge. Engaged leadership and discipline tie everything together; Leaders who know their Soldiers, enforce standards, and train with purpose create trust, discipline is what transforms readiness into capability and capability into victory. This is how cohesive teams are built – and how cohesive teams win.

As we move forward, we will continue to enhance readiness, modernize for the future fight, and improve the quality of life for our Soldiers, Civilians and families. Together, we will carry forward this command's proud legacy and ensure we remain ready, resilient, and lethal. I want to thank – Soldiers, Civilians, and the families whose support provides the backbone of this command's strength. The 311th Signal Command (Theater) is a team like no other, and I am proud to serve alongside you.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Stroud'.

Samuel D. Stroud
Command Sergeant Major, USA
311th Signal Command (Theater)

Leadership

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

ENGINEERING THE PACIFIC NETWORK HOW WARRANT OFFICERS REWIRE THE PACIFIC

STORY BY MICHELE BOLINGER, 311TH SC (T) CIVILIAN DEPUTY TO THE COMMANDER

In the vast maritime expanse of the Indo-Pacific, distance is the enemy of communication. Commanders depend on secure, uninterrupted communications across thousands of miles of ocean, remote islands and contested environments. Meeting that demand requires more than equipment, it requires the Army's Warrant Officer cohort, whose technical expertise transform the 311th Signal Command (Theater) operational requirements into resilient networks.

While officers' responsibilities broaden throughout their careers, *warrant* officers spend decades mastering specialized technical disciplines that design, integrate and sustain the communications systems connecting the force. At the pinnacle are chief warrant officer 5s, the Army's senior technical advisors for the most complex challenges. But they do not work alone. Their success depends on an entire team of warrant officers, from newly appointed warrant officers operating at the tactical edge to experienced chief warrant officer 4s synchronizing theater-level integration.

"Generals define the 'what' and the 'why,' but warrant officers define the 'how,'" explained Chief Warrant Officer 5 Robert Scott II, Command Chief Warrant Officer for 311th SC (T). "Our job is to look at the theater, identify the absolute hardest technical challenges and engineer solutions. But it's the entire warrant officer team, up and down the echelons, that actually builds and defends that network."

Private 5G and other emerging theater technologies illustrate that work. As military operations demand faster, more secure communications, warrant officers are integrating private 5G into the Army's network architecture, extending secure connectivity closer to the tactical edge. They are also modernizing communications that provide commanders an over-the-horizon capability that enhances command and control resiliency.

The strength of the cohort lies in technical expertise at every echelon. Senior warrant officers translate



operational requirements into technical architecture. Chief warrant officer 4s and 3s synchronize implementation across organizations, while chief warrant officer 2s and junior warrant officers configure equipment, integrate systems and maintain the networks Soldiers rely upon every day. Each level performs a different role, but each depends upon the others.

"The best technology in the world is useless if we don't have the technicians to run it," noted Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, commanding general, 311th SC (T). "Our chief warrant officer 5s provide the strategic vision, but it is the strength of the entire Warrant Officer cohort that keeps this command connected. They are the unseen foundation of our success."

As the Army modernizes communications across the Indo-Pacific, warrant officers will remain central to that effort, transforming command intent into operational capability. 

Above: U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Scott II is promoted to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 and assumes responsibility as Command Chief Warrant Officer for the 311th Signal Command (Theater), at AMR Grace Chapel on Jan. 23, 2026. The ceremony brought together past command chief warrant officers of the 311th, recognizing those who paved the way for the position and the legacy they built. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

PASSING THE TORCH

FORMER COMMANDERS REFLECT ON MORE THAN TWO DECADES OF LEADERSHIP

STORY BY STAFF SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA, 311TH SC (T) PAO

The commanders who helped shape the 311th Signal Command (Theater) into the organization it is today reunited during Pacific Signal Regimental Week 2025. Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, the command's current commanding general, welcomed them back to the unit they once led.

Joining Phariss were former 311th commanders Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Jan Norris, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Donna Dacier, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Wayne Brock and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) William Scott. They each guided the command through periods of transformation, modernization and operational growth across the Indo-Pacific.

Throughout the week, the former commanders participated in professional development events, attended unit activities and shared stories from their time in command. Their conversations highlighted the leadership challenges they faced, the lessons they carried forward and the enduring importance of investing in Soldiers.

"This week wasn't simply about looking back — it was about learning from those who helped build the 311th into the organization it is today," Phariss said. "Their stories remind us that while technology continues to change, our greatest advantage will always be our people and the leaders who invest in them."

The general officers reflected on significant moments in the command's history, from its transition to Hawaii under U.S. Army Pacific to its continued evolution as the Army's communications mission expanded across the Indo-Pacific. For Dacier, those memories included leading the command's relocation from Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, to Fort Shafter in 2006 — a milestone that positioned the 311th to enable Army Pacific communications.

"When we arrived at Fort Shafter, there were only five or six of us with no dedicated office space," Dacier said. "We built the command from the ground up, and through the hard work, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of our Soldiers and Civilians, we established the



311th Signal Command as a trusted operational partner in the Pacific."

Although each commander served during a different period in the 311th's history, their reflections revealed a common thread: an enduring commitment to the Soldiers, Civilians and mission that have sustained the organization through decades of change.

The reunion also carried a note of remembrance. The late Maj. Gen. James Walton, who commanded the 311th SC (T) from 2012 to 2013, passed suddenly in 2023. Those in attendance paused to honor his memory and legacy of leadership. The moment served as a reminder that the bonds formed through command extend well beyond a leader's time in the position.

To preserve their experiences for future generations, the 311th SC (T) recorded a series of interviews with the former commanders. Scan the QR code to hear their stories. 

Above: U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, commander of the 311th Signal Command (Theater), poses with former commanders Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Jan Norris, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Donna Dacier, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Wayne Brock and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) William Scott during Pacific Signal Regimental Week, Fort Shafter, Hawaii. (U.S. Army photo by Liana Kim)



WHO WE ARE

311TH SC (T) HEADQUARTERS



HHC
HAWAII



HHD
CALIFORNIA



516TH THEATER SIGNAL BRIGADE



59TH SIG BN
ALASKA



307TH ESB-E
ALASKA / HAWAII



78TH SIG BN
JAPAN / GUAM



30TH SIG BN
HAWAII



RCC-P
HAWAII

1ST THEATER SIGNAL BRIGADE



304TH ESB-E
KOREA



41ST SIG BN
KOREA



RCC-K
KOREA



WHAT WE DO

Operating across 16 time zones and seven landmasses, the 311th Signal Command (Theater) supports freedom of action in cyberspace for the U.S. and its allies. We participate in more than a dozen annual exercises to secure and defend Army, joint, and coalition networks for U.S. Army Pacific Operation Pathways.

WHERE WE CAMPAIGN



ALASKA
JPMRC



KOREA
FREEDOM SHIELD
ULCHI FREEDOM SHIELD



AUSTRALIA
TALISMAN SABRE



MALAYSIA
KERIS STRIKE



BRUNEI
PAHLAWAN WARRIOR



MONGOLIA
KHAAN QUEST



GUAM
VALIANT SHIELD



NEW ZEALAND
IPAMS



HAWAII
RIMPAC
HURREX



PALAU
TENACIOUS ARCHER



INDONESIA
SUPER GARUDA SHIELD



PHILIPPINES
BALIKATAN
SALAKNIB



JAPAN
KEEN EDGE
YAMA SAKURA



THAILAND
COBRA GOLD

PEOPLE F



U.S. Army Soldiers, family members and community volunteers clear brush and remove debris along the Salt Lake Waterway during Operation Clean Sweep on Oahu, Hawaii. The recurring volunteer effort supports environmental stewardship and helps restore the historic waterway. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Kaleb Smith)

IRST



FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

ONE FAMILY'S SIGNAL LEGACY

STORY BY STAFF SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA, 311TH SC (T) PAO

As the United States commemorates its 250th anniversary, the Signal Corps continues a legacy deeply intertwined with the country's evolution.

From the earliest days of the Revolutionary War, the importance of communication on the battlefield was evident, but it wasn't until the Civil War that the Signal Corps was officially established. Using signal flags and telegraphs, the Corps revolutionized military communications, ensuring information could be relayed quickly and accurately across vast distances.

For Sgt. 1st Class Robert Malone, 311th Signal Command (Theater), 516th Theater Signal Brigade, this history is more than just a series of milestones, it's a living legacy.

"The Signal Corps and the Army runs in my veins," Malone said. "When I reflect on the Signal Corps and its 166-year history, I realize that my family has been a part of this prestigious Regiment for nearly half of its existence."

He fondly recalls stories from his grandfather, retired Sgt. 1st Class Robert Malone, who served in NETCOM when it was known as the U.S. Army Strategic



Communications Command in Germany.

"Finding out my grandfather served in NETCOM fills me with pride."

His grandmother, who supported the family through those deployments, also played a crucial role in preserving and passing down stories of dedication and service.

From its origins in the Civil War through both World Wars and Vietnam, the Signal Corps has continuously evolved.

"Whether it was running telephone wire during World War II, serving as a radio operator in Vietnam, or serving as a senior telecoms operator in the same command as my grandfather

years later, my family has worn this uniform and operated in this mission set across generations, just like the Corps itself," Malone said.

Malone's family has adapted with each era. His grandfather worked with analog equipment and rotary switches. Today, Malone operates in a digital world





of secure networks, encrypted systems, and real-time data. The tools may change, but the mission remains constant: keeping the Army connected.

During World War II, the Corps expanded its capabilities to include more advanced radio communications and eventually satellite technology, ensuring the Army stayed connected in an

ever-changing world. Today, the Corps remains at the forefront of digital communication, cybersecurity, and cutting-edge technology, ensuring the Army remains ready and connected.

For Malone, being part of this lineage is both an honor and a responsibility. He often reflects on what it means to carry forward the traditions of his grandfather and the countless others who served before him.

“The work we do today will shape the legacy we leave behind — a legacy of dedication and progress,” Malone said, envisioning a future where the Signal Corps continues to evolve, innovate, and lead.

Whether laying cable in wartime or deploying hardened data systems across continents, Signal Soldiers have remained one of the Army’s constants.

“We may not carry the weapons,” Malone said, “but they don’t move or fight without us.”

As our country celebrates a quarter of a millennium, the Signal Corps stands as a testament to the enduring importance of communication in military operations, a legacy Malone is proud to be a part of. 🇺🇸

Opposite Page Top: U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ronald Malone (left) and his grandfather, retired U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert W. Malone (right), are shown in their respective basic training portraits. Spanning generations, their service reflects a longstanding family tradition in the Signal Corps. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Robert R. Malone)

Opposite Page Bottom: Ruby C. Wilcox (right), grandmother of U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert R. Malone, receives recognition for her work operating switchboards during World War II at the Camp Gordon Operations Center. (Photo courtesy of Terri L. Malone)

Top: U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert W. Malone (right) holds his newborn son, Anthony W. Malone, before his first deployment to Vietnam. (Photo courtesy of Mavis Malone)

Left: Pfc. Weathered “Bob” Malone (left) poses with his son, Robert W. Malone (right), before deploying with the 691st Tank Destroyer Battalion during World War II. (Photo courtesy of Anthony W. Malone)



SIGNAL LOGISTICIAN SELECTED AS SERVICE CHIEFS' FELLOW

STUDIES GLOBAL ISSUES AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
THROUGH A FELLOWSHIP WITH DARPA.

