

# The Army's Future

in  
Space

**B**ecause this issue provides a speculative platform to expand the technological horizon, it is a natural follow-on to the last issue. A fine line separates the theme of this issue from the previous one: “The Role of Space in Army Transformation.” As we consider the theme of this new issue, we should not lose sight of the five essential Space operations tasks introduced in the Transformation issue:

- Support increased deployability and reduced theater footprint.
- Achieve situational understanding “off the ramp” during entry operations.
- Support precision maneuver, fires, sustainment, and information.
- Enable continuous information and decision superiority.
- Protect the force during all phases of the operation.

These are as relevant as we look at the Army’s future in Space, as they were when we looked at Transformation. This edition, however, moves from what Space does for the Army to what the Army ought to do for Space.

We begin by considering the “big picture,” a net assessment of the effect of our growth in Space on the competition between nations for success and dominance. We continue this discussion with an article detailing Space’s role as a vital national interest and economic center of gravity for the United States and other nations. Then we bring the argument to the Department of Defense level with a notional description of combat support from Space in 2030. When we think of the increasing number of users and uses that have been made of the Internet over the past decade, we can begin to appreciate how difficult it is to accurately predict all the directions in which technological advances can lead. But a look at the possibilities after 30 ideal years of Space combat development will provide an instructive backdrop.

We want to develop a “Service lanes” approach based on the particular utility of Space to the Services. The Army is the primary DoD user of Space capabilities, with heavy reliance on force enhancement functions to provide combat support. It will be interesting to look beyond Service support

to the utility and possibility of using Space-based kinetic and directed energy systems to help win land battles. We also explore the need to aggressively target the adversary’s terrestrial Space assets. This could be an Army job, where appropriate, but certainly a high interest item for the Army because of implications for the land battle.

Then, lest anyone believe we are advocating unconstrained use of Space, we deliver a “voice of reason” warning against over-crediting Space that should simultaneously clarify the limits of Space power while reinforcing its importance. We also present a thoughtful argument for developing military Space with

## Army, Space, the future

**The overall intent is to move beyond thinking about what Space does for the Army and to grapple with what the Army ought to do for Space.**

an eye toward turning warfare away from Space if at all possible.

The issue’s theme ends with a trio of articles wrapping up what the Army’s role in Space ought to be. First, we examine current Service roles and missions and the process that is used to make assignments in order to propose future changes in how Army responsibility in Space should be defined.

The second article calls for the aggressive participation of the Army in defining Space architecture to support land warfare in the National Security Space Architecture. Finally, we review the concept and method of general, large-scale innovation in warfare (such as aircraft carriers and tanks) and ask if the Army is being innovative enough as Space continues to increase its impact on land force dominance.