What you didn't know ...

The word "change," I guess, tells many stories. We pride ourselves in our pioneering spirit — not only in our Space world but throughout the defense community. Take a look at the photos on the next page; read this publication. The whole idea that creative soldiers used modern day technology to help the warfight fascinates even casual observers. There's not much difference between a man with a large-format view camera in a hot air balloon to take pictures the other side of enemy lines during the civil war, and an Air Force master sergeant using high-tech cameras in commercial satellites to produce spectral images in Iraq to locate mass graves. The same is true for a soldier-scientist launching rockets in the early 1900s and soldiers today prepping to provide missile defense to our nation.

That word — and this pioneering concept — also best carries the originating thought behind the articles that come together to discuss the focus of this edition of the journal.

I remember two brief stories about change. In one, researchers introduced something very new and different into an undeveloped society in order to study reaction to new, modern concepts. What they introduced was an empty Coke bottle. At first the people used the soda bottle in many unusual ways — as a hammer, football, magnifying glass. They began using it for drinking only after they were shown and, even then, there was reluctance to the new way of doing things. In the other story, England wanted to do business with China. The king sent over an entourage with gifts to the emperor. The intent was to establish a longlasting relationship, but it all went south when the English group leader bowed to the emperor in a way unfamiliar to the emperor. The visitors were turned away and the trade initiative failed until another century.

Even remembering the commotion stirred over changing the headgear in the Army to a black beret in 2001, we all know that sometimes new ideas are tough to introduce and make happen. The thrust behind these stories, as I remember them now, had to do with our natural reluctance to change even to things that could be better for us, and that we could be blinded by the fact that we don't know what we don't know. The stories surfaced in the 1990s in human resource and business management journal articles discussing the challenges of introducing change in the workforce.

This all comes to mind today considering the meat of our own journal articles we've put together in this edition. Probably 9/11 changed everything in many ways well beyond the scope here, but the truth is that change is coming to our Army, military and nation at a pace that none of us have seen before. Look anywhere and listen to any leader talk about our military today. You'll see and hear about rapid change.

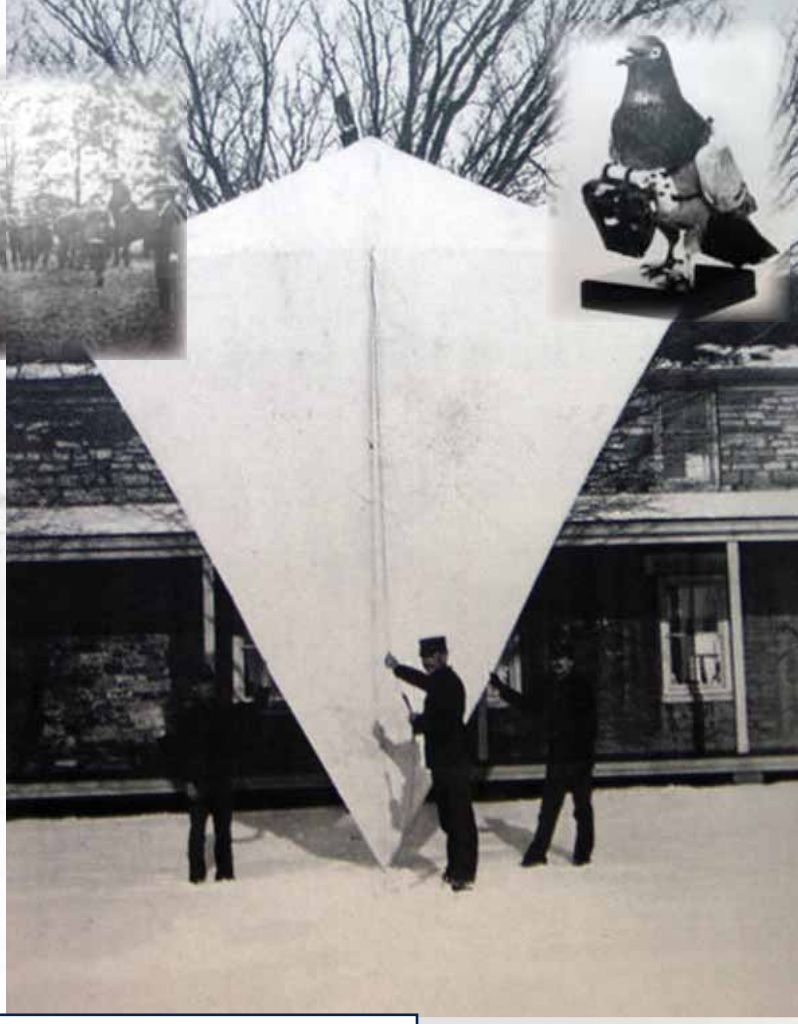
That all, I think, provides a backdrop to our thoughts behind the articles that focus on our five mission areas that the command accomplishes for the Army in its role with U.S.Strategic Command. And, as you read the articles, I hope you'll hear two additional subtle points. The first is that our Space-based capabilities enable warfighters across all mission areas and, probably equally significant, experts in this command are pioneering brand new mission areas.

