

# How the Army's Strategic Role in Space is Changing

**T**his edition of the *Army Space Journal* reviews the manner in which the roles of the U.S. military in general, and the Army specifically, are changing as a result of the modifications set forth by the Department of Defense in the fall of 2002. The overarching changes to U.S. Strategic Command's organizational structure and mission have produced accompanying changes in roles and responsibilities for its service components.

Primary goals of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command or SMDC/ARSTRAT, continue to be: to deter and defend against enemy attack, enhance operations of U.S. and allied forces by employing Space systems, and ensure that the enemy cannot impede or prevent our use of Space. But the missions and major functions have increased as the command assumes new roles as the Army service component to U.S. Strategic Command. This edition explores the various work initiatives currently under way to enhance the Army command operations through improved integration and execution of the U.S. Strategic Command's five new mission areas.

First, some background information. In 2002, the President of the United States approved major changes to the Unified Command Plan. Now the U.S. Northern, Southern, Pacific, European, Central and Asian Commands are a part of the new Unified Command. The Secretary of Defense initiated significant changes to better reflect and plan for the new realities we face in protecting allies, friends and ourselves. These changes included new missions and responsibilities for all the combatant commanders. U.S. Space Command and U.S. Strategic Command merged into an expanded U.S. Strategic Command, which is now responsible for Space operations, information operations, computer network operations and strategic defense and attack missions.

U.S. Strategic Command's original responsibilities were to conduct global nuclear strike operations, which included nuclear deterrence as well as nuclear strike operations. But now the command is tasked with global planning and operations that include conventional weapons. This change also made it possible for all of U.S. Strategic Command to become more effective across the entire operational spectrum. This expanded focus mandated robust capabilities be afforded to its service components.

Now the commanding general of SMDC is the dual-hatted commanding general for U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command as well as for SMDC and all Army global missile defense forces. As the Army Forces Strategic Command, SMDC/ARSTRAT fully supports the missions as directed by the Unified Command Plan. Key command responsibilities include:

- Operational task, coordination and integration of Army resources and requirements into the U.S. Strategic Command's plan and operations.
- Serve as principal adviser on Army forces and capabilities.
- Conduct operations.
- Plan, integrate, control and coordinate Army forces and capabilities.

In contrast to the command relationships prior to Sept. 11, 2001, the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq clearly demonstrate the manner in which the traditional lines between strategic and regional or theater operations are blurring. U.S. Strategic Command now assumes a much-expanded role in the entire spectrum of military conflict. The roles are transregional in focus as it establishes both a supporting and supported combatant command. These roles are especially important during early entry and shaping operations, as they help create the conditions to ensure success for Army forces.

# U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND LEADERSHIP



## What's SMDC/ARSTRAT's Role?

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is now responsible for performing the following basic strategic and operational level missions:

- Maintain vital links as we coordinate with the joint force and service component commands of the U.S. Strategic Command.
- Plan, prepare, execute and assess supporting operations and exercises.
- Conduct support operations to sustain assigned Army forces.

### SMDC/ARSTRAT mission areas:

- Space
- Global Strike
- Integrated Missile Defense
- Information Operations
- Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance.

In summary, SMDC/ARSTRAT and U.S. Strategic Command are becoming both supporting and supported commands. This is evidenced by the following support SMDC/ARSTRAT offers the command:

- Army ground forces are task organized or given missions in support of Strategic Command's in-theater missions.
- Signal (i.e., U.S. Army Network Enterprises Technology Command) forces are tasked to provide signal support for global command.
- Kinetic and nonkinetic fire support.
- In-theater as well as full task ISR (i.e., U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command) support.

Recently we have seen Army Space integrated global support demonstrated in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In these situations, military operations were no longer limited to forces in the immediate area of operations. Strategic assets such as B-52 and B-2 bombers flew what amounted to close air support missions for ground operations. Regional Combatant Commands and joint forces provided in-theater support for strategic operations.