STORY BY LIANA KIM, 311TH SC (T) PAO

This spring, Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight, a logistics officer with the 311th Signal Command (Theater), participated in the Service Chiefs' Fellows Program at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, a competitive fellowship designed to immerse military officers and civilian leaders in DARPA's mission to create and prevent strategic technological surprise.

The intensive 90-day program provides fellows firsthand exposure to emerging technologies and the organizations shaping the future of national defense.

"Over the last three months, I was fortunate enough to serve at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency in Washington, D.C.," Hignight said. "This amazing opportunity was mind-blowing."

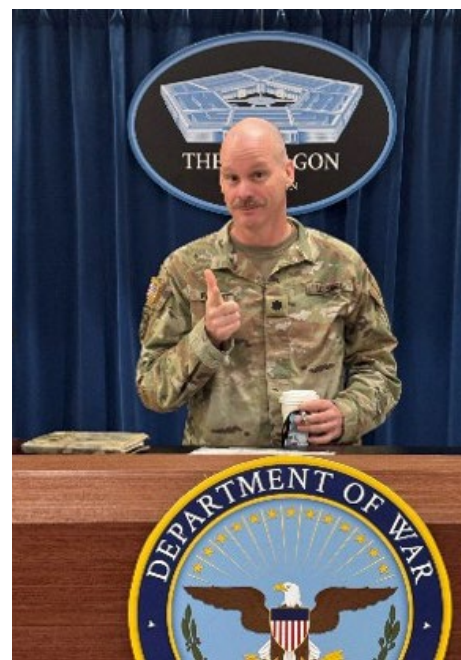
One of only two Soldiers selected for his cohort, Hignight participated in engagements with representatives from the FBI, CIA, Army, Marine Corps,

Air Force, Navy, Space Force, and industry partners including Raytheon, Bell, Elbit, Lynntech, Synlab and Cortex.

"It's the Department of Defense's research and development front lines," Hignight said. "Some of the areas I was able to support included autonomy, medical research, nutritional-value food production using only water, air and electricity, ice control, counter-unmanned aircraft systems, explosive development, rocket development and many others."

The Service Chiefs' Fellows Program conducts four classes annually, each lasting approximately three months. Fellows are selected from across the military services and government agencies and are exposed to cutting-edge technologies, research initiatives and strategic challenges facing the nation.

Throughout the fellowship, Hignight traveled to research institutions, universities and military organizations across the country. His visits included the



Pentagon, CIA Headquarters, Army Intelligence and Security Command, the University of Illinois, the University of Maryland, Virginia Tech, Texas A&M, the University of Texas-Arlington, the University of Texas-Dallas and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The program also includes broadening trips that connect fellows with DARPA researchers,



industry partners, universities and federally funded research centers.

“I flew out to Illinois to support the food creation project, Alaska to support the ice control project and counter-UAS efforts, and Texas to support the DARPA Triage Challenge,” Hignight said. “The challenge uses autonomous drones and robotic systems to find, identify, triage, communicate and ultimately treat casualties during major disasters.”

While in Alaska, Hignight visited Anchorage and Fairbanks, traveled into the Arctic, toured

a permafrost tunnel, visited the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the Poker Flat Research Range, and experienced temperatures as low as 30 degrees below zero.

His cohort brought together military officers and government professionals from across the defense community, including pilots, special operations personnel and several individuals holding doctorate degrees, creating opportunities for collaboration across disciplines and services.

“Overall, I had an amazing three months at DARPA and hope for the opportunity to work with them again,” Hignight said. “I would 100 percent recommend applying to all field grade officers considering this amazing way to broaden your career and develop as an influencer and industry leader.”

Following the fellowship, Hignight plans to remain involved as a DARPA alumnus and

continue sharing his experiences with fellow officers interested in future opportunities with the program. 

Opposite Page: Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight visits the Department of War media room during a broadening assignment with DARPA. (Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight)

Top Left: The United States Capitol is seen in Washington, D.C., during winter. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight)

Top Center: A rock sign reads “DARPA Triage Challenge,” a disaster-response training facility on the Texas A&M University campus. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight)

Center: A rock sign reads “Disaster City,” at the Texas A&M University campus. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight)

Top Right: Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight in the Arctic tundra of Alaska during a broadening assignment with DARPA. (Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight)

Left: A sign stands in the Arctic tundra of Alaska during a broadening assignment with DARPA. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Ryan Hignight)



OAHU, HAWAII

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

RESTORES SALT LAKE WATERWAY, WILDLIFE RETURNS!

STORY BY STAFF SGT. KALEB SMITH, 516TH TSB UPAR

Under the warm Hawaiian sun, Soldiers of the 516th Theater Signal Brigade rolled up their sleeves to support a series of environmental stewardship activities to save the Salt Lake Waterway on Oahu, throughout 2024 and 2025.

Dubbed “Operation Clean Sweep” by the leading Neighborhood Board, the effort is focused on revitalizing an ancient waterway and surrounding greenways that were polluted by excess brush, debris and bacterial buildup.

With boots on the ground, rakes in hand and a shared mission in their hearts, Soldiers and their families worked alongside neighbors and fellow service members to make a difference in their community during a series of clean up events this past year.

The events typically begin with a hands-on workshop where volunteers learn how to create “Genki” mudballs—baseball sized nutrient-packed spheres made of clay, rice bran and water-cleansing microorganisms. The mudballs are cured for several weeks, then tossed



into the water to break down harmful bacteria and improve water quality over time. As the Soldiers carefully shaped and packed the mixture into smooth balls, many expressed a sense of pride in knowing their small efforts will lead to long-term change.

Once the mudballs are completed and set aside to cure, volunteers shift focus to manicuring the greenways along the waters edge. Armed with gloves, rakes, and plenty of determination, the teams cleared thick brush, overgrown limbs, and rubbish from the edges of the waterway.

“These efforts signify more than environmental stewardship,” said

Lt. Col. Donnie Pratt, Deputy Commander, 516th TSB, who rallied Signal Soldiers on Oahu to support the events, resulting in the Army bringing the highest numbers of volunteers of all the services, to the early iterations. “It is a demonstration of unity and purpose between the military and the communities in which we are privileged to live and work.”

While the Navy and Air Force quickly responded with a larger presence for later iterations, Pratt ensured maximum participation by the Soldiers and Families of the 516th for every iteration. His engaged leadership, and the efforts of the team, were recognized by the



Neighborhood Board for the Salt Lake / Aliamanu congressional district, with their very first “Warrior Award” of 2025 during their televised January meeting!

Col. Rachel Sullivan, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, joined the meeting to help recognize and celebrate the Soldiers and their families for leading the way in community service, and for earning this award reserved for community members who exemplify philanthropy and genuine care for the “*aina*” (land) of the paradise island of Oahu.

“These selfless acts by our Soldiers and Families are such a wonderful way to show our neighbors that we are more than tenants – we are mindful, and grateful to be a part of this island community,” Sullivan said. These events are great opportunities to show the next generation how impactful our actions can be, and serve as reminders that service extends beyond the uniform and into the heart of the places we call home.”

With each iteration, more children and their parents from the neighborhood joined in, asking questions and learning from the volunteers, adding an uplifting and educational element to the Soldiers’ experience.

As each iteration draws to a close, volunteers can be seen strolling the bank to look for new signs of wildlife returning. Many depart awestruck at the transformation. What was for more than 50 years an overgrown and murky stream emitting foul odors, is once more beginning to teem with fish and fowl.

“The work was hot and challenging, but the sight of a

clearer, healthier stream by the end of the day made it all worthwhile,” said a 516th TSB mom with several kids in tow, all of whom visibly enjoyed getting their hands in the mud and helping return the island to its natural beauty. “For our *ohana* (family), today wasn’t just about cleaning a waterway—it was about strengthening ties, setting an example, and leaving a lasting impact on the island *ohana* whom we proudly serve.” ☒

Opposite Page: Genki mudballs cure before being introduced into the Salt Lake Waterway during Operation Clean Sweep. Made from clay, rice bran and beneficial microorganisms, the mudballs help improve water quality by breaking down harmful bacteria over time. (U.S. Army photo Staff Sgt. Kaleb Smith)



Left: The Salt Lake Waterway on Oahu, Hawaii, is the focus of Operation Clean Sweep, a community-led effort to improve water quality and restore the surrounding ecosystem. (U.S. Army photo Staff Sgt. Kaleb Smith)

Top Right: U.S. Army Soldiers, family members and community volunteers collect leaves and debris during Operation Clean Sweep on Oahu, Hawaii. The cleanup effort brought military families and local residents together to improve the health of the Salt Lake Waterway. (U.S. Army photo Staff Sgt. Kaleb Smith)

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SIGNAL LEADER SIGNING OFF

MAJ. GEN. JAN NORRIS
RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS

STORY BY LIANA KIM, 311TH SC (T) PAO

After a distinguished 35-year career shaping the U.S. Army's communications landscape, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Jan C. Norris, a respected leader within the Signal Regiment, has retired from service. His final days in uniform were marked by ceremonies honoring his legacy of leadership and dedication.

On May 15, 2026, Norris relinquished command of the 335th Signal Command (Theater), the Army's largest signal formation. Addressing the Soldiers and Civilians, he praised their dedication and impact on the Army's ability to communicate and win on the modern battlefield.

"Your relentless spirit that just does not quit is what we need to fight and win," Norris said. "Without fail, you always find a way to pull together and press forward, which brings opportunities to break new ground for the Army Signal Corps and our time-honored regiment."

The following day, Lt. Gen. Robert Harter, Chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of U.S. Army Reserve



Command, presided over Norris's official retirement ceremony at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. Harter recognized Norris's strategic impact on national security, from his early days as a company-grade officer in Korea to his final role as a general officer.

Norris' connection to the Pacific theater began in 1992 when he served with the 304th Signal Battalion at Camp Colbern, now under the 311th Signal Command (Theater), 1st Theater Signal Brigade. His career brought him back to the 311th SC (T) several times before he returned in 2017 as deputy commanding officer and,

two years later, as commanding general.

Throughout his career, Norris championed the critical role of Signal Soldiers, often quoting the Army's old adage, "You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us."

He frequently pointed to the impact Signal professionals have on operations around the world, recalling an intense midnight network repair by a cable and wire team during a conflict in Iraq.

"What that team did on that night in Iraq made a significant impact on saving lives during a combat operation," Norris said.



During his years with the 311th, Norris often reflected on the command's history and enduring role in the Pacific.

"After the command was stood up in Maryland, Maj. Gen. Donna Dacier moved the team here to Hawaii in 2006 to support the Pacific Theater Army," Norris said. "And I am proud to say we are still here, and still a multi-component command."

