

# Is Space Changing?

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**W**hen approached to do this article, we were asked, “Is Space changing?” As we considered this point, we asked ourselves if it is Space in the military that is changing, or is our organization changing? We submit that it is the latter.

When Army Space Command was the operational arm of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Space Command, our missions were related specifically to Space and the Army’s support to Space-related information operations. But, with the reorganization of U.S. Strategic Command came a similar reorganization of our responsibilities. We now assume a larger role as the Army service component to the U.S. Strategic Command.

The specifics of the new mission areas and the change process have been addressed in other articles within this edition of the journal. As we continue to change, we will keep the following mission statement in clear view.

## SMDC/ARSTRAT Missions

- Conduct Space control, Space support, Space force application and Space force enhancement.
- Plan, integrate, advocate, and coordinate Army capabilities in support of U.S. Strategic Command’s global strike, global ballistic missile defense, information operations, C4 and ISR missions.
- Serve as Army operational integrator for global missile defense in support of Army Title 10 responsibilities.
- Serve as the specified proponent for Space and ground-based midcourse defense (GMD).
- Conduct experimentation, research and development for missile defense, Space, and other assigned mission areas.

In support of the missions, we identified and developed the mission-essential tasks. Because of our position as the Army service component to U.S. Strategic Command, as well as our missions in support of other commanders (e.g., North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S.

Northern Command), we established a joint mission essential task list to identify our most important tasks. As we continue to change, we keep the following tasks in view.

## *Provide Space Capabilities*

To plan (including integration and synchronization), initiate, and direct activities and operations associated with Space combat operations, Space support operations, and combat support operations. Such operations are conducted from Earth to Space, Space to Space, and Space to Earth. These operations include Space control (enforcing Space superiority through protection, prevention, negation, and surveillance); force enhancement (supporting the warfighter with communications, weather, navigation, ballistic missile attack warning, and intelligence products); force application (application of combat power against terrestrial/orbital-based targets by military weapon systems operating through, from, and to Space; i.e., global ballistic missile defense and force projection); and Space support (placing systems in Space and operating them). Strategic Space capabilities include national, Department of Defense, civil and commercial Space systems, and associated infrastructure. (*Space*)

## *Operate & Manage Global Strategic Communications and Information Systems*

To receive information and data on the strategic situation worldwide, including: combatant command, theater component command, operational level command missions, disposition of friendly and enemy forces, strategic centers of gravity, and characteristics of the theater areas (worldwide). This task includes translating the information and decisions into a usable form as it is promulgated, retained, and disseminated. The task includes obtaining information and advising on the worldwide situation, national security and national military strategies, and theater strategies and campaigns. Information and decisions will be

acquired from and communicated to the president and all other appropriate elements of the Department of Defense and government agencies as required. This task also includes coordinating with friendly civilian government authorities. (*Command, Control, Communications, and Computers or CA*)

### **Plan, Integrate, Coordinate, and Support Global Ballistic Missile Defense**

Protect all designated assets from missile attack in accordance with the approved Defended Assets List. This task includes planning, integrating, coordinating, and developing capabilities for global ballistic missile defense operations and support. Coordinate national and multinational surveillance, detection, identification, tracking, and interception systems. Integrate and recommend apportionment of global air and missile defense forces to protect against cruise missiles and surface- and sea-launched ballistic missiles. It includes executing ground-based midcourse defense operations. This task centers on the protection of national centers of gravity, critical facilities, strategic reserves, population centers, and industrial capacity and infrastructure. (*Global Ballistic Missile Defense or GBMD*)

### **Plan, Integrate, Advocate, and Coordinate Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) in Support of Strategic and Global Operations**

Plan, integrate, advocate, and coordinate ISR in support of strategic and global operations. Plan, integrate, advocate, and coordinate Army ISR activities (including SRO) to support the global plans and operations identified by U.S. Strategic Command. Provide intelligence and security support to the planning and execution effort, including all-source intelligence analysis for situation assessments, intelligence preparation of the battlespace, and targeting. (*Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance or ISR*)

### **Conduct Strategic Information Operations**

Conduct offensive and defensive information operations in support of the U.S. Strategic Command's global operations. This task includes planning, synchronization and use of operations security, military deception, psychological operations, electronic warfare, and computer network attack and defense, mutually supported by intelligence, to deny, influence, degrade, or destroy adversary information and information systems and to protect friendly information and information systems. (*Information Operations or IO*)

### **Develop Courses of Action and Staff Estimates for Global Strike**

In conjunction with an analysis of the geo-strategic context and of the enemy situation (including capabilities and vulnerabilities), define multiple, feasible employment

options to carry out the U.S. Strategic Command's concept for global strike operations. These options should be formulated in light of the friendly situation, restrictions, assumptions, and estimates of relative combat power. Each course of action should be adequate, feasible, and acceptable. When directed, control Army forces. (*Global Strike or GS*)

We identified three other tasks that are indirectly related to the new mission areas. The requirements to accomplish these tasks are not necessarily spelled out in our mission to support the combatant commanders. They are, however, directed to us in other documents.

