

Why “go Signal”?
In war or peace, “opportunity”
sums it up in one word



Why “go Signal”?

“Regardless of your academic major, you’ll find the Signal Regiment to be a rewarding, challenging branch. The skills you’ll develop are more critical today than ever before.” – Lt. Col. Steve Bullock, Signal Corps branch representative, U.S. Military Academy (West Point)

Why “go Signal”?

Information and information technology have had significance in America's wars since World War II, but IT is taking a geometric leap in importance as the U.S. Army enters the 21st century. The Army's IT provider, the U.S. Army Signal Regiment, is poised to lead the nation's defense into the 21st century with rapid and reliable information systems and services, but it needs smart, highly motivated people in its officer, warrant officer and enlisted ranks to help fully use its capabilities.

Technology is growing faster than anyone could ever have imagined, and career opportunities in the Signal Regiment for capable young men and women are great. Not only is the Signal Regiment important to the Army, but there are the personal benefits as well: the Signal Regiment provides good career opportunities for anyone, and skills gained are attractive to post-Army employers.

Why “go Signal”?



U.S. soldiers use a field radio during Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, 1983. Mobile radios and other equipment are part of the communications links the Signal Regiment provides in war and peacetime.

Importance to Army

The next war will be won or lost based on the Signal Regiment’s ability to get information to the warfighter; the victor will be the one with “information dominance.” The Signal Regiment’s mission – and why it needs the best and brightest to join its ranks -- is to ensure America wins that information war.

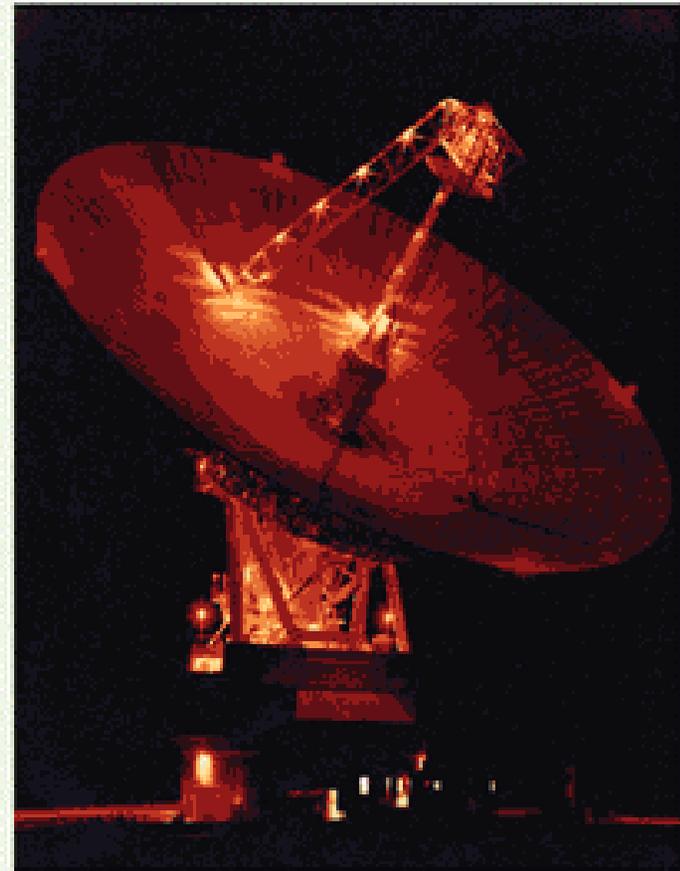
Why “go Signal”?

The Signal Regiment is one of the Army's largest and most diverse branches. It supplies worldwide information systems and networks for the Army, joint Defense Department and combined forces with allied nations.

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

Why “go Signal”?

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



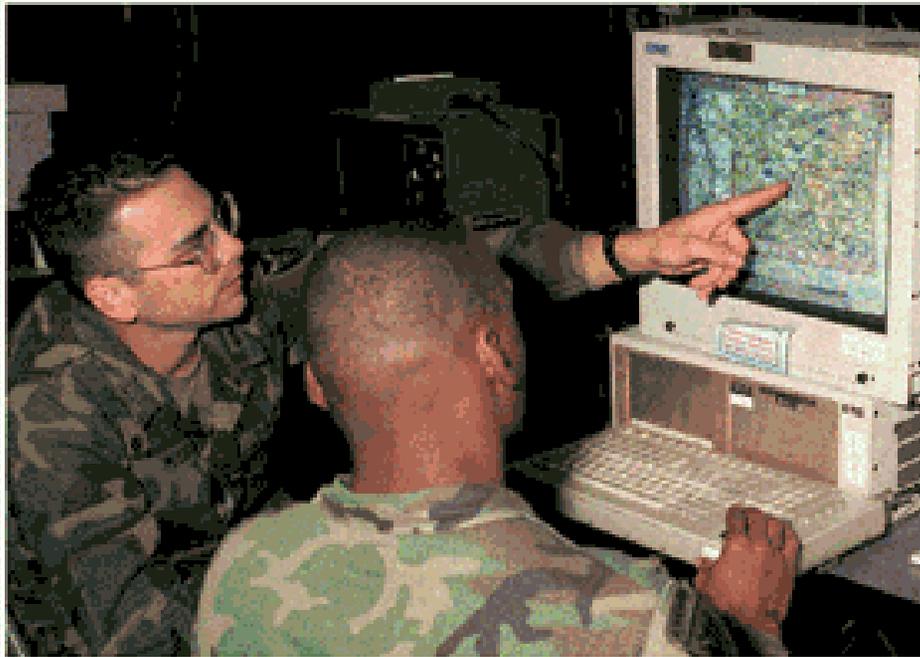
Satellite terminals at Signal installations help link warfighters worldwide.

