

From the Editor ...

If you are reading this, I am going to assume that you currently serve – or have served – in the military at some point. And whether you enlisted or commissioned, had extensive knowledge of the military or joined “blindly,” I am also going to assume (for the sake of this editorial) that you had *some* sort of preconceived idea of what to expect. And then ... reality set in.

The Spring 2026 Army Communicator theme is going to be particularly challenging for some of you, and we hope you are willing to take on the challenge. Simply put, the theme is: **Expectations vs. Reality**.

Arguably more complex than previous themes, this topic is intended to be thought-provoking with potential to lead to real change.

Think back to before you joined the military. We want to know what some of your expectations were and whether those expectations were met – from day-to-day responsibilities, opportunities for personal and professional growth, equipment assigned (or not assigned) to you as part of your job, your leadership (the good and less-than-stellar), the culture as a whole and everything in between. Think through your personal experiences. Begin by sharing what expectations you had, then reflect on how close – or how far – those expectations came to (or ended up far from) reality. Consider closing with suggestions/ideas on ways the military could change (transform) for the betterment of its people and organization. What advice would you offer someone whose service recently began and who is facing challenges of their own?

Please understand that this is *not* a call to complain nor the platform to air grievances. It is a call (directly from leadership) to spend time being introspective, which leads to growth. It is also an opportunity to bring forth ideas and possible solutions to leadership – right here – in the Signal Regiment. Perhaps equally important is that you have fellow Signaleers who might read what you write and have something to say in response. Professional discourse is the heart of the [Harding Project](#) and the direction in which all the Army journals are going as they evolve. If you are still unfamiliar with what this means, I urge you to bring yourself up to speed on it. Whether you joined in recent months or have decades in, you have something worth sharing. This is the time to get it out there! Now for a few admin notes ...

If your article does not meet the standards outlined below in the submission guidelines, it may not wind up published. Priority will go to submissions that are most relevant to the Signal Regiment, support the Harding Project’s intent to generate professional discourse, and are in line with the present quarter’s theme.

To read about what some of the other branches are up to, visit [Line of Departure](#), where you will find all of the Army’s professional journals housed. If you have not subscribed to the [Harding Project Substack](#), please take a moment to sign up. At minimum, check it out. It was created by one of the Harding Project’s original founders and is currently managed by the director/deputy director of the Harding Project. The Harding Project is evolving, which means the Army Communicator is also evolving.



Laura M. Levering
Editor, U.S. Army Signal School



Submission guidelines

Articles need to be sent in Word. Photos and graphics must be attached **separately** (*not embedded* in Word). Include a description of each photo/graphic along with the rank, full name, and unit of person who took the photo (or created graphic). Acronyms **must be spelled out** on first reference, with the abbreviation of the term acceptable on subsequent reference. Between 500 and about 2,000 words per article is ideal. This helps ensure a minimum of one page and maximum of four pages in publication layout (depending on photos, etc.). Use **APA** format when citing sources.

Spring 2026 theme: Expectations vs. Reality

Spring 2026 deadline: March 6