SIMPSON BARRACKS CENTENARY

10 NOVEMBER 2025

SIMPSON BARRACKS
MELBOURNE

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS
CENTENARY

MEL

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

This centenary year is a moment to recognise the quiet professionalism of Australia's signallers, past and present. For one hundred years, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals has kept commanders connected and forces coordinated, protected and informed, so that decisions can be made and missions executed with speed and confidence. As your Colonel-in-Chief since 1977, I have witnessed the skill, steadiness and purpose that define this Corps across generations.

The story began with flags, lamps and line telephones, then moved through wireless and analogue into resilient digital networks, satellite links, cyber and electronic warfare. The tools have changed many times, the task has not. Signallers provide the assurance that information reaches the right people, at the right time, in the right form.

This year, and indeed Corps Week, brings together the Signals community to celebrate service, commemorate sacrifice, and connect with one another and with the Australian public. We honour those who served with earlier equipment, and we thank those serving today who manage complex networks and defend them. Families, employers, educator's associations, and industry have supported signallers in every era, strengthening the Corps and sustaining its standards.

The centenary is also a point of renewal. The pace of technology continues to accelerate, and agility, sound judgement and teamwork remain essential. The Corps will keep adapting, partnering and innovating so that Australia's soldiers and our Defence Force can operate with confidence in every environment.

To all who wear the badge today, to those who have worn it, and the loved ones who have supported them, my warmest good wishes in this centenary year.

Certa Cito - Swift and Sure

Photograph by John Swannell for Buckingham Palace

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal
at her Gatcombe Estate in Gloucestershire,
marking her 75th birthday.

CHIEF OF ARMY
ORDER OF THE DAY

☆ ☆ ☆

THE CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS

9 NOVEMBER 2025

Today the Australian Army celebrates the centenary of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. The story of Australian Army signalling commenced in the 1800s in the Australian colonies, and later in the Australian Army engineers in the First World War. The Corps was established by Army Order 71 on 14 February 1925.

During the Second World War, the Corps embraced wireless technologies, establishing the Special Wireless Group and laying the foundation for the Australian Signals Directorate of today. In recognition of its distinguished wartime service, the Corps was conferred the 'Royal' title on 10 November 1948.

The Corps has served with excellence and ingenuity in the decades since. From Vietnam to the Middle East, through peacekeeping and war-like operations in our region and beyond, Signallers have epitomised the Corps' motto '*Swift and Sure*'.

The 2nd Signal Regiment will be re-raised in this centenary year, honouring the Regiment's rich history; from the Vietnam War and Cambodia, later continued by the Land Force Signal Unit, 110 and 145 Signal Squadrons, and 17 Signal Regiment. This re-raising is a symbolic link between a proud past and an exciting future.

I congratulate all those who serve and have served in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, the Signallers of Australian Women's Army Service and the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps on one hundred years of service to the Australian Army and the nation. I give thanks to the families and friends for supporting them. From light, line, wireless, satellites, digital networks, cyber and electronic warfare, the Corps' journey is a remarkable one. Its future has never been brighter.

Cuts Tito !

Simon Stuart, AO, DSC 41
Lieutenant General
Chief of Army

9 November 2025

For more than one hundred years, Signallers have served with distinction in peace and war. We are the glue that binds the force; connecting, informing and targeting. We work quietly, diligently often in the shadows.

As I was preparing to mark our Centenary, I reflected on what would be a successful centenary year. The response was simple – bring our people together to celebrate, commemorate and to connect. And that is exactly what we have done. We have told our story with pride, and we have added new chapters.

Current and former serving Corps members, families and friends have collectively woven their contributions together enriching the Corps' story. From the Centenary launch on 14 February, the successes of Exercises Mercury Run and Talisman Sabre, the reunions and parades, and the celebrations recognising the contribution of women and Indigenous Signallers, the year has been full of moments that speak to who we are. Our legacy is strong.

As the centenary year draws to a close, we look to the future. We face uncertain times. Technology is moving quicker than ever, especially in the cyber domain. Change is everywhere, but the one constant is our talented people. Our ability to achieve our mission in difficult environments; innovating and adapting as we have always done in our Corps since 1925 sets us apart. With that strength, and the partnerships and relationships we are building, our future is bright.

To all who have contributed to the success of our Centenary, often volunteering on top of already full workloads, thank you. Your efforts have ensured that this year has been more than a celebration; it has been a reaffirmation of our values, our traditions, and our enduring mission.

To all current and former Signallers and their families – thank you for your service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to the Corps and the Nation.

Deane Limmer CSM
Brigadier
Head of Corps
Royal Australian Corps of Signals

7 November 2025

Corps Badge – "Jimmy"

The badge of the **Royal Australian Corps of Signals** closely mirrors that of the **Royal Corps of Signals,** prominently featuring **Mercury,** the Roman god of messages, communication, and speed. In Greek mythology, Mercury is equivalent to **Hermes,** the messenger of the gods—a role that directly parallels the mission of military signal units: ensuring swift, secure, and reliable communication.

The nickname **"Jimmy"**, inherited from British signallers, is now affectionately used by Commonwealth signal elements. "Jimmy" refers to the Mercury figure on the badge, symbolising speed, agility, and the enduring heritage of military signalling.

Mercury is often depicted with:

> **Winged sandals (talaria)** and a **winged helmet (petasos)**, representing agility and rapid movement-traits essential for signallers operating in dynamic environments.
>
> A **caduceus,** a staff entwined with two serpents, symbolising balance, negotiation, and peaceful communication.

The badge also features:

> Mercury's **left foot poised on a globe,** supported by a scroll bearing the motto **"Certa Cito", with a boomerang inscribed "Australia"** below-reflecting Mercury's role as the god of boundaries, transitions and travellers, fitting for signal units that operate across front lines, rear echelons and with allied forces.

The badge is s**urmounted by a crown** which, following the accession of **King Charles III,** has transitioned from the **St Edward's Crown** to the **Tudor Crown,** marking a new era in Commonwealth heraldry.

Corps Motto

CERTA CITO - SWIFT AND SURE

The motto **"Certa Cito"**, inherited from the **Royal Corps of Signals**, reflects the shared heritage and enduring values of Commonwealth signals elements. It encapsulates the essence of military communications: speed, precision, and reliability.

"Swift" refers to the rapid transmission of information-essential for timely decision-making, coordination, and operational tempo.
"**Sure"** emphasises accuracy and dependability-ensuring messages are delivered securely and without error, even in contested or degraded environments.

The motto underscores the Corps' vital role in enabling **command and control, situational awareness,** and **networked operations** to achieve **information dominance.** Whether supporting **frontline combat units** or **strategic headquarters,** signallers ensure the Australian Defence Force can communicate effectively across all domains - land, sea, air, cyber, and space.

CERTA CITO

Morse code
Morse code is a method of encoding text characters as sequences of dots and dashes, originally developed for early telegraph systems. Reliable in degraded environments, via light, sound, or radio. The tapping sound made by Morse code operators led to the Corps' nickname of "Chooks".

SWIFT AND SURE

Murray code
Also known as **teleprinter code,** Murray code was a simple word-substitution system used by signallers to send secure messages over radio. It relied on **punched tape** to automate transmission, making messages harder for adversaries to interpret without complex encryption.

1100100

100

Binary code
Binary code is the fundamental language of **computers and digital systems**. It represents data using only two symbols: **1** and **0.** Binary code powers **digital radios, cyber systems,** and **satellite links,** enabling **fast, secure,** and **precise** transmission of information.

Corps Colours

The Royal Australian Corps of Signals has distinctive Corps colours that reflect its heritage and operational role.

These colours represent the Corps' capability to enable communications across all domains, reinforcing its role as a critical enabler of joint operations.

The Domestic Colours are proportioned as 3/7, 1/7, 3/7 respectively.

The Domestic Colours

Light Blue (Pantone 549C-550C)
Represents the air — symbolising communication through the airwaves, such as radio and satellite.

Royal Blue (Pantone 281C)
Represents the sea — acknowledging naval communications and maritime operations.

Dark Green (Pantone 554C)
Represents the land — signifying terrestrial communications and the Army's operational environment.

The Tactical Colours

White
Represents clarity and transmission — often used as the background or primary colour in tactical signs.

Royal Blue
Symbolises communications — commonly used in combination with white to denote signals units.

The tactical colours primarily used in field and operational contexts, such as on unit signs, vehicle markings, and formation patches. The colours were selected for visibility and identification in tactical environments.

Centenary Coin

The Royal Australian Mint has paid tribute to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals' centenary by unveiling a one-dollar coin with a hidden message.

