

**REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE OF UNITED STATES
MILITARY TELEGRAPH
LINES AND GENERAL REGULATIONS OF
THE SIGNAL CORPS, UNITED STATES
ARMY, WITH APPENDIX**

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Regulations for the Operation and Maintenance of United States Military Telegraph Lines and
General Regulations of the Signal Corps, United States Army, with Appendix by Various

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WITH
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SIGNAL OFFICE,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, July 1, 1899.

The following regulations for the operation and maintenance of United States military telegraph lines are furnished for the guidance of all concerned. They will replace all former instructions relating to the operation of military telegraph lines.

Immediately upon receipt of these instructions, officers in charge and operators will make themselves familiar therewith.

A. W. GREELY,
Chief Signal Officer.

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**Regulations for the Operation and Maintenance of
U. S. Military Telegraph Lines and General Regu-
lations of the Signal Corps, U. S. Army.**

1. The act of Congress approved October 1, 1890, section 2, directs that the Chief Signal Officer shall have charge, under direction of the Secretary of War, of * * * "the construction, repair, and operation of military telegraph lines," * * * "and the duty of collecting and transmitting information for the Army by telegraph or otherwise."

2. These lines, owned by the United States, are only subject to the laws of the General Government, being built for the better protection of immigration and frontier settlements from depredations, and especially for maintaining quick and sure means of communication for military purposes. No use will be permitted of these lines that would defeat the object of their construction. The operators on these lines are enlisted men of the Signal Corps or civil employees who have accepted military discipline. They will not fail to show to military superiors the proper respect and courtesy required by Army Regulations; they will give commanding officers cordial cooperation in transmitting dispatches and in rendering every possible assistance in promoting military operations, and, in all cases, will treat the demands of their military superiors with the greatest respect.

3. With the view of rendering the most efficient service to scouting parties and other troops serving in campaigns or maneuvers, enlisted men of the Signal Corps will at all times be ready to take the field when so

ordered by their commanding officer. For this purpose, they must always be properly equipped for cutting in and opening a field station on telegraph lines between regular offices. Such equipment should include a pair of climbers, a block and tackle, a pocket relay, or extra relay or box sounder, small pieces of office wire for connecting the lines to the instrument, a hatchet, pliers, a few nails, and blanks, pencils, writing pads, etc., which will be kept conveniently packed for transportation.

Enlisted men of the Signal Corps will inform themselves as far as possible as to geography of the country near their stations, as opportunity may occur for rendering important service to commands in the field by carrying information from such commands to the nearest telegraph line and transmitting it by wire.

GENERAL RULES.

4. To secure the greatest measure of usefulness and efficiency of these lines for military purposes, the following rules will be strictly observed: Enlisted men and employees in charge of stations (not at military posts and where there are no troops) are hereby directed to promptly communicate to commanding officers of posts or cantonments nearest to, and on each side of, their stations any information coming to their knowledge regarding the enemy, and to transmit to them all reports brought to a station by scouts, or other persons, respecting outbreaks, raids, depredations or movements of the enemy.

To enable commanding officers to determine the degree of importance to attach to such reports, operators will state with the utmost particularity how the information thus communicated was obtained, the nature and extent of the depredations, and the place where committed; whether the depredations were by Indians or other parties, and, if Indians, the band or tribe to which

they belong, the number in the party, and the direction whence they came and toward which they traveled.

To be of value in military operations it is indispensable that information of this character should be communicated with the least possible delay, and to this end any operator transmitting important military dispatches from official sources, or on his own motion, will, in calling the desired office, use the signal "9," which signal will be understood as commanding immediate suspension of all other business until the dispatches in hand have been transmitted.

The operator sending, under this signal, military dispatches, as also all operators receiving them, will consider themselves as constantly on duty and remain within sound of their instruments until the emergency necessitating its use has passed, and of the termination of such emergency the military commander present on the line will be the judge. When any operator thus on duty shall have been notified that his attendance is no longer required, he will promptly inform all the others of the fact, but such notification must not be taken as excusing any of them from attendance during the prescribed office hours without permission from the proper authority.

The foregoing instructions are intended mainly for the guidance of operators on duty at telegraph stations away from military posts, but will not be understood as authorizing any operators to communicate to military commanders any information which may come to them, or which they may hear passing over the wires, or from rumors respecting Indian operations or movements of troops which may be current at a military post. In such cases it will be assumed that commanding officers will themselves communicate such information to other military commanders should they deem it proper or necessary to do so.