

**SOUTHWESTERN
SIGNAL CORPS
TRAINING CENTER**



**First Anniversary
15 December 1952**

CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Camp San Luis Obispo, California, a Class I installation under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, Sixth Army was redesignated a Class II installation under the jurisdiction of the Chief Signal Officer effective 15 December 1951 per General Orders Number 99, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D.C., dated 16 November 1951. This was the first step in the establishment of the Southwestern Signal Corps Training Center as we know it today.

The Southwestern Signal Replacement Training Center and the Southwestern Signal School were established by the above orders also effective 15 December 1951. Subsequent orders closed Headquarters Camp San Luis Obispo and activated the Southwestern Signal Corps Training Center.

Today, on its First Anniversary, the Southwestern Signal Corps Training Center is one of the major Signal Corps installations in the United States, providing basic, technical and tactical training for Army communication personnel.

HISTORY
OF
CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO

Camp San Luis Obispo was first activated in 1927 as a National Guard camp. Due to the world situation, work was begun in 1940 for expanding the camp. It was completed in 1941, at which time California's 40th National Guard Division commenced extensive training. The camp was federalized in 1941 and other Army divisions including the 7th, 35th, 6th, 81st, 96th, 97th, and 86th received training at this installation. The 104th Infantry Division was brought to Camp San Luis Obispo from extensive action in Europe under Major General Terry Allen, famed for action in North Africa, and was deactivated at the Japanese surrender. Deactivated at the same time was the famous VII Corps, commanded by General J Lawton Collins, present chief of staff.

In 1946, Camp San Luis Obispo was deactivated by the Federal Government and returned to the State of California to be used once again as a National Guard installation.

Under the stress of the Korean action, Camp San Luis Obispo was federalized for the second time in December 1951. The Southwestern Signal Corps Training Center was activated here during the same month as a Class II activity under control of the Chief Signal Officer. It became the third Signal Corps Training Center, the other two being Signal Corps Training Center at Camp Gordon, Georgia and the Signal Corps Center at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWESTERN SIGNAL CORPS TRAINING CENTER
AND
CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO



Brigadier General Harry Reichelderfer
COMMANDING GENERAL

Colonel Merle C. Bowsky
CHIEF OF STAFF AND DEPUTY POST COMMANDER

Lt Col Ernest E. Knight
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

GENERAL STAFF

Major John A. Norman
SECRETARY TO THE GENERAL STAFF

Lt Col Royal S. Copeland
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1

Captain Henry J. McGee
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2

Lt Col Matthew C. Mautz
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3

Lt Col Edgar F. Hoffman
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-4

Major Earl H. Holland
ACTING COMPTROLLER

Major Paul Johnson
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Lt James CL Cafferty
AIDE-DE-CAMP

SPECIAL STAFF

ADJUTANT GENERALMajor E. C. McLaughlin
CHAPLAIN Captain R. K. Meade
CHEMICAL OFFICER Captain C. B. Wiley
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL Mr. K. J. Dunsire
DENTAL SURGEON Lt Col L. D. Barth
ENGINEER OFFICER Col G. A. Webster
EXCHANGE SERVICE Capt B. M. Collbran
FINANCE OFFICER Major G. A. Seamands
MILITARY PERSONNEL , Captain J. B. Hirschy
ORDNANCE OFFICER Major L. J. Brand
PROPERTY DISPOSAL Mr. G. Kohmann
PROVOST MARSHALMajor T. F. Stuart
PUBLIC INFORMATION Mr. Samuel Levinson
PURCHASING AND CONTRACTINGCaptain E. L. Chaput
QUARTERMASTERLt Col M. F. Saul
SAFETY OFFICER Mr. H. Vogt
SIGNAL OFFICER Major E. C. Vernon
STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE Captain R. A. Palmrose
SPECIAL SERVICE Major S. D. Darrah
SURGEON Lt Col J. S. Cirilot
TRANSPORTATION OFFICER Lt Col L. F. Garner