His leadership was particularly crucial during his command of the 311th SC (T) from 2019 to 2022. He guided the command through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, finding new ways to operate successfully while continuing to support the Theater Army in the Pacific.

It was under his command that the unit was recognized with the Army Superior Unit Award, a testament to the team's performance and dedication during a challenging period for the Army and the nation.

"These streamers that will wave proudly with our 311th colors



from this day forward were earned by your consistent support for the Theater Army here in the Pacific and around the globe," Norris said during the award ceremony. "Our success would not have been possible without your impeccable teamwork in every shop."

The recognition reflected the efforts of Soldiers and Civilians across the formation who sustained critical communications capabilities and supported operations throughout the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Maj. Gen. Norris's career is a story of steadfast leadership and a deep commitment to the Soldiers he led. Colleagues remember him as a leader who emphasized teamwork, adaptability and the importance of maintaining strong communications capabilities in an increasingly complex operational environment.

As he signs off one final time, his legacy remains embedded in the organizations he led, the Soldiers he mentored and the communications networks that

connect the U.S. Army around the globe.

For Norris, however, the accomplishments celebrated during his final ceremonies belonged to the teams he served alongside.

His leadership continues through the organizations he helped shape, the Soldiers and Civilians he mentored, and those who will carry the Signal Regiment forward. 

Opposite Page: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Jan Norris, then Brig. Gen., affixes the Army Superior Unit Award streamer to the 311th SC (T) guidon bearing the command's official colors at the Palm Circle Gazebo on Ft. Shafter, HI, Jul. 24, 2020. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Bishnu Bhandari)

Top Left: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Jan Norris holds the nations flag close to his heart while officially retiring from the Army as commanding general of the 335th Signal Command (Theater) in a ceremony held at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, May 16, 2026. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 335th SC (T))

Top Right: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Jan Norris speaks to Soldiers of the 335th Signal Command (Theater) during his retirement ceremony at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, May 16, 2026. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 335th SC (T))

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SIGNAL TO SHEPHERD A CHAPLAIN'S FULL CIRCLE JOURNEY

STORY BY STAFF SGT. NICHOLAS GOODMAN , 1ST TSB PAO

When Chaplain (Maj.) Eric Reynolds returned to the Signal Corps as the 1st Signal Brigade chaplain, the assignment felt less like a new chapter and more like a homecoming. Recently promoted to major, Reynolds now advises commanders and cares for Soldiers in the very branch where his Army journey began more than three decades ago.

Long before the oak leaves adorned his uniform, he was an uncertain 18-year-old private searching for direction. A college scholarship waited for him in Augusta, Georgia. His grades were strong and his test scores were solid, yet Reynolds doubted himself.

"I grew up without a father," he said. "I was looking for discipline. I was looking for guidance. The Army gave me that."

In 1992, he enlisted and chose the Signal Corps, drawn by the promise of a technical skill he could carry for life. Only later did he learn the decision echoed family history: a grandfather who served with the Signal Corp during World War II and uncles who followed the same path, including one who later worked for NASA. At the time, Reynolds simply knew he had stepped onto a road. He did not yet know how far it would wind.



Reynolds flourished. He advanced quickly and pinned on sergeant in three years, an unusually fast progression in the 1990s. He imagined staying in uniform for decades.

But one encounter reshaped how he thought about leadership. Seeking mentorship, Reynolds told a senior enlisted leader he hoped to become a sergeant major one day. The answer was short.

"I got mine," Reynolds recalled. "You get yours."

"It broke me," he said. "I told myself if I ever had rank, I never wanted to treat people like that."

Not long after, Reynolds and his wife received devastating news. Doctors said she had cancer. They warned the young couple they might never have more children.

At the same time, Reynolds deployed with 123 Signal Battalion to Egypt. He asked to return home

for his wife's surgery but remained overseas. Alone and feeling helpless, he prayed.

"I said, 'If you heal my wife, I'll serve you for the rest of my life,'" Reynolds said.

When he came home, he said, the cancer was gone.

"I made a deal," he said. "I had to honor it."

After eight years in the Signal Corps, Reynolds left active duty in 2000 but joined the Georgia National Guard as a chaplain assistant. The move allowed him to remain with Soldiers while exploring whether ministry was the path forward. Responsibility found him quickly. Within a week, he said, the unit chaplain retired unexpectedly. Reynolds helped sustain the religious support program — coordinating services, supporting families and becoming a steady presence for troops.

The unit commander made his support clear. “He told me, ‘Whenever you’re preaching, I’m going to be there,’” Reynolds said.

In that environment, Reynolds saw firsthand how spiritual care strengthened formations. The calling sharpened.

Civilian life brought success in the telecommunications industry. Reynolds oversaw major projects, supervised teams and earned a six-figure income.

But the pace extracted a price. Vacations disappeared. Health issues surfaced. The schedule left little room for anything else.

“The lure of money pulled me,” he said. Then came multiple layoffs. Each one pushed the same question to the surface: What did he truly love?

“It was the Soldiers,” Reynolds said. “I missed the camaraderie. I missed the mission.”

He applied to return to active duty. The Army declined. Too old. Medical concerns. He applied again. And again. Eventually, waivers were approved, and Reynolds returned to uniform in 2018 as a chaplain. At Fort Bliss, he said, he sometimes paused in his office just to watch formations move past, the sound of cadence echoing down the street. “I loved it,” he said. “I was home.”

Later, during his utilization assignment in Hawaii, then-Capt. Reynolds met a patient whose story would permanently shape his ministry. His name was Baker Young. Within a single week, Young had lost his wife, his mother and both of his legs. Reynolds entered a hospital room thick with grief, machines humming, uncertainty hanging in the air.

“He told me he didn’t want to live,” Reynolds said. So Reynolds

kept returning. They talked about anger. About faith. About memories of life before everything changed. Some days they sat quietly, the kind of silence that says more than words. Then one afternoon, Young asked a question Reynolds never expected.

“Chaplain, what can I pray for you about?”

The roles reversed. Reynolds said the prayer reached into burdens he had never voiced. It reminded him that care flows both directions and that healing can come from the most unlikely places. Their connection deepened beyond the hospital. Young later invited Reynolds onto his land, welcomed him into his community and treated him like family. When Reynolds departed the island, they embraced like brothers.

Three months later, Young died. Now, Maj. Reynolds still carries the memory. “He reminded me why this matters,” he said.

Today in Korea, Reynolds once again serves Signal Soldiers, but with decades of experience layered into his counsel. He sees the strain distance puts on families, the isolation that can shadow first-term troops and the quiet battles many fight privately.

His aim is to build connections early — before hardship becomes a crisis. “It’s about the spirit,” Reynolds said. “Helping people become the best version of who they are.”

If he could speak to the young private he once was, Reynolds knows what he would say. “You’re smarter than you think,” he said. “You’re stronger than you believe.” He repeats that message often. A difficult beginning does not determine the ending.

Near the end of the interview, Reynolds reflected on legacy and



the people who walked every mile of the journey beside him. His wife, Shalonda. His children: Jay, Devante, Elijah and Alyasia.

Reynolds said the deployments, the returns to uniform and the emotional weight of caring for others always pointed back to them. “I did this for legacy,” he said. “I wanted them to be proud. I wanted them to see a life they could respect.” For the private who once questioned his worth, their faith in him stands as confirmation he kept the promise. From a young Soldier searching for direction to a brigade chaplain guiding others toward hope, Reynolds’ path has come full circle — grounded in service, marked by sacrifice and carried forward by the belief that no life is beyond redemption. 

Opposite Page: Chaplain (Maj.) Eric Reynolds with the 1st Signal Brigade, speaks during his promotion to the rank of major during a ceremony at the Warrior Chapel, Camp Humphreys, Feb. 6, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Shin Haegyeom)

Top: Chaplain (Maj.) Eric Reynolds, assigned to 1st Signal Brigade, is pinned with the rank of major during a ceremony at the Warrior Chapel, Camp Humphreys, Feb. 6, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Shin Haegyeom)

READING



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U.S. Army 311th Signal Command (Theater) command team arrives by helicopter during operational and unit engagements across Alaska. The multi-day visit allowed the team to engage Soldiers, assess communications infrastructure and strengthen partnerships across the Arctic region. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

HURRICANE EXERCISE SIGNAL ENABLES DISASTER RESPONSE READINESS

STORY BY LIANA KIM, 311TH SC (T) PAO

Soldiers and Civilians of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) worked around the clock to provide Signal support for a Hurricane Readiness Exercise with organizations throughout the state of Hawaii, Mar. 31 – Apr. 11, 2025.

“This is the second iteration of this exercise that we’ve participated in,” said Ron Green, Supply and Services division chief, 311th SC (T) G4 Logistics Team. “It provided a challenging yet needed experience, as it facilitated external coordination among many organizations, thereby streamlining our processes and our internal playbooks so that when a real-world incident occurs, we are all more prepared to work together to find solutions and assist those in need.”

Led by U.S. Army Pacific Command, operational headquarters for Army units across the Indo-Pacific, the goal of this Theater Joint Force Land Component Command exercise was to rehearse and refine unified reaction to disaster response.

“Staff readiness exercises like HURREX 2025 are vital to our ability to respond and support



efficiently during emergencies,” said 311th SC (T) Deputy Commander, Colonel Joseph Miller. “In preparation for this annual hurricane exercise, I want to emphasize the critical roles of the staff. These exercises not only allow our teams to refine their planning skills but also foster essential relationships with external agencies that we may not interact with daily. By collaborating in this capacity, we enhance our readiness and ensure a more coordinated response in real emergencies.”

“While this event required focus and prioritization as an additional requirement to our routine Signal operational tasks, I actually

enjoyed it and learned a lot,” said Capt. Cierra Butler, “I gained valuable experience through my participation in HURREX 25, particularly in understanding how Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness levels dictate response and coordination support to ensure personnel safety to include critical operations for both Safe Havens and Shelters during disasters. This exercise highlighted the importance of having pre-established plans to ensure a smooth and effective response especially when working with the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.”

“The involvement of our skilled Department of Army Civilian



workforce in preparedness exercises like this is essential, said Michele Bolinger, civilian deputy to the 311th SC (T) Commander, Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss. “Civilians provide crucial continuity within our organizations, as they often stay in their roles long-term.

This stability is a vital resource that cannot be overstated. Our civilian team possesses invaluable institutional knowledge, allowing us to retain important lessons learned over time. This continuity ensures that we continuously improve and refine

our processes, which significantly enhances our overall readiness and effectiveness.”

Opposite Page: Dave Davis, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Emergency Operations Center, deputy emergency management officer, briefs U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Natalia Gerena, JB-4, logistics chief, and U.S. Navy Lt. Peter Herlihey, Public Works Dept. control center, for Hurricane Exercise Makani 2025, April 4, 2025 in the Emergency Operations Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Navy photo by Roann Gatdula)

Top: U.S. Navy Capt. Samuel White, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander, briefs participants for Hurricane Exercise Makani 2025, April 4, 2025, in the Emergency Operations Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Navy photo by Roann Gatdula)

Left: An illustration depicts emergency preparedness supplies used during disaster response scenarios. Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians from the 311th Signal Command (Theater) participated in HURREX 2025, a disaster response exercise designed to strengthen coordination, planning and readiness with military and civilian partners across the state.