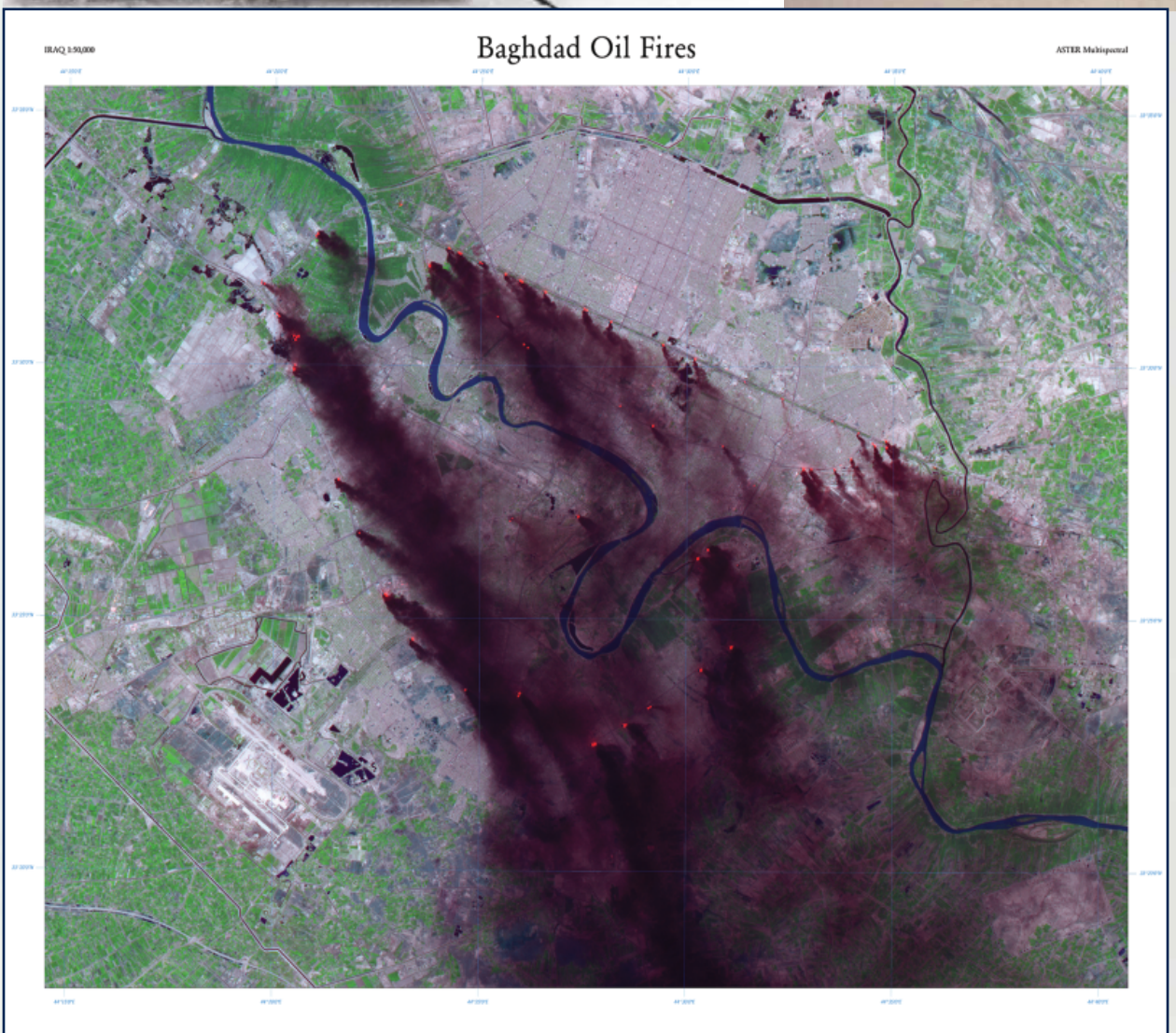
One final thought. We're experimenting here on the journal staff. We've renamed the back section "the Flipside" with its own special cover and articles. Take a look! Most importantly, e-mail me with any article ideas you may have. We are looking for historical perspectives, technology developments, Space in operations, or even updates from the field.

Happy reading.

— Michael L. Howard
Editor in Chief

Comments and letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. The Army Space Journal reserves the right to edit for brevity and clarity. Unfortunately all comments cannot be printed due to space. You may send letters to the editor in chief at michael.howard@arspace.army.mil





CHANGE

From balloons, kites and pigeons ...

From prototypes and test rockets ...

From yesteryear's daring innovations in reconnaissance — balloons, pigeons and kites braving the elements to record data — to today's sophisticated technology as portrayed by this Spectral Operations imagery, the only constant has been that change and creativity will always seek the highest level.