

Signal Corps Time Capsule Unearthed; Moved

By Melissa Ziobro
CECOM LCMC Command Historian

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The Fort Monmouth community observed the removal of the U.S. Army Signal Corps Centennial Time Capsule on June 21 at 11a.m. during a ceremony in front of Russel Hall, Building 286. June 21, 2010 marked the 150th anniversary of the Signal Corps.

The Signal Corps had buried the time capsule on September 16, 1960 to commemorate its 100th anniversary year. Fort Monmouth was known as the "Home of the Signal Corps" at that time.



June 21, 2010



September 16, 1960

Almost 50 years later, in the face of Fort Monmouth's pending closure, the still-sealed time capsule has moved to Fort Gordon, Georgia, where it is expected to remain, closed, until its eventual opening on June 21, 2060 (the Signal Corps' 200th anniversary). Fort Gordon is currently known as the "Home of the Signal Corps."

The time capsule contains items thought to provide a complete and representative picture of the status and achievements of the Signal Corps in 1960 as well as historical information dealing with the origin of the Corps and of major developments during its first 100 years.

The contents, which include published materials, photographs, films, and equipment, were individually sealed in polyethylene envelopes.

The envelopes were placed in a cylindrical capsule made of 1/8" thick copper. It stands 46", and measures 24" in diameter. The capsule with contents weighs approximately 350 lbs.

In the final sealing of the capsule, all air was evacuated and the cylinder was filled with an inert gas. The capsule itself was placed inside a polyethylene container. The capsule was then installed in a four ton concrete vault, 50" in height and 30" in diameter. A 550 pound concrete cap was placed over the capsule at ground level and sealed to protect against moisture entering the vault.



A plaque embedded in this concrete cap reads, in part, “Beneath this plaque lies a time capsule installed... to commemorate the first Centennial of the U.S. Army Signal Corps...” The Signal Corps Centennial Committee hoped this plaque would be “an ever present reminder to all Signalmen who view it of the long history and tradition of the Corps.”

The June 21, 2010 time capsule ceremony opened with the arrival of the official party, the singing of the national anthem, and an invocation by Fort Monmouth Chaplain (COL) David Forden. Narrator Hayward Hubbs

provided a brief overview of the Signal Corps’ first 100 years, concluding with the burial of the time capsule in 1960. CECOM LCMC Commander MG Randolph P. Strong spoke next, calling the day one of “both celebration and commemoration.”



Strong, a former Chief of Signal, told the crowd the story of how “fifty years ago our predecessors buried this time capsule in honor of the 100th birthday of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in a ceremony right here on this very spot.” He likened his excitement at seeing the time capsule to “a kid on Christmas morning who couldn’t yet open his presents.”

Just before he, Fort Monmouth Garrison Manager George E. Fitzmaier, and Garrison Command Sergeant Major Linza Chapman removed the cover from the previously unearthed capsule, Strong declared, “I’m proud to have served in the midst of such brilliance and to have followed in the footsteps of those who created and nourished the legacy of the Signal Corps. And I’m proud to lead and serve with all of you who work tirelessly every day to foster and advance technologies that serve and support our nation’s Warfighters.”

U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command
Commander MG Randolph P. Strong, a former Chief of Signal, addresses the crowd.

A cake cutting followed the reveal of the time capsule. The eldest Signal Soldier in attendance, COL (Ret) James Costigan, and the youngest Signal Soldier in attendance, SGT Joshua Geren, helped the official party of Strong, Fitzmaier, and Chapman cut the cake.

See more about Fort Monmouth's Signal Heritage at <http://cecom.army.mil/historian/>