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII

PACIFIC SIGNAL 'HOOLIGANS' DOMINATE NOBLE SKYWAVE GLOBAL COMPETITION

STORY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ROBERT MALONE, 30TH SIG. BN. HHC

The High Frequency Gateway Team "Hooligans", call sign "Guardian Ridge," from the 30th Signal Battalion has taken top honors outpacing 400 competitors from around the world during Noble Skywave 2024, October 23-27.

"The experience with Noble Skywave was quite busy during the 72-hour period. It required all 7 personnel to make it possible to earn 1st place," said the HF NCOIC Staff Sgt. Hill. "Each person had a vital role that had to be fulfilled in order to succeed."

Noble Skywave 2024 is a global competition hosted by Canadian forces that had 397 registered competitors from various organizations, services, and nations including Canadian forces, Peruvian forces, U.S. Marines, German Forces, Australian Forces, U.S. Navy, and Department of War personnel. Points were scored based on type of transmission and length of connection.

"HF communication is being modernized through



the integration of advanced signal processing techniques, Automated Link Establishment systems, and new waveform designs," said Sgt. Roldan. "Which allows faster data transmission rates, improved reliability in challenging environments, particularly for military applications where resilient long-range communication is crucial."

Roldan emphasized the importance of continuous modernization of HF communications, saying it is key

to maintaining communications in SATCOM-contested environments. The "Hooligans" are at the forefront of this effort, leading the way in the HF world.

One of the "Hooligans" notable achievements came on the second day of the competition, when the team established a radio connection with a competitor in Iraq at 2300 hours, covering 8,546 miles and earning the maximum 7.5 points. This, combined with their other successful connections, contributed to their overall score of 557 points.

"Training other units and Soldiers ensures that we are fresh and up to date on radio communications and helps us work with other units and share our TTPs and implement new ones we learn," said Sgt. Caelan Aurilio as he emphasized the importance of training and sharing Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures, or TTPs, with other units.

The team's year-long preparation and training clearly made a significant difference,



as they improved their score from the previous year by 133 points and jumped from second place to first place globally. The "Hooligans" achievement is a testament to their dedication and expertise in high-frequency communication systems.

Their accomplishment serves as an inspiration to others in the field of signal communications and reflects the high standards of excellence within the 30th Signal Battalion. The team's outstanding performance in Noble Skywave 2024 has earned them recognition, highlighting their exceptional skills and commitment to excellence in signal communications.

"In order to 'Get the Message Through,' we must continue to push the envelope and test our HF communications systems to ensure we are confident with knowing their limitations" said Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Linwood Barrett. "HF is extremely important and being able to communicate and adapt to the challenges when other systems are degraded during Large Scale Combat Operations is what will

win the war! The commitment, expertise and efforts of the 30th Signal Battalion HF team is a prime example of this" ✕

Opposite Page: U.S. Army Soldier assigned to the 30th Signal Battalion configures a high-frequency communications radio during Noble Skywave 2024. The competition tested participants' ability to establish reliable long-range radio communications under realistic operating conditions. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Malone)

Top: U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 30th Signal Battalion's High Frequency Gateway Team, known as the "Hooligans," pose following Noble Skywave 2024. The team earned first place among nearly 400 competitors from military and civilian organizations around the world. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Malone)

Left: U.S. Army Soldiers establish a high-frequency communications site during Noble Skywave 2024. High-frequency radio provides resilient long-range communications when satellite communications are degraded or unavailable. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Malone)



FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

INNOVATION & ENGAGED LEADERSHIP DRIVE MAINTENANCE EXCELLENCE PACIFIC SIGNAL TEAM'S SECRET TO SUCCESS

STORY BY NORBERTO CONDE, 516TH TSB S4 MAINTENANCE OFFICER

For two straight years the 516th Theater Signal Brigade has been leading the way for the 311th Signal Command (Theater) in outstanding maintenance, all the way up to the Army Headquarters level.

"Yearly since 1982, The Army Chief of Staff, Army Award for Maintenance Excellence Program has set out to find the best maintenance programs in the Army," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Majcher, 311th SC (T) Maintenance Manager. "Our Signal Teams and Maintainers take great pride in their ability to provide ready and reliable communication enabling multi-domain operations here in the Pacific."

The U.S. Army Network Enterprise Center, Camp Zama was recognized by the Army Chief of Staff as the Runner-up in the TDA category for the FY24 CSA, AAME. Following that success, for FY25 the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced was one of three semi-finalist in the MTOE Large Category. For the past two



years running, the 516th has been able to showcase their outstanding maintenance programs.

What exactly has helped multiple units within the brigade reach the highest level of Army Maintenance Excellence, you might ask. Col. Andy Brokhoff, 516th Theater Signal Brigade commander, shares his perspective.

"The reason our units consistently receive recognition at the highest level in the Army

during the competition for the AAME is attributed to their ability to showcase outstanding performance and innovation in maintenance operations. Ensuring readiness, efficiency, and effective resource management," Brokhoff said. "Our key factors include maintaining Soldier competency, demonstrating effective leadership, and following exceptional maintenance processes, as well as the influence of their leadership



and commitment to established maintenance practices.”

Units that excel are comprised of engaged leaders. A leader who protects time for maintenance, is present and involved in Preventive Maintenance, Checks and Services, and not only understands crew drills but is also familiar with the maintenance processes that support their teams and ensure success.

“What impresses me is the level of professional growth opportunities that the unit has invested into the Soldiers training,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Urquhart, 311th SC (T) maintenance NCO. “When our Maintainers earn their Automotive Service Consultant certification, and Signal Soldiers earn their Cisco Certified

Network Associate certification, each Soldiers’ training needs were closely examined and fulfilled. Sending Soldiers to various skill-enhancing courses shows them that they are valued and needed.”

The brigade truly understands that maintenance must be integrated into all operations. As we continue to field more complex systems and the Army Signal School develops adaptive, multi-disciplined Signal Soldiers it is important that we build and refine subject matter expertise on those fielded systems both with our operators and maintainers.

“The leaders of the 516th Signal Brigade have developed some outstanding maintenance programs despite our geographic distribution across the Pacific,” Majcher said. “They have great

pride in the readiness of the brigade and should be highlighted for their exceptional maintenance accomplishments. Especially their support for the key initiatives that have propelled them to be a benchmark of maintenance excellence within the U.S. Army.”

Opposite Page: U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 516th Theater Signal Brigade meet with maintenance evaluators during a review visit. The brigade's maintenance program emphasizes technical proficiency, readiness and leader involvement. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 516th TSB)

Top: U.S. Army S4 Maintenance Officer Norberto Conde with the 516th Theater Signal Brigade, records equipment information during a maintenance inspection. The 516th's emphasis on technical proficiency, leader involvement and disciplined maintenance practices has helped its units earn recognition for maintenance excellence. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 516th TSB)

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA

STRENGTHENING ARCTIC NETWORKS

311TH LEADERS ASSESS READINESS ACROSS ALASKA

STORY BY SPC. ANDREW QUEMADO, 311TH SC (T) PAO

The 311th Signal Command (Theater) command team conducted a multi-day battlefield circulation across Alaska, visiting subordinate units, partner organizations, and key defense infrastructure to reinforce operational readiness and assess communication network posture throughout the Arctic region during exercise Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 25-02.

The visit began at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, where the command team met with leaders of the 516th Theater Signal Brigade, 59th Signal Battalion for a command brief. The team then toured the battalion's headquarters and met with Soldiers from both the 59th and 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion - Enhanced, Charlie Company - a break-away company of the 307th in Hawaii but strategically placed in Alaska - to see firsthand how they support daily operations.

"I'm a visual learner and being here in person is important to us - to see these locations and visit our Soldiers during the most



chilling season - this is the type of environment they regularly work in and we need to understand that to better support them," said Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, 311th SC (T) commanding general.

The team then traveled to Fort Wainwright, where they visited the 59th SB's Network Enterprise Center to review ongoing modernization efforts and the health of local and theater-wide communication networks. Office calls followed with the 11th Airborne Division leadership and the Fort Wainwright garrison

commander, focusing on interoperability, infrastructure needs, and future support for theater communications.

Following their engagements at Fort Wainwright, the command team made their way by helicopter en route to Fort Greely. During the flight, they had the opportunity to observe the rugged terrain and remote nature of Alaska's interior, factors that heavily influence the planning and sustainment of Army communications in the region.



At Fort Greely, the command team met with leaders from the Missile Defense Agency, another organization which relies on the 311th's network architecture, and toured their missile defense sites and engaged in discussions centered on the importance of resilient communications for homeland defense.

Central themes included the importance of interagency coordination, sustaining operations in austere Arctic conditions, and maintaining robust support for units such as Charlie Company, 307th ESB-E – whose future movement back to Hawaii remains a strategic priority.

The 311th Theater Signal Command's battlefield circulation across Alaska reinforced the vital role signal units play in enabling operations in the Indo-Pacific and homeland defense missions. By engaging directly with Soldiers, visiting key partner organizations, and observing operations in one of the Army's most logistically demanding environments, the command team gained valuable insight to inform future planning, resource allocation and mission support.

"This visit reinforced how vital our networks are—not just for the Army, but for our joint and interagency partners," the command team stated.

"We are committed to ensuring our Soldiers in Alaska have resilient, reliable communications to execute their missions in one of the most challenging environments in the world."

The visit highlighted both the resilience of the Soldiers operating in extreme conditions and the importance of reliable, adaptable communications networks across the Arctic. As the Army continues to posture for future challenges, the 311th SC (T) remains committed to enabling mission command throughout the Indo-Pacific theater. 

Opposite Page: Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Stroud, 311th Signal Command (Theater) senior enlisted advisor, speaks with Soldiers from the 59th Signal Battalion and Charlie Company 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion - Enhanced at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Jan. 27, 2025. Stroud recognized the critical role of Signal Soldiers in supporting operations across the Arctic region. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

Top: Soldiers from the 311th Signal Command (Theater) and 59th Signal Battalion command teams tour missile defense facilities during a visit at Fort Greeley, Alaska, Jan. 30, 2025. Throughout the visit, the command teams met with partner agencies to discuss interoperability and future communication support with the unique challenges faced in the Arctic. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

OVERCOMING TREACHEROUS CONDITIONS KEEPING COMMUNICATIONS LINES OPEN DURING WINTER

STORY BY SAE MI CHANG, 1ST TSB PAO

As the first snow blanketed the Korean Peninsula, a team of Korean local nationals climbed the slopes of Gwanggyosan Mountain to maintain critical communications during heavy snowfall.

“On the night of November 26th, I received a call from Mr. Chung Chin Chang, telecommunications specialist, about a snowfall crisis at Camp Madison; heavy snowfall had begun blanketing the region, accumulating five inches by the following morning,” said Capt. Joshua Knight, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Center Seoul company commander.

