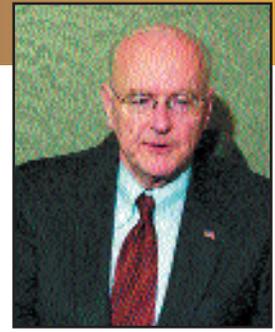


Peter B. Teets



Undersecretary of the Air Force

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Peter B. Teets, Undersecretary of the Air Force, serves as the DoD executive agent for Space and is the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. He has authority over all Defense Department and NRO Space programs, is the Air Force Acquisition executive for Space, and oversees and directs the National Security Space Architect. In April, he visited U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Colorado Springs offices to get his first hands-on overview of the Command. This included the Command's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the visit, he talked with Army Space Journal's Michael Howard about the transforming force, and the role Space plays in that transformation.

From your perspective, what are the key aspects of the military's future in Space?

Well, clearly I think the national security Space assets give us a huge advantage over our adversaries in warfighting and also in the collection of intelligence information. I see us embarking on a course wherein we can maintain that advantage and even extend it. It's going to take resources and it's going to take dedicated people. Speaking of dedicated people, I can't tell you how pleased I was to be here at Army Space & Missile Defense Command today — to see just how the Army has stepped up to the challenge of developing a professional cadre.

With the Air Force being the lead agency for Space coming out of the Space commission, what do you see as the Army's role in Space? Why is there an Army Space?

Well, the Army, in its own words, defines itself as being the largest user of Space assets. And from the point of view of the numbers of people, it clearly is. I think it is vitally important that the Army understands Space, participates in our national security Space program development, be at the point where it can provide meaningful input into requirements flow and participate with us in acquisition. It's an enormously important function to the Army, and therefore participation is very much warranted and welcome.

Is transformation occurring?

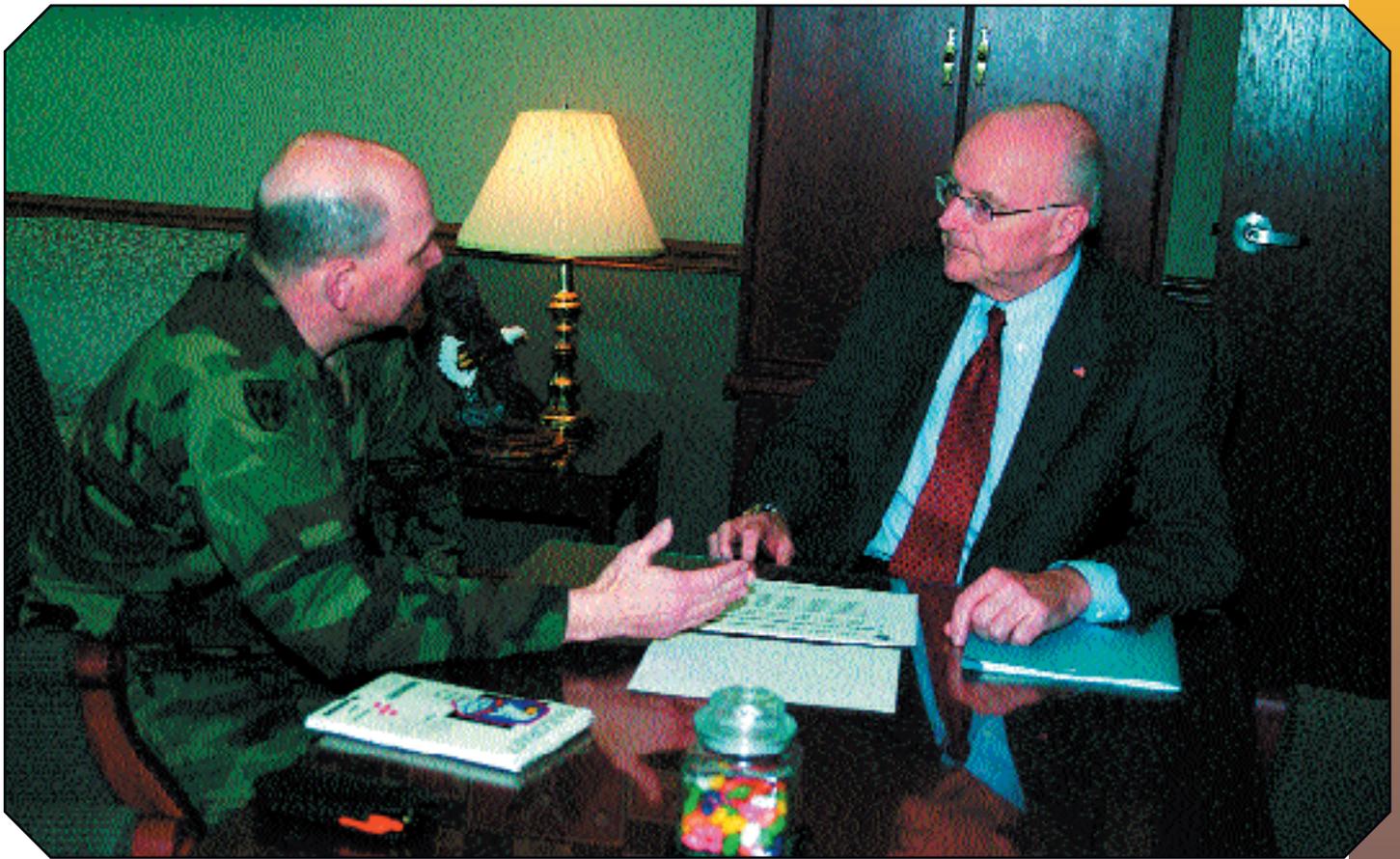
What has happened is that the Air Force has been designated as the DoD's executive agent to Space. I see myself in that role as facilitating cooperation among the various military components, but also the intelligence community as well. All of us that are involved in warfighting activity or collection of intelligence information can benefit from these national security Space assets.

