

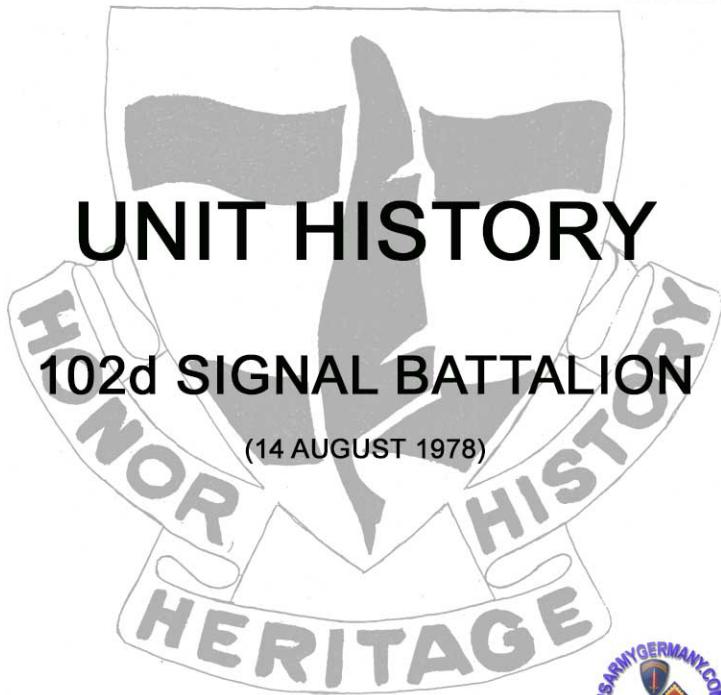
U. S. Army Military History Institute

102D SIGNAL BATTALION

UNIT HISTORY

102d SIGNAL BATTALION

(14 AUGUST 1978)



FRANKFURT / GERMANY

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* Appendix J not included in this PDF file. The quality of the photo section in the source document was not good.

22 APR 1976

SUBJECT: Reconstruction of Organizational History

Commander
USA Military History Research Collection
Carlisle Barracks
Carlisle, PA 17013

*Franklin, Ill
July 1974*

1. Attention is invited to our recent exchange of correspondence (Incl #1) with the US Army Communications Command concerning its efforts to retrieve the 102nd Signal Battalion's permanent organizational history files and military trophies. We think that successful completion of this project will eventually entail a certain amount of reconstruction.
2. Please screen your organizational holdings for pertinent materials that would be helpful to these ends. Attached is a copy of the Historical Data Card (Incl #2) which has been maintained by The Adjutant General on this unit since its original activation for guidance in connection with your search.
3. The requestor has been advised of this further referral of his request; please report your findings directly to him.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

CYRUS H. FRAKER

2 Incls
as

R. W. HAMPTON
Colonel, GS
Dir of Admin Mgt

cc: USACC

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 102d Signal Battalion, 2d Signal Group
APO New York 09757

CCE-X-RA

19 April 1976

SUBJECT: History of the 102d Signal Battalion

Commander
USA Communications Center
ATTN: Historian
Ft. Huachuca, AZ 85613

The attached history of the 102d Signal Battalion is forwarded for your information and file.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
as



CHESTER R. SMITH JR.
CPT, FA
Adjutant

HISTORY OF 102D SIGNAL BATTALION

The 102d Signal Battalion was constituted on 11 December 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 102d Signal Heavy Construction Battalion. The readers' attention is directed to the fact that the War Department's constitution of the Battalion did not place it concurrently on active status; this did not occur until the very late days of World War II. The Battalion was initially activated in Italy on 1 March 1945 as the 102d Signal Light Construction Battalion. Note that between the date of its constitution and activation that it was redesignated from a Heavy to a Light Construction Battalion.

