

We want you to know This Journal's for you

It just doesn't seem right to send the ASJ to the printshop without some mention of Operation Iraqi Freedom. All the articles assembled in this combined winter and spring edition revolve around one central topic: Capabilities that Space operators bring to the warfight. Read the articles and take a look. In fact, it's a safe bet that every article printed in previous editions all tie back to that same thought.

There's always a muddy boot bottomline. Right now, that's in Baghdad. Here's an example. Bo Dunaway, who leads our Spectral Operations Resource Center located in Colorado Springs, Colo., wrote in the second edition of the ASJ about the Center's ability to exploit multi/hyper spectral imagery from satellites. Then, in the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, U.S. Central Command's spokesperson BG Vincent Brooks shows a satellite image titled "Baghdad Oil Fires" during the command's daily press briefing in Qatar.

"Another example of disregard for the conditions of Iraq and the Iraqi people is the burning of oil trenches," said Brooks. He then used a satellite image of Baghdad taken the day before — March 31 — to point out some of the 50 oil trenches on fire at the time in the "defensive array of Baghdad." Now, the story behind this story is that the forward deployed team of soldiers and an airman from Dunaway's center produced that image in Qatar.

Here's another example, told in a much more earthy way written by the leader of our Army Space Support Team assigned with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. MAJ Dan Cockerham writes first of himself, SSG Gregory Singer and SPC Joshua Foye — the three team members assigned with the 1st Marines' main command post — in an email to his first sergeant.

"We live in small, two-person tents (or the back of a HMMWV) and have not had showers in over a week. Our bodies and our clothes are dirty. On the other hand, the (1st Marines) are on the outskirts of Baghdad, as is V Corps! We are all proud to be part of this effort." He writes of his team: "We are getting mail, email, and are in constant contact with the rest of (the team) at the 1st MEF rear CP — where they are working hard on the future ops planning ... and coordinating with other SMDC elements ..."

Before you begin reading our collection of articles we've put together in this edition, take a look at four images we've printed to help you focus on the theme of the role of Space in Army Transformation. The illustration on the front cover is our attempt to show that importance. But also take a look at the satellite image of Baghdad which Brooks spoke of — it is printed on the back cover. Now, look at Cockerham getting his haircut in the photo above the night before he and his team moved into Baghdad with the Marines. Finally, although you won't recognize him for the spacesuit, but the photo to the right is BG(r) Robert Stewart who is the Army's first astronaut in Space.

There's a connection. It's the pioneering spirit that is in the fabric of SMDC, represented not only by Stewart but by all the effort going on in Space right now in Iraq.

Keep your eye out for our ASJ Special Edition to come out later this year telling the story of not only these two brief stories I've told here, but on the other aspects of SMDC's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom — providing 24/7 support in force enhancement, satellite communications, early missile warning, blue force tracking and other space-based capabilities.

—Managing Editor