The uncirculated coin of which, 50,000 have been issued - honours a century of service in military communications and features a cryptic mystery in Morse and Binary codes. Collectors and military enthusiasts are being challenged to decipher its secrets.

"The design is fabulous, capturing our Corps' Jimmy badge with the background of Morse through to current-day B inary code."

Brigadier Deane Limmer CSM, Head of Corps

The Princess Anne Banner

The Princess Anne Banner carried by the Banner Ensign Lieutenant Tanner Clarkson.
Photograph Lance Corporal Peter Igo (2024)

The tradition of presenting **Banners** to Australian Army units began in **1904,** with **King Edward VII** awarding twenty **King's Banners** for service in the Boer War.

Today, the Army recognises **three types of Banners:**

- **Sovereign's Banner** – may be presented to any corps or unit.
- **Royal Family Banners** – for corps without entitlement to Colours, Standards, or Guidons.
- **Governor-General's Banner** – for training establishments without Colours.

Banners are treated with the same respect as Colours and are carried by Ensigns, escorted by Senior Non Commissioned Officers in a **Banner Party.**

On the 10th of September 1980, approval was given by our Colonel-in-Chief for the Corps to carry a banner bearing her cipher. The banner is known as **"The Princess Anne Banner".**

Presentation of the Princess Anne Banner. Artist – Mr Ken McFadyen.

The banner was presented at a parade at Simpson Barracks on the 29th of November 1986, on behalf of our Colonel-in-Chief by His Excellency the Governor General The Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen AK GCMG GCVO KBE.

The presentation was captured by the artist Mr Ken McFadyen. The painting is structured from the foreground to the rear, and captures the view from the crowd to the parade ground. The feeling the artist tries to capture in the painting is one of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals being a big family, and he expresses this by including images such as a young Corps member in the foreground with his wife and children.

The painting is on display at the Defence Force School of Signals, near the Princess Anne Banner and accoutrements.

Royal Australian Corps of Signals Display Case, featuring the Princess Anne Banner. (2025)

Simpson Barracks Contingent

Welcome Party

Brigadier Deanne Limmer CSM
Head of Corps Royal Australian Signals

Brigadier Alison Creagh AM CSC
Representative Colonel Commandant

Colonel Paul Baker
Commander Joint Training Command

Major Matthew van Blerk
Defence Force School of Signals

Mr Mick Lawlor
Base Support Manager Simpson Barracks

Official Guests

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal
Colonel-in-Chief Royal Australian Corps of Signals

Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence

Guard Commander

Lieutenant Ciska Roodt
138th Signal Squadron

Welcome To Country
Delivered by Wurundjeri Elder

Message Stick

Flight Lieutenant Aimee McCartney
Defence Force School of Signals with
32 Squadron

Capability Display

Lieutenant Hamish Allan
Defence Force School of Signals

Sergeant Christopher Taylor
138th Signal Squadron

Corps Painting Tour

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Armstrong
Commanding Officer Defence Force School of Signals

Certa Cito Sculpture Unveiling

Brigadier Alison Creagh AM CSC

Simpson Barracks Centenary Luncheon

Major Matthew van Blerk
President Mess Committee
Royal Australian Corps of Signals Officer's Mess

Visit to Royal Australian Corps of Signals Museum

Mr Neil Dailey
Royal Australian Corps of Signals Museum

Major Fiona Davis
Royal Australian Corps of Signals Museum

Sequence of Events

Official Party Arrives at Simpson Barracks

Quarter Guard

Welcome to Country

Message Stick Presentation

Capability Demonstrations

Tour of Corps Paintings

Unveiling Certa Cito Centenary Sculpture

Centenary Luncheon
Royal Australian Corps of Signals Officers' Mess

Royal Australian Corps of Signals Museum Visit

Quarter Guard

Quarter Guard – Honour and Tradition

The Quarter Guard is a ceremonial detachment that reflects the discipline and professionalism of the Australian Army. Positioned at the entrance to a military establishment or parade ground, it plays a symbolic role in welcoming dignitaries and upholding tradition.

To mark Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal's visit to Australia in July 2000, Major Paul Galea commanded the Guard at Simpson Barracks, Victoria. During the visit, Her Royal Highness opened the Royal Australian Corps of Signals Museum as part of the Corps' 75th Birthday events. Photo courtesy Colonel Paul Galea. (2000)

History of the Barracks

Simpson Barracks was originally established in the 1930s as Watsonia Barracks, developed to support the expanding needs of the Australian Army during a period of increasing global instability. The site was selected for its strategic location northeast of Melbourne and its capacity to accommodate training and administrative functions. Over time, the facility evolved to support a broader range of military activities and units.

In 1986, the barracks were renamed Simpson Barracks in honour of Major General Colin Hall Simpson, a distinguished Australian Army officer and a pioneer in military communications. Beginning his service in the First World War with the AIF, he later specialised in signals within the Permanent Military Forces, becoming a leading figure in the field.

During the Second World War, Simpson served as Chief Signals Officer, overseeing the development and coordination of Army communications across multiple operational theatres. Promoted to Major General in 1942, he commanded New Guinea Force Signals, playing a critical role in supporting operations in the South West Pacific, including the Kokoda Track campaign. His leadership ensured secure and reliable communications, contributing significantly to the success of Allied operations.

Simpson's strategic integration of signals into operational planning laid the foundation for the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. A strong advocate for the formal development of military communications, he was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in recognition of his service.
His legacy is honoured through the naming of Simpson Barracks in Yallambie, Victoria—home to the Defence Force School of Signals—a lasting tribute to his contributions to Army communications and command excellence.

Units on the Barracks

The base accommodates several key units and establishments under Joint Training Command, notably the Defence Force School of Signals and the Defence Force School of Music, the latter of which maintains its headquarters within the heritage-listed Meares House. Additionally, Headquarters 4th Brigade is located at Simpson Barracks, along with a number of its subordinate units including the 138th Signal Squadron and 108th Signal Squadron, the Headquarters of the Victorian Australian Army Cadets Brigade, and the Joint Military Police Station, Melbourne.

History

Defence Force School of Signals
The Army School of Signals was established in 1936 at Victoria Barracks Melbourne. It moved to Simpson Barracks in 1970 and was renamed the Defence Force School of Signals in 2002. As the Australian Defence Force's training establishment for military communications, the School provides initial, intermediate, and advanced training. The training covers, tactical radio, network systems, electronic warfare, signals intelligence, and cyber warfare. The School partners closely with the Royal New Zealand Defence Force and is expanding training opportunities with coalition forces

138th Signal Squadron
Formed from the 6th Signal Regiment during World War II. 138th Signal Squadron transitioned to 7th Electronic Warfare Signal Regiment in 2019 and then to Cyber Command, Joint Capabilities Group in 2024. The unit has a proud history providing deployable communications support across tactical and strategic networks. Known for its technical expertise, it supports secure communications and interoperability in diverse operational environments.

108th Signal Squadron
Established post-war under the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, the 108th Signal Squadron is a Reserve unit within the 8th Signal Regiment. It provides tactical communications for training and operations, including radio, data, and satellite systems. The squadron has supported domestic missions like Bushfire Assist and COVID-19 Assist, and deployed personnel to Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands, and the Middle East. Its part-time members bring valuable civilian expertise, enhancing flexibility and readiness.

Message Sticks

Message Sticks - Strength Through Connection and Communication
For thousands of years, Aboriginal peoples carried message sticks across Country to share news, knowledge, and invitations ensuring communication was delivered with accuracy and respect. This enduring tradition reflects the core mission of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals: to get the message through. This message stick commemorates the centenary of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals and honours the connection across land, sea, and air, symbolised by the colours green, blue, and light blue. Its design draws from the contours of Country, representing movement across diverse landscapes from desert to coast, mountain to plain. Uniting the stories of traditional messengers and modern signallers, this piece celebrates safe passage, truth, and communication linking culture, Country and comradeship across Australia and its international partners.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal
Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Australian Corps of Signals
This message stick honours Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who has served as Colonel in Chief of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals since 1977. Inspired by the Royal Banner, the design features Her Royal Cipher "A" and the Crown, symbolising service, leadership and legacy. The artwork reflects the enduring relationship between the Crown and the Royal Australian Signal Corps, acknowledging a shared heritage of communication and unity across the Commonwealth. The symbol for people travelling between two sites in the sky represents the guiding light of leadership and the continuity of service across generations. Drawing on the contours and unseating of Country, the design also celebrates the movement of people across diverse landscapes from desert to coast, mountain to plain. Swirling green lines signify the living pulse of the land and the pathways of communication that connect all who travel upon it, linking traditional messengers and modern signallers in a shared commitment to truth, safe passage and connection.

