

The View From (Army) Space ... How Space Contributes to Transformation

By COL Glen C. Collins Jr.

How many of us who were in the Army about 10 years ago and are now reading this Army Space Journal would have ever considered the theme “the Role of Space in the Army Transformation” that marks this edition?

Transformation is not new for the Army. Most of us have experienced new equipment or new organizations. The role of the reserve components has changed significantly. But the key element of this theme is how Space contributes to transformation and will play an even bigger role than it does now in our great Army.

How the Army can see first, understand first, act first, and finish decisively are challenging requirements.

We need thoughts, ideas and most importantly, after-action reports from the field. What works? What needs to be lighter, smaller and more rigid? What will make the information and Space products easier to request and obtain?

Your input is the key to developing the right Space equipment and organizations to meet those requirements.

Units of Employment and Units of Action are being designed with Space-based capabilities in mind. Army Space Command will be activated as a table of organization and elements (TOE) brigade with TOE battalions.

A Ground-based Missile Defense brigade is also standing up this year in U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Additional positions for Army Space Operations Officers are being considered throughout the Army. Army Space Support Teams are being modernized and Space Support Elements are in planning the stages. The Joint Tactical Ground Station will be replaced with Multi-Mission Mobile Processor. The Objective Force will be a superb fighting force using Space to win quickly and decisively. Modernization is ongoing right now for the Army.

Sounds good doesn't it? Well, it is to a great extent. However, the path is long and uphill for us in the Army Space field. We must all help educate and train the Army and other Services in what we are capable of doing today. Many Department of Defense personnel don't know what capa-

bilities we have or are planning. Some don't know we have Space Operations Officers in all of the corps now. So what are we doing to educate the community on Army Space?

Let's tell them about our efforts to institutionalize a Space Planning Process in the Army that will capture all of the Space programs, regardless of which proponent is doing the work. This will enable the Army leadership to quickly understand what future Space technologies the Army will use to see, understand, act and finish decisively.

We have a new combatant commander, Northern Command, to support in homeland defense. Defending the homeland is the Army's top priority. Space support and new technologies to detect weapons of mass destruction are necessary. Space assets might be the answer to this overwhelming problem. Civilian agencies will certainly have better information and situational awareness with our Space assistance. Another transformation activity where Army Space is very important is U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command becoming the Army component to U.S. Strategic Command. Don't think that just because this new mission is being finalized this year that the work is over! This is an effort the Army must work on for years to come. Global Strike and information operations are just two pieces of this new mission area recently given to U.S. Strategic Command where Army will play increasingly larger roles. If this doesn't get you excited enough, just reading the article by Jeffrey Becker and Gary Trinkle will!

Rail guns, slingatron, and Space elevators might seem a little “Star Wars” but are serious ideas to future Space officers. Transformation includes new doctrine, organizations, and facilities, as well as, materiel solutions. So the bottom line ... send your great ideas, concepts and experience to us in the Force Development Integration Center. Our wargames are playing scenarios in 2015 and beyond. Perhaps a slingatron will be key to success! Secure the High Ground!