

LTC John D. Price, 1st Space Battalion commander, pins the Basic Space Badge on SFC Erik A. Johnson, 4th Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, during a monthly awards ceremony at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Photo by DJ Montoya



# SPACE BADGE

## Recognizes Warriors of the High Ground

By Jason Cutshaw, USASMDC/ARSTRAT

From Combat Infantryman Badges, “Jump Wings” and Ranger Tabs, Soldiers have been able to show the world they are trained professionals. With the addition of the Army’s newest badge, Soldiers can now show they are trained to control the high ground.

On Feb. 2, the Army Chief of Staff approved the establishment of the Space Badge. The badge is awarded to Active Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers who complete appropriate Space-related training and attain the required Army Space Cadre experience. The badge has three levels: basic, senior, and master.

“The Soldier [wearing the Space Badge] is a valued member of the Army Space Cadre community who speaks from a position of knowledge and experience,” said Robert Kyniston, operations officer for the Army Space Professional Development Office at USASMDC/ARSTRAT. “Soldiers wearing the Space Badge are also recognized as knowledgeable, contributing members of the joint Space community by other services.”

For active duty Soldiers, the Basic Space Badge is awarded after 12 months, the Senior badge after 48 months and the Master badge after 84 months. For Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, the Basic badge is awarded after 24 months, the Senior badge after 60 months and the Master badge after 96 months.

The Space Badge is considered a Group 4 badge, and Soldiers can wear it with Group 3 badges such as the Aviator Badge.

“To me the Space Badge is used to indicate simply a level of training and experience and hence a way of measuring ourselves as Army Space Cadre with our Air Force counterparts,” said LTC Brian T. Soldon, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and Reagan Test Site deputy commander, who received the Master Space Badge in 2009.

“As my career progressed and with the recent approval of the Space Badge as an Army award as well, the Space Badge has taken on additional meaning for me as an indication of professionalism and camaraderie,” Soldon added. “Every day I get up and put my uniform on, I am reminded [by the badge] that I owe it to those I serve with to challenge myself to be [added value] to the goals and objectives of the Warfighter on that, and every, given day.”

Formerly called the Air Force Space Badge, the term “Air Force” was dropped from the name, and it is now called the Space Badge. A paragraph pertaining to the badge will appear in

the next update to Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards.

The badge is one element of the military’s identification and development of people with Space expertise. In 2001, the Secretary of Defense directed each service to develop a “cadre of Space-qualified professionals comprised of military and civilian personnel in sufficient quantities to represent their military service and agency’s interests in Space requirements, acquisition, and operations.”

As the Army-specified proponent for Space, the commander of USASMDC/ARSTRAT was assigned to develop and track a cadre of Space-qualified professionals comprised of military and civilian personnel. The Army Space Cadre consists of more than 2,300 Soldier and Civilian billets spread throughout Army and joint organizations. There are three categories of Army Space personnel from all components: FA40 (Space Operations Officers), Non-FA40 Soldiers, and Department of the Army civilians.

To help facilitate the identification and tracking of Space Cadre Soldiers, the Department of the Army G-1 has approved the revision and expansion of the 3Y skill identifier. The 3Y identifier is called “Space Enabler” and applies to officers (except FA40s), warrant officers, and enlisted Soldiers.

“3Y tells the Army that you are a trained and ready Soldier who is an expert in Space,” said SFC Gabriel A. Cardenas, Noncommissioned officer in charge at the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center Directorate of Training and Doctrine. “The Army has Space Soldiers, regardless of their rank and military occupational specialty, who are able to articulate what needs to be done in current and future operations and plans.”

Cardenas talked about how it feels to be a member of a select group of Soldiers who work on Space-based issues for the Army.

“In one word, it is dynamic,” he said. “But trying to summarize what my Space brigade Soldiers do in a feeling is impossible. I can tell you that I am inspired each day with what our Soldiers are providing to the Warfighter, from commercial imagery to Space situational awareness. These products are allowing commanders to make decisions that will save lives, protect borders, and destroy the enemy.”