

# Newcomer's View

## Space-based capabilities critical to warfighter's "seeing, understanding and acting first"



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By **BG Robert P. Lennox**

**W**hen I arrived at Army Space Command two weeks ago (from the writing of this article), my experience with Space-based systems was as a user, not a provider. My Air Defense units depended on early warnings from Joint Tactical Ground Stations that rely on Space-based systems for their alerts and communications. My S2 (Intelligence) and S3 (operations and plans) depended on information and intelligence that was gathered through and disseminated by Space-based systems. I was like the man who when he turns on his computer, he expects it to work; he doesn't need nor necessarily want to know how it's put together or how it works. Space? Sure, I wanted what it produced, and I wanted the products when I needed them. In short, I think I was a typical Army officer. I don't say this with pride; it's just a fact.

After two weeks I have a much better appreciation for the vast capabilities and support Army Space operators bring to the fight. Now, I'm in a position where I want and need to know how the Space-based systems fit together, enhance each other, create synergies with other systems, and what each does to enable warfighting. Operation Iraqi Freedom has made it abundantly clear that for our joint warfighting doctrine to succeed and for our Army Objective Force to be effective, we will need to have assured Space-based capabilities. "Assured" is the operative word. As the biggest user of Space-based capabilities, the Army's future, not just one command's, but the entire Army's, is in vigorously pursuing assured Space access at every opportunity.

BG Rick Geraci, then U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) deputy commanding general for operations, and COL Glen Collins, Director, SMDC Force Development and Integration Center, laid out the Army's Space operations "high payoff areas" for GEN Eric K. Shinseki in January 2003 while he was the Army's Chief of Staff. SMDC believes these areas are essential to fully integrating Space operations into ground military

operations: (not in order of priority) Space-smart leaders; ground-based Space control capabilities; integrated timely, accurate, responsive Space systems linked to tactical and operational forces; interoperable with United States, foreign, and commercial Space systems; Space support elements that are organic to divisions or units of action and units of employment; global, 24/7/365 communications; jam resistant position, navigation, and timing; and timely, accurate digital terrain products. While I don't have all the answers, I would like to share my initial thoughts on what the Army and this command need to do for the future of military Space operations by discussing just two of the "high payoff areas."

### **SPACE CONTROL — Assured Access**

As I mentioned above, warfighters need assured access to Space-based capabilities if we expect our new fighting doctrine to win by "seeing, understanding, and acting first." Our Space systems are reliable, but we can no longer assume that the United States will maintain its Space superiority. Commercial companies and foreign governments can offer many of the same services and access to Space that were at one time available only to the United States and its military. At the same time, adversaries cannot help but observe our dependence on Space and the potential vulnerability it represents if they can somehow attack our Space systems. As a result, the Army will need to become more actively involved in Space control to assure us access to our Space systems and denial of the same to the adversary if needed. Because Space control can involve air, sea, and ground elements, and because Space is a joint arena, the Army will need to think about its Space control role as the ground component and how it integrates with the Air Force and Naval forces in joint warfighting.

How do we ensure Army Space equities and requirements are considered and honored?

Easier said than done, but we start with our basic