SOUTHWESTERN SIGNAL REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER

Col Marlin S. Moody
COMMANDING OFFICER

Lt Col George Lennox
DEPUTY COMMANDER

SWSRTC STAFF

Lt Col M. W. Heskett
S3

Major M. F. Meyers
S1

Captain F. W. Scaplen
S4

Captain E. T. Stanley
ADJUTANT

BASIC TRAINING GROUP

Lt Col J. A. McClung
COMMANDING OFFICER

TECHNICAL TRAINING GROUP

Lt Col L. F. Kruse
COMMANDING OFFICER

LEADERS COURSE

Major R. O. White

As a Class II activity of the Chief Signal Officer assigned to the Southwestern Signal Corps Training Center, the Replacement Training Center has the mission of training individuals in such specialties and subjects as the Department of Army may direct. First group of trainees arrived and were assigned for training on 1 February 1952.

To train newly-inducted men to be soldiers, the Replacement Training Center has the Basic Training Group where they learn basic military subjects, including rifle marksmanship, first aid, map reading, camouflage and concealment, military courtesy, squad tactics and individual protection.

In the Technical Training Group the individual learns to be a Signal Corps technician in one of the five following fields: teletypewriter operation, signal message clerk, pole line construction, telephone switchboard operation and telephone installing-repairing.

At the Leaders' Course, selected volunteers are trained in the requirements for leading Signal Corps units as non-commissioned officers.

In addition to the training mission, the Replacement Training Center also provides administration and logistical support for the Southwestern Signal School Troop Battalion. Headquarters and overhead personnel and some instructors are assigned to Headquarters and Instructor Company, 9603 Technical Service Unit.

ORIENTATION OF BASIC TRAINEES IN POST THEATER



TECHNICAL TRAINING



LEADERSHIP TRAINING



SOUTHWESTERN SIGNAL SCHOOL

Lt Col Carl H Sturges
COMMANDANT

Lt Col H. W. Sibert
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT & S3

Capt J. B. McDonald
ADJUTANT & S1

Lt Col T J Palik
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Capt J. H. McEldowney
S4

Major J. A. Green
SCHOOL SECRETARY

The Southwestern Signal School was established effective 1 December 1951 under authority contained in Department of the Army General Orders Number 99 dated 16 November 1951.

Initial instructors and cadre came from Fort Monmouth and Camp Gordon, with additional personnel from posts, camps, and stations in the continental United States as well as overseas returnees.

The School opened on schedule with the first class of students entering training 7 April 1952. Students are drawn from graduates of the Southwestern Signal Replacement Center and Army Field Forces quotas. Resident instruction is offered enlisted personnel in the following specialties: Cable Splicing, Cryptography, Field Radio Repair, High Speed Radio Operation, Manual Central Office Maintenance, Repeater and Carrier Installation and Maintenance, and Still Photography and Photographic Laboratory.

Latest changes to the training program include inauguration of field training exercises designed to integrate all courses of instruction and to provide experience under field conditions in which all students participate prior to graduation, and the installation of a closed circuit television station which is utilized for training.

SOUTHWESTERN SIGNAL SCHOOL

TRAINING ACTIVITIES



505TH SIGNAL GROUP

Colonel Ernest C Wood
COMMANDING OFFICER

Lt Col William E. Jennings
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

505TH SIGNAL GROUP

Colonel Ernest C. Wood
COMMANDING

Captain M. Hassett	S1
Lt Col J. E. Foster	S2, S3
Lt Col F. H. Wright	S4
Lt Col W. M. Shepard	C.O., 16th Sig Bn Corps
Lt Col J. L. Best	C.O., 303rd Sig Svc Bn
Lt Col L. Drazen	C.O., 314th Sig Const Bn
Lt Col H. L. Heynen	C.O., 504th Sig Svc Bn
Major L. P. Kane	C.O., 509th Sig Svc Bn
Major J. Hinton	C.O., 76th Sig Svc Bn

The 505th Signal Group is a Class I activity under the command of Sixth Army and supervision of III Corps for training. The mission of the 505th Signal Group is to receive or activate Signal Corps units and detachments as directed by competent authority, and to train these units to perform their assigned missions by conducting necessary training as set forth in current Army Training Programs, and other pertinent directives, so as to insure that all units and personnel meet Preparation for Overseas Replacement and Preparation for Overseas Movement requirements.

