

Headquarters,
Department of the Army

FIELD MANUAL
11-45

**Signal Support to
Theater Operations**

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Signal Support to Theater Operations

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Preface

This manual serves as a basis for signal support to theater Army (TA)/echelons above corps (EAC) doctrine and training. It is to be used in conjunction with FM 24-1 and the Joint Publication 6 series for the planning, installation, operation, and maintenance of communications at the theater level. FM 11-45 encompasses the concepts of the Force XXI vision discussed in TRADOC Pam 525-5 and FM 100-5 to provide the TA/EAC with the doctrine necessary to function and carry out their mission.

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Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Chapter 1

Signal Support to the Operational Commander

This chapter describes how signal supports the Army's function in the future as the primary land force executing joint, multinational operations in war and in military operations other than war (MOOTW). Looking to the future, the Army must restructure its units to adapt to the new MOOTW requirements and be able to fight more than one conflict at a time.

SECTION I – SUPPORTING ARMY OPERATIONS

1-1. Army forces in a theater of operations, as part of a joint team, are central to a theater campaign. The Army service component command (ASCC) commander is the Army's senior operational-level commander. He can execute the operational fight, command and control tactical forces of multiple services, and manage the theater support structure. Thus, he requires command, control, communications, computers, and information systems (C4I) connectivity. Normally constructed around Army headquarters, the current ASCC in no way resembles the Army formations of World War II. Those formations were more akin to tactical formations with operational level responsibilities normally held at the army group.

1-2. Today, ASCC commanders employ forces within three states (peacetime, conflict, and war) of the theater operational environment. Because of this wide spectrum of operations and operational environments, command, control, communications, and computer (C4) support must connect the operational commander to local governments, coalition armies, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations. In addition, C4 support must interface with US commercial and strategic communications networks. The deployed ASCC must link to the Department of the Army (DA), the combatant commander, and when required, the national command authority (NCA).

1-3. The ASCC commander's challenge is to shape the military environment and set the conditions for unqualified success. Success depends on the ability of the commander to communicate across a wide spectrum of agencies and forces. "Congress can make a general, but only communications can make him a commander," said Omar Bradley, General of the Army, quoting an unnamed source in his book, *A Soldier's Story*. Bradley was the Army's senior operational level commander in Europe during World War II. His words ring true today. Communicators must provide links that will ultimately allow the ASCC commander to conduct his operational mission and enable his tactical commanders to accomplish their mission.