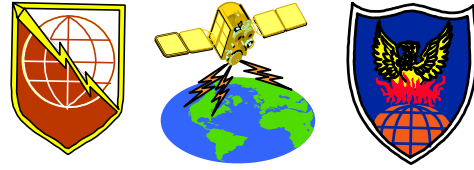


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### GRECIAN FIREBOLT FUELS SIGNAL CORPS SPIRIT

**Fort Meade, Md.** — “Shoot, move, and communicate” has always been a battlefield mantra, but as technology evolves, this could be revised to “Communicate, shoot, and move.” More than ever, battlefield commanders need real-time, mobile, tactical communications upon demand and under adverse conditions, and Signal Corps units across the country are meeting the challenge.

Training is the secret weapon that ensures success. The U.S. Army Reserve’s premier annual training exercise, “**Grecian Firebolt**,” provides the critical ammunition that allows Signal Corps units to practice essential skill sets as they supply voice, data, and video teleconferencing services, upon demand, to military customers across the country. Taking place from June 11-26, the exercise network operations is managed by the 311th Theater Signal Command (TSC) from its location at Fort Meade.

“More than ever, units view the Signal Corps as a utility — they expect to ‘flick the switch’ and have their services work,” said Brig. Gen. George J. Smith, Deputy Commanding General for the 311th TSC. “Grecian Firebolt gives us time with the Signal community to focus on those training issues related to new technologies and customer service, and to ‘train as we fight.’”

A joint effort among Active, Reserve, and Army and Air National Guard Signal units, the exercise involves the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), as part of the Homeland Defense component. Most importantly, Grecian Firebolt allows Signal Soldiers the opportunity to build a network architecture that tests their strategic and tactical readiness, while providing a range of communications services to customers that include quartermaster, medical, chemical, and National Guard Army and Air Guard units from the East to the West Coast.

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## 311TH THEATER SIGNAL COMMAND GRECIAN FIREBOLT 2005

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### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: What is the purpose of Grecian Firebolt 2005?**

**A:** Grecian Firebolt 2005 (GF05) is a Communications Exercise (COMEX) initiated in 1994. It provides training and tests interoperability between active and reserve component units and Federal and private sector partners. The COMEX integrates current and older generations of equipment and technology, and allows participants to field and test new and experimental technology.

**Q: What is the mission of Grecian Firebolt 2005?**

**A:** On order, under the direction of the 311th Theater Signal Command (TSC), units will deploy as a combat ready, theater-level Signal force, to engineer, install, operate, maintain, and protect command, control, communications and computer support in accordance with U.S. Army Reserve Command exercise directives.

**Q: What are the exercise dates for Grecian Firebolt 2005?**

**A:** This year, GF05 is held June 11 to 26, during which more than 750 soldiers, airmen and civilians will participate in providing communications services to a range of military customers.

**Q: What is the role of the 311th TSC during Grecian Firebolt 2005?**

**A:** The 311th TSC is responsible for command and control of all units participating in the exercise, which includes planning, engineering and managing the overall GF05 communications voice and data networks.

**Q: What major exercises will the Grecian Firebolt 2005 network architecture support?**

**A:** Annual training exercises supported by GF05 include Golden Medic (3rd Medical Command), Joint Thunder (South Dakota National Guard), QLLEX (Quartermaster Logistic Liquid Exercise/475th Quartermaster Company, 49th Quartermaster Group), and Desert Warrior (86th Signal Battalion, Fort Huachuca, Ariz).

**Q: What are some of the Signal training goals during Grecian Firebolt 2005?**

**A:** Units participating in GF05 seek to provide reliable communications to all supported service subscribers in the four major exercises, provide a reliable nationwide communications network that uses both secure and nonsecure communications, and test interoperability with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), and other Homeland Defense initiatives.