Message Stick Artist

Flight Lieutenant Aimee McCartney.
Flight Lieutenant Aimee McCartney is a proud Taungurung, Wotjobaluk, Wemba Wemba and Boon Wurrung woman from Melbourne, and is the eldest girl of nine children. In 2013 Aimee completed a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Australian History and Archaeology at the University of Melbourne. For six years Aimee worked for State and Federal Government establishing clear and accessible employment pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander peoples, across all departments, divisions and business units.

In 2018, Aimee joined the Royal Australian Air Force as an Indigenous Liaison Officer and was posted to No. 21 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force Base Point Cook and No. 30 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force Base East Sale before transitioning to the Personnel Capability stream. Aimee has since served at Headquarters Air Academy, providing strategic workforce and governance support and is currently posted to No. 32 Squadron at Royal Australian Air Force Base East Sale.

Beyond her core duties, Aimee is deeply committed to fostering inclusive leadership and strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader broader Defence community. She actively promotes cultural awareness, inclusion and reconciliation through her leadership, mentorship and artistic practice

Outdoor Capability Demonstrations

Communications and Information Systems
Introduced by Lieutenant Hamish Allan, Defence Force School of Signals

Deployable Information Systems - Corporal Loc Bui

Deployable Information Systems capability delivers secure, mobile digital infrastructure for operations. It includes Deployable Defence Information Environment Servers, an Information and Communications Technology Helpdesk for responsive support, rugged end devices, and the Protected Mobility Vehicle Hawkei with integrated Communication and Information Support systems. The Defence Force School of Signals supports this capability through specialised training for Australian Defence Force personnel and civilians in Information and Communications Technology roles, enhancing Defence–industry collaboration. The Defence Force School of Signals also fosters excellence in customer service and technical support. Training includes interoperability with Australian Defence networks and coalition systems, ensuring seamless communications in joint operations. This capability enables mission-ready connectivity, supporting command and control across diverse operational environments.

Deployable Battlespace Communications - Corporal Jonathan Mackay

Deployable Battlespace Communications provide secure, mobile connectivity for tactical operations. Systems include the Clark Mast and 3090 Radio Frequency Antennas for extended radio coverage, scrim and camouflage nets for concealment, and the Command Post Module vehicle, which integrates communications across Military Electromagnetic Spectrum bands. A range of radios supports voice and data transmission in contested environments. The The Defence Force School of Signals trains personnel in the setup, operation, and maintenance of these systems, including through Gap Year programs that introduce foundational skills in field communications. The Defence Force School of Signals ensures operators are mission-ready, supporting resilient command and control across Australian and coalition operations.

Deployable Telecommunications Network - Corporal Colin Russell

The The Defence Force School of Signals trains personnel in the operation of the Deployable Telecommunications Network, which includes the Deployable Data Centre Assembly, small/medium/large satellite terminals, Medium Satellite Communication Terminal, High Capacity Line-of-Sight systems, and Starlink integration. Training covers use of Wideband Global Satellite Communication constellation, Protected Mobility Command Vehicles, and Commercial Off-The-Shelf technologies. Courses range from short familiarisation modules to multi-week technical qualifications, ensuring personnel are proficient in establishing secure, high-bandwidth communications in austere environments. The Defence Force School of Signals supports interoperability across Australian Defence Force and coalition networks, enabling resilient command and control in deployed operations.

The Corps Paintings

Service by members of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals at war and on peacekeeping operations has been captured in a series of major artworks which are proudly displayed at the Defence Force School of Signals.

Through these paintings, Signallers undergoing training can appreciate the rich history and traditions of the Corps, of which they are now the proud custodians.

Service during World War One is captured in the painting "Signals in Action 1914-1918" by Sir Ivor Hele CBE, which is dedicated to the men of the Signals Engineers who served during the 1914-1918 War in Egypt, on Gallipoli, in France, in Palestine and in Mesopotamia.
"Signals

Signals in Action 1914-1918". Artist – Sir Ivor Hele CBE

The scene depicts a six horse cable wagon laying cable at the hard gallop. In France, as in the Sinai Desert and in Palestine, line telegraphy and telephony were the basic means of communications, and that the horse and cable wagon played an important part in providing these communications.

The painting "The Signalman 1939 – 1945" is dedicated to the men of the Australian Corps of Signals who served during the 1939 – 1945 War in North Africa, Greece, Syria and Palestine, in Malaya, New Guinea, the islands of the Pacific and in the defence of mainland Australia.

Between the First and Second World Wars there was a dramatic development in commercial radio with which military technology kept pace. At the outbreak of the Second World War wireless telegraphy was fully accepted as the primary means of communication.

The theme selected is an action recorded in the history of the Second World War, where a wireless detachment in the jungle provided the sole means of communications between beleaguered infantry units and the main body. Subsequent to that action one operator was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the second operator a Military Medal.

"The Signalman 1939 – 1945". Artist – Sir Ivor Hele CBE

"Signals in Vietnam" is representative of the service of members of 104 Signal Squadron, 110 Signal Squadron and 547 Signal Troop (and their predecessor units). The painting highlights a helicopter deployment into a Fire Support Base, with involvement of the ACV communications shelter of 104 Signal Squadron and the AN/MRC–69 radio relay shelter of 110 Signal Squadron.

The artist, Mr Ken McFadyen was head of the Art Department with ABC Channel 2 in Melbourne and served in Vietnam from 13 August 1967 to 12 March 1968 as Official War Artist. The majority of his time in Vietnam was spent with the Task Force on Operations where he saw at first hand RA Sigs units under operational conditions; and this is reflected in his painting.

"Signals in Vietnam 1965 – 1972". Artist – Mr Ken McFadyen

The Royal Australian Signal Corps units and personnel have been involved in UN Peacekeeping Operational deployments since 1947.

"Signals in the Service of the United Nations" depicts an environment representing both the Western Sahara and Cambodia.

The landscape that the artist decided upon was an open sun-baked dust-bowl, with a rugged mountain range in the distance. If you observe closely, as you follow the painting from left to right, the mountain range draws closer and becomes slightly greener. To the artist, the left side of the painting is closer to the Western Sahara, the right Cambodia. Both sides, however share a deeply red soil.

The artist is trying to show a sense of urgency, trying to capture the dynamics of the moment, when a unit is deploying and are most vulnerable and busy. The painting flows from left to right, as you see both male and female soldiers rapidly setting up equipment, and simultaneously loading equipment into the vehicle for deployment.

The artist created this painting as a tribute to the men and women of the Corps who participated in these deployments, and to their dedication and expertise in helping to rebuild oppressed nations.

"Signals in the Service of the United Nations". Artist – Mr Ken McFadyen.

The post-Cold War era brought significant geopolitical changes worldwide. With these changes, the Corps needed to respond to and support an increased tempo of deployments.

"Signals in Stabilisation" captures the Corps' contribution to stabilisation operations conducted in Rwanda (Operation Tamar), Bougainville (Operation Bel-Isi), East Timor (Operations Stabilise, Warden, Tanager, Citadel and Astute) and the Solomon Islands (Operation Anode) under the auspices of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

To illustrate the Corps' involvement in these operations, the artist depicts the in-service equipment of the time and the tropical, semi-urban, and often mountainous environments where soldiers operated. The geographic features, local culture, and iconic equipment were chosen to highlight the nature and character of these operations. During these deployments, soldiers conducted their duties in often austere and uncertain conditions, while locals continued with their daily lives.

The artist created this composite painting as a heartfelt tribute to the thousands of soldiers who, over fourteen years, deployed on these operations or trained with this equipment during their service in the Corps. It aims to evoke the shared experiences and profound connections forged during that period.

The sun setting on the Satellite Terminal Assemblage on the back of the Land Rover 6x6 acknowledges the crucial role that satellite capability (both equipment and personnel) played in keeping deployed Headquarters connected in Theatre and with Australia during those operations.