Perched on the slopes of Gwanggyosan Mountain, Camp Madison is a key communications hub staffed at all times by signal employees who ensure essential services and network capabilities across the peninsula.

Camp Madison is staffed by five Korean local national electronics technicians who perform shift work at the site 24/7, 365 days a year. The site is divided between a top site and a bottom site, with the top site only accessible via hiking trail. The road to the



bottom site itself is a steep incline, stretching approximately 4,921 feet, with a total distance of 6,889 feet and an elevation gain of 1,200 feet.

The team consists of Chang Soo Yoo, site lead, Kap In Kim, Tong Il Hwang, Yun Sik Sin and Che Hyon Ho.

“The incline to Camp Madison, already challenging, became treacherously slippery, and two fallen trees blocked the path,” Knight said. “Despite these obstacles, our site workers tackled the combined 2,100-meter climb to keep operations going during shift changes. Sin was already on duty and reported that he was stuck at the top site.”

The first concern of Knight after receiving the report was the welfare of the employees.

“I was impressed by Capt. Knight’s first question about emergency food — whether there was enough to sustain the staff. It really showed his concern for their safety and well-being,” said Yoo, the site lead.

Unfortunately, the situation did not improve over time.

“By the early hours of November 28th, the crisis intensified. Around 3 a.m., more trees fell, severing the power line leading to the top site. Thankfully, the generator kicked in immediately to maintain communications and equipment functionality. But we

had a new challenge — limited fuel reserves in the generator tank,” said Yoo. “With the snow now nearly a foot deep, shift relief became impossible. Mr. Sin, who was on duty at the top site, found himself stranded. At this point, Capt. Knight received another report about the situation.”

Sin had scheduled leave and a flight for Nov. 29 but was unable to leave the top site because another team member could not safely relieve him. Hwang volunteered to climb to the top site. Around 11:30 a.m. Nov. 28, he began the 2,100-meter trek through 12 inches of snow. After a four-hour climb, he reached the top site by 3:30 p.m.

While the employees of Camp Madison worked to maintain signal operations, efforts to clear the snow began. The Directorate of Public Works mobilized to remove snow, while Suwon city officials worked to cut away fallen trees. Meanwhile, the Korean Electrical Power Company initiated repairs on the downed power lines.

By that evening, KEPCO restored commercial power at 6 p.m., allowing the team to



conserve generator fuel. In total, the generator operated for about 18 hours. However, snow and debris continued to block access until Dec. 10, when DPW and Suwon city workers cleared the road, restoring normal operations.

This is not the first time natural events have caused disruptions at Camp Madison. During spring, wildfires become a concern, with firefighting helicopters often spotted between March and May. Twice, in March 2016 and March 2022, wildfires breached the site’s fence, prompting emergency protocols and the use of evacuation routes. In summer, typhoons and torrential rains frequently caused roof damage, downed trees and power outages. Even crows occasionally short-circuit power lines, adding to the summer’s challenges.

“We would like to highlight all the hard work of the Camp Madison team and DPW workers,” said Yoo. “Even in difficult situations, whether it’s cold or hot weather, their support shines through. Like hiking up with heavy landscaping

equipment in the heat of summer or shoveling snow after a heavy snowfall, their dedication is unmatched.”

Camp Madison supports a Tier 1 communications site that provides network capabilities, air traffic control systems, emergency communications and other mission-essential functions. Maintaining the site requires employees to operate in a range of conditions, including severe weather and other disruptions that can affect access to the mountain facility. 



Opposite Page: Pictured from left to right Chung Chin Chang, telecommunications specialist, Capt. Joshua Knight, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Center Seoul company commander, and Chang Soo Yoo, electronics technician lead at the Top Site of Camp Madison, Dec. 12th, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Vercammen, Shawnee)

Left: Chaos erupted at Camp Madison in March 2016 as wildfires raged around Gwangyosan Mountain, posing a significant threat to the camp’s safety. (Photo courtesy of Chang Soo Yoo)

Top: A view of the Bottom Site from the Top Site of Camp Madison on Dec. 12th 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Vercammen, Shawnee)

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA

NORTH TO THE FUTURE

FORGING AN ARCTIC FORCE THROUGH GRIT, TRUST & EXCELLENCE

STORY BY STAFF SGT. JUSTIN BROWN, 59TH SIG. BN.

In Alaska's unforgiving Arctic terrain, success doesn't come from technology alone, it comes from the people. The 59th Signal Battalion's "North to the Future" strategy reflects that belief. It's a commitment to building a force that can not only operate in extreme conditions but thrive in them – a force grounded in grit, trust and excellence.

The strategy is rooted in a simple truth: no piece of equipment can replace the resilience, precision and unity of a well-led, well-trained team. Arctic operations demand a different level of readiness, one that's forged through trust among teammates, high standards in execution and the mental toughness to endure whatever challenges the mission brings.

"The Arctic doesn't care how advanced your gear is – if your people aren't ready, you're not ready," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Kramer with the 59th Signal Battalion.

That focus begins with trust. Every Soldier, regardless of rank, must feel heard, valued and



supported. That foundation of mutual respect fuels open communication and strengthens the team from within.

That trust enables the pursuit of excellence not just in large-scale missions, but in daily routines. Leaders emphasize attention to detail, disciplined planning and continuous improvement. The goal isn't just competence, it's mastery.

Nowhere is that mindset more visible than in the battalion's

approach to marksmanship. In response to the Sergeant Major of the Army's call to be "brilliant at the basics," the 59th has elevated weapons training to a core part of Arctic readiness. In the cold, in the wind, under pressure – Soldiers learn to shoot, move and think with precision.

The battalion trains under the conditions they expect to face in the field. That means full kit, real stressors and the kind of weather that can sap strength and focus.



But that's the point – when failure isn't an option, training has to be harder than the mission itself.

"I've shot on a range with frozen hands, snow blowing sideways, and barely feeling my trigger finger," said Capt. Alexander J. Prescaro with the 59th Signal Battalion. "But that's what makes it real. If I can do it here, I can do it anywhere."

It's not just about qualifying. Marksmanship is treated as a mental discipline, building muscle memory, confidence and a warrior mindset. A spirit of healthy competition pushes Soldiers to constantly improve and reinforces the idea that proficiency is not optional, it's essential.

According to Prescaro, a recent opportunity for the battalion to support the Army's "Regaining Arctic Dominance" plan for a strategic shift to the North came with the upgrading of the austere Donnelly Training Area

into the Arctic's very first world class Combat Training Center, equipped with high-fidelity equipment and classrooms for the unique training needs of the modern Joint Force.

"By installing and implementing nearly 300,000 feet of fiber optic cable at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort Wainwright to the north and Fort Greely in Alaska's interior, the leaders, Soldiers and Civilians of the 59th invested time and effort in enabling the Army's growing Arctic mission," Prescaro said.

"We were able to connect our fellow warfighters across 18 existing ranges and buildings, as well as 14 new network sites across the state." "North to the Future" isn't just a name, it's a promise to the force and a vision for what comes next. The 59th Signal Battalion is building more than a capable team. They're building a culture where Soldiers feel empowered, where grit is

earned, and where excellence isn't a goal – it's the standard.

As the Army's Arctic mission grows, the battalion stands ready. "We venture further into the Arctic with confidence, knowing that our strength lies not just in our equipment and strategic locations, but also in the unwavering spirit, trust and relentless effort our teams bring to every task," said Lt. Col. Robert Morse, commander, 59th Signal Battalion. "We are the Arctic force of the future, forged in grit, united by trust and driven by excellence." ❦

Opposite Page: U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 59th Signal Battalion conduct marksmanship training under Arctic winter conditions in Alaska. Training in extreme cold helps build the confidence, precision and resilience required to operate in the state's challenging environment. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 59th Sig. Bn.)

Top: U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 59th Signal Battalion conduct marksmanship training at a range in Alaska. The battalion trains under the same harsh conditions Soldiers are expected to face during Arctic operations, reinforcing precision, discipline and readiness. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 59th Sig. Bn.)

Best Squad Competition

2025 COMPETITORS



1st Theater Signal Brigade

Sgt. 1st Class Cody Wise
Staff Sgt. Donnell Charity
Sgt. Zana Fincher
Pfc. Logan Kurpetski
Spc. Autum Davis



516th Theater Signal Brigade

Staff Sgt. Brendan Scott
Sgt. Michael De Los Santos
Sgt. 1st Class Dominic Macon
Spc. Chase Palmer
Spc. Reginald Washington



311th Signal Command (Theater) HHC

Sgt. Paloma Vazquez
Spc. Shanna Rodriguez
Staff Sgt. Woody Pfeffer
Sgt. John Rivera Ortiz
Sgt. Robert Justice



311th Signal Command (Theater) HHD

Sgt. Joalys Rodriguez
Staff Sgt. Gerard Garcia
Staff Sgt. Kenny Hoang
Staff Sgt. Frank Vang
Spc. Artinlee Masiuriulmal



2026 COMPETITORS



1st Theater Signal Brigade

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lightner
Sgt. Markus Given
Sgt. Connor Salcido
Spc. Wilmer Duran
Spc. Anthony Fabian



516th Theater Signal Brigade

Spc. Maria Caballero
Sgt. DaQuan Ware
Staff Sgt. Dyrone Thomas
Spc. Nicholas Caruso
Pfc. Mayson Carroll



311th Signal Command (Theater) HHC

Pfc. Ismael Armenta
Sgt. John Rivera Ortiz
Staff Sgt. Eduardo Pena
Spc. Geromiah Firme
Sgt. Gabriel Cruz



311th Signal Command (Theater) HHD

Staff Sgt. Gerard Garcia
Pfc. Jafeth Ramirez
Staff Sgt. Daniel Le
Sgt. Rebecca Canchola
Spc. Victoria Debello

MODERNIZ



ZATION



U.S. Army Soldier assigned to the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced sets up a Starlink satellite communications terminal during a training exercise. The training enhances the unit's ability to rapidly establish resilient communications in support of expeditionary operations. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Kerry Wright)

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

INNOVATION ENABLES ELECTRONIC MAINTENANCE SIGNALEERS IN SOUTH KOREA EXPLORE 3D PRINTING

STORY BY MAJ. KARL McKEETH, 304TH ESB-E. BN. XO



Left: A 3D-printed replacement bracket progresses from computer-designed prototype (left) to installation (center) and operational use on an AN/TSC-233 Transportable Tactical Command Communications system (right). The repair restored the system to mission-capable status while saving the unit more than \$3,000 and months of shipping time. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of Maj. Karl McKeeth)

When replacement parts became too expensive or were simply unavailable, Signal Soldiers with the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion – Enhanced in Korea turned to 3D printing to repair their equipment.

The 304th ESB-E Communications-Electronics Maintenance Shop identified several replacement components needed to restore communications equipment. The battalion faced a dry spell for maintenance funding and

could not justify the expense for systems of lower criticality.