So this new definition of how it's going is going well?

I think it's going extremely well, and I'm very genuine when I say my visit today really has impressed me positively, because the Army is clearly stepping up to the role that we've just talked about.

Could you detail a couple of those things you saw today that impressed you?

I'm enormously impressed with the Army's leadership in Blue Force Tracking from Space — some of the results that have been achieved have saved lives in Iraq already. I'm impressed by the fact that the Army is



actually operating the control segment for the Defense Space Communication System Program and is making certain that those secure communication links are available not only to Army users, but Navy and Air Force users as well.

You mentioned BFT, but when that was being briefed to you today, you commented at the end that this is so important to you because you're talking about lives. Isn't that really the bottom line of what we're talking about with all of the capabilities we are bringing from Space?

It certainly is. The assets that we've employed in Space now and are using from Space really have changed the way we fight wars. This whole idea of precision weapons delivery is enabled by our Global Positioning Satellite system. Think about how many Army soldiers are equipped with GPS receivers and know immediately where they are and what their geo-location is and where the geo-locations of their targets are. They know that from radio frequency communications from Space.

Are there any other examples from the current operations in Iraq that you are seeing, from the muddy boot side of Space, that you can mention?

We have the advantage of collecting important intelligence information from Space. That information,

while I can't discuss specifics of it, is being used on a wide front in Iraq and very much to our advantage.

One phrase that graphically describes our Army is that it's transforming, and another is that we are also an Army at war. We've talked about some of the operations in Iraq. Do you see these operations contributing to or solidifying a critical role of Space not just in the Army, but also across the whole military?

Very definitely so. If you look at today's systems such as GPS, there could be no more transformational kind of a system. If you look at what we have on the drawing board, so to speak, a couple of the National Security Space programs that are inherently transformational will be Space-based radar, where from Space we'll be able to determine ground mobile target information. We also will be able to take synthetic aperture radar imagery, that is to say, pictures from the radar satellite constellation. It will transform the way we can track and target, and understand movements of our adversaries. Secondly, we are very much involved, and the Army's playing an important role in it in transformational communications. We will have a transformed communications system, which will really eliminate bandwidth as a constraint and it will eliminate access as a constraint. All those thousands of Army users will be able to have access to high bandwidth communi-

tions.

Another aspect of this is that a lot of which you speak is very technical and highly classified. Have you seen a grander understanding at your level, of what it is that we can bring to the warfighter? Do the warfighters understand our capabilities in Space?

More so now than ever before. I don't want to say that we have a perfect system now, but I can tell you that I think we are better connected now in a network sense than we have ever been. I think the war in Iraq is demonstrating just how well connected we are. We are learning lessons all at the same time. When this conflict ends, and hopefully that will be soon, we very clearly need to go back and do an overview or review and learn from our experiences in Iraq. Those lessons learned will help us get even better connected than we are today. Space assets will provide a vitally important element of that connection capability.

So — this platform of understanding of where we are today, is it going to help us to where we're going to go tomorrow?

No doubt about it.

In what ways?

Well, I think some of the things we are learning right now from the experience in Iraq is that we have connection capability of information flow across the battlefield that is better than it has been in any past engagement, but it can still get better. We can remove some of the obstacles that prevent free flow of information to blue forces that are on the ground or at sea or in the air.

Are there any other thoughts that you have about this overall topic of the role of Space in the future?

I think that one of the most important things we need to do is build the cadre of Space professional tal-

ent. We need to focus attention and we need to focus resources on that. I'm very impressed with what Rick Geraci is doing here at Army Space & Missile Defense Command and I've been very pleased to work with Joe Cosumano back in Washington. I also had a pleasant engagement with Les Brownley Undersecretary of the Army. I must say that if we can build the proper Space cadre made up of talented Army people, talented Air Force people, talented Navy and Marine Corps folks as well as intelligence community people, we will have really positioned ourselves to maximize the advantage that Space can give us. Space *is* the ultimate high ground.

And when you talk about the Space cadre, you are speaking of the Space officers or the people in the military who go out and populate the general....

Absolutely. Who are the operators, who are the acquirers, who are the people involved in defining what the requirements are for our National Security Space efforts.

That all contributes to the overall understanding of the capabilities.

It surely does.