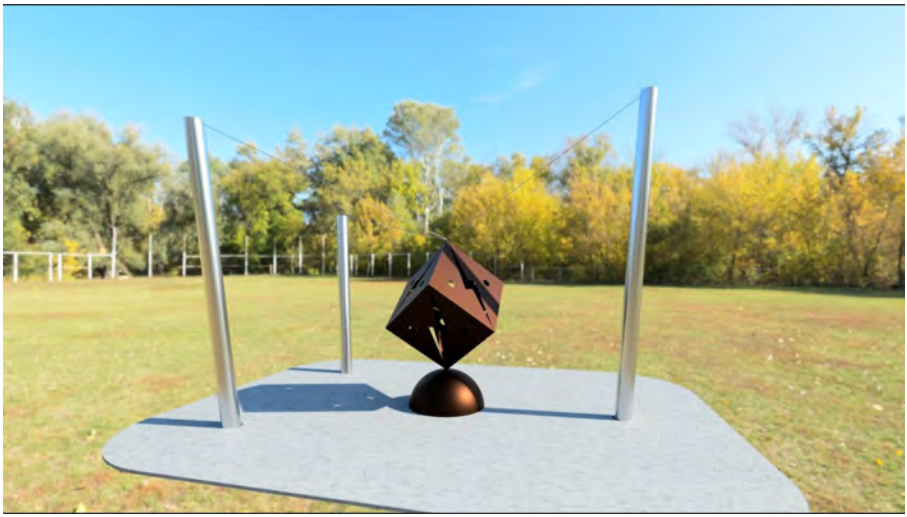
"Signals in Stabilisation 1992 – 2006". Artist – Ms Rebecca Kettle.

Certa Cito Centenary Sculpture

The Certa Cito Centenary Sculpture was commissioned by the Certa Cito Foundation, the Official Charity The Royal Australian Corps of Signals, and generously sponsored by PentenAmio, to recognise a century of service of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

The sculpture has been designed by members of the Signals Community who also assisted the artist, Richard Barrett, with construction.

The design incorporates a diamond shape that appears to balance atop a blank hemisphere, representing the global reach and secure nature of the Corps, including its integral role supporting conventional and special operations. Each side of the Cube tells part of the Signals story: the lightning bolt of communications, the raven of electronic warfare, the Corps' engineering roots, the evolution of technology, the motto Certa Cito "Swift and Sure" and the Remembrance Poppy. The surrounding masts and fine connecting wires honour the families and communities who sustain the Corps, symbolising care, connection and commemoration - the three goals of the Certa Cito Foundation. This Sculpture sits on WURUNDJERI Land.



Intial Artistic concept of the sculpture as envisaged by Signals Community Working Group.

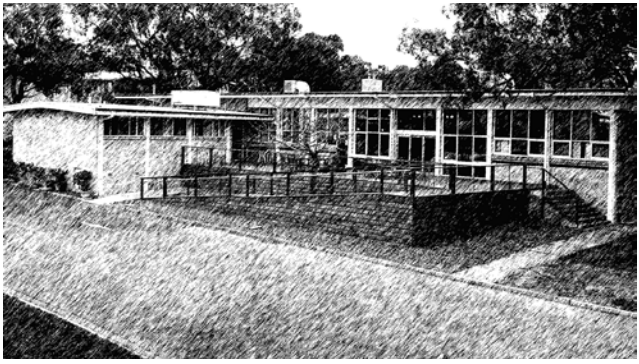
Centenary Luncheon

History of The Royal Australian Corps Of Signals Officers' Mess
The Royal Australian Corps Of Signals Officers' Mess holds a distinguished place in the history of the Australian Army. Originally part of Watsonia Barracks, the site was renamed Simpson Barracks in honour of Major General Colin Hall Simpson. The Officers' Mess was established to provide a formal and social setting for commissioned officers, supporting both operational duties and ceremonial traditions.

Over the decades, the mess has served as a central venue for military dining, official receptions, and regimental events. It has played a vital role in fostering camaraderie, professional relationships, and the observance of military customs. The traditions upheld within the mess, such as formal toasts, mess etiquette, and the display of Corps memorabilia, reflect the enduring values of the Australian Army.

Architecturally, the mess reflects mid-20th century military design, with later refurbishments preserving its heritage character while modernising its facilities. Inside, it houses a collection of historical artefacts, honours boards, and memorabilia, particularly from the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, which has a long-standing presence at Simpson Barracks.

As the home of the Defence Force School of Signals, Simpson Barracks has trained generations of signallers. The Officers' Mess has hosted countless Corps events, including milestone celebrations, promotions, and commemorations. It continues to serve as a living repository of Corps history and esprit de corps, honouring the past while supporting the traditions of today's Army.



The Royal Australian Corps Of Signals Officers' Mess

Corps Museum

History of the Museum

The building that currently houses the Signals Corps Museum was established on 1 July 1981 as the Watsonia Satellite Earth Terminal and was denoted by its prominent 60 foot parabolic antenna dish, was one of over 20 such stations worldwide under the American Defence Satellite Communication System. It was operated by members of 6th Signal Regiment, the terminal performed three core functions: primarily a dedicated link between the headquarters of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, Canberra and Defence Signals Directorate then located at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne to the headquarters of the American National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland.

The site was de-commissioned in 1994 and became a suitable site for the Corps Museum. To mark the 75th anniversary of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, the museum was officially opened by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Australian Corps of Signals on 5th July 2000.

Museum Reception

Upon arrival to the museum, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal Colonel-in-Chief Royal Australian Corps of Signals on 5th July 2000 and Vice Admiral Lawrence will be greeted by Mr Neil Dailey and Major Fiona Davis.

Museum Tour
Corporal Christopher Pervan (Royal Australian Corps of Signals) who will provide an introduction to the theme display of Signals Corps "Heraldry". Corporal Pervan will provide an overview of the display with a focus on the Princess Royal Clock, gifted by the Princess Royal Princess Mary: The Corps Banner and a WWI Service Dress Jacket.

Ms Leah Herdman (Headquarters Australian Army History Unit) who will provide an introduction to the theme display of "People". Ms Herdman will provide an overview of the display with a focus on Signaller Martin Wallace and his Medal for Gallantry, Patricia Penrose's Uniform, her service with Z Special Unit and the medals of Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Watson CBE DSO MC and ED.

Warrant Officer Class Two Stephen Medforth (Royal Australian Corps of Signals) and Mr Bruce Wishart (Museum volunteer) who will provide an introduction to the theme of "Technology". They will provide an overview of the display with a focus on artefacts used in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

Ms Elise Horspool (Headquarters Australian Army History Unit) who will provide an introduction to the theme of "Operations". Ms Horspool will provide an overview of the display with a focus on covert operations artefacts, artefacts from WWI and artefacts from the Middle East Area of Operations.

Museum Conclusion
At the conclusion of the museum tour, Her Royal Highness will be invited to unveil the visit commemoration plaque and sign the Signals Museum visitor book.

Biographies

Colonel-in-Chief. Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal. Princess Anne has a long-standing association with the Royal Australian Signals Corps serving as Colonel-in-Chief since 1977. In 1980, Princess Anne approved the use of her cipher to create the 'The Princess Anne Banner,' which is carried by the Royal Australian Signals Corps featuring her cypher on one side and the Australian Coat of Arms on the other. Princess Anne has continued involvement with Royal Australian Signals Corps including periodic visits, the most recent being a 2022 visit to Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney.

Colonel Paul Baker. Colonel Paul Baker is the Commander of Joint Training Command. Commander Joint Training Command is Army's Training Authority for all corps/disciplines for Signals, Intelligence, Military Police, Army Band and Public relations service. He is an experienced intelligence officer, Information Advantage officer, capability development officer, instructor, and Arabic interpreter. He has served across Defence and the National Intelligence Community at all levels of command. He has been a passionate advocate and mentor for those participating in Run Army, for which he was awarded a Chief of Army Gold Commendation.

Major Matthew van Blerk. Major Matthew van Blerk is the Officer Commanding and Senior Instructor of Corps Advanced Training Wing, Defence Force School of Signals. He is responsible for the instruction and Corps development of Senior Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers, including Australian Army, Navy, Air Force and New Zealand, United States, Canadian and United Kingdom communicators. MAJ van Blerk has been posted to the Special Air Service Regiment, Australian Signals Directorate, Royal Military College – Duntroon and the 2nd Commando Regiment.

Biographies

Mr Neil Dailey (Australian Army History Unit). Mr Neil Dailey is the Manager of Army's Network of 16 Corps and Regional Museums and the Australian Army's senior curator. He served in the Australian Army for 20 years in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery prior to taking up employment with the Australian Army History Unit in a civilian capacity in 2003. He has held his current position since 2009. His primary role is to provide strategic management for Army's museums and guide positive development for how the Australian Army captures and articulates its history. Mr Dailey was a member of the team that undertook the two-year refurbishment of the Signals Museum. Sydney.