Very little is known about the Battalion's participation in the combat in Italy during World War II. We do know that we are entitled to credit for participation in the North Appenine and Po Valley Campaigns. Personnel of the Battalion saw brief action around the towns of Dannenfels, Marienfahl, Steinbach, and Kirchem Bolanden when a group of SS Troops staged a short lived delaying action against the Allied Forces. Inquiries were made to the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, and to the Kansas City Records Center in 1956 in an attempt to gain some information about this period, but unfortunately, nothing could be furnished by either of these agencies, and it now appears that we must content ourselves with the information given in our official statement of lineage and honors which apparently is all of the official data that now exists concerning our activities prior to the time we were activated for the second time in 1955.

Sometime after the cessation of hostilities, we find that the 102d Signal Light Construction Battalion was returned to the United States where it was deactivated on 2 October 1945 at Camp Miles Standish, Massachusetts. On 1 February 1955, while still inactive, we were redesignated from a Light Construction Battalion to a Microwave and Radio Relay Battalion and transferred from the Army of the United States to the Regular Army. Shortly thereafter, we became active in Germany. We were activated for the second time at Smiley Barracks, Karlsruhe, Germany, on 18 March 1955 under the command of MAJ William E. Felty. At this time, we assumed the communication responsibilities of the 315th Signal Battalion, a reserve unit which was simultaneously returned to inactive status.

On reactivation, our mission was the installation, maintenance and operation of the United States Army, Europe, Multi-Channel Radio Telephone Network. The Network provided Telephone and Teletypewriter Communications for the United States Military Units spread over vast areas of Germany and France. Our units covered a huge triangle from Bocksberg, near the border of the Soviet Occupied Zone of Germany, on the North-East Corner, to Hohenpeissenberg, near the Austrian border, on the Southern Corner, and thence to Orleans, France, near the Western most corner.

The Battalion is a flexible type cellular unit which, in contemporary terminology, means that it may be organized in any fashion to meet existing needs. For instance, upon reactivation it consisted of a Headquarters and Headquarters Company with two companies (Companies A and B), each Company having several subordinate detachments at widely separated geographical locations. On 1 July 1955, we rearranged this structure into a Headquarters and Headquarters Company and four lettered companies (Companies A, B, C, and D). Later, on 15 November 1956, Company E was added and the structure has remained essentially unchanged since that time. This kind of flexibility would permit some other Microwave and Radio Relay Battalion to have an altogether different structure than ours and created conditions that placed us in a category that is far different than those in the so-called fixed organization, such as an Infantry Battalion, the composition of which is fixed by tables of organization and is exactly the same for all such organizations.

Because we are a flexible organization, we are not authorized a color and/or Coat of Arms, as only fixed organizations are authorized these devices. We are, however, authorized a distinguished flag which is of orange silk background 3 feet hoist by 4 feet fly, trimmed on three edges with a 2 1/2 inch white fringe. It has our insignia of branch in the center above a scroll bearing the designation of our unit. The scroll is white and the lettering on the fringe is orange. The streamers for the North Appenine and Po Valley Campaigns are flown on the staff of the flag.

In late 1955, due to an obscure administrative error, the Department of the Army approved a Coat of Arms for this organization (which is not authorized as explained above) based upon drawings, mottos and ideas submitted by members of the Battalion and the assumption that we were authorized Battalion Participation Credit for the Rome-Arno, Po Valley and North Appenine Campaigns. The error did not come to light until 1960 when it was also discovered that the Battalion was not active during the period that the Rome-Arno Campaign was in progress. This prompted the Department of the Army to review our entire history, lineage and structure and resulted in the withdrawal of our authority to possess a Coat of Arms and an organization color. The authorization and subsequent withdrawal of our Coat of Arms is explained here in detail so that the reader can understand why the Battalion Distinctive Insignia that we now wear has certain features which allude to the Rome-Arno Campaign. When the Coat of Arms was approved, the design also became that of our Distinctive Insignia, even though certain features allude to a campaign in which we did not participate, and was not withdrawn.