Electronics Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer Philippe Herzfeld explored an alternative approach to repairing an AN/TSC-233 Transportable Tactical Command Communications system, often referred to as a T2C2. The system needed a small, nonmoving bracket approximately 3 inches by 5 inches – an ideal candidate for 3D printing. The CEMS team leaned on Bravo Company, 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, to scan and print a

prototype, adjusting the printer settings to ensure it met the requirements. "The final product met all fit, form and function needs, so we installed and tested it," Herzfeld said. "The T2C2 is now fully mission capable, and we saved over \$3,000 and months of shipping time!"

The battalion also identified a broken frequency preselector knob and several damaged knobs on a AN/TRC-170A Tropospheric Scatter Microwave Radio Terminal, also known as TROPO. When CEMS ordered replacement parts, not all the components arrived, and those that did were incorrect and could not be used. Short on money, the battalion carried the TROPO in a non-mission-capable status for several months until Herzfeld again turned to B/602nd ASB. They scanned serviceable knobs from another system and printed replacements that met the



Above: U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion - Enhanced install a 3D-printed replacement component on an AN/TSC-233 Transportable Tactical Command Communications system. The repair demonstrates how additive manufacturing can improve readiness by reducing maintenance costs and turnaround times. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of Maj. Karl McKeeth)

specifications. Once again, this solved the problem and saved the unit time and money.

Lt. Col. Sean C. McNichol, commander of the 304th ESB-E, encouraged the battalion's maintainers and logisticians to build on their success by exploring a permanent in-house 3D printing capability. "The cost savings and expediency of additive manufacturing (3D printing) offers the unit significant readiness advantage," he said. "Plus, in contested logistics environments or geographically remote areas, a 3D printer at the battalion level could ensure continued maintenance when supply chains are degraded or disrupted."

Much of the groundwork for incorporating 3D printing close to the tactical edge has already been laid. Partnerships between the Army Materiel Command,

Defense Logistics Agency and the private sector continue to develop the Joint Additive Manufacturing Model Exchange repository, which currently hosts files for critical parts, both temporary and permanent. These repositories allow technicians to print parts on demand for signal equipment and other applications.

Once the 304th ESB-E acquires a 3D printer and printing materials, Herzfeld plans to train his shop to manufacture replacement parts for electronic equipment. He envisions producing protective covers to prevent moisture intrusion, custom brackets for non-standard mounting of line-of-sight equipment, cable routing aids that reduce strain on connectors, training aids that allow operators to practice assembly and disassembly without risking

actual components, alignment and calibration tools and other specialty repair items. "The benefits of this strategy will include expedited repairs, lower turnaround time, cost savings and solutions for components without assigned NSNs," said Herzfeld.

The battalion's experience demonstrates the advantages of 3D printing by applying it to two repairs that faced serious maintenance challenges. As commanders continue integrating additive manufacturing, maintainers will be better equipped to overcome supply chain challenges with innovative solutions. 3D printing aligns with the Army's transformation philosophy, giving units greater operational flexibility to support signal systems repair and drive mission success. 

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII

5G NETWORK EXPANSION FOR MISSION COMMUNICATIONS AT KWAJALEIN

STORY BY STAFF SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA, 311TH SC (T) PAO

The 30th Signal Battalion's Local Network Enterprise Center at Kwajalein is testing how a private 5G service could modernize secure mission communications across the atoll, offering a flexible, resilient alternative to traditional infrastructure in one of the military's most remote and historically sensitive environments.

Backed by the 311th Signal Command (Theater) and supported by a contract with Ocus, a company specializing in mobile and fixed broadband networks, the effort aims to address both environmental and logistical constraints that have long made network upkeep on the atoll a challenge.

Col. Richard Becker, assistant chief of staff for operations with the 311th SC (T), recently joined local leaders at Kwajalein to assess early progress on the system and discuss its long-term potential.

"Kwajalein's tropical climate, high humidity and salt-laden air contribute to the rapid degradation of our legacy



Above: A damaged communications tower is shown alongside a private 5G system installed on Kwajalein Atoll, providing seamless wireless connectivity for government personnel rotating through the island. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Muller)

infrastructure," said Mark Hazen, senior civilian representative for the 30th Signal Battalion. "Maintaining reliable voice and data services is costly and labor-intensive. That's why we're exploring 5G as a more agile and sustainable alternative."

The system relies on antenna-based wireless technology, not satellite, and is designed to connect authorized

government personnel using a common access card. Once finalized, authorized users will be able to scan a QR code upon arrival, load a virtual eSIM and access the network from an unlocked phone.

"It's still in testing, but it works," said Staff Sgt. Frederick Muller, a network communications specialist involved in the rollout. "We

scanned a code, added the eSIM and connected. For Android users, it was almost instant. iPhones took a little longer.”

Current 5G coverage reaches about 30% of the island, primarily in downtown areas. The team noted signal loss in residential zones and near the airport, but additional towers and antenna sites could help improve reach. Reusing older antenna structures remains an option, though corrosion and stability concerns may limit viability.

Unlike traditional copper or fiber cabling, which requires trenching, 5G can extend network access wirelessly across protected or hard-to-reach areas. That’s particularly useful at Kwajalein, where much of the land is designated as historically significant due to its role in World War II. Remains and artifacts are still discovered regularly, and all excavation work must pause when human remains or cultural materials are found.



Above: U.S. Army Soldiers with the 311th Signal Command (Theater) meet with U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll personnel during a tour of the newly installed system and discuss recent upgrades to the network. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Muller)

The network is still in testing, but early results show 5G can provide fast, secure and reliable mission communication, even in Kwajalein’s crowded radio frequency environment. It currently connects through an existing civilian internet link

and is designed to complement or eventually replace aging infrastructure.

While the military presence on Kwajalein is minimal and most Department of War personnel there are civilians, uniformed service members routinely rotate through for short-term support missions and better access would benefit everyone.

“When we get sent out there, there’s often no service,” Muller said. “This network will change that, not just for our unit, but for anyone rotating through.”

Another site visit is scheduled for late July as the team continues refining the setup and planning next steps. 🇺🇸



Left: Rusted and weathered equipment is displayed during a visit to Kwajalein Atoll, highlighting the challenges the island's climate poses to infrastructure exposed to the elements. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Muller)

HONOLULU, HAWAII

STUDENTS, VENDORS, MULTI-LATERAL MILITARY LEADERS INDO-PACIFIC SIGNAL SOLDIERS ENGAGE

STORY BY CAPT. ABRAHAM GONZALEZ SILVA, 311TH SC (T) PAO



Above: U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, 311th Signal Command (Theater) commanding general, speaks during the J6 panel session on communications support to allies and partners in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Theater at TechNet 2024, Oct. 24, 2024.

As cyber domain changes kept their frenetic pace, Signal Soldiers seized each moment of this dynamic international event to build solid partnerships – from military mission partners, to inquisitive students, to vendors in the information technology industry.

Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, commanding general, 311th Signal Command (Theater), collaborated with military cyber components, government agencies, students and industry professionals at this year's Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's TechNet Indo-Pacific Symposium and Expedition at the Hawaii

Convention Center, Oct. 22-24, 2024.

Other senior leaders and Soldiers assigned to the 311th SC (T) and subordinate units also participated in the symposium. Col. Richard Becker, 311th SC (T) G3 Director, and Col. Andrew Brokoff, 516th Theater Signal Brigade commander, and Lt. Col. Izabella Lundy, battalion commander of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced spoke during the breakout session, "Setting the Digital Theater in the Indo-Pacific." Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Colon, 30th Signal Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dominique Davis, 516th TSB, spoke on "Leading, Training, and Cultivating Signal

& Cyber Teams in Competition and Conflict," during the senior enlisted discussion panel.

Led by Maj. Bethany Gridley, Command Business Officer, Soldiers manned a booth in the industry & vendor exhibition hall, displaying communications equipment to show strategic and tactical capabilities. One of the Soldiers, Spc. Damyron Orr, Information Technology Specialist, Bravo Company, 307th ESB-E, from Chicago, IL said of the event, "My time here was good. I got to show people about what we do as a ground team under the only Signal theater in the Pacific."

"I got a lot of job offers—I even had a representative of the

Pentagon come and talk to me about what I do to support the 311th SC (T)," said Orr. "They offered me a job on the J6 team in D.C."

The three-day symposium focused on regional issues military leaders identified as crucial to operating seamlessly and ensuring robust, secure networks for fellow warfighters in the dynamic, complex environment. Discussion panels and breakout sessions addressed an array of cyber security topics and explored how government and industry can improve collaboration to face modern regional cyber challenges.

The theme of this year's symposium, "Free - Open - Secure," emphasized the strategic focus regional military leaders to maintain and protect data and information flow, while enhancing interoperability with mission partners across the Indo-Pacific.

Phariss shared ideas during breakout sessions and panel discussions each day of the symposium, on topics such as the need for sharing intelligence with regional allies on how evolving communication systems can support present and future warfighters.

With the 311th SC (T) playing a crucial role within INDOPACOM, Brig. Gen. Phariss' feedback helped to shape a picture of the important challenges that need to be tackled in today's complex environment. Key points he brought up were policy impeding intelligence sharing, limitations when attempting to allow coalition partners access to network data, and the ready state of the unit if called to action.



"The mission partner networks are very complex. In most cases, it's not the technology that's the biggest challenge, it's getting the various participants to agree and have binding agreements in terms of trust relationships, to facilitate a wider sharing of information," Phariss said. "It is an inherent necessity to be able to collaborate with your mission partners."

"One of our habits in the Army that will have to change is that when we develop new systems, we need to design them for a coalition network," Phariss said. "Any significant outbreak is going to involve coalition partners, so we need to take the next

evolutionary step and practice in a coalition environment."

As the designated U.S. Signal command for the Indo-Pacific theater, the 311th serves a theater enabling command with subordinate units across 16 time zones including California, Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, Guam, and Korea.

"I do want to reassure—we are ready to operate now," Phariss said. "We are never satisfied. We always want more, better, faster, because we want our Soldiers to have the ultimate in capability. We don't want a fair fight. We want to make our Soldiers rockstars." 



Top: U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, commanding general, 311th Signal Command (Theater), speaks with Soldiers of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion - Enhanced during a demonstration of signal equipment Oct. 23, 2024.

Left: U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, 311th SC (T), participates in a breakout discussion during TechNet 2024, Oct. 22, 2024. The session focused on signal readiness and collaboration with joint forces in the Indo-Pacific region.

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

VOICE OF THE ALLIANCE

FOR 60 YEARS,
1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE HAS KEPT KOREA CONNECTED

STORY BY SGT. ALEJANDRO CARRASQUEL, 7TH MPAD PAO

When Eric Albert's father served on the Korean Peninsula during the Korean

War, critical messages were often hand-carried across rugged terrain or crackled uncertainly over primitive radios. Decades later, as the civilian deputy for the 1st Signal Brigade, Albert helps lead a technologically advanced force that his father's generation could only have imagined—one that stands as the digital backbone of the U.S. and ROK alliance.