Major Steven Murcott (Australian Army History Unit). Major Steven Murcott joined the Australian Army in 1981 and after graduation was allocated to the Royal Australian Artillery. In that time he has been employed in various Regimental and Training environments. He has provided operational service in Iraq, Afghanistan and with the United Nations in Sudan. Currently he is posted to the Australian Army History Unit as the Staff Officer grade Two, Heritage Operations. His primary role in this position is to plan, organise and execute tasks in support of the Unit, Army and the greater Defence Community.

Major Fiona Davis (Royal Australian Corps of Signals Museum). Major Davis joined the Australian Army in 1990. She has held a number of instructional postings teaching on Subject 3 (Warrant Officer) and (Sergeant) and at RMC Duntroon. She has been a training systems instructor at Aviation Training Centre and was OC of the Army's Training Systems School followed by OC of Education Centre at Simpson Barracks. Major Davis was also Staff Officer Grade 2 Editor at Army's Doctrine Wing. She was deployed on operational service to East Timor as OC English Language Program for 9 months. She left the ARA in 2010 but has continued serving in the Army Reserve firstly in a training systems role with the School of Signals and now as Museum Manager of the Army Signals Museum.

Operational History

Throughout the past century, signallers have served with distinction in every operation—globally, domestically, and in peacekeeping—demonstrating their enduring commitment to mission success and operational excellence.

World War I (1914-1918) – Gallipoli, The Western Front, Palestine and Mesopotamia

World War II (1939 – 1945) – European, Mediterranean & Middle East, Pacific and Asian Theatres, and within Australia.

Occupation of Japan (1946 – 1951)

Korea (1950 – 1953)

South East Asia (1950 – 1974) – Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation, Borneo, Malaysia, Singapore

Vietnam (1962 – 1975)

Peacekeeping (1979 – 2013) – Southern Rhodesia, Namibia, Western Sahara, Somalia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, East Timor

Afghanistan (2001 – 2002, 2005 – 2014)

Iraq – First Gulf War (1990 – 1991); Second Gulf War (2003 – 2009)

Middle East Area of Operations (2010 – 2021)

Humanitarian Assistance / Defence Cooperation – Indonesia, South West Pacific, Papua New Guinea, Aceh, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, Pakistan

Global Contingency Operations

Domestic Operations – Cyclone Tracy, Olympic and Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings, Commonwealth Games, National Support to State Governments – Flood, Fire, Cyclone, COVID 19 response and the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program

In its Centenary Year, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals remains at the forefront of electronic warfare, signals intelligence, telecommunications, information technology and cyberspace capabilities; providing the signals capabilities for the Australian Army in support of the Joint Force.

History of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals

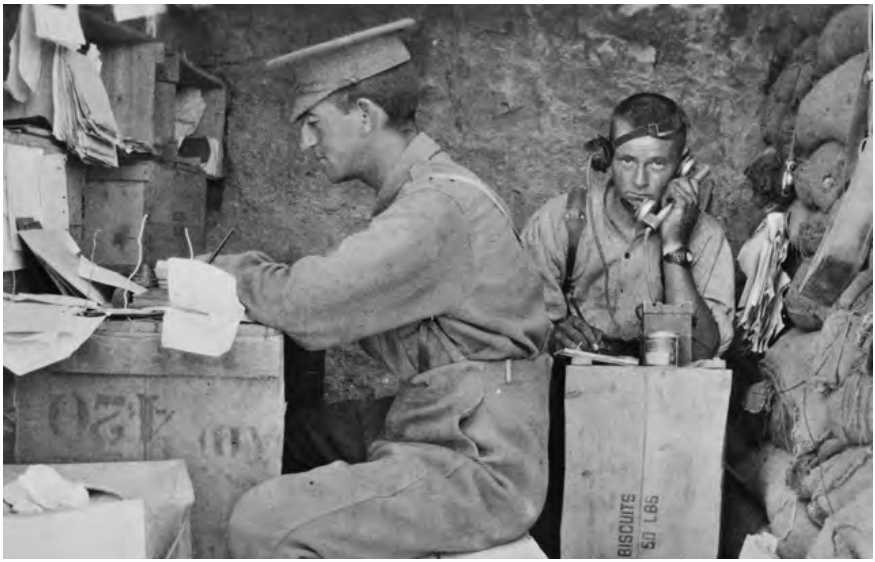
For one hundred years, Australian signallers have been the invisible thread binding our forces together. From flashes of lamp and coils of wire to satellites, cyberspace, electronic warfare and signals intelligence our people have connected Australians from trench lines to desert fortresses, jungle ridgelines, and outback ranges. By the First World War, these skills had evolved into dedicated companies and squadrons that kept the Army's communication flowing under fire.

World War I (1914–1918)

During the First World War, Australian Signallers were part of the Engineer Corps. Over 200 Engineer "Sapper" Signallers deployed to Gallipoli, maintaining communications under relentless conditions. From 1916 to 1918, more than 2,000 served on the Western Front, with another 500 supporting operations in Palestine and Mesopotamia.The 1st Australian and New Zealand Wireless Signal Squadron demonstrated the war-winning potential of wireless technology, laying the groundwork for modern signals intelligence.

At Gallipoli Lieutenant Stanley Watson of the Australian Divisional Signals Company supervised sappers as they built the first pier at Anzac Cove, using a Turkish shell which he had defused as a pile-driver. The jetty, named Watson's Pier, was celebrated with a Waterloo Dinner. The Waterloo Dinner remains an annual tradition between the Corps of Engineers and Signals.

Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. June 1915. Lieutenant Watson (right, with pipe in mouth) supervising the building of the pier at Anzac by men of 1st Division Signal Company. The pier came to be known as Watson's Pier. (1915)



Gallipoli, Turkey, 1915. In a Battalion Headquarters (BHQ) dugout, an officer (left) works on some documents as he sits at an upturned packing case that serves as a makeshift desk. Meanwhile, a Sapper Signaller sitting at an upended biscuit box (right) jots down a message he is receiving on a field telephone. Stevenson, Walter Ormond (1915)

After troops evacuated the Gallipoli Peninsula on 20 December 1915, Lieutenant Colonel Watson sent the final signal to British commanders 'Evacuation complete 3.45am'.

Two unidentified Sapper Signallers, with baskets of carrier pigeons, passing along the road leading through Chateau Wood to Westhoek, in the Ypres sector. Damaged Carts and other debris is scattered everywhere. (1917)

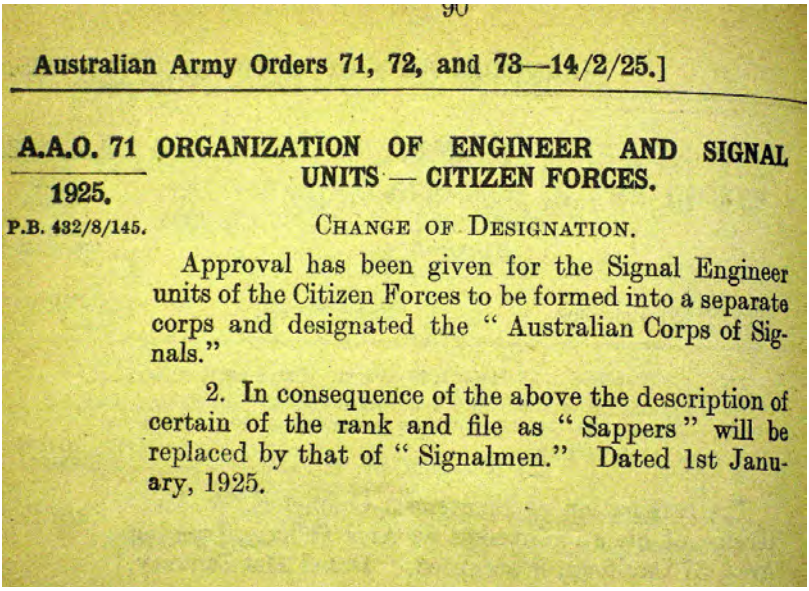
Sapper Signallers with a reel of cable, leaving a Signal Office on Westhoek Ridge, in the Ypres Sector, to lay a surface telephone line to a forward unit, during the battle of Zonnebeke. (1917)

Stanley Watson also served on the Western Front, commanding the 2nd Divisional Signals Company from December 1916, and was awarded the Serbian Order of the White Eagle, then the Military Cross for showing 'great gallantry and devotion to duty in maintaining lines and controlling linesmen' at the Battle of Flers and Fricourt during November and December 1916. In January 1919 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his work in the Second Battle of the Somme 1918. At the conclusion of the war, he held the rank of Major and became a leading voice in the establishment of a separate Corps for Signals.