On 13 November 1967, while under the command of LTC Earl E. Daly Jr., the Battalion was deactivated. Following this deactivation, a Signal Service Unit, Frankfurt was formed which provided command and control of several communication detachments throughout central Germany. On 14 August 1972, the Signal Service unit was redesignated Signal Support Battalion 102, USASTRATCOM-Europe, with headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. Upon this redesignation, the Battalion assumed operational

control of Signal Units and facilities spread over four European countries. Organizations of the Battalion included: Headquarters Detachment, Benelux Detachment, Signal Support Company Frankfurt, Signal Support Company Hanau, and Signal Support Company Nuernberg. On 15 May 1973, while under the command of LTC Glenn L. Bruskiwicz, we assumed operational control of Signal Support Detachment England at Burtonwood, England.

As Signal Support Battalion 102, we directed and coordinated the administration, operation, maintenance and logistics functions necessary to operate and maintain non-tactical telecommunications support to Department of Defense elements within the Northern sector of the Federal Republic of West Germany where US Forces are located; the Brussels and Chievres areas in Belgium, the Brunssum area in the Netherlands and the Burtonwood and Caerwent areas in the United Kingdom. Additionally, we exercise command, control, and technical supervision over non-tactical telecommunications facilities assigned to the Battalion; initiated and reviewed engineering designs; received and stored material; monitored installation; inspected, recommended acceptance, and reported status on fixed telecommunications (Class IV) projects within the Battalion area of responsibility.

Facilities under the control of this Battalion in its Signal Support configuration included: 67 Dial Central Offices of which 17 offered Dial Service assistance; 19 Telecommunication Centers of which 5 were Mode V terminals; 11 were Mode I's, 2 were Point-to-Point and 4 had 2780 capabilities.

Signal Support Battalion 102's peaceful contributions had been many and varied. Our most outstanding contributions had been the consistent highly professional communications provided to U.S. Elements of important headquarters such as SHAPE in Belgium, AFCENT in the Netherlands, NATO in Brussels and V Corps in Frankfurt.

On 1 July 1974, while under the command of LTC Justin A. Holmes, the Signal Support Battalion 102 was discontinued and again activated as an augmentation TOE Battalion. The configuration consisted of a Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, located in the I.G. Farben Building, now the C.W. Abrams Building, Frankfurt, FRG; the 228th Signal Company located in Kennedy Kaserne, Frankfurt, FRG; the 232d Signal Company located in Worms, FRG; and the 261st Signal Company located in Hanau, FRG. This configuration has not changed to date.

On reactivation we assumed the responsibility for operating and maintaining: 40 Dial Central Offices; 5 Dial Service assistance Switchboards; 7 Mode I, 2 Mode V and 1 Point-to-Point Telecommunications Center; 3 TAADS Terminals and 12 Autosevocom Links. We provided maintenance for 2 SECORDS and 2 NBST Terminals. In the area of Systems and Operations, we operated 5 mainline DCS Stations, 1 HF/SSB Station, 6 non-DCS Stations and one DCS reporting station. We also maintained 13 LOS links. Our system operations included: 4 AN/GRC-66's, 5 AN/FRC-80's, 2 FM 120/8000, 1 REL 2600, 10 AN/GRC-50's, and 1 AN/FRC-93.

During 1975 we lost the AN/FRC-93 and in 1976, we added 1 more Dial Central Office to the Battalion and lost 2 non-DCS Stations. In addition, the amount and type of equipment utilized also changed. We now have 12 Mode I, 1 Mode II, and 1 Mode V. The Point-to-Point Telecommunications Center, 3 TAADS Terminals, and 1 HF/SSB Station have been eliminated. We also stopped providing maintenance for 2 SECORDS and 2 NBST Terminals.

