

COMMAND in BRIEF

Army Space teams deploy

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Three Army Space Support Teams deployed recently to Southwest Asia. The deployments are part of the normal rotation schedule, but, with the uncertain, currently volatile nature of that area, the goodbyes said at a ceremony Jan. 23 held an extra poignancy.

Team 1 deployed to support V Corps. The team completed certification training in September, supported Exercise Victory Strike in Poland in October, deployed to Kuwait to support V Corps during Exercise Internal Look in November, and returned home just before Christmas. Their scheduled current deployment is planned to end in six months.

Team 3 journeyed to support U.S. Army Forces, U.S. Central Command, Combined Force Land Component Command. The team also had deployed to Kuwait in early November for Exercise Internal Look, and had returned home just before Christmas.

Team 5 left to support Marine Expeditionary Force 1, in a move called “a unique opportunity for us to support our sister Service” by 1st Space Battalion commander, LTC Scott Netherland. This team recently returned from a deployment to Southwest Asia, where they were part of the global war on terrorism. They also participated in Internal Look, and returned home before Christmas.

COL Kurt Story, Army Space Command Chief of

Staff, led the farewells to each team, saying, “In the normal run of things, these soldiers do a great job with scheduled deployments, bringing Space products to the commanders in the field. They’ve been especially critical as part of the global war on terrorism, and many of the people you see here today in desert battle dress are on their second or third deployment

for that purpose. But, with world events being what they are today, and the country at war with Iraq, there is a great possibility that these soldiers will remain in theater for an indefinite period of time. So, in essence, this is a deployment with many more potential levels and responsibilities than ones that have gone before.”

A member of Team 1, SSG Jessica Adams, agreed that the pace of deploy-

ments has been hectic, and that this particular one has people a bit more anxious.

“I can’t say you get used to it, but ... deploying is what we do. This one, I’ll have to admit has me a bit more nervous, but at the same time excited. Whatever the circumstances, we’ll continue to do our job,” she said.

Her husband, 1SG Travis Adams, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion first sergeant, attended the farewell ceremony, in his woodland battle dress a colorful contrast to his wife in her deserts.

“Yeah, I’m left behind again,” he joked. But he quickly became serious, and talked about his pride in



SGT Gregory Singer, left, and SPC Joshua Foye from the Army Space Support Company's Team 5, prepare items for their recently deployment.
Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

his wife, and described how they handled the deployments.

“It might be easier on us because we’re both military, and understand the system, and how to cope. But of course I worry about her and miss her, and part of me wishes I was going. But, we each have a mission.”

Netherland led the standing-room-only crowd gathered to see the teams off in a crescendo of applause.

“Know that our hearts and prayers are with you, as we know that you will continue to do superbly your mission of supporting the warfighter with the very best Army Space has to offer.”

By MAJ Laura Kenney

New Sheriff Visits Army Space Command, explores future working relationship

PETERSON Air Force Base, Colo. — What interest do areas such as satellite imagery, non-line of sight tracking and a reach-back capability have to local law enforcement?

Plenty, according to the newly elected El Paso County Sheriff, Terry Maketa.

Maketa was invited to U.S. Army Space Command Jan. 8 to receive a briefing on the Command’s capabilities, a tour and the opportunity to meet some of the people who provide Space-based products to the warfighter.

“I was extremely impressed with what I saw,” said the 15-year veteran of the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office.

Recently, local governments and law enforcement have moved toward incorporating high technology in their day-to-day operations, such as the use of

TASERs in the Sheriff’s Office. The city of Colorado Springs has also proposed use of a Global Positioning Satellite-based Automatic Vehicle Locator system to assist emergency vehicles.

Seeing what may one day have commercial and law enforcement applications, especially to his department, was of great interest to Maketa.

One of the many products of Army Space Comands that caught his attention was the field of satellite imagery.

Maketa said this type of tool would be of great use in areas such as fires, floods and intelligence for narcotics interdiction.

