



*Training with Industry program:  
stepping ahead*

*By Captain Jennifer B. Salinas*



# *Training with Industry*

Shortly after World War II, a Defense Department study on preparedness covering issues of industrial cooperation and surge capability, technological advancements and the changing threat, concluded that to improve U.S. defense readiness, there had to be better understanding and communication among government, military and industry. The solution was to establish a cooperative DoD educational program with industry.

The program's objective is to help selected military officers and civil servants gain an understanding of industry's approach to managing research and development, business systems production and product support. Signal officers are among those selected for this program.

# *Training with Industry*

When aerospace industries were contacted, Boeing was one of the first to volunteer as a host for the students in the program, named Training with Industry or TWI. I'm a member of the 51st class (Class 98-99) to graduate from TWI at Boeing.

TWI is just one of the best and most diverse Army education programs available. This is a unique opportunity for officers and civilians to work with an industry leader like Boeing in the effort to improve understanding and communications.



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Each student departs the program enroute to a job that will use his or her newly gained knowledge and experience. But while in TWI, one key to success and an enjoyable time in the program is involvement. You'll be part of the firm and your ideas, assistance and contributions will be important. The reward for your efforts will be the knowledge and experience you gain through working with a highly competitive aerospace company.

As a signal officer, I've had experience in basic electronics and voice communications, and minimal experience in data communications and networking technology. TWI gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge and experience in data and networking technologies. I've taken more than 40 hands-on technical classes on data and network concepts, methodologies and technical specifications. Boeing paid for all the educational costs, plus any travel done for Boeing business purposes.

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The main purpose of TWI is for the student to gain practical knowledge and experience about industrial procedures, processes and practices unavailable through formal civilian or military courses. During your TWI assignment, you could be involved in many different jobs/projects, depending on factors such as depth of the job, your experience level and an understanding between you, your mentor and your job sponsor.

These are a few of the training skills/knowledge gained through TWI hands-on or computer-based interactive training: how media-access methods/technologies work; Ethernet/IEEE 802.3; Token Ring/802.5; fiber-distributed interface; point-to-point protocol; SONET, ISDN and ATM; planning, installing and integrating into the enterprise network a new local area network; how TCP/IP, Novell, SPX/IPX and OSI network protocol suites function; and how to configure install and troubleshoot routers, bridges and switches.

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The Army can further assist you to enhance and broaden career opportunities for training credit and possible technical certifications with distance learning and computer-based training.

Opportunity is out there. Now that you know where to look, don't wait for opportunity to knock on your door! Talk with your Signal representative/professor of military science.

*Captain Salinas was assigned to U.S. Army Signal Command at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., after she finished TWI, where she serves as a communications-electronics systems engineer/officer. Previous assignments include TWI at Boeing's Information Space and Defense Systems, Seattle, Wash.; commander, Company A, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; division telecommunications officer, 125th Signal Battalion, Schofield Barracks; and battalion signal officer, 15<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.*