Sapper E Bentley, a linesman of the 3rd Divisional Signal Company, repairing a telephone cable damaged by a shell burst during the operations of the 3rd Division near Ronssoy, during the American and Australian attack upon the Main Hindenburg Line. (1918)

Formation of the Australian Corps of Signals (1925)

On 14 February 1925, the Australian Corps of Signals was formally established, separating from the Engineers to become its own arm of service. This marked the start of a distinct identity and professional pathway for signallers, who were increasingly recognised as essential to modern command and control, and known by the rank and file as "Signalmen".



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Australian Army Orders 71, 72, and 73—14/2/25.]

A.A.O. 71 ORGANIZATION OF ENGINEER AND SIGNAL UNITS — CITIZEN FORCES.

1925.

P.B. 432/8/145. CHANGE OF DESIGNATION.

Approval has been given for the Signal Engineer units of the Citizen Forces to be formed into a separate corps and designated the "Australian Corps of Signals."

2. In consequence of the above the description of certain of the rank and file as "Sappers" will be replaced by that of "Signalmen." Dated 1st January, 1925.

Australian Army Order 71 dated 14 February 1925. National Library of Australia; Photograph C. Robinson.

World War II (1939–1945)

By the Second World War, signalling had become a critical and complex discipline. The Corps was larger than ever comprising of four Schools of Signals and 58 distinct types of signal elements. More than 24,000 Australian Signalmen served across every theatre—Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific. They operated radios, telephones, and telegraphs to link combat units with higher command; laid and repaired thousands of kilometres of cable; and supported intelligence through interception and cryptography.

The 6th to 9th Division Signals enabled operations from Bardia to El Alamein and from Syria to New Guinea. The New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company provided lifesaving alerts of incoming enemy aircraft, while the Australian Special Wireless Group worked covertly to intercept and decode Japanese transmissions. Their efforts saved countless lives and shortened campaigns through superior information.

"Signals" in Malaya had a tough job. Army messages go through streams, mud, jungle, or shellfire - by radio, land-line, pigeon or motor-cycle. (1942)

Gaza, Palestine. Signalman R.D. Spence, headquarters signals, A.I.F at the controls of the mobile wireless truck. (1942)

A signalman of 9th Division Signals at work with a field set near Tobruk. Fisher, Thomas (1941)

New Guinea. VX125503 Signalman L. Daughty (1), 23rd line section, 18th lines of communication signals, testing for a break on the 200 pound copper line between Jap Ladder and Nauro. (1944)

A Pigeon despatched on its mission from a mobile loft carried in a jeep. (1945)

Australian Women's Army Service (1941–1947)

On 13 August 1941, Minister for the Army Sir Percy Spencer approved the formation of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) to enable men to be released for combat roles. Between 1941 and 1947, AWAS signallers became a vital part of the military communications network. Trained in telephony, telegraphy, and radio operations, they maintained swift and secure communications across Australia and in forward areas such as New Guinea.

By 1945, over 24,000 women had served in the AWAS, with many posted to signals units. Their professionalism and technical ability challenged outdated views on women in uniform, laying the groundwork for gender integration in the Corps and wider Army in decades to come.

Women of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) sending messages during their course at the Officers Training School, Victoria. (1943)

Women of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) operating perforating machines for high speed signals at land headquarters Signals, Grosvenor. (1945)

An Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) Radio Technician checking a faulty radio transmitter at an Army Radio School. (1943)

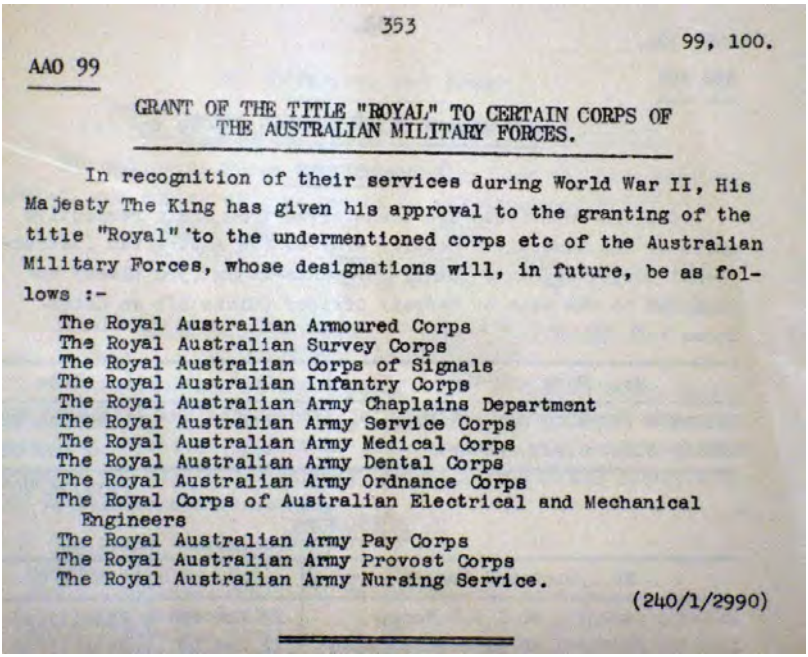
Garage Girls

During World War II, a secret unit of young Australian women known as the "Garage Girls" worked in a Brisbane garage decoding intercepted Japanese radio transmissions. Their efforts, part of the covert Central Bureau, played a crucial role in the Pacific theatre, including decrypting one of the first reports of the Hiroshima bombing. These women, including Joyce Grace and Coral Hinds, were conscripted into military communications and trained in signals and Morse code. Their work contributed to major operations, such as the targeting of Admiral Yamamoto, and helped shorten the war. Their story, long classified, highlights the vital but often overlooked role of women in wartime intelligence.

The entrance to Nyrambia in Ascot, Brisbane - suburban mansion turned war base. From left Joyce Grace, Helen Kenny and Betty Paterson approaching the guard. (N.D)

Granting of Royal Title (1948)

On 10 November 1948, His Majesty King George VI granted the title “Royal”, recognising the outstanding wartime service of Australian signalmen. This date—Corps Day—is still commemorated by members past and present, marking the moment when the Corps’ dedication and technical mastery were formally acknowledged.



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99, 100.

AAO 99

GRANT OF THE TITLE "ROYAL" TO CERTAIN CORPS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

In recognition of their services during World War II, His Majesty The King has given his approval to the granting of the title "Royal" to the undermentioned corps etc of the Australian Military Forces, whose designations will, in future, be as follows :-

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps
The Royal Australian Survey Corps
The Royal Australian Corps of Signals
The Royal Australian Infantry Corps
The Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department
The Royal Australian Army Service Corps
The Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
The Royal Australian Army Dental Corps
The Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps
The Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
The Royal Australian Army Pay Corps
The Royal Australian Army Provost Corps
The Royal Australian Army Nursing Service.

(240/1/2990)

Australian Army Order 99 dated 31 December 1948. National Library of Australia; Photograph C. Robinson

Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) (1951–1984)

Following the success of the AWAS, the WRAAC was formed in April 1951 to provide a structured way for women to serve in the Australian Army during peacetime. WRAAC personnel undertook roles in administration, logistics, communications, and training, with many serving in signals units where they continued to demonstrate technical proficiency and professionalism. In 1984, the WRAAC was disbanded as women were incorporated into the regular Army units, marking a significant milestone in gender equality within the Australian Defence Force.

2nd Signal Regiment - These six were the first Operator Radios to be posted to a Field Force (read Land Command) Signals Unit. Training commenced at theSchool Of Signals, Watsonia on 14 Feb 1975 and included Morse training (send and receive), message formatting, antenna theory and erection, battery charging, HF and VHF radio configuration and use, RATEL procedures, prep and installation of land line K-phones. (1975)

Cold War to Vietnam (1945–1975)

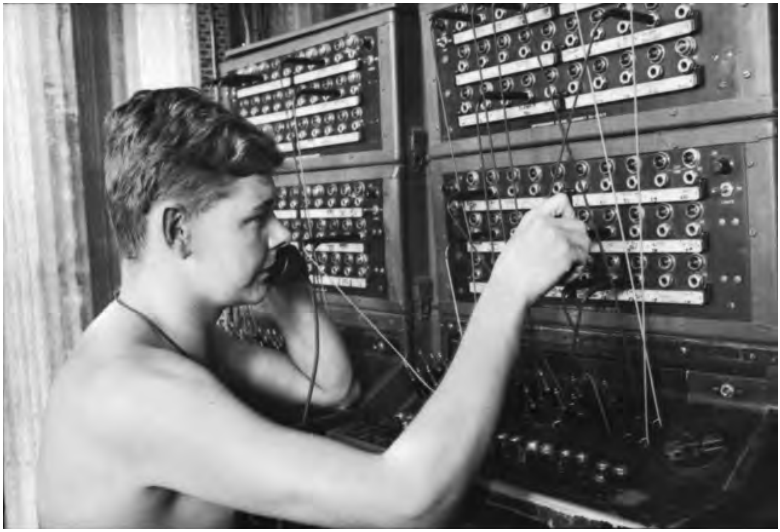
After World War II, the Corps adapted to a new era of geopolitical tension and rapid technological change. During the Malayan Emergency (1948–1960), Australian signallers supported Commonwealth forces in jungle conditions, maintaining secure radio links and coordinating air–ground communications. The Australian Special Wireless Group evolved into 101 Wireless Regiment, later redesignated 7th Signal Regiment in 1964. These units pioneered electronic warfare and signals intelligence capabilities that would later prove decisive in Vietnam.

