



1st Space Brigade

Leader Notes

Army Space Support Overseas



COL Eric P. Henderson
Commander,
1st Space Brigade

Noted American singer and songwriter Bob Dylan once penned the lyric, "...the times, they are a-changin'..." As I sit down to write this first Commander's Corner for the Army Space Journal, I think of the changes that have occurred within the 1st Space Brigade over my first ten months of command, as well as the steady-state nature of our jobs here.

The first thing I'd like to comment on is the nature of the business in which we are entrusted to do. I reflect upon LTG Formica's vision statement for SMDC/ARSTRAT and I am cognizant of his direction to the command – specifically "providing trained and ready Space capabilities to the combatant commanders and the Warfighters." With the recent return of members of the fourth Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, this brigade has completed 61 successful rotations of trained and ready Space operators to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. I am very pleased to say, that since hostilities commenced, we have deployed, returned, and integrated back into our units, our families, and our communities. As our Army Space support teams and the commercial imagery teams rotate in and out of theater, there is a constant, steady level of professionalism that

allows us to seamlessly provide Space-based products and services to those deployed in harm's way.

As our adversaries change and adapt we continue to keep pace with the ever-changing demands placed upon us. I liken this situation to an analogy of "building an airplane, while we are flying it." Great demand is being placed upon 1st Space Brigade Soldiers to do an impressive array of innovative problem-solving missions. "Innovative problem-solving missions" gives every impression of a sound bite. More succinctly, our trained and ready Space forces, as directed by our commanding general, help capture and kill those individuals and organizations that wish to do us harm.

The "steady-state" aspect of the brigade is evidenced by the day in and day out steadfast performance of those Soldiers arrayed across the globe in our forward locations. Not a day goes by that Space warriors are not providing missile warning or facilitating payload control on satellite communications for high-priority users. These important missions are stalwart reminders

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Farewell Note to USASMDC/ARSTRAT



CSM James N. Ross
Command Sergeant Major
1st Space Brigade

After 52 months in the command, I relinquish responsibilities as the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Space Brigade on June 28. Although my departure is because of my selection for a position of higher responsibility, serving the 16,000 Soldiers of the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, it is bittersweet. I will conclude more than four years in USASMDC/ARSTRAT, which is a pretty incredible amount of time for a Command Sergeant Major to serve in one location.

During my tenure, I served as the Command Sergeant Major for both the 1st Space Battalion and the 1st Space Brigade. As I reflect on my time here, I have been a part of one of the finest

organizations in the U.S. Army. It has been a distinct honor to serve with the Soldiers and Civilians of this great command. It also has been a pleasure to work with the families of the command who have amazed me with their support to their warriors.

I want to thank each of you for what you do every day. You are dedicated to providing trained and capable Space and Missile Defense forces and capabilities across the globe to all supported geographic combatant commands. This command is unique, and during these past four years the growth in Space, Special Missions, and support

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LTC Patrick MULLIN

Recipient of the Bernard Schriever Award

By Rachel L. Griffith, USASMDC/ARSTRAT

LTC Patrick Mullin, Operations Officer, 1st Space Brigade, was recently honored with the Bernard Schriever award in honor of General Bernard Schriever, who is known as the “Father of the United States Air Force Space and Missile Programs.” Mullin received his award at the 54th annual Space Club Goddard Memorial Awards dinner, in Washington, D.C.

“I feel honored and humbled to receive this award. I realize that there are many other military Space professionals around the globe working hard to ensure that space capabilities are available and I am fortunate to be singled out for recognition.” Said Mullin.

The award recognizes excellence in military Space operations and acquisition in honor of General Bernard Schriever. Part of the citation recognizing Mullin read:

“LTC Mullin is recognized for his outstanding leadership and support to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as USSTRATCOM and regional Combatant Commanders across the globe. LTC Mullin’s exemplary leadership and dedication ensured delivery of a full spectrum of optimized Space efforts in support of Army, Joint, and Coalition Operations.”

Goddard Awardees are recognized by their colleagues from across government, industry and academia. Awards were presented to a number of outstanding individuals for accomplishments in spaceflight, engineering, science, management and education.

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of the importance of the Soldiers assigned to the brigade. Their contributions cannot be overstated.

There have been numerous challenges within the brigade relating to Japan recently. The main efforts we have faced are typhoons, floods, and earthquakes. Joint Tactical Ground Station Japan, 1st Space Battalion, and Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion have not only maintained their operational focus and contribution to the Department of Defense’s overall mission, but have assisted the people and government of Japan. Convoy relief, civilian evacuation, and supply delivery are among the myriad tasks our units have superbly performed. CSM Ross and I are proud to have such a poised, confident, fit, courageous, and flexible group of professionals.

The 1st Space Brigade completed its move into our new leased headquarters last month. We are proud of our new facility and grateful to those staff sections and agencies that provided assistance in our short journey. Additionally, we continued to support numerous worldwide exercises and operations. There is no other brigade-sized element in the Army that is asked to continuously support every combatant command across the globe, support a mission readiness exercise and other major exercises, and train and deploy our National Guard service members. Of note was the brigade’s support to Global Lightning/Austere Challenge, where 1st Brigade Soldiers were supporting the exercise in three distinct nations.

I often share with the Soldiers in our brigade that we are “Soldiers Who Do Space” not “Space Soldiers.” The various leadership teams across the brigade handle the “blocking and tackling” aspect of our jobs every day. In spite of the technically challenging and intellectually demanding aspect of working in the Space environment, we must continue to hone those basic skills that bind us all together as military professionals. One of the greatest aspects of this belief is the incredible performance and recognition of our Soldiers.

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to the Warfighter has been unbelievable. Not only has our troop strength grown exponentially, but our ability to provide Space support has increased in almost every area. I’m very proud to have played a small part in the maturing of the operational missions within the command.

The campaign in Iraq and Afghanistan, though primarily a ground engagement, is a major demonstration of Space operations. The Warfighters’ reliance on Space has never been stronger, and without it they cannot navigate, target, or communicate with the precision that sets our military apart. Please continue to look for innovative ways to better support the fight.

Today, the 1st Space Brigade can boast of fit, disciplined, and cohesive Joint Tactical Ground Station, Army Space Support Team, Commercial Imagery Team, Space Control, and Special Mission detachments that are led by skilled and versatile leaders who continue to raise the bar in Space operations. It has been an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with all of you. I will miss you and hold all of you in high esteem.

**You do ... SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!
All the best – Godspeed – First in Space!**