

## Warrant officers perfectly positioned to bridge NIE gaps

Signaleers,

This edition of the *Army Communicator* touches on one of my favorite topics of late, the Network Integration Evaluation, or NIE. Part of the rationale for establishing the NIE under the agile process was to stop the trend of bringing the newest technologies and devices directly into theater and relying on the units in combat to integrate them into the network while hoping to do no harm. Many of you were assigned to such units and did a brilliant job; but the Generating Force needed to relieve our operational end users, especially those in combat, of the burden of integrating these new technologies and IT devices into our current networks.

However, the NIE is not the panacea of all problems. In fact, it may have created or at least magnified issues that must be addressed sooner than later. This is where I am calling upon our warrant officer Community of Influence to best shape our future. We have placed senior Signal warrant officers at strategic positions to help shape the future network. Such positions include the J6, CIO/G6, G3/5/7, G8, the Brigade Modernization Command, the Combat Training Centers, within our Signal Center in our Directorate of Training and Capability Development Integration Directorate, the Combined Arms Support Command, within the Mission Command Center of Excellence, as well as in the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology System of Systems Integration Directorate.

What is it this Community of Influence needs to do? Help shape the network and networked devices into a system of systems that meet the operational capabilities required to maintain an overwhelming advantage over our adversaries, while ensuring the network is manageable by our current compliment of Signaleers and defensible against adversarial activity. Simple! Well, not so simple but gravely important.

These and similar positions will begin to further integrate and synchronize as an entity to better capture user needs into technologies and systems better supportable under our evolving Network Operations construct. When two similar solutions provide equivalent capabilities, the Community of Influence will do their best to ensure that the one that is least disruptive to the network, more intuitive to the operators and maintainers, and further in line with LWN2020 and JIE concepts is

recognized as such.

From capability development through concepts of operation and adjustments to training of Signal personnel, this Community of Influence must holistically analyze and manage these incremental modernizations and help guide our senior leaders to make informed decisions on a path forward for procuring and integrating technologies.

Again, thank you for your dedication and service in being ever Watchful for Our Country.

**Pro Patria Vigilans!**