The 505th Signal Group was activated on 20 August 1952 replacing the 1st Signal Service Group which was deactivated on this date. The 505th Signal Group (then known as the 1st Signal Service Group) was originally stationed at Camp Gordon, Georgia but was transferred to the Sixth Army in March of 1952. The group was stationed temporarily at Camp Cooke, California. Since activation, the group has fully trained three units that have since been transferred to an overseas theater. The remaining units are undergoing a continual program of technical training and testing maintaining them in a constant state of combat readiness.



Camp San Luis Obispo



East Garrison

West Garrison



TRAINING

28TH ARMY BAND - provides martial music for the many training activities and ceremonies of the Southwestern Signal Corps Training Center and the 505th Signal Group. The band includes two dance orchestras which play for social functions on the post.

15TH SIGNAL OPERATION COMPANY - assigned to the Southwestern Signal Corps Training Center for support of the field training program associated with the various courses of instruction offered by the Southwestern Signal Replacement Training Center and Southwestern Signal School. This unit provides the equipment and supervisory personnel required to operate the field training program.



ACTIVITIES

AVIATION SECTION

operates light Army aircraft, enabling students in the school system of the Southwestern Signal Corps Training Center to get first hand knowledge of the support this new branch of the Signal Corps can provide to the communication service.

TROOP INFORMATION AND EDUCATION - provides information and educational facilities and guidance for all personnel. It is the home of the post newspaper - 'The Transmitter'.

TRAINING AIDS

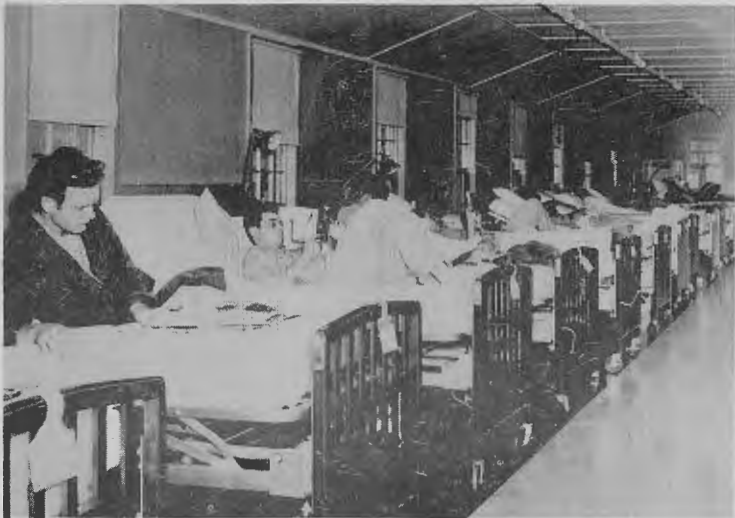
plans, develops and produces the majority of the charts and devices used at this training center for the rapid and complete technical training given the new Signal Corps soldier.

RANGE SECTION - supervises operation of and provides maintenance for the extensive small arms range system at Camp San Luis Obispo. These ranges offer valuable experience to the basic soldier of the Southwestern Signal Replacement Training Center as he progresses through his training.

FIELD TRAINING

provides the practical experience for the school trained technician under field conditions before he is assigned to a tactical Signal unit for duty.

The mission of the hospital is to furnish medical service to members of this command and to their dependents within limits of its capabilities. In addition to hospital care, out-patient service is furnished and two dispensaries are operated for the holding of sick call for the troops and to care for minor medical problems. The hospital also supervises hygiene and sanitation on the Post including the water supply, sewage disposal, garbage collection and disposal, mess inspections, food, meat, dairy, and poultry products, sanitation of the swimming pool, and living quarters.



