

The View From (Army) Space ...

“The security and well being of the United States, its allies and friends depend on the nation’s ability to operate in space.”

— U.S. Space Commission Report, 11 Jan 02

By COL James R. Pierson

Summer is traditionally a time of transition. And this past summer has been no different for the Force Development Integration Center (FDIC). On Aug 18, I assumed the duties as Director, FDIC. Succeeding COL Glen Collins will be a challenge but certainly one that I’m looking forward to.

After three years as the Director, FDIC, COL Collins has been instrumental in the maturation of the Space Operations career field and many of the outstanding successes that the Army Space Operations career field has enjoyed. Since March 2003, COL Collins has been a vital part of the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Aid (ORHA) during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Phase IV operations. The Army and Joint Space community will miss COL Collin’s leadership and vision. We bid him a fond farewell with gratitude for a job well done!

During the past year, I have served as the Army Space G-3 and the Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. My previous Space-related assignments include duty with the Army Space Program Office (ASPO), U.S. Space Command/J-5, and SMDC Liaison Officer to Training and Doctrine Command. As director of FDIC, I intend to build upon the solid foundation that has been laid throughout the entire Space Operations career field. We face challenges — continuing to conduct combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, fielding a ground-based midcourse missile defense system and working towards a transformed Force, just to name a few.

As you can see from the theme of this Army Space Journal, “Space — Focus on Operations,” OIF is front and center. We have introduced various perspectives from Space warriors — leaders who are redefining excellence across the spectrum of operations.

Demonstrated firsts, such as Space support in Phase IV, and Space support to a Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), Division (4th ID) and to our Special Operations

Forces (SOF) are just some of the highlights you will read about in the coming pages. In addition, we have also begun to add articles from warfighters who benefited from our Space capabilities and Forces (e.g., LTG William S. Wallace, Commander V Corps and XXX, I MEF). The ability to share our successes with other Space professionals is important to our continuing development. Equally as critical is our collective ability to identify the right “Lessons” from our experiences in order to draw out the DOTMLP-F implications that we must “Learn.” Too often, lessons learned get overcome by tomorrow’s priorities — resulting in a failure to fully learn and validate these lessons. We cannot allow this to happen. We must gain the necessary and relevant insights from our most recent combat experiences in order to change in the right direction and — at the tempo required.

We want to make this publication, the Army Space Journal, a hallmark for Space professionals. This must begin with intellectually challenging articles. It should continue with rigorous debate about the assumptions, concepts and conclusions reached in each article. After all, “steel sharpens steel.” In this context, it is imperative that you, the reader, let us know what you want to hear about and what you think about the published articles. We’re pleased to enclose in this issue two letters from readers. We hope that’s just the beginning of dialog with our readers. The more we hear from you, the better we’ll be. It is your Journal!

One concept not written about in this Journal, that I will put on the table, is the Joint Space Forces Coordinating Authority (JFSCA). Designated by the Joint Force Commander, per JP 3-14, the JFSCA is a key focal point for theater Space Operations. How does the Army best organize to support the JFSCA, assuming it is another Service (e.g., the Coalition Force Air Component Commander (CFACC))? Can the organization performing JFSCA duties change as the campaign shifts phases? Is the

Fifth Class Space Operations Officer Qualification Course

Back Row (left to right): CPT (P) Mike York, COL Bill Boik, Maj. Kyler Barnes, USAF, Capt. Brad Phillips, USMC, MAJ Greg Glover, SSG Kipp Wilson, CPT (P) Dave Robinson, LTC Max Corneau, MAJ Gary Curry, LTC Greg Palka, LTC Brent Kremer

Front Row (left to right): LTC Dan Fox, CPT Angie Tofflemeyer, MAJ Annette Merfalen, CPT Bo Taylor, BG Robert Lennox - DCG for Operations, MAJ Rich Lewis, LTC Rob King, MAJ Frank Wright, CPT Bo Stolarcek



Army the best organization to perform JFSCA duties during Phase IV?

We will have many challenges/opportunities over the coming months. These include the development of integrated Blue Force Tracking Mission Management Centers, integrating spectral imagery throughout the Force, defining how Space support should be provided to SOF and examining the feasibility of integrating Space support teams with information operations support teams and the Army Air and Missile Defense Command in support of our future Army warfighting organizations.

To enhance communication throughout the FA40 community, we are exploring ways to bring all FA40s together on a quarterly basis. The intent will be to enhance cross talk and continue advancing on our learning curve. A key and pertinent example of learning from our FA40s is this very issue of the Journal, in which _____ established and in the field FA40s have contributed articles detailing their experiences as Space operators during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our goal of normalizing Space is immeasurably closer thanks to the considerable accomplishments of this bunch of hard working Space officers, who were in harm's way just as much as any infantry soldier. They worked to save lives and win battles, using Space. And to think, just a few short months ago, some of them were, like the officers pictured above in the current FA40 class, in the schoolhouse. Phenomenal advances have been achieved, not quite at light speed, but....

More to follow ...

In closing, I look forward to working with and meeting you — the Space Operations professionals — over the coming months.

Letters to the Editor

The Army Space Journal arrived with the mail yesterday, and I was finally able to spend a few minutes with it this morning. What greeted me opposite the table of contents was an article on Bob Hope. A lot was written about Mr. Hope following his death, but that one page was the most poignant use of ink I've seen. It would seem out of place in a "Space Journal", but was exactly where it should be - communicating to soldiers. Incredibly well written - one of those articles that exudes passion and character. Thanks for including it!!

COL Teddy Bitner
U.S. Army (Retired)

I picked up a copy of the Army Space Journal at the Space & Missile Defense Conference at the VBC in Huntsville. It was the first time I saw one. Very informative publication and great piece on Bob Hope by the managing editor in the front cover. Please add me to your distribution list.

Greg Heath
SMDC-RM-P, G-8