

DISA 50th Anniversary Video

Narrator:

As Americans, we live in a world that is always changing. Our country is challenged daily by a vast array of global threats. While some of these threats are of a physical nature, some can be technical and complex in nature, such as: the computer, internet, and cyberspace; and the satellite and missile defense systems in outer space. In order to achieve mission success in this unstable world, it's crucial that our military forces communicate clearly, immediately, and reliably with the information necessary delivered by the best tools and technology that the Department of Defense can provide.

Captain Vigneron:

And for 50 years now, the Defense Information Systems Agency has been doing just that; fully dedicated to solving these complex problems.

Hello, I'm Captain Brandon Vigneron (USAF, DISA Joint Staff Support Center), and I want to take a moment and recognize a very special event: The 50th Anniversary of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). But, just what is DISA? In the next few minutes, we'll show you the highlights of how DISA came to be, explain its mission and vision for the future.

Narrator 2:

The Defense Information Systems Agency began with the creation of the Defense Communications Agency or D.C.A., on May 12, 1960.

The new organization's mission was managing the newly established Defense Communications System, which consolidated the military services' separate communication systems

The 1960s were a time of rapid growth for the agency, as it responded to the communications needs generated by the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Pueblo, and Liberty incidents, the Vietnam War and Space exploration.

During the Vietnam War DCA was the driving force in establishing a backbone communications system supporting the U.S. Forces in Southeast Asia.

Towards the end of the 1970s; DCA became more oriented toward interoperability with the U.S. and its allies' tactical communications systems.

The mid -1980s presented even more complex command, control and communications challenges due to telecommunication demands, worldwide database systems, customer information requirements, and architectural developments.

During Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, DISA provided information systems support to DoD and non-DoD activities.

In June 1991, DCA underwent a major reorganization and was renamed DISA to reflect its expanded role in implementing the DoD's Corporate Information Management Initiative, and to identify it as a Combat Support Agency.

The next year, DISA was given the mission to manage and consolidate the military services, and DoD's information processing centers into 16 mega-centers.

Throughout the 1990's DISA continued supporting the warfighters and fielded new systems to support the Combatant Commands.

With the shift from the Cold War to the Global War On Terrorism, DISA faces even greater challenges as a DoD service provider.

Since 2005, the Agency's focus has been on acting smarter and quicker on fielding information technology to its customers.

Building on that strategy, DISA, in 2010, has initiated a Campaign Plan that will guide the Agency into the 21st Century enabling information superiority for our Nation's leaders and joint warfighters. We used to worry about the last tactical mile. Now, we focus on delivering capabilities to the warfighter at the edge.

As a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), DISA is consolidating its headquarters at Fort George Meade, Maryland.

The relocation and consolidation will take place in 2011.

LTG John J. Myers, USA (Director, DCA, 1987 – 1990):

DCA's... their operations will change, the services will change, the technology will change... but what I'm really hoping to establish is a way of doing business in perpetuity that will afford the next director a roadmap to continue to modernize and move towards the 21st century.

Lt. Gen. Albert Edmonds, USAF (Director, DISA, 1994-1997):

The most important aspect of the communications and computer business is to ensure that our Nation's warfighters have the right information, in the right place, at the right time, to successfully execute their mission. The Defense information infrastructure is critical to success on the battlefield. Our young sailors, soldiers, Marines, and airmen deserve the very best. Together, as a team, we can make it happen, and make it last.

GEN Colin Powell, USA (Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1989-1993):

But I wanted to come here to let you know that DCA was as important a part of that team as any unit you see coming back from Desert Shield and Desert Storm. You were essential because communications were superb. You gave the young men and women we sent into combat what they needed to do their job, come home safely, and come back to a waiting and proud America. You were essential to that, and I'm here to tell you that, and I'm here to thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of myself, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but especially on behalf of every young man and woman who went in harm's way in the name of the American people.

GEN David Petraeus, USA (Commander, US Central Command):

I want to express again my thanks to DISA and its industry and government partners — indeed to all of you there today — for working together so effectively and so impressively to support and enable our operations in the Central Command area. Your teams and your teams of teams at CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa and forward-based in Bahrain, Iraq, and Afghanistan have been tremendously responsive, innovative, and dependable in ensuring that we have the communications and information capabilities that are necessary to support all our operational mission requirements.

Narrator 2:

For the past 50 years, the Defense Information Systems Agency has contributed to the success of our national leadership and the warfighters.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, taking technology and innovation to the edge, whether it be a military contingency or support for humanitarian assistance, we are always on, ready to meet the next engagement....

Employees:

Happy 50th Anniversary DISA!