Why “go Signal”?

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

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

Why “go Signal”?



Computers in the integrated systems control center at Fort Hood, Texas, are part of the Army's digitized force of the future. The Signal Regiment is instrumental in digitizing and modernizing the U.S. Army.

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

Why “go Signal”?

Signal officers work closely with their Regimental counterparts (Functional Area 24 and Functional Area 53 officers) to provide seamless, secure, consistent and dynamic information systems at all levels supporting Army, joint and combined warfighting missions. In particular, Signal officers coordinate and plan the information systems operations piece (installation, operation and maintenance) of the information exchange; FA 24 officers engineer the networks (telecommunication and data communication) portion of the information pipeline; and FA 53 officers manage the information systems (mostly LANs) to ensure needed information is provided to the right decision-maker.



Spec. Brian Gavin of 55th Combat Camera Company transmits digital images from Haiti to the Joint Combat Camera Center in the United States using an Inmarsat transceiver. The Signal Regiment's combat camera soldiers provide images to commanders-in-chief for near-real-time information.

Why “go Signal”?

Signal Regiment officers supply technical and tactical expertise to provide decision-makers with communications, data and other multimedia instruments to gain information dominance on the battlefield. They integrate information systems (military and commercial) that provide real-time details to higher, lower and adjacent units almost simultaneously. Whether it's through videoteleconferencing, mobile subscriber equipment, fax, email or commercial access, Regimental officers ensure the information gets to the right place at the right time.

Why “go Signal”?



Capt. Stephanie Allen, right, and 1st Lt. Glenn Kim, both of 93d Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon, Ga., brief their deputy brigade commander, Lt. Col. Janet Zimmerman, on communications' status in a line-of-sight radio van. The Signal Regiment provides good career opportunities for both men and women.

Personal benefits

Besides the technical-skill development involved in automating and getting information, voice and data, and transmitting or transferring it, the Signal Regiment develops leadership skills, organized thinking, ability to communicate orally or in writing, time-management and adaptability/flexibility skills. Industry actively recruits former military members, especially Signal Regiment soldiers, because of their technical knowledge and the work ethic they bring to the workplace.

Why “go Signal”?

According to a recent labor market trend report, the 10 most coveted *transferable* job skills in today’s employment market are: budget management, supervisory, public relations, time management, negotiation-arbitration, speaking, writing, organization and management, interviewing and teaching skills. Besides technical skills, corporate America is looking for people who can manage their time, be punctual and meet deadlines, present a good appearance and be a team player – skills developed and fine-tuned in the Signal Regiment.



Sometimes Signal Regiment soldiers are called upon in other ways besides for their technical and soldiering expertise. Here 1st Lt. Fernando Montoya of 93d Signal Brigade visits a child in an orphanage in El Salvador while his unit was deployed to restore communications in Central America after Hurricane Mitch's destruction.

Why “go Signal”?

For example, Signal Regiment second lieutenants are immediately thrust into positions of great responsibility. They are entrusted with the health, welfare and morale of some 50 soldiers and about \$15 million worth of equipment. Few jobs in the civilian job market offer a fresh college graduate that level of responsibility. As Signal platoon leaders, lieutenants will be responsible for accomplishing a difficult mission: ensuring their piece of the Army’s global communications network is operating effectively.

After serving as platoon leaders, Signal officers are often assigned as Signal company executive officers. The executive officer is second-in-command of the Signal company and its roughly 160 soldiers and \$36 million worth of equipment. The executive officer also manages the company budget and company maintenance operations.

Why “go Signal”?

The new century presents some tremendous challenges for the Signal Regiment because the Regiment is charged with leading the Army into the Knowledge Age. The Signal Regiment offers great opportunities for young men and women seeking mental and physical challenges. We're an organization rich in heritage and with an exciting future. We take pride in the contributions we've made, and in the role we're playing and will continue to play in ensuring our country's freedom and safety.

We hope you'll join us. See your Army ROTC Signal branch representative on campus for more information on how. Also, for more information on “going Signal,” visit the “Go Signal” website at <http://www.gordon.army.mil/regtnktg/gosghome.htm>.