

Signal Professionals are at the Center of Rapid Transformation

Team Signal,

The commandant's theme for this quarter, "Expectations vs. Reality," strikes a chord that resonates at every echelon of our Noncommissioned Officer Corps. As the backbone of the Regiment, NCOs are the ones who turn strategic vision into tactical reality. We are navigating the most significant force design and training overhaul in decades, requiring us to be brutally honest about where we *are* and where we *need* to be.

The reality of the modern battlefield demands that we move faster than our legacy systems allow. To that end, we are fundamentally changing how we equip and train the force. We are aggressively divesting of outdated WIN-T systems and terminology that no longer serve the mission. We cannot expect our Soldiers to be experts if they are bogged down by the "how we've always done it" mentality. In the Signal School, we have already updated over 70% of our programs of instruction (POI), removing platform-specific training in favor of foundational core concepts, while still applying those fundamentals to hands-on training. We are training the "Why," not just the "How."

The feedback the 4th Infantry Division's series of Ivy Sting exercises, common troubleshooting failures demonstrated by Signaleers during combat training center (CTC) rotations, and pre-test data collected during S-MART (Signal-Mobile Advanced Readiness Training), the Signal-Digital Master Gunner (S-DMG) course, and PME (Professional Military Education) MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) Competency testing have all provided a harsh reality check for the Signal Regiment. It has reinforced the need for a robust Basic Communicator Module—ensuring every Advanced Individual Training graduate arrives at their unit with a baseline of technical competence. Furthermore, we are evolving our PME to meet the speed of the force. By reducing the length of the Advanced Leader Course and Senior Leader Course to five weeks while also interweaving NCO Common Core throughout the POI, we will return NCOs to their formations faster while ensuring they are assessed on true MOS competency rather than just attendance.

To bridge the gap between institutional learning and unit requirements, we are leaning heavily into S-MART and a reimagined S-DMG course. These programs are designed specifically for our mid-grade NCOs under the train-the-trainer model. We must equip our NCOs, the primary trainers, with technical expertise and intellectual curiosity to be able to master any piece of equipment placed in their hands through a foundational understanding of routing, switching, and signal flow. The new S-DMG will be the expert who empowers the commander by informing modernized, technical training plans that fit the specific needs of their unit assisting in the assessment of that training. Home station training remains a critical part of building and maintaining our expertise.

As we look toward the future, we must also honor those who set the standard for adaptability. Nominations for Distinguished Member of the Regiment are open through April 30. I encourage our leaders to look across their formations and nominate those trailblazers who have spent their careers "Getting the Message Through."

The path forward requires us to be agile, technically proficient, and unafraid to leave old systems behind. Whether it is in the Signal School or at home station, our mission remains the same: provide the commander with a network that wins.

Signal Proud! Signal Strong!

***Command Sgt. Maj. Lisa M. Gandy,
26th Regimental Command Sergeant Major***