Army Space was a key player in last summer’s Colorado wild fire fighting efforts when it was asked to provide specially enhanced satellite images of the affected areas.

“The whole satellite imaging arena and what you are able to do with the images once available would be of great use to our department,” he said.

He also pointed to the real-time capabilities Army Space is utilizing with Blue Force Tracking, and the comprehensive reach-back ability that is found in the Army Space Operations Center, which would help his own department’s daily operations.

“The biggy is knowing where your resources are at any given time,” said Maketa.

“El Paso County is almost 2,160 square miles. We have people in every corner of it,

and some days in every corner of the state. And then we start talking about transport and so forth. So absolutely, it would be nice to see where our resources are, and their progress for officer safety issues as well as efficiency.”

Maketa admits his knowledge of the Army’s role in Space was not extensive. No stranger to military



Bo Dunaway, Director, Spectral Operations Resource Center, explains some of the technology to incoming El Paso County Sheriff, Terry Maketa, left, during a guided tour of Army Space Command facilities.
Photo by Sharon Hartman

life, Maketa grew up on military bases.

“My dad was in the Infantry — a 26-year career. I just never heard any discussions of the Army’s role in Space. I knew the Army had artillery and ground launched missiles but ... Space?”

“I was of course aware of the military use of Space assets, but I was pretty surprised to learn of the advancements and the deep involvement of the Army in Space.”

Commenting on his visit to the Command and the important role Space is playing in today’s world Maketa said, “What I experienced was something that I see as being the first step in a long-term relationship. It provided for me a snapshot of what we can expect in the civilian sector and law enforcement.”

“I know the relationships between local law enforcement and military installations — whether it is the Army or Air Force — have improved over the years. There is more of an effort to share information. I’m actually looking forward to building on the blocks that we have today.”

As to his thoughts about Army Space Command personnel ...

“All I can say was I was just completely impressed with not only the technological capabilities but also the personnel here at Army Space. Anyone I interacted with had a very professional demeanor and was very knowledgeable about what they did.”

Maketa went on to say that Army Space personnel knew what their role was — be it National Defense, Homeland Security or forming solid partnerships with local law enforcement.

By Donald Montoya

Transformational Communications conference held at Army Space Command

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The Transformational Communications Office (TCO) — Senior Leadership Team (SLT), a group responsible for many of the actions that will change the face of warfighter communications in the near future, held a conference Nov. 20 at the new Army Space Command headquarters here.

The TCO, formally organized in September, is responsible for planning and directing the implementation of the Transformational Communications Architecture for the Department of Defense, intelligence community and NASA. The TCO, under Director Rear Adm. Rand Fisher, who is also the Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, and Director of Communications at the National Reconnaissance Office, meets monthly in the Pentagon.

At the invitation of BG Richard V. Geraci, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Space Command, and Deputy Commanding General for Operations, U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command, and also a member of the TCO-SLT, the group scheduled the November meeting to take place at the recently opened Army Space Command facilities.

The TCO-SLT is composed of representatives from the Department of Defense, intelligence community and NASA, with the critical mission of coordinating, synchronizing and directing changes in communications to meet the growing requirements of warfighters and the intelligence community. The ability to transmit detailed information quickly and reliably to and from all parts of the globe will help streamline military command and control and ensure information superiority, enabling faster deployment of highly mobile forces capable of adapting quickly to changing conditions in the field. Satellite communications play a pivotal role in providing the interoperable, robust, “network-centric” communications needed for future operations

The conference included representatives from Army Space, the National Reconnaissance Office, the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communication and Intelligence, Air Force Space Command, Defense Information Systems Agency, NASA, MILSATCON Joint Program Office, CIA, U.S. Strategic Command, National Security Space Architect, Naval Operations, HQ Department of the Army Chief Information Office, Communications and Joint Staff Communications. Several participants were virtually present from the Pentagon via video teleconference. A tour of the new Army Space Command headquarters was provided.

By MAJ Laura Kenney