Also in May of 1976, the 102d Signal Battalion, under the command of LTC Calvin Swartz, initiated an application for Project Partnership recognition between the 102d Signal Battalion and the Fernmeldebetriebsbataillon 910, commanded by Oberstleutnant Hans-Joachim Schrader. The objective being to promote closer personal and professional relationships between US and Allied Soldiers and to increase the understanding of each other's roles in the defense of Western Europe. The following activities were conducted with our sister unit during 1976:

Bowling Tournament--21 May 1976
Orientation/Tour of Community Facilities--23 June 1976
Marksmanship Qualification--28 June 1976
FMC Organization Day Activities--1 July 1976
Project Partnership Picnic--22 August 1976
Project Partnership Training Exchange--16-27 August 1976
Scroll Exchange Exercise--29 October 1976

In 1977 the following activities were conducted between the 102d Signal Battalion and the 910th Fernmeldebetriebsbataillon under the Project Partnership Program:

January 1977	30 Officers, Soldiers and wives from the 910th Signal Battalion attended the 102d Signal Battalion Change of Command
January 1977	8 Officers from the 910th Signal Battalion visited the 102d Signal Battalion Headquarters and 228th Signal Company facilities for an orientation
February 1977	12 Officers and wives from the 102d Signal Battalion attended the 910th Signal Battalion Fasching Ball
March 1977	LTC Young and CSM Jackson visited the 910th Signal Battalion for a one day orientation
April 1977	25 Officers, Soldiers and wives from the 910th Signal Battalion attended the 102d Signal Battalion's Organization Day
May 1977	The 102d Signal Battalion sent three, 6-Soldier Marksmanship Teams to Annual Rheinbach Marksmanship Competition

June 1977

Seven Soldiers from the 102d Signal Battalion participated in a one week field exercise with the 910th Signal Battalion

September 1977

910th Signal Battalion Executive Officer and 20 Soldiers qualified with the 102d Signal Battalion during our annual rifle qualification

October 1977

LTC Young, MAJ Julian, CPT Chase (Troop OIC) and 30 Soldiers attended the 910th Signal Battalion Change of Command. CPT Chase and Soldiers participated in the ceremony

November 1977

4 Officers and wives from the 102d Signal Battalion attended the Annual Tomburg Festival at Rheinbach

December 1977

LTC Kruttke visited the 102d Signal Battalion Headquarters and facilities on a two-day trip

December 1977

The 102d Signal Battalion Volleyball Team went to Rheinbach for a challenge match with the 910th Signal Battalion

Since constitution of the Battalion on 11 December 1944, the 102d has seen many changes in its mission, which have affected its organizational structure. Regardless of these changes, we have always successfully accomplished all of the tasks for which we were responsible. We believe that our reputation is above reproach and that the credit for these accomplishments goes to the personnel assigned to our organization and to our many predecessors. This organization is actually made up of many widely separated small units, each a link in a gigantic chain--and no chain is stronger than its weakest link. Therefore, the lion's share of credit for our accomplishments must go to the personnel who maintain and operate the various sites of this Battalion.

APPENDIX A
BATTALION COMMANDERS

APPENDIX A

102D SIGNAL BATTALION COMMANDERS

18 March 1955 - 9 October 1955	MAJ William E. Felty
10 October 1955 - 23 August 1958	LTC Mitchell F. Sautley
24 August 1958 - 26 May 1960	MAJ Francis M. Cloutier
30 May 1960 - 4 July 1960	MAJ Howard W. Killiam
5 July 1960 - 6 April 1961	LTC Hamilton B. Gardner
7 April 1961 - 24 July 1961	MAJ Frank D. Stevens
25 July 1961 - 2 July 1962	LTC Felton H. Moore
28 July 1962 - 18 August 1963	LTC Eugene B. Dares
19 August 1963 - 15 December 1963	MAJ John D. Lawler
16 December 1963 - 31 May 1965	LTC Wilmer M. Beam
1 June 1965 - 13 July 1965	MAJ Elden E. Wayman
14 July 1965 - 20 February 1966	LTC Leroy J. Eckes
24 August 1966 - 13 November 1967	LTC Earl E. Daly, Jr.
15 April 1973 - 23 November 1974	LTC Glenn L. Bruskiwicz
24 November 1974 - 24 July 1974	LTC Justin A. Holmes
25 July 1975 - 27 January 1977	LTC Calvin Swarz
28 January 1977 - 27 March 1978	LTC Lawrence B. H. Young Sr.
28 March 1978 - Present	LTC Otto J. Guenther

