



HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS **MOBILE RADIO ACCESS MAST – THE FUTURE-5G**



Royal Signals operators were responsible for fielding the first mobile access trunk networks, which have subsequently been developed into the fixed access networks that we see in place today throughout the world.

If you worked with the BRUIN or PTARMIGAN radio relay masts and radio relay stations then you would find empathy with the first picture; especially if you were attempting to hide a 70 foot Clarke Mast in a Beech wood in Northern Germany! This is a present day 4G mast set in a Beech wood, well hidden from view, and if you have driven between Salisbury and Blandford then your mobile phone will most likely have con-



ected to this particular network tower– of course only if you were using “hands free!”

No longer is there so much reference to mobile area networks, net radio or fixed/static communications as they were defined in the past and reflected in the Royal Signals Trade structures of those times. Information Communications Technology (ICT) is defined as technologies that provide access to information through all telecommunications. These include internet, wireless networks, cell phones, and other communications media. There is therefore much more integration today in order to cope with the much greater flow of information and data that is required to support modern armed forces. The development of 5G is a part of this rapid progression and the Corps continues to play a vital role in the development and fielding of this system to suit military requirements. Whilst 5G provides access to commercial companies and individuals, by adopting the 5G technologies and standards private networks (including the military) will be offered additional enhanced and fast communications. These private networks can be completely isolated from the public networks, thereby continuing to provide confidentiality and integrity that have always been vital for successful military communications.



Captain Andy Sutton is serving as a Specialist Reserve Officer (SRO) with 254 (SGIS) Signal Squadron, but in his day job he works for BT as a Principal Network Architect within the Architecture and Technology Strategy team, focused mainly on 4G and 5G radio access networks. He has written a series of articles in the RSI Journal and delivered lectures at Blandford on 5G technology.