The View From (Army) Space ...

'Space Control Necessary to Fight and Win in the 21st Century'

By COL Glen C. Collins Jr.

This country has sent men and women off to battle many times, but this time, elements of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command are involved. Space Operations Officers and others from SMDC are deployed in many locations around the world.

One of our Space Operations Officers was awarded an Air Medal for his actions. Our soldiers and civilians are proving what we have known for a long time — Space control is necessary to both fight and win in the 21st Century. The "genie" is out of the box with Space technology. And this reliance on Space technology brings a new dimension to the battlefield. It also brings new problems for us because the adversary also has this capability.

Sadly, though, many soldiers do not even know that their equipment — or the enemy's — relies on satellites.

That is one reason the FA 40 Space Operations Officers are key members of the team. You have a challenge to bring Space assets and knowledge of how to use Space equipment to the warfighter, and to deny those assets and knowledge to the enemy. You are skilled officers who perform an important role in winning the war.

The article by LTG Cosumano sets the theme of Space control for this edition of the Army Space Journal. He makes many important points for all of us to remember.

First, effective Space control leads to Space superiority that is critical to the success of a military force. Second, without Space technology the military would not have Global Positioning System, precision guided munitions, reach-back communications and intelligence capabilities. Next, Space assets might be the "centers of gravity" of conflicts in this century.

A single ground station could be critical to the war. Commercial Space assets now play a role in warfighting. Finally, don't ever forget that we are part of a Department of Defense team. Other services and non-government agencies all bring new ideas and capabilities together. Cooperation and sharing of data is critical to our team winning the war.

Other articles in the Army Space Journal illustrate the Army's role in Space control. Army Transformation efforts need improved Space capabilities.

Information Operations uses Space. BG Geraci's article highlights the importance of IO in our work. The new definition of IO points out that the actions to influence our enemies' decision-making cycle are necessary to operations. A draft of IO doctrine emphasizes the void that existed in this area to accomplish the mission.

Again, you are a part of this new and exciting change in warfighting.

But these Space capabilities are not just useful for winning wars. Army Space Command provided assistance in fighting forest fires this year with our Space capabilities. Just like our Air Force partners who use organic aircraft equipment (C-130s) to drop slurry on forest fires, Army Space used organic assets to provide pictures taken from Space of the fires to the Forestry

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Service headquarters.

The same assets that fight and win wars were used to help our neighbors save their homes and businesses.

New equipment, doctrine and transformation efforts make this an exciting period in our Army. Your mission is to demonstrate to the Army leadership and the country that you are a valuable addition to the future of the Army.

The new U.S. Northern Command will need you.

The new U.S. Strategic Command will need you.

Professional Army Space Operations Officers facing and solving these new challenges will make the difference.

Move Out! There's a war to fight.

On this note, let me add some thoughts about your careers.

On July 16, at 0730 EDT, the Army released its first Officer Personnel Management System XXI Lieutenant Colonel selection list. We FA 40s had one officer picked up-above-the zone, one below- the-zone, and six of 10 officers picked in the primary zone. I had the good fortune to be a member of that board.

First, I will tell you that the board process that the Army has put in place is as fair as it can be. The board is composed of officers equitably distributed in all four of the Army's career fields; two were from the Information Operations Career Field. The files are voted on by career field, so your file competes only against other members of the IO Career Field, and in no way against those of the Operations Career Field. Files are voted the same from one career field to the next, with each voting done distinctly by career field.

If you are promoted, it is because you have done the right jobs, your work has been recognized with strong Officer Evaluation Reports and you have improved yourself with training and education. The selection process is fair.

Second, I'd like to share with you some observations about the board process, and in particular what you should be doing to better your chances of selection. Board members are given files from a given career field in a somewhat random process. Each file is voted distinctly and secretly by all of the board members. No board member can influence the outcome of the votes enough to prevent your promotion. Each file we receive, contains a picture, your Officer Record Brief and your microfiche.

The picture is your first communication to the board member. So long as your picture is current — in the new ¾ color format — it will not make much difference in the outcome of the vote. You should have a professional, confident appearance to ensure the picture does not send the wrong message. Absolutely do not let your file go before the board with either no picture or a picture that is the old style picture. When you do that, you have just sent a message to the board member that you don't care if you are promoted or not. If you believe in yourself and know that promotion is a chance to help more soldiers and assume greater responsibility, then you want to be promoted.

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Front row, left to right: LTC Elizabeth G. Kuh, MAJ Saundra R. Yanna, MAJ Chauncy C. Nash, BG Richard V. Geraci, MAJ Andrew Weate, MAJ Katherine P. Thornton, and LTC James E. Lawson II. Middle row, left to right: LTC Jerome E. Thomas, MAJ Robert A. Spuhl, MAJ James E. Rozzi, MAJ Gordon R. Quick, Jr., COL Frank P. Todd, MAJ Dennis W. Brozek, and COL David W. Shaffer. Back row, left to right: MAJ Patrick C. Suggs, LTC Bruce G. Smith, MAJ Don L. Wilkerson, MAJ Daniel D. Cockerham, COL Kurt S. Story, COL Jon P. Smart, and MAJ Stanley K. Russell, USMC.

