

The View From (Army) Space ...

By COL James R. Pierson

By now everyone has recovered from (or heard about) the FA40 training conference held in Southern California in early June. All indicators, and my personal assessment, point to a resounding success. Hats off to the Proponency Office for their planning and execution! Thanks to everyone for their attendance and professional contributions.

The effects of moving the Future Force to the left continues to be felt in many areas across the Army. Our efforts in building and embedding a Space Support Element (SSE) into the Unit of Employment (X), or UEx, are solidifying quickly. A collaborative effort between the Force Development and Integration Center, Battle Lab, many elements of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command staff and Human Resource Command have kick started the manning, training and equipping of the 3rd Infantry Division (3 ID) SSE. Planning for a 3rd ID certification exercise and then a mission rehearsal exercise is well under way.

Very early indications are extremely positive, especially from the “dog-faced soldier” perspective. Planning for follow-on UEx conversions are also under way. Without a doubt, the manning of these SSEs is creating a certain level of pain across the FA40 community as the fill of these critical UEx assignments is causing near term shortfalls until we can reach an increased accession rate.

The Army and Training and Doctrine Command’s modularity focus has shifted to the UEy effort and we are fully integrated in these planning and integration efforts. In all likelihood, we will also have an SSE, with a variance of manning and equipment from the UEx SSE, at the UEy level. Additionally, a revised Operation and Organization for the Unit

of Action, now called the Brigade Combat Team, is being drafted that may also have FA40 implications.

Some very significant work by the 1st Space Brigade and FDIC has recently taken place in Joint Expeditionary Force Exercise ’04 (JEFX 04) and Ulchi Focus Lens on the development of the theater Space Authority concept. We fully anticipate that this concept will continue to mature based upon current operations in Southwest Asia and future experimentation.

We have kicked off the Space Cadre FORMAL, a force management analysis chartered by the vice chief of staff of the Army, that will address how the Army will expand its current cadre of Space professionals, FA40s and 3Ys, to include our enlisted and civilian force. We are closely examining how the other services are addressing their Space cadre needs and working across the Army to identify potential billets and personnel for inclusion in the Army Space Cadre. The development of a professional Space cadre is clearly an item of interest to Congress, the Government Accounting Office and Department of Defense. The management of this cadre, as well as the training and education implications will be addressed over the coming months.

Speaking of education, we have successfully completed our initial integration of the Air Force’s Space 200 course into our Space Operations Officer Qualification Course (SOOQC). This is the first step in the evolution of the multi-service National Security Space Institute. In September 2004 we begin our pilot Intermediate Level Education (ILE) addendum to the SOOQC, causing the course to grow to 10 plus weeks.

Down the road, most likely in the next issue of *the Army Space Journal*, we will introduce some



An important gathering of U.S. Army Space proponents gathered at Long Beach, California earlier in the summer. They toured space related facilities, received briefings on the latest issues in the proponentry field and enjoyed a brisk run on the beach. Photos by Michael L. Howard



“lightning rod” issues that will be openly debated. Issues like, “Should there be a Space Force?,” “Should FA40s command?,” “Should near-space be the primary domain of the Army?” or “Should the Army ever be the Theater Space Authority?” will be debated in a pros and cons format. The intent is to generate serious discussion on relevant topics of interest for the Army Space professional. If you have topic ideas, please get them into Rich Burks (Richard.Burks@smdc-cs.army.mil).

With the many changes going on within the Army and the FA40 community, I am constantly reminded that the many and continuous successes that we enjoy are primarily due to the hard work, creativity and professionalism of our FA40s and the numerous Space professionals in the Officer Corps, NCO Corps, enlisted force and civilian force that support the FA40 career field. The Space Operations Officer in today’s Army is a highly valued member of the joint warfighting team. We must all strive to strengthen the solid foundation that we have today.

Despite the professional focus of this Journal on Space operations matters, we must not forget that we are all warriors, first and foremost. Have you seen “A Warrior’s Ethos” lately? You can view it or download it from the Army Web site (<http://www.army.mil/thewayahead/links.html>)