### **Educate and Train the Force**

Educate and train individuals, leaders, and units (internal and external) to fight and win across the full spectrum of military operations as the Army service component providing Space and strategic support to U.S. Strategic Command. This task includes providing fully educated and trained personnel and units to current and future forces. (*Training*)

### **Conduct Research and Development**

Conduct scientific studies and experiments in fields related to the SMDC/ARSTRAT mission areas and other related technologies in order to produce exploratory and advanced developments in militarily relevant technologies. Provide solutions to identified military shortfalls, and transition developments into militarily relevant capabilities. This task focuses on the creation of new or improved military functional capabilities and includes evaluating test results of advanced concept technology and other demonstration programs. This task assumes the authority to establish the research, development, test and evaluation programs necessary to support force modernization. (*Research and Development or R&D*)

### **Conduct Antiterrorism/Force Protection**

Identify and reduce vulnerability to hostile acts, influence, or attack. This includes measures to protect from surprise, observation, detection, interference, espionage, terrorism, and sabotage. This task includes actions for protecting personnel and securing installations, facilities, and systems. (*Antiterrorism Force Protection or AT/FP*)

### **Expect Change**

The nature of the overall mission makes the above list of tasks a living document, changing with every additional mission we are assigned or that we lose. It will never be a completed action. Every time we modify the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment or Table of Distribution and Allowance, we have the potential for a modification of the mission essential tasks. Expect change.

We constantly define the conditions and standards that  
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relate to each task. To identify the feasibility of a task, we must know what the specific requirements are, to what level they need to be accomplished, and we must identify the accompanying environmental conditions. However, until we know what tasks are to be accomplished, we cannot build the conditions and standards effectively. This process is ongoing, and is far from complete. As all of the tasks are better defined and the conditions surrounding them are identified, then we can accurately evaluate our progress and see whether we are accomplishing the tasks.

So what is the way ahead? The joint mission essential task list will soon be approved so that we can fully develop

the conditions and standards as they apply to each task. Once approved, we can help the MSEs and the supporting commands define and build their own mission essential tasks. Those tasks, in turn, become the supporting/command-linked tasks to the joint task list. When that is accomplished, we will have an effective task list to focus on what needs to be done to support the Command and successfully accomplish its mission.

It is SMDC that has changed, not Space.

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supports U.S. Strategic Command's new missions. How does IO fit into this plan? Our IO plans, integrates, coordinates and advocates for the Army IO capabilities to support U.S. Strategic Command, the regional Army and joint force commanders. IO also develops and integrates Space capabilities in support of Army IO capabilities and missions.

Key responsibilities in support of the command are listed below. G-3 Plans and Information Operations will:

- Plan, coordinate and integrate Army IO capabilities and forces with the plans and operations of U.S. Strategic Command, and provide support to the operations center, the command's planning and operations area, global strike planning and the global strike planning elements.
- Provide support to special technical operations and relevant special access programs.
- Maintain situational awareness of Army IO resources and capabilities.
- Coordinate planning actions and operations with other Army support centers.
- Develop and brief command positions on joint and Army IO issues,

as well as execute the staff supervisory role over the planning, coordination and command and control of Army IO operations as required.

- Coordinate directly with all inside and outside command areas to accomplish specified Army-wide operational requirements, and act as the SMDC/ARSTRAT mission area integrator for IO.

- Identify desired IO capabilities, characteristics, and requirements, and advocate them to U.S. Strategic Command.

### Mission Area Interconnectivity

The IO mission is not conducted in a vacuum. It also provides support to other key mission areas, including global strike, missile defense, C4ISR, Space operations and special technical operation missions. It has a symbiotic relationship with Space control, which can sometimes lead to misunderstandings about the two mission areas. If a system or capability can potentially support both areas, the key discriminator in determining the mission area to support will be the primary intended effect. Space control contributes to our

ability to achieve information superiority and gain dominant maneuver. IO contributes to information dominance by affecting the adversary's human and automated decision-making ability and, ultimately, his will to fight.

## Conclusion

The IO mission continues to progress and mature as IO concepts and policies at the Department of Defense and joint levels change, then the Army IO vision and campaign plan will continue to evolve as it contributes its support of mission objectives. The main goal and challenge, however, is to remain flexible and keep focused on the ultimate objective: Guarding our new frontiers.

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