Third Space Officer Course Graduates 20 New FA 40s

A third Space Operations Officer class graduated August 23. The seven-week course, which began July 8, earned graduates the elite new specialty of Functional Area 40, and equipped them with the tools and knowledge to provide future combatant commanders guidance on conducting Space operations in support of the mission. Graduates can expect assignments to operational staff and Space systems program offices.

At the graduation ceremony held in the Air Force Space Command building on Peterson Air Force Base (the Army Space Command building will be officially opened in October) the graduates were congratulated by guest speaker, LTG Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr., commander of Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Space Command.

"You were selected because you are successful. You will each bring something unique to this new specialty, your own backgrounds, and the knowledge of your basic branches.

"Be adaptive. Change is upon us, and is very significant in our business. Not only are you on the cutting edge — you will be paving the way for many Space operational concepts. Things have changed in the field just since you began this course. As you move into your assignments, you will be the experts on Space, bringing its 'gospel' to the warfighter," said Cosumano.

The 20 officers studied orbitology, satellite communications, Space-based navigation and intelligence gathering to include surveillance and negation of the same to opposing forces. The course is designed and instructed by Space and Missile Defense Command's Force Development and Integration Center - West, located in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The course is divided into three segments beginning with 25 days of classroom instruction. Afterward, a week is devoted to off-site visits to place such as the National Reconnaissance Office, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in Washington, D. C., the National Security Agency, and Army Space and Missile Defense Command Headquarters.

Included are hands-on training sessions with the Army Space Program Office, which develops Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities Space support systems in use by Army warfighters. The course also includes a 43-hour command post exercise designed to test each student's proficiency in 24 individual critical tasks.

The Distinguished Graduate, MAJ Daniel D. Cockerham, earned a grade point average of 97.3 in the academically challenging course. Also graduating were the new Army Space Command Chief of Staff, COL Kurt S. Story, and the new Army Space Forces commander, COL David W. Shaffer, who earlier the same day had assumed the command from outgoing commander, COL William J. Partridge.

Graduates were awarded the distinguished Air Force Space and Missile Badge for wear on their uniforms. The badge, which retains its distinctive Air Force blue even on the

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Army green Battle Dress Uniform, displays the Earth as viewed from Space, surrounded by stars and orbital paths and features a central figure representing both an upward thrust into Space and the launch vehicles necessary for that movement.

List of Graduates: COL David W. Shaffer, U.S. Army Space Command; COL Jon P. Smart, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; COL Kurt S. Story, U.S. Army Space Command; COL Frank P. Todd, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; LTC Elizabeth G. Kuh, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; LTC James E. Lawson, North American Aerospace Defense Command; LTC Bruce G. Smith, Objective Task Force; LTC Jerome E. Thomas, 3rd U.S. Army; MAJ Dennis W. Brozek, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; MAJ Daniel D. Cockerham, 1st Space Battalion; MAJ Chauncy C. Nash, 1st Space Battalion; MAJ Gordon R. Quick Jr., XVIII Airborne Corps; MAJ James E. Rozzi, Army Space Program Office; MAJ Stanley K. Russell, USMC, U.S. Space Command; MAJ Robert A. Spuhl, U.S. Space Command; MAJ Patrick C. Suggs, North American Aerospace Defense Command; MAJ Katherine P. Thornton, 8th U.S. Army; MAJ Andrew J. Weate, U.S. Army Space Command; MAJ Don L. Wilkerson, Training with Industry, Denver, Colo.; MAJ Saundra R. Yanna, U.S. Army Space Command.

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Next, the ORB is your resume. Ensure your duty positions are coded FA 40 and reflect "Space" in your duty title. The board member is looking for branch/functional area qualification and experience. Don't make this difficult for them to determine. The ORB also conveys how you have improved yourself during your career.

As a major prepared for lieutenant colonel, you should have completed your Command and General Staff College and be Mission Essential List 4 (do this early in your time as a major). I strongly recommend that you complete your master's degree, preferably in a Space related field, although this is not currently an Army requirement.

As Space officers, our contribution to the warfighting team is our intellect and knowledge. If you don't want to constantly improve your knowledge and education, then you have no business being one. Our soldiers count on us to be knowledgeable and smart…and to keep them alive while accomplishing the mission.

The ORB also shows your physical status, your additional skill identifiers, awards, and language skills. All of these contribute to an overall picture the board member conjures as to your potential for advancement. Keep yourself healthy, within the weight standards, physically fit, and constantly improving your skills and value to the Army.

Finally, the board member has your OERs/AERs to review. Although all OERs count, the new OER is a very powerful message to the board member about the quality of your work. The old OERs became inflated, so it was difficult to see where an officer really stood in relation to their peers. The new OER doesn't have this problem. If all your new OERs are center of mass , you are in trouble.

It is very difficult, and not necessary, to be all above center of mass. As you have been told, you need to show a "heartbeat" with a mix of center of mass and above center of mass reports. If your last few OERs before the board are above center of mass, it shows support by your chain of command, and that you are getting better as time goes on. That's a good message to send to a board member.

Bottom line, you can only do the best you can and hope that your senior rater has the profile and appreciation of your work to give you a good OER. What is entirely in your ability to control is how your jobs are reflected on your ORB, your education and training, and the skills you bring to the warfighting team. As a Space officer, that's where you should be focused, on…as the old slogan goes… "being all you can be!"