The View From (Army) Space ...

By COL James R. Pierson

Americans are infatuated with technology. High definition television, flat panel plasma screen displays, wireless connectivity and nano-technology are just a few examples of our current focus. In fact, technology is at the core of our increasingly productive society. The Tofflers, well known futurists, declared that the way a nation makes money is the way it will wage war. Certainly this is true of the United States, as we continue to shed manufacturing jobs and become more of an information-based economy. Our military is quickly spiraling into net centric warfare concepts heavily reliant on information-based and other technologies.

We have relied heavily on the qualitative side of warfare in order to defeat the quantitative advantages of our adversaries. It has been the discovery and then, more importantly, the application of technology that has provided significant advantages to our military forces. This was true with the atomic bomb, is true with our prevailing situational awareness and will be true with technologies like laser communications and space-based radar.

GEN Schoomaker's focus is on the development of future transformational capabilities while maintaining the ability to "pull ideas and capabilities, technologies, back into the current force that makes us more ready today." It is critical that we develop the warfighting concepts that can focus our significant technological advantages and limited resources. The TRADOC 525- series of warfighting concepts and the Army's Transformation Roadmap and Campaign Plan are good examples of concepts guiding technology.

However, it is also clear that many times warfighters don't know what they don't know. Not knowing the art of the possible, warfighting concepts are sometimes inherently constrained. This is where the bridge between the combat development community and the science and technology base becomes invaluable. The technology base can open the thinking of warfighters to eye-opening possibilities.

SMDC is a cradle to grave organization. The span of the Command includes the Technology Center, a Force Developments and Integration Center, a Battle Lab and operational forces (1st Space Brigade (Prov) and the GMD Brigade). The ability to synchronize warfighting concepts with the right mix of technology, generate the appropriate combat developments documents, prototype and experiment, and then field a needed capability to our space and missile defense forces is a very powerful organizational construct. Have we realized the full potential of these integrated organizations? No, we have not. However, progress is being made on a daily basis and we must continue to break down cultural barriers that inhibit the seamless integration that future warfighting demands. Success stories can be seen in the attempt to transition Zeus, a laser mine-clearing capability, from SMDC into the Ordnance and Engineer communities, and the development of a comprehensive space control strategy that integrates the efforts of all elements of SMDC with the Army and joint communities towards a family of systems and capabilities.

As we all know, SMDC is no longer just space and missile defense. We need concepts, technologies and most importantly, capabilities, for all 5 of our mission sets - space, global missile defense, information operations, C4ISR and global strike.

As the Command's combat developer, I would be remiss if I didn't speak to the obvious but sometimes overlooked need for synchronizing the spectrum of doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership, personnel and facilities (DOTMLP-F). Successful fielding, and then employment, of cutting edge technologies demands that we also have a well thought-out and integrated plan to build the doctrines and TTPs,

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and

live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in

my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United

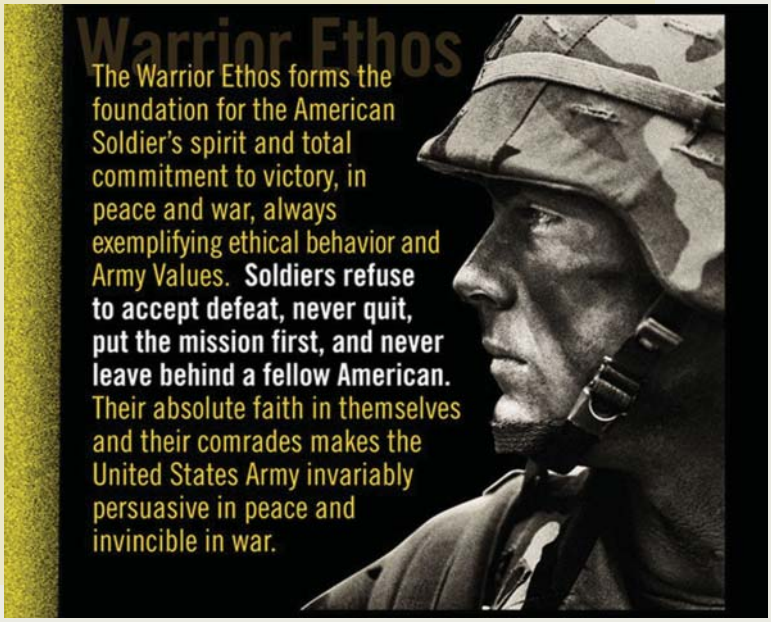
States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the

American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Soldier's Creed



MTOEs and TDAs, training bases, sustainment concepts and facilities required for our operational forces. Last, but certainly not least, we must always remember that it is the human element - our Soldiers and our civilians - that will ultimately dictate our success.

It is fitting that we follow up our previous edition of the Army Space Journal, focused on Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), with this edition. The application of technology to OIF Lessons will be a critical and important element in ensuring that we turn these Lessons into Lessons Learned.

Simply put, technology is a seed corn for the Future Force and our Army! The ability to balance our current operational needs with our requirements to transform the force is a major challenge. And we owe our Soldiers the very best that technology can provide.