MEDICAL SERVICE - furnishes hospital care for general type medical cases. The typical wards accommodate thirty patients. Diet kitchens equipped with electric stove, electric refrigerator, and electric dish washer are available. The beds are completely adjustable, latest design, with inner spring mattresses. Wards are steam heated throughout. A limited number of beds are available for female dependents. Isolation service is available for contagious cases in a ward specially set aside for this purpose.

SURGICAL SERVICE - furnishes surgical treatment and care for most types of general surgical cases. Typical wards are similar in size and equipment to the medical wards. The surgical service operates the Centralized Materiel Section which prepares and keeps in readiness the various sterile supplies throughout the hospital. There are two main operating rooms available, very modern, and capable of accommodating all types of surgical cases.

OUT-PATIENT SERVICE - furnishes out-patient service for dependents of service men of this command. Its staff is drawn from personnel of the medical and surgical services. In addition, a civilian physician, general practitioner, is assigned in order to add to the satisfaction of the service rendered. It averages servicing more than nine thousand visits per month.

LABORATORY AND X-RAY - the hospital operates its own laboratory and x-ray facilities. All routine procedures are within its capabilities. A fine new x-ray machine is on hand and will soon be installed to augment the facilities already in operation.

VETERINARY SERVICE - furnishes routine inspections of all foods including meats, fowl, and dairy products consumed on the Post. In addition, the Veterinary Officer in coordination with hospital authorities, serves as Sanitation Officer conducting inspection of kitchens, mess halls, store rooms, barracks, water supply, sewage and garbage disposal, swimming pool and post sanitation in general.

NURSING SERVICE - is composed of nurses of the Army Nurse Corps, supplemented by addition of civilian nurses. These nurses are constantly on duty, both day and night, ministering to the sick and giving words of encouragement and kindness to sufferers, many of whom are away from their homes for the first time. Many are the families who owe the presence of a brother, father, or husband to the hands of these nurses who have nursed the patient back to health again.

DENTAL CLINIC

The Post Dental Clinic is staffed and equipped to provide oral surgery, operative dentistry and preventive dental care for all personnel at Camp San Luis Obispo.



SERVICES

CHAPLAIN - Religious services--Protestant, Catholic and Jewish--are held regularly in the chapels of Camp San Luis Obispo. Providing spiritual guidance through these services are three chaplains, members of the Corps of Chaplains, representing the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths. Chaplains also officiate at weddings,

baptisms, funerals and other religious ceremonies, and they play an important and influential role in handling of welfare cases for post personnel. They also conduct character guidance lectures and take care of the hospital and stockade.

PROVOST MARSHAL - preservation of good order and military discipline, protection of government property, enforcement of military laws and regulations, control of military traffic, operation of the guardhouse, stockade and other confinement facilities, investigation of crime, and the apprehension of absentees are some of the many services provided.



MILITARY

QUARTERMASTER

procures, stores and issues practically everything a soldier needs in the way of clothing, food, housekeeping and office equipment and their associated items. It operates the Commissary, is responsible for the repair and maintenance of clothing and equipment, and procures, stores and issues petroleum, oil and lubricants.

ORDNANCE - procures, stores and issues ordnance items including weapons, ammunition and vehicles. Operates small arms repair shops and motor maintenance shops. Additional services provided include the training of demolition personnel.

SIGNAL

fixed and permanent communication facilities are under the supervision of the Post Signal Officer. Additional facilities and services provided include public address systems, recording equipment and Signal Supply and repair.

ENGINEER - is responsible for the maintenance of buildings, grounds and roads and furnishes utility services such as power, light, water, refrigeration and sewerage. Procures, stores and issues items of engineer equipment and supplies. Operation of the Fire Department is one of the main functions of the Post Engineer.