APPENDIX B

UNIT CREST, SYMBOLISM, MOTTO

APPENDIX B

UNIT CREST, SYMBOLISM, MOTTO

BLAZONRY

SHIELD: Argent, two bars wavy azure, overall a quill palewise tenne fimbriated on the second of the first

CREST: None

MOTTO: Honor-Heritage-History

DESCRIPTION

The colors white and orange are for the Signal Corps. The micro-wave functions are symbolized by the two slightly wavy bars, which also represent the Tiber and Po Rivers, thus alluding to the Rome-Arno and Po Valley Campaigns. The pen is a play on the Celtic word "pen" for a mountain top, from which the name Appenine is believed to derive. It also symbolized communications.

APPENDIX C
LINEAGE AND HONORS



USARMYGERMANY.COM

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Lineage and Honors

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
102D SIGNAL BATTALION

Constituted 11 December 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 102d Signal Heavy Construction Battalion

Activated 1 March 1945 in Italy as the 102d Signal Light Construction Battalion

Inactivated 2 October 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts

Redesignated 1 February 1955 as the 102d Signal Battalion

Inactivated 13 November 1967 in Germany

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 102d Signal Battalion, activated 1 July 1974 in Frankfurt, Germany

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II
North Appennines
Po Valley

DECORATIONS

None

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Verne M. Boners
VERNE M. BONERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

USARMYGERMANY.COM

APPENDIX D

CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING
UNIT DAY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE DATE

1 MARCH

SELECTED BY THE

102D SIGNAL BATTALION

AS

UNIT DAY

IN COMMEMORATION OF

Initial activation 1 March 1945 in Italy as
102d Signal Light Construction Battalion

IS HEREBY OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AND
RECORDED AS BEING OF ENDURING
SIGNIFICANCE IN THE HISTORY OF THE
ORGANIZATION.

Given Under My Hand in the City of Washington
this 13th day of May 1963

Cyrus Vance

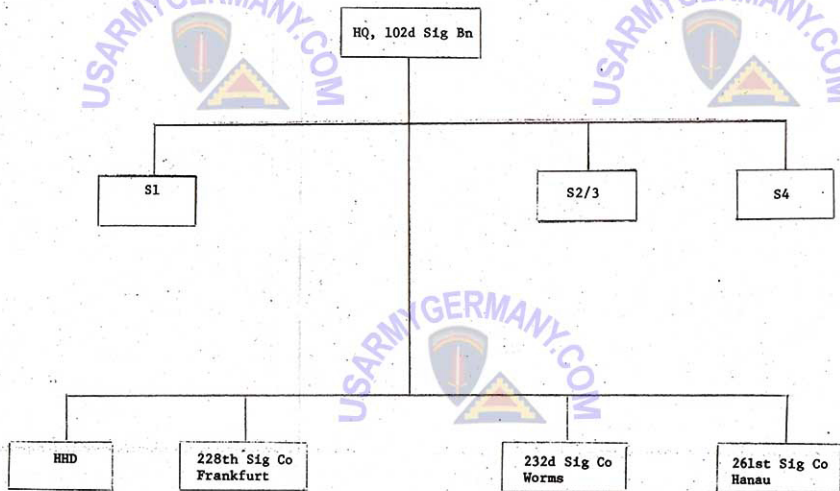
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