For sixty years, the 1st Signal Brigade has operated as the nerve center for U.S. Forces Korea. Activated in the jungles of Vietnam in 1966 and relocated to South Korea in 1972, the brigade has evolved in lockstep with both the U.S. Army and the Republic of Korea itself. It has transformed from a unit reliant on hilltop microwave relays into a modern force responsible for connecting commanders and enabling decisions across one of the world's most critical strategic regions.

The story of the brigade is one of constant adaptation. Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Alejo C. Quinata, who first served with the brigade in 1987, recalls an era when mountaintop communication sites were the lifeblood of the network.



"We could send our troops out into the field to support any exercise, support the warfighter, because we had the equipment to do that mission," said Quinata, who returned to lead the brigade as its Command Sergeant Major from 2002 to 2004.

During that later tour, Quinata faced new hurdles as the Army engaged in conflicts elsewhere, straining personnel and resources. "There were challenges trying to keep our communications equipment manned," he noted, a testament to the brigade's resilience in overcoming obstacles to mission success.

Those persistent challenges—whether aging infrastructure, the



unforgiving Korean terrain, or the peninsula's extreme weather—have forged a legacy of toughness and innovation.

"The enemy gets a vote, terrain gets a vote, weather gets a vote," stated Eric Albert, who served



over 30 years in uniform before assuming his civilian leadership role. "Time and distance always factor into everything you do."

He vividly remembers the grit of earlier Signal Soldiers, who routinely climbed mountains in total darkness, through snow and driving rain, to establish the line-of-sight systems that were once the foundation of military operations here. "Knowing your Soldiers had to go up there at night, regardless of time of day or weather, was very dangerous," Albert reflected.

Today, with a combined force of over 1,600 Soldiers, Civilians, and Korean national employees, the brigade's mission remains the same, even as the technology has been revolutionized.

"One thing that people overlook is the tactical ability of Signal Soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Calvin James, the brigade's senior enlisted leader. "Signal Soldiers are proficient technically and tactically." That dual expertise is non-negotiable, ensuring that from the Joint Security Area to the southernmost ports, the alliance is seamlessly connected.

To honor this 60-year legacy of technical mastery and tactical

readiness, the brigade celebrated its milestone anniversary with "Signal Month." Throughout April, Soldiers, Civilians, and their families participated in a 30-day series of events designed to build camaraderie and celebrate the unit's rich history. Testing their dual expertise, troops engaged in rigorous professional development sessions, a "Hack-a-Thon," and a demanding 18.6-mile Norwegian Foot March.

But the anniversary wasn't solely about readiness; it was also about the community that sustains it. Service members bonded over ultimate frisbee and bowling tournaments, while a command-sponsored mountain hike paid a different kind of homage to the peaks earlier Signal Soldiers once climbed in the dark. The month's festivities culminated in the 60th Birthday Signal Ball, a formal evening paying tribute to every individual who has served as the "Voice of the Alliance."

For Albert, the brigade's six-decade history is profoundly personal and deeply connected to the transformation of the Republic of Korea. The generation of his father fought to preserve a nation in its infancy.

The generations that followed, including his own, helped secure that hard-won peace through constant readiness and technological overmatch.

Reflecting on the gleaming, modern nation that South Korea has become, Albert sees the enduring legacy of the Soldiers who stood watch, climbed the mountains, and kept the lines of communication open.

"They bore the cost," he affirmed. "We bear the success." 

Opposite Page Top: 1st Signal Brigade Soldiers participate in a tug of war at Mercury Field on Camp Humphreys, Apr. 21, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Shin Haegyem)

Opposite Page Bottom: The 1st Signal Brigade starts Signal Month with a cake cutting ceremony to celebrate the brigade's 60th anniversary at Camp Humphreys, Feb. 2, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Shin Haegyem)

Top Left: 1st Signal Brigade Soldiers pose for a photo during the unit's 60th anniversary Signal Ball at the Suwon Sintax Convention Center, April 24, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Shin Haegyem)

Top Right: Col. Byron J. Brown delivers a speech during the unit's 60th anniversary Signal Ball at the Suwon Sintax Convention Center, April 24, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Shin Haegyem)

PARTNERS



SHIPS



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Bravo Battery, 1-3 Field Artillery, 17th Field Artillery Brigade set up an antenna during a subject matter expert exchange with the Royal Thai Army in Lop Buri, Thailand, Feb. 27, 2025. The exchange allows Soldiers to cultivate a strong alliance and strategic relationship between the two forces during Joint Exercise Cobra Gold 2025. This multinational training is vital to maintaining readiness and interoperability between the U.S. and our Allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sean McCallon)

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

DRAGONS DELIVER COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT IN AUSTRALIA

STORY BY SGT. SEAN McCALLON, 311TH SC (T) PAO



Left: U.S. Army Sgt. Gerardo Vidal Ferreris, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, connects cables into a scalable network node switch, providing network services for U.S. Army units participating in Exercise Talisman Sabre 25 in Queensland, Australia, July 15, 2025. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Sean McCallon)

Teams arrived in early July and operated in Queensland for approximately a month, ensuring uninterrupted connectivity throughout the exercise.

“Without us, units wouldn’t be able to process the paperwork and resources they need to move equipment and receive it properly,” said Spc. Seth Aiona, 307th ESB-E. “If the network isn’t up, the mission doesn’t move.”

With multiple nations participating, each bringing its own communications systems and equipment, an intermediary system was needed to allow every nation participating in this event to communicate.



When U.S. and Australian forces needed secure, reliable communications during Talisman Sabre 2025, they turned to the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced.

The 311th Signal Command (Theater), 516th Theater Signal Brigade, 307th ESB-E, deployed teams across Australia in July to provide network services for U.S. and coalition partners participating in the largest bilateral military exercise between the United States and Australia.

The team acts as a military internet service provider, giving units the connectivity required to access Army enterprise systems and tactical communication networks.

“Every location requires its own setup, and each setup can support dozens of users depending on the mission,” said Sgt. Gerardo Vidal, 307th ESB-E. “With the right combination of equipment, we can scale well beyond the base configuration — In one location, we supported more than 100 users across computers and secure phones.”



“We can’t just give direct access to the U.S. military network,” Vidal said. “The coalition systems act as a secure middle layer that allows everyone to communicate without compromising our network.”

Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, commanding general of the 311th SC (T), said the exercise delivers value beyond a single event.

“At the highest level, this is about interoperability,” Phariss said. “Exercises like Talisman Sabre allow us to figure out how to operate best with our allies and partners. For the Army, it’s also an opportunity to verify and validate new operating techniques and approaches, especially as we modernize our network capabilities.”

That modernization was evident in the use of Starshield, a low Earth orbit satellite service that improved speed, reliability and ease of setup for deployed teams.

“It’s easier for our teams to set up, it performs exceptionally

well and both the teams and their customers have told us the service has been tremendous,” Phariss said.

For Soldiers on the ground, the newer technology also reduced logistical burdens.

“Normally, we travel with a lot of equipment and run into hiccups along the way,” Aiona said. “This year, the new technology made the mission run smoother, allowing us to just focus on getting the job done.”

Throughout the exercise, communications remained uninterrupted, enabling commanders and units to coordinate effectively across the battlespace.

The mission also provided valuable experience for Soldiers across components and services.

“This is a great opportunity for them to work alongside our Australian allies and other partner nations while gaining invaluable real-world experience,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel

Stroud, senior enlisted leader 311th SC (T).

For the 307th ESB-E, Talisman Sabre 2025 reinforced its role as a critical theater asset supporting U.S. Army Pacific operations across the Indo-Pacific, while giving Soldiers another opportunity to sharpen their skills and execute their craft in a real-world, multinational environment. 

Opposite Page: U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Stroud, 311th Signal Command (Theater) Command Sergeant Major shakes hands with Sgt. Luis Ortiz-Rubio, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced A. Co. 1st Plt. after a visit to the network trailer supporting Exercise Talisman Sabre 25 in Queensland, Australia, July 17, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sean McCallon)

Top: Australian Army Private Jordan Duffy, with 1st Military Police Battalion, exchanges flags with U.S. Army Cpl. Jeremy Quillope, with 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced SNN, while working together for Exercise Talisman Sabre 25 in Queensland, Australia, July 16, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sean McCallon)

PACIFIC SIGNAL PARTNERSHIP A VISIT WITH PHILIPPINE ARMY AND INDUSTRY

STORY BY SPC. ANDREW QUEMADO, 311TH SC (T) PAO



The 311th Signal Command (Theater) command team completed a series of engagements in the Philippines, aimed at strengthening allied communications capabilities and advancing multinational signal partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region.

The official visit began in Manila with an office call involving Lt. Gen. Joel B. Vowell, U.S. Army Pacific deputy commanding general and senior general officers of the Philippine Army. These engagements focused on bolstering the interoperability

and cooperation between signal elements of both nations.

As part of the itinerary, the command team visited the Philippine Army Signal Regiment headquarters at Fort Andres Bonifacio in Taguig City. Brig. Gen. Jamel Samonte, Philippine Army Signal Regiment commanding General, welcomed Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, 311th SC (T) commanding general, with formal military honors. Following the ceremony, the Philippine Army provided a briefing on signal capabilities and organizational structure.

“I was impressed by the professionalism of their signal

regiment and their commitment to collaborating closely to improve interoperability. It highlights the strength of our partnership,” Phariss said. “Opportunities like this allow us to exchange ideas, strengthen relationships, and identify new opportunities for cooperation moving forward.”

The visit to Fort Bonifacio marked the beginning of enhanced professional relationships, laying the foundation for future visits and regular exchanges between the two countries. The 311th and Philippine Army Signal Regiment emphasized their commitment to building stronger ties and recognized the importance of effective communications in supporting joint and multinational operations.

“I see our partnership growing through more frequent exchanges, joint training, and technical cooperation,” Phariss said. “As both our forces modernize, we’ll continue building interoperability to ensure we can operate seamlessly together across the Indo-Pacific region.”

Following engagements in Metro Manila, the team then proceeded to Clark, Pampanga, for a visit with deployed Soldiers from the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced



currently supporting exercises in the Philippines. Phariss spoke with the team and presented Soldiers with coins of excellence for their work. The command team conducted a movement to Subic Bay, where they toured a defense contractor site operated by V2X, a defense partner in

the region. The visit provided an opportunity to assess current capabilities and explore potential avenues for future collaboration.

The command team's visit to the Philippines highlighted the shared commitment between the U.S. and Philippine Armies to strengthen communication

interoperability and build lasting professional relationships. As regional challenges evolve, continued partnership and signal integration will be essential to ensuring readiness and mission success across the Indo-Pacific. 

Opposite Page: Brig. Gen. Ray Phariss, 311th Signal Command (Theater) commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Stroud, 311th SC (T) senior enlisted advisor, meet with Brig. Gen. Jamel Samonte, Philippine Army Signal Regiment commanding general at Fort Andres Bonifacio in Taguig City, Philippines, Apr. 28, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

Top: The 311th Signal Command (Theater) command team tours a V2X defense contractor site in Subic Bay, Philippines, Apr. 29, 2025. The 311th SC (T) command team toured sites throughout Subic Bay to assess current capabilities and explore opportunities for future collaboration. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)

Bottom Left: The 311th Signal Command (Theater) command team meets with Soldiers of the 307th ESB-E on exercise in the Philippines, Apr. 29, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Quemado)



JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA

INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

59TH SIGNAL BATTALION MENTORS AMYA

STORY BY CAPT. SAMUEL B. MEAUX, 59TH SIG. BN.