CHEMICAL

procures, stores and issues all supplies required in chemical, biological and radiological defense and offense. Training of CBR defense personnel is an important function performed by this branch of service.

TRANSPORTATION - responsible for the control of all administrative vehicles. Arranges for transportation of military and civilian personnel, supplies and equipment by air, rail and motor coach. Movement of household goods for military personnel is also a function of Transportation.

ADJUTANT GENERAL - administers and operates military personnel activities under the Commanding General. Publishes orders and instructions, is responsible for the conduct of correspondence and the operation of the Postal Section.

STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE -

renders legal assistance to military personnel in matters affecting the soldiers' personal rights, property or interest. He also supervises court-martial proceedings, reviews court records and makes recommendations as to their propriety.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER - acts as the responsible agency in channeling news to the public at large. He provides speakers and films and arranges tours for interested civic and patriotic groups.

FINANCE OFFICER -

is responsible for the prompt payment of all personnel. Maintains military pay records and a master locating file on military personnel.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT - performs administrative supervision over the personnel of the post permanent party including Hq Co, 9606 TSU, Hq Co, 6941st ASU, Medical Detachment, Military Police Detachment and the 15th Signal Operation Company. Operates the Officers' Field Ration Mess and Post Billeting Office.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

processes promotions, leaves, transfers, reassignments, etc. pertaining to military personnel at Camp San Luis Obispo

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL - is responsible for conducting an overall personnel program for all civil service employees at this installation to include recruitment, selection and proper placement throughout the command

PRINTING PLANT -

provides reproduction service including printing, mimeographing and binding. Administers contractual printing program.

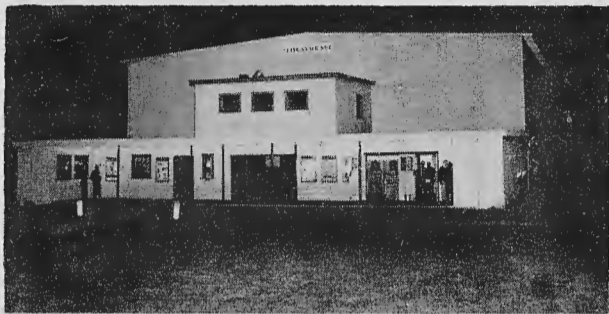
PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING - purchases items required at this installation which are not normally stocked or available for issue within a reasonable length of time. Contractual services such as janitorial, utilities, POL and food supplies are also a function of this activity.

PROPERTY DISPOSAL -

is responsible for the collection, storage and proper disposition of all salvageable property at this installation

FOOD SERVICE ADVISOR - is responsible for continuous inspection of mess halls throughout the command, to include maintenance of records, mess management and preparation of food

SPECIAL



THEATER -
latest shows of all types including short subjects are presented daily. Stage shows and musicals are provided regularly for the entertainment of all personnel.

SERVICE CLUB - provides a full program of recreation including bingo, dances and parties.

CRAFTS SHOP - provides facilities for leathercraft, wood-working, plastics, radio and art for off duty recreation for all personnel



SERVICES

SPORTS -

facilities for all types of sports are available to include baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, boxing, badminton, wrestling, golf, tennis and skeet. An indoor swimming pool is also available for use by all personnel.

LIBRARY - provides more than five thousand volumes on an indefinite variety of subjects, both fiction and non-fiction. Library service is also provided for the patients in the U.S. Army Hospital.

POST EXCHANGE

The exchange main store, offering a complete line of retail merchandise, also houses a barber shop and watch repair facility. Dry cleaning, tailor and shoe repair facilities are located in the near vicinity. A branch store, twelve chair barber shop and a dry cleaning pickup station are located throughout the post for the convenience of all personnel.

Among the additional services provided by the Exchange Service are a small outlet in the hospital, a gasoline service station, an automatic laundry, a beverage bar, cafeteria and a photo studio.

The Exchange Service also operates a thirty-two room guest House for the convenience of military personnel, their friends and families.