The Australian Special Wireless Group evolved into 101 Wireless Regiment, later redesignated 7th Signal Regiment in 1964. These units pioneered electronic warfare and signals intelligence capabilities that would later prove decisive in Vietnam.

In Vietnam, the Corps was everywhere.

- 103rd and 104th Signal Squadrons maintained the combat net at Nui Dat.
- 110th Signal Squadron kept strategic communications open at Vung Tàu.
- 547th Signal Troop delivered vital signals intelligence support.
- 152nd Signal Squadron provided discreet communications for SASR patrols deep in hostile territory.
- 709th Signal Troop supported advisory and training operations

Their work ensured coordination, intelligence, and command reach across a dispersed and dangerous theatre.



Signalman John Toulmin of Parkes, NSW, a member of 104th Signal Squadron in Vietnam (1967)

Nui Dat, South Vietnam.Two signalman-riggers, members of the 104th Signals Squadron based at 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF), working on a thin radio mast, 250 feet above the ground. Closest to the camera is Signalman Terry Peacock of Frankston, Vic, and lower down is Corporal Victor Sheen of Heidelberg, Vic. (1970)

Signalman Phil Smith of Barawell Park, NSW, is a radio operator in the 104th Signal Squadron, Royal Australian Signals Corps. His unit is part of the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) base, but he has spent four months of his tour at Horseshoe Hill. Before his call-up for national service in October 1968, Sig Smith was a teller in the St Peters and Alexandria, NSW branches of the Bank of New South Wales. (1970)

Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Operations (1990s–)

Sergeant Mary Kelly on deployment in Cambodia as part of the Force Communications Unit, United Nations Transitional Authority Cambodia (FCU UNTAC) (1992)

As the Australian Army adapted to global peacekeeping needs, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals demonstrated its versatility beyond combat. A detachment of signallers was deployed to support the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia (1989 to 1990). In Cambodia (1992–1993), signalmen deployed with the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) then the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), providing secure communications for multinational forces and supporting the coordination of free and fair elections. In Rwanda (1994–1995), during and after the genocide, signalmen enabled vital communications between field units, coordinated logistics, and assisted humanitarian relief efforts. Their expertise ensured that command and control could be maintained in complex and often volatile environments.

Signallers also contributed to missions in Sinai, Bouganville the Solomon Islands, and other regional operations, reinforcing the Corps' enduring commitment to supporting Australian and coalition forces in stabilisation, peacekeeping, and disaster relief. These operations underscored the adaptability and professionalism of the Corps in both war and peace.

Group portrait of Royal Australian Signal Corps personnel in front of the Telstra satellite receiving and transmitting dish at the United Nations (UN) compound. Left to right back row: Corporal (CPL) Lee Rowley, Signalman (SIG) Andrew Jones, 556272 CPL Justin White, 135 Signal Squadron Royal Australian Signals Corps, and SIG Matthew Crosbie; Front row: SIG Barry Quinn, CPL William Duncan, and Sig. Gordon Koenig. The dish provided a vital telecommunications link with Australia during the contingent's deployment with the United Nations Assistance Mission In Rwanda (UNAMIR). Several of the soldiers are wearing UN caps and all men have the UN badge on the shoulders of their camouflage uniforms. Donor: CPL J. White) (1995)

Captain (Capt) Ian Spiers and Signalman (Sig) Gordon Koenig manning radios in the Communication Centre at the Australian Headquarters. The Australian are all members of the second Australian Service Contingent (ASC2) serving in the second United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR II). (Reproductions only available for personal use, requests for commercial use or publication must be made to Gittoes & Dalton Productions Pty Ltd)
(1995)

Building the Modern Force (2000s–)

Following Vietnam, Army signal elements evolved to meet new global realities. 1st Signal Regiment became the senior operational formation. To meet the ever increasing demands for tactical communications support to brigades, the Corps witnessed the expansion from traditional Brigade Signal Squadrons to the raising of the 1st, 3rd and 7th Combat Signal Regiments.

The Corps played a leading role in peacekeeping missions across the region, from Western Sahara to Cambodia. At Cabarlah, 7th Signal Regiment grew into a national centre for electronic warfare (EW) and signals intelligence (SIGINT). In 1999–2000, 72 Electronic Warfare Squadron deployed with INTERFET to East Timor, among the first Australian soldiers ashore in Dili establishing secure communications for the multinational force.

Private Lee Bailey, a signalmen with the Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG) stops to radio a message while on patrol near As Samawah, southern Iraq (2005)

WO2 (Acting RSM) Pip Iseppi, Obrigado Barracks, Dili (1999)

In 2010, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals replaced the rank description Signalman with the gender-neutral Signaller.

Signaller Justin Hague from the Tarin Kowt-based communications extraction team rolls a cable for an antenna mast as the Australian Defence Force begins to scale down its infrastructure at the Multi National Base - Tarin Kowt. (2013)

CPL Harrison deployed in Baghdad, Iraq as a Theatre Communications Rigger with Australia's Joint Task Force 633 as part of Operation Catalyst. (2006)

A Digital Corps for a Digital Army (2000s–)

In the 21st century, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals has continued to evolve. From Afghanistan and Iraq to the Solomon Islands and domestic operations such as Bushfire Assist, Floods, and during Covid. Australian signallers have been at the forefront of communication, information warfare, and cyber operations.

Today, the Corps combines traditional field communication skills with advanced cyber defence, network engineering, and information assurance. With approximately 3,000 trained personnel, the Corps supports every major command across the Australian Defence Force. Its members ensure that wherever Australian soldiers operate whether on the ground, in the air, or across the digital spectrum, commanders can connect, coordinate, and fight with information superiority.

From the trenches of Gallipoli to the networks of cyberspace, signallers have carried forward over a century of service. Our people have adapted through every technological revolution, united by a single purpose: to connect, to protect, and to enable command.

As we look to the next hundred years, we honour those who came before us—and reaffirm our commitment to remain at the leading edge of Army's fight for information dominance.

Signaler Kieran Simpson and Signaller David Z'Graggen of 145th Signal Squadron, preparing Satellite Transportable Land Terminals (STLT) to support 9th Force Support Battalion for the use of defence data terminals during the South Queensland Warfighter (2024)

The Combat Light Electronic Warfare System (CLEWS) in PMV in Afghanistan (2007-2009). A standard configuration of the CLEWS equipment in the standard PMV for many rotations of OP SLIPPER (Reconstruction Task Force 2, 3, 4, Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 1, 2). CLEWS DF antenna on the lower mast for use while mobile and short halts. Same antenna also located on the Clark Mast for short-long halts, provided higher elevation. (2007)

Specialists from the Joint Task Force 661 Defensive Cyber Operations team at Camp Ricarte, Puerto Princesa City in the Philippines during Exercise ALON (2025)

Corps Appointments 2025

Corps Leadership

Head of Corps - Brigadier Deane Limmer CSM
Deputy Head of Corps - Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Armstrong
Corps Regimental Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Benn Goulter
Staff Officer Grade Two - Major Michael Lee
Staff Officer to Head of Corps – Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Butler
Project Officer Corps Centenary – Colonel Christopher Robinson CSC

Colonels Commandant

Representative - Brigadier Alison Creagh AM CSC
Western Australia - Colonel Michael Brennan
South Australia - Colonel Martin Faulkner
Victoria - Colonel Christopher Rule
Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales -
Colonel Kirk Johnstone
South Queensland - Colonel James Roche
North Queensland and Northern Territory -
Colonel Daniel Bennett CSC
Tasmania - Major Matthew Brocklehurst

Royal Australian Corps of Signals Units in the Australian Defence Force and in the Australian Army and Joint Capabilities Group are identified below.