APPENDIX E
CONFIGURATION OF 102D
SIGNAL BATTALION

102D SIGNAL BATTALION
MISSION STATEMENT

1. Plan, direct, supervise and coordinate activities of subordinate units engaged in providing non-tactical telecommunications support to Department of Defense Elements within the battalion area of responsibility. The area is defined by lines connecting Bad Hersfeld, Wuersburg, Worms and Wiesbaden.
2. Supervise the operation and maintenance of the assigned portions of the Defense Communications Agency Command and Control System and the European Wideband Communications System.
3. Provides technical assistance and coordinate to subordinate units concerning installation, operation and maintenance of communications systems and communications and electronics activities.
4. Direct and supervise subordinate units which include:
 - a. 228th Signal Company located in Frankfurt.
 - b. 232d Signal Company located in Worms.
 - c. 261st Signal Company located in Hanau.
 - d. HHD located in Frankfurt.

102D SIGNAL BATTALION
ORGANIZATION CHART



APPENDIX E

APPENDIX F
CONFIGURATION OF 228TH
SIGNAL COMPANY

228TH SIGNAL COMPANY
MISSION/FUNCTION STATEMENT

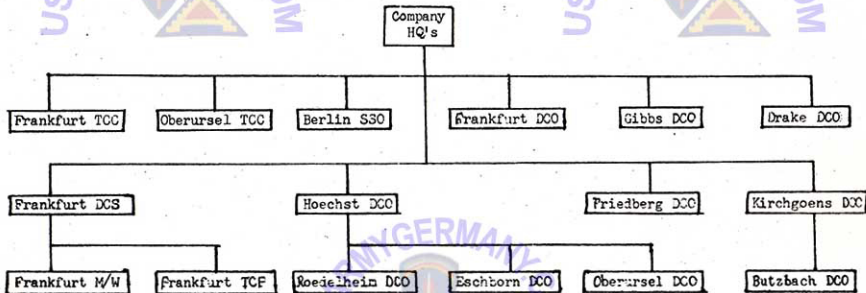
MISSION

Exercise command, control and technical supervision over assigned communications facilities in support of the Department of Defense elements in unit area of responsibility.

PRINCIPLE FUNCTIONS

- a. Provide telephone service support by means of 11 dial central offices capable of terminating a total of 6200 telephone subscriber circuits and one major Dial Service Assistance Switchboard.
- b. Provide record communications and data pattern services utilizing Mode I AUTODIN systems and command and control teletype circuits.
- c. Operate and maintain the DCS Microwave Station and Technical Control Facility located in Frankfurt, Germany.
- d. Perform the administrative, operational and logistical functions necessary to operate and maintain 14 separately located communications facilities within Frankfurt and the immediate area of Frankfurt, Germany.

