

U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

contact: paoci@eur.army.mil
phone: 49-6221-57-5815 / DSN 370-5815
fax: 49-6221-57-6376 / DSN 370-6376



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5th Signal Command hosts 'summit' to discuss future of signal projects and operations

By Kristopher Joseph

5th Signal Command Public Affairs Office

MANNHEIM, Germany -- 5th Signal Command hosted a "signal summit" to "discuss the current state of the Army's global military signal operations and future endeavors and projects to build a global network enterprise that enables every warfighter," from Oct. 27 to Oct. 31.

The 5th joined with two sister theater signal commands and the Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command (Army) for the five-day event at its headquarters on Funari Barracks here.

"This is a historic opportunity," said Brig. Gen. (P) Susan S. Lawrence, NETCOM commanding general and former 5th Signal commander. "We can improve global services by synchronizing our support and replicating our most successful applications."



KRISTOPHER JOSEPH

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith Jr., commander, 5th Signal Command (right), Brig. Gen. (P) Susan S. Lawrence, commander, Network Enterprise Technology Command / 9th Signal Command (center) and Brig. Gen. Jennifer Napper, commander, 7th Signal Command (Theater) (left), discuss current and future signal missions during a 'summit' hosted by 5th Signal on Funari Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, Oct. 27 to Oct. 31.

NETCOM operates and defends the Army LandWarNet, which is the service's portion of the Global Information Grid.

Joining Lawrence was Brig. Gen. Jeffrey G. Smith Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command; 7th

Signal Command (Theater) Commander Brig. Gen. Jennifer Napper and her brigade commanders; command sergeants major and operations officers; and Brig. Gen. James T. Walton, provisional commander of the 335th Signal Command (Theater).

During the summit, each command gave a briefing to the staff and subordinate brigade leaders who participated in the event. The main points of discussion centered on ways of developing and expanding the Global Network Enterprise Construct and the Network Service Center construct.

The NSC represents the operational dimension of the Army enterprise network within the larger joint enterprise that will provide significant improvements in computer network defense and will consolidate and streamline data and communication bases in order to provide a continuity of services to the warfighter, 5th Signal officials said.

One key signal goal is to give warfighters the same data and network capabilities regardless if they are at home station or deployed in an austere environment, officials added.

"It is imperative that all theater signal commands work together to truly build a global network enterprise," said Smith.

Visiting leaders also had an opportunity to tour the Landstuhl Regional Hub Node and the Kaiserslautern Area Processing Center.

5th Signal Command is U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army's communications arm, and is responsible for enabling information dominance to Europe's warfighters, according to the command's mission statement. 7th Signal's mission is to operate and defend the continental U.S. portion of the LandWarNet.

The 335th is the senior Army signal organization operating in Southwest Asia in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.



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