Soldiers from the 59th Signal Battalion regularly spend time alongside cadets at the Alaska Military Youth Academy, supporting physical training, mentorship and leadership development activities as part of an ongoing partnership between the two organizations.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy's ChalleNGe Program is a 22-week residential program for youth ages 16 to 18. The program focuses on eight core areas, including academic

excellence, leadership, physical fitness, responsible citizenship and service to the community. Following graduation, cadets enter a year-long post-residential phase, where they continue their education, enter the workforce or pursue military service.

As part of the battalion's "North to the Future" Profession of Arms Campaign, the 59th Signal Battalion has partnered with AMYA over the past two years to support youth development efforts and strengthen community engagement.

Located on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AMYA is an accredited special-purpose school operated by the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Since opening in 1994, the academy has graduated more than 6,600 cadets from across Alaska.

Throughout each class cycle, Soldiers from the battalion participate in a variety of academy events. Weekly physical training sessions bring Soldiers and cadets together to focus on fitness, teamwork and discipline.



Soldiers also support AMYA's Day One orientation activities and assist with events such as physical fitness testing and field trips.

During a recent class cycle, Soldiers and Department of the

Army Civilians conducted mock interviews with cadets, providing an opportunity for participants to practice communication skills and prepare for future employment and educational opportunities.

For Soldiers, the partnership provides opportunities to develop leadership skills outside of traditional military training environments. Leading physical training sessions and mentoring cadets allows Soldiers to apply Army leadership principles while supporting a local youth program.

While AMYA's mission is not military recruiting, some graduates choose to continue their service through enlistment in the Armed Forces. The academy reported that approximately 15 to 20 percent of graduates pursue military service opportunities following completion of the program.

The partnership between the 59th Signal Battalion and AMYA continues through recurring academy events and volunteer opportunities, connecting Soldiers with cadets while supporting youth development efforts across Alaska. ☒



Opposite Page: U.S. Army Soldiers with the 59th Signal Battalion lead Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets through a physical training session at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 59th Sig. Bn.)

Top: Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets color guard stand in formation.. The academy emphasizes leadership, discipline and responsible citizenship as part of its 22-week program. (Photo courtesy of AMYA)

Left: U.S. Army Soldier with the 59th Signal Battalion assists Alaska Military Youth Academy cadets during Day One orientation at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. Soldiers regularly volunteer during orientation activities, helping cadets transition into the academy's 22-week residential Challenge Program. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 59th Sig. Bn.)

LOPBURI, KINGDOM OF THAILAND

307TH SOLDIERS PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT ACROSS THE THEATER

STORY BY STAFF SGT. NICOLAS CHOLULA 311TH SC (T) PAO

Soldiers with the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, Charlie Company, out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, demonstrate their adaptability during Joint Exercise Cobra Gold 25.

Originally assigned to support the 7th Infantry Division in Korat, Thailand, the signal team received orders to assist the 17th Field Artillery Brigade in Lopburi. Without hesitation, the team relocated the next day to ensure uninterrupted network services for the artillery unit.

“Our mission is to provide the network capabilities needed to execute the mission,” said Sgt. Christopher Singh, 307th ESB-E, Charlie Company team chief. “We’re delivering tactical voice and data support to the 17th FAB, allowing them to receive the information needed to calculate and execute fire missions accurately.”

The ability to rapidly deploy and establish communications is essential for supporting mobile artillery units operating in dispersed locations.

“Reliable communication is difficult to manage because our



Top: U.S. Army Spc. Stephen Engler (left) and Pvt. Dominique Bowie, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, Charlie Company, input coordinates into a satellite in Lop Buri, Thailand, Feb. 27, 2025, during exercise Cobra Gold 2025. The 307th ESB-E supported the 17th Field Artillery Brigade with voice and data services during the exercise. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sean McCallon)

launchers are often spread across multiple locations,” said Capt. Daniel Schell, an S4 representative with 1-3 Field Artillery Regiment, 17th FAB. “The more dispersed we are, the harder it is for the enemy to target us, but that also makes maintaining connectivity a challenge.”

The 307th ESB-E uses the Hawkeye and baseband systems to establish reliable communications. The Hawkeye terminal connects to

a geostationary satellite, providing internet access anywhere in the world. The baseband system then encrypts and distributes that data, allowing the artillery unit to stay connected.

“If needed, our system could handle something as simple as streaming a video call, but its primary function is to ensure mission-critical data flows without interruption,” Singh said. “We provide an alternative to HF and



MUOS, serving as a backup if those systems go down. Still, our network is more reliable and allows for greater operational reach.”

Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Vivas, the battalion’s S3 current operations noncommissioned officer in charge, said this exercise marked the first time a battalion element has deployed alongside a signal team.

“This is significant because it allows the team to focus entirely on their job while we handle coordination at higher levels,”

Vivas said. “We communicate mission changes and ensure they have the logistical support needed to stay operational.”

The team’s ability to move and establish communications on short notice has been a key asset during the exercise.

“We can deploy anywhere in the theater on a day’s notice,” Vivas said. “Once we arrive, we can have our systems set up and operational in 20 to 30 minutes.”

This capability ensures that units like the 17th FAB stay connected

and execute their missions without delay.

“Being here proves that our unit can operate in any environment,” Singh said. “Wherever we’re needed, we can provide the tactical communications necessary for mission success.”

Cobra Gold is one of the largest multinational exercises in the Indo-Pacific, strengthening interoperability and relationships among participating nations. The exercise enhances readiness across a range of military operations, including humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and combined security training. 🇺🇸



Top: U.S. Army Soldiers with the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, Charlie Company and Bravo Battery, 1-3 Field Artillery, 17th Field Artillery Brigade pose for a group photo with the Royal Thai Army in Lop Buri, Thailand, Feb. 27, 2025. The two forces met for a subject matter expert exchange, a demonstration to strengthen relationships between nations during Joint Exercise Cobra Gold 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sean McCallon)

Left: U.S. Army Spc. Stephen Engler with the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced, Charlie Company, repositions a satellite from a laptop in the back of a tactical vehicle in Lop Buri, Thailand, Feb. 27, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sean McCallon)

In Memoriam

A Heartfelt Farewell



Command Sgt. Maj. Verne James Washington, Sr.

May 8, 1966 - May 23, 2024

During his tenure with the 311th SC (T), Command Sgt. Maj. Washington Sr. served honorably as operations sergeant major with the 30th Signal Battalion from 2007-2008, and as the battalion command sergeant major for the 307th ESB-E from 2008-2010.

Washington, Sr. was a recipient of both the Bronze and Silver Orders of Mercury, prestigious Signal Regimental Corps Association awards reserved for those who have demonstrated utmost dedication and improvement to the U.S. Army Signal Regiment.

As an operational planner, Verne was a key enabler for the signal community, and a leader of Soldiers. In fulfilling the myriad roles of an Army leader, he touched many lives, and will be long remembered for his contributions to the U.S. Army Signal Corps, and more importantly, to those with whom he served and led.



John H. Romero III

November 12, 1968 - April 20, 2023

Throughout his life, John exemplified dedication, patriotism and integrity,' said his former division chief, Danny Torrez. "He was a loving father that was proud of his daughters and committed to bettering their futures. He was a proud veteran of the US Army. He enlisted at the age of 17 and retired as an E-8, first sergeant, at the age of 37. Following the Army, he pursued a career in the information technology field, which lead him to work sites around the world, and ultimately found a home in Hawaii and a job he loved in the U.S. Army Regional Cyber

Center-Pacific.

John enjoyed computer gaming during his down time and that passion was shared by his youngest daughter, Nadine. They would often meet online to play a game and chat a little about life. He followed Delaney, his oldest daughter's, career and interests closely and encouraged her by supporting her passions in whatever way needed. John often lived far away from his daughters, but he did his best to stay an active part of their lives.

John was close to the people he worked with, and they were invaluable to his daughters while they were at their father's side during his final days. John was a father, a brother, a grandson, and a friend. John would hate this tribute, almost as much as he hated vegetables. However, he would understand as he was loved by his RCC-P team and deserves this. He is missed every day, and his RCC-P team continues to honor his memory with an annual potluck.



Staff Sgt. Namjin "Jimmy" Cho

March 22, 1973 - December 10, 2025

Born in Seoul, Korea, Namjin "Jimmy" Cho devoted his life to serving others through military service, family and community. He dedicated 17 years to military service in the United States, first serving eight years in the U.S. Navy before continuing his career in the U.S. Army as a staff sergeant. Throughout his military service, he demonstrated professionalism, dedication and an unwavering commitment to others.

Beyond his service in uniform, Jimmy became a respected member of Southern California's pickleball community. Whether competing, coaching or encouraging new players, he generously shared his time and experience. Friends knew him for his kindness, humility and willingness to help, leaving a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Above all, Jimmy was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Heather, and their children, Eunice, Janice and Noah. He will be remembered for a life defined by service, quiet strength, generosity and the lasting impact he made on his family, friends and community.



Robert "David" Guions

March 17, 1963 – January 30, 2026

David Guions faithfully served his nation and teammates through years of dedicated logistical support and quiet professionalism. From 2012 to 2013, he deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, as a general supply specialist with the U.S. Army Sustainment Command in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He continued his federal service with the U.S. Coast Guard in Baltimore, Maryland, from 2013 to 2019 before joining the Defense Logistics Agency in Gerresheimer, Germany, from 2019 to 2021. In 2021, he joined the 52d Signal

Battalion in Stuttgart, Germany.

From April 2023 to January 2026, Guions served with the 59th Signal Battalion at the United States Alaska Network Enterprise Center, where he managed property and supply operations in support of mission readiness. Throughout his career, his behind-the-scenes efforts were essential to mission success and the care of those he served alongside. He will be remembered for his steady dedication, professionalism and commitment to service.

His awards and decorations include the USCG Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Non-Article V NATO Medal, multiple Certificates of Achievement for Outstanding Work Performance in Afghanistan and Kosovo, and numerous Commander's Coins for Excellence and Appreciation.

Guions is survived by his daughter and son, Aisha and Joshua Guions.

You will be truly missed.

TO OUR SUSTAINERS

WHO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES

Your dedication may not always be seen but its impact is felt in every mission.

Your commitment, your professionalism and your support keep the force moving forward.

Thank you for always making the mission possible.



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@311thSignalCmd



@311th Signal Command - Theater

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

A mission of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs Office is to tell the stories of all our Soldiers, Civilians and Families in our command throughout the Pacific theater. We continually seek stories, new perspectives and new voices that may be of interest to our readers. Story ideas, written articles, photos or questions may be sent to the 311th at: usarmy.shafter.311-sig-cmd.list.311-sig-cmd-pao@army.mil