228TH SIGNAL COMPANY
ORGANIZATION CHART



APPENDIX G

CONFIGURATION OF 232D
SIGNAL COMPANY

232D SIGNAL COMPANY
MISSION/FUNCTION STATEMENT

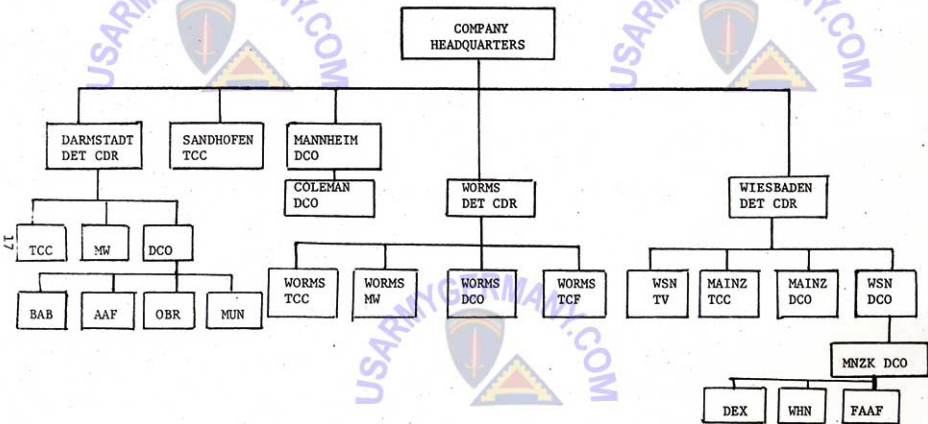
MISSION

Exercise command, control, and technical supervision over assigned communications facilities in support of the Department of Defense elements in unit's area of responsibility.

PRINCIPLE FUNCTIONS

- a. Provide telephone service support by means of 14 dial central offices capable of terminating a total of 8000 telephone subscriber circuits and through the operation of three (3) Dial Service Assistance Switchboards.
- b. Provide record communications and data pattern services at four locations utilizing Mode I AUTODIN systems.
- c. Operate and maintain the DCS Microwave Stations located at Worms and Darmstadt, Germany.
- d. Perform the administrative, operational and logistical functions necessary to operate and maintain 22 separately located communications facilities.
- e. Operate and maintain the TV Station located at Wiesbaden Air Base.

232D SIGNAL COMPANY
ORGANIZATION CHART



APPENDIX H
CONFIGURATION OF 261ST
SIGNAL COMPANY

261ST SIGNAL COMPANY
MISSION/FUNCTION STATEMENT

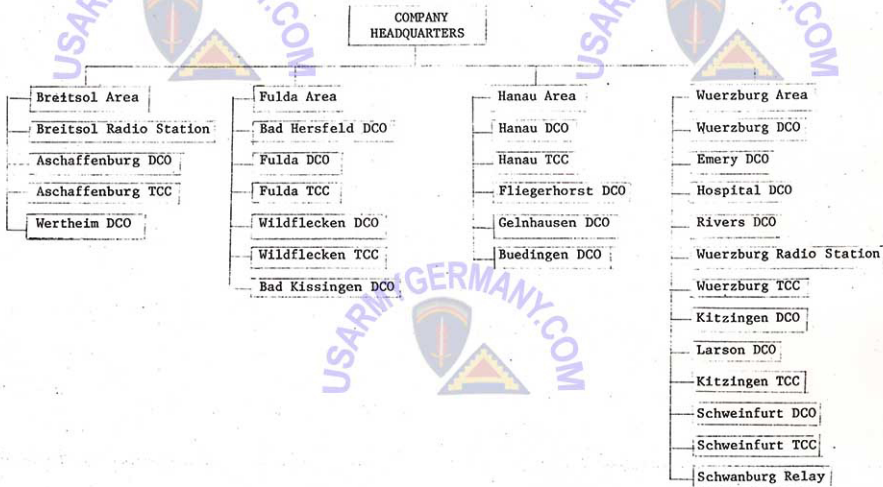
MISSION

Exercise command, control and technical supervision over assigned tactical and non-tactical communications facilities in support of the Department of Defense elements in unit area responsibility.

PRINCIPLE FUNCTIONS

- a. Provide telephone service support by means of 17 Dial Central Offices capable of terminating a total of 6300 telephone subscriber circuits.
- b. Provide record communications and data pattern services utilizing Mode I, III, and V AUTODIN systems at seven separate locations.
- c. Provide long lines Defense Communication System support at two separate locations by means of line of sight and tropospheric scatter radio communications links.
- d. Provide tactical VHF radio communications links to supplement trunking between Dial Central Offices in the 3rd Infantry Division operational area.
- e. Perform the administrative, operational and logistical functions necessary to operate and maintain 32 communications facilities at 27 separate locations within the Federal Republic of Germany.

261ST SIGNAL COMPANY
ORGANIZATION CHART



A P P E N D I X I

M A P

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY
102D SIG BN

