

SIGNAL CORPS - SUPPORT FOR MILITARY LEADERSHIP

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***Abstract:** This year (on July 14) we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the "Signal corps" weapon, an important moment in the history of our army, with major implications in the subsequent evolution of military conflicts.*

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The need for connection, as a material support of leadership in the army, can be talked about since ancient times. Certainly the ancient world has its examples in this respect, for one cannot imagine how the great empires of the time would have secured their rule over the vast earth if, for example, the "supreme commander" - the emperor or the king - did not have the procedures and techniques to convey his decisions to the troops or if he could not receive their reports and information.

Regardless of the historical period, any military action - and not only - needs to be conducted. At the same time, effective management presupposes the existence of an integrated system of links between decision-making and execution echelons, through which orders can be transmitted and reports received.

This simplified view of the role of the link in the campaign only expresses the need for a system, in reality much more complicated and, in any case, increasingly complex, as society has advanced in its development and technological performance has increased.

Acoustic means - voice, wind instruments, percussion instruments - were supplemented by optical means (fire) or by relay (on foot, on horseback or through pigeons) to transmit or receive signals with a certain meaning about the imminent danger of producing a natural disaster or an invasion of neighbours, in the first stages of development of human society.

Later, under the impulse of technological development and the awareness of the need to communicate, the means of communication were perfected to meet the requirement to transmit and receive a signal in the shortest possible time, in the most complete formula, under conditions of protection and safety, with the lowest costs.

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