Corps Command Teams 2025

1st Australian Division

1st Signal Regiment

Commanding Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Katie Burrup CSC
Regimental Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Jason Harvey

101st Signal Squadron (including 127 Signal Troop), 100th Logistical Support Squadron
Lineage: 34th Bde Signals Section (Japan, circa 1945)> 1st Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Section (1953)> 1st Divisional Signal Regiment (1960) > 1st Signal Regiment (1965)> 1st Joint Support Unit (1997)> 1st Signal Regiment (2005)

1st Combat Signal Regiment (1st Brigade)

Commanding Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Warren Williams
Regimental Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Steven Lowery

104th Signal Squadron 105th Signal Squadron, Operational Support Squadron
Lineage: 104th Signal Squadron, 1st Australian Task Force (Vietnam)>
1st Command Support Unit (late 1990's) > 1st Command Support Regiment (2001)>
> 1st Combat Signal Regiment (2006)

3rd Combat Signal Regiment (3rd Brigade)

Commanding Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Richard Adamson
Regimental Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Gregg Orlicki

102nd Signal Squadron, 103rd Signal Squadron, Operational Support Squadron
Lineage: 103rd Signal Squadron, under 1st Australian Task Force (1965)>
3rd Task Force (1967) > 3rd Brigade (1981) > 3rd Combat Signal Regiment under 3rd Brigade (2006)

7th Combat Signal Regiment (7th Brigade)

Commanding Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Brenton Lawlor
Regimental Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Mark Green

139th Signal Squadron, 140th Signal Squadron, Operational Support Squadron
Lineage: Formed from 139th Signal Squadron and 140th Signal Squadron: Raised 1967 to reinforce 104th Signal Squadron 140th Signal Squadron: Northern Command Signal Squadron (1948) > 401st Signal Regiment (1961) > 4th Signal Regiment (1964) > 140th Signal Squadron (1969) 139th/140th Signal Squadrons merged into 7th Command Support Unit (1996) > then 7th Command Support Regiment (2002) > 139th Signal Squadron reinstated (2007) > 139th Signal Squadron retitled to 7th Combat Signal Regiment (2011), 140th Signals Squadron re-raised (2013)

7th Signal Regiment

Commanding Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Suzanne Albury
Regimental Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Craig Patch

71st (Electronic Warfare) Squadron, 72nd (Electronic Warfare) Squadron
73rd (Electronic Warfare) Squadron, Operational Support Squadron
Lineage: Australian Special Wireless Group (1940) > 101st Wireless Regiment (1947) > Combined with 72nd Signal Squadron into 7th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) (1989) > 7th Signal Regiment (2002)

145th Signal Squadron (17th Combat Support Brigade)

Officer Commanding - Major Cameron Bower
Squadron Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class Two Michael O'Loughlan

506th Signal Troop, 552nd Signal Troop, 557th Signal Troop, 709th Signal Troop
Lineage: 3rd Army Signal Regiment (1954) > 3rd Line of Communications (1957) > 2nd Signal Regiment (1965) > Land Force Signal Unit (1992) > 145th Signal Squadron (1995) > Land Support Force – Signals (2004) > 17th Signal Regiment (2007) > 145th Signal Squadron (2013). In 2026, the 145th Signal Squadron will move under the newly reformed 2nd Signal Regiment.

2nd Australian Division

8th Signal Regiment (2nd Australian Division)

Commanding Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Rob Curtin
Regimental Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Robert Kohn
108th Signal Squadron, 109th Signal Squadron, 141st Signal Squadron
142nd Signal Squadron, 143rd Signal Squadron, 144th Signal Squadron
Operational Support Squadron

Lineage: 2nd Divisional Signal Company (1915) > 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment (during WWII) > Disbanded (unknown) > Reactivated for Civilian Military Forces service (1948) > Disbanded (1960) > 8th Signal Regiment (1966) > Disbanded, replaced by 142nd Signal Squadron (1975) > Became an Army Reserve Signal Squadron (1980) > 8th Signal Regiment re-raised (1987) > Approved to wear 2nd Division Signal Regiment colour patch (1989) > Moved to Randwick Barracks in support of Headquarters 2nd Division > 8th Signal Regiment sub-unit renamed 143rd Signal Squadron, and 8th Signal Regiment assumed command of 142nd and 155th Signal Squadrons (2006) > Also assumed command of 108th, 109th, 141st, 144th Signal Squadrons to become the National Signal Regiment (2021). In 2022, 155th Signal Squadron was disestablished, 144th Signal Squadron came under 9th Brigade until the unit returned to the Regiment in 2025.

Special Operations Command

126th Signal Squadron

Officer Commanding - Major A
Squadron Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class Two J

Lineage: 301st Signal Squadron (Home Defence) (1960) > 126th Signal Squadron (1965) > 126th Signal Squadron (Special Forces) (1966)> 126th Commando Signal Squadron – 1st Commando Regiment (1981) > 126th Commando Signal Squadron – 2nd Commando Regiment (2001) > 126th Signal Squadron, 2nd Commando Regiment (2025)

152nd Signal Squadron

Officer Commanding - Major A
Squadron Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class Two N

Lineage: With the forming of the 1st Special Air Service (SAS) Company (1957), Corps members were sourced along with other specialist skills within the Army to help develop the SAS in Australia. The Australian SAS was modelled on the British SAS and the company included a Signal Platoon as part of its establishment > On the 31 August 1966, the RA Sigs component of the SAS Regiment was expanded to become 152nd Signal Squadron, with Captain Ross Bishop as its first commander.

301st Signal Squadron

Officer Commanding - Major S
Squadron Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class Two D

Lineage: Raised to provide long range communications to commando operations (1960) > 660 Signal Troop added to the Squadron (1963) > re-designated 126th Signal Squadron (1965) > The 301st Signal Squadron was re-raised in 2007 in support of 1st Commando Regiment

Joint Capabilies Group

74th Electronic Warfare Squadron (Space Command)

Officer Commanding - Major Joshua Clarke
Squadron Sergeant Major - Damian Allen
Lineage: Raised in 2025

Defence Force School of Signals (Joint Training Command)

Commanding Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Armstrong
Regimental Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Benn Goulter
Corps and Advanced Training Wing, Network Communications Wing, Network Engineering Wing, Initial Employment Training Wing, Electronic Warfare Wing, Regional Training Wing, Maritime Communication Information Systems Wing

Lineage: Army School of Signal (1936) at Victoria Barracks Melbourne > moved to Georges Heights (1939) > moved to Casula (1940) > moved to Bonegilla (1942) > moved to Balcombe (1945) > moved to Simpson Barracks (1970) > renamed Army Communications Training Centre (ACOMMSTC) (mid 1990s) > re-named Defence Force School of Signals and established under a Memorandum of Agreement between the services (2002)

136th Signal Squardron (Cyber Command)

Officer Commanding - Major Alister Blakeley
Squadron Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class Two Annette Dakers

Lineage: Northern Command Intercommunications Signal Troop (1913) > 4th Signal Regiment (1964) > Restructured to support only fixed communications to ARA, and relocated to Enoggera (1969) > 136th Signal Squadron formed within 4th Signal Regiment (1994) > 4th Signal Regiment closes, 136th Signal Squadron becomes standalone unit (1995) > 136th Signal Squadron becomes a Tactical Interface Station (2000) > transitioned to Cyber Command, Joint Capabilities Group (2024)

138th Signal Squadron (Cyber Command)

Officer Commanding - Major Richard Yammouni
Squadron Sergeant Major - Warrant Officer Class One Grant Rogers

Lineage: 6 Signal Regiment (WWII) > Becomes 138th Signals Squadron > Formally transitioned to 7th Signals Regiment (2019) > Transitioned to Cyber Command, Joint Capabilities Group (2024)

The lineage of each unit or independent sub-unit is provided to capture our Corps History. In our centenary year we have identified gaps in our Corps history and have commenced a Corps history project. If we have missed anything please contact the Head of Corps cell.

rasigs.hoc@defence.gov.au

Australian Corps of Signals Badge, 1931.
Australian Army Signals Museum; Photograph C. Robinson

"The Australian Army and the Royal Australian Corps of Signals thanks all who have supported the 2025 Centenary Parade".

Certa Cito Centenary Badge
Designed by CPL Campbell Myers (2023)

In our centenary year we have been reflecting on our history if we have missed anything please contact the Head of Corps cell.
rasigs.hoc@defence.gov.au

Notes:

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS
CENTENARY