

What you didn't know ...

As the presses begin to roll on this edition, the news from space is once again good.

Probably the neatest story to tell is about the great efforts Bill Coffey and LTC Richard Dow from SMDC's Future Warfare Center are making with the Space Support Elements (SSE). When the 3rd Infantry Division assumed the Task Force Baghdad mission in February 2005, they did it with an SSE assigned, trained and equipped. Dow's latest update on what the SSE can do is printed on page 24, with an associated article about the 3rd ID. As MG William G. Webster Jr. commands his Division in helping to make Iraq free and secure, we look forward to hearing how our four Space cadre Soldiers are helping in the task. We will be equally interested in further developments on the Space side as Coffey and Dow grow the SSE concept into other operational elements.

This brings to mind Lew Bernstein's excellent perspective on page 1F in our Flipside section on forming Army Space Support Teams in the 1980s and 1990s. Bernstein, from SMDC's history office, explores the various ways the Army delivered Space support to tactical commanders during this timeframe. This all provides the ground-base for not only the SSE with the 3rd ID, but the remainder of the Space team helping the warfighter today. This includes Army Space Support Team 1 from the 1st Space Brigade who is supporting the 18th Airborne Corps in Baghdad, along with the Brigade's Joint Tactical Ground Station providing early missile warning from Qatar and the Commercial Exploitation Team for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq and U.S. Central Command in Bahrain. In Qatar, we have LTC Sandra Yanna who is serving as the FA40 Space officer assigned to the U.S. Central Command Air Force.

A classic example of the teamwork between the FA40 and the operational capabilities of SMDC/ARSTRAT is illustrated in the Flipside on page 14F. The article talks about our Spectral Operations Resource Center providing commercial satellite imagery to Eighth U.S. Army in South Korea and Pacific Command in Hawaii to assist in the Tsunami relief efforts. Our FA40 Space operations officers MAJs Sam Amber and Rich Lewis, assigned to Eighth Army in 2003 and 2004 respectively, knew to tie in this Space capability to their command's efforts of providing relief to the disaster victims.

Let me update you on some behind-the-scenes aspects of the ASJ. This edition, we've divided our content into four clear sections: From The Top, Journal Forum, Tip of the Sphere and The Flipside. In our Leadership Updates section, we've introduced a new perspective that we hope will be a regular in upcoming editions. CSM David Lady, SMDC's senior enlisted Soldier, discusses the contributions our enlisted Soldiers bring to the Space arena. In the Journal Forum section, we've brought in a Pro and Con aspect where Charlotte K. Scharer and Miller Belmont square off on a lightning rod issue. Our Tip of the Sphere section continues to focus on SMDC features but, within The Flipside section, we've added FA40 Space news written by LTC Mike Powers who is the chief of the FA40 and Space cadre office in SMDC.

Finally, the ASJ staff looks forward to the upcoming FA40 Conference in Long Beach, Calif. We see this as an opportunity to learn about issues important to the Space cadre community and learn how you think our publication can better serve you.

Happy reading.

— Michael L. Howard
Editor in Chief

Letter to the Editor

Tsunami relief support

I was contacted shortly after the tsunami by the deputy G-2 of Eighth U.S. Army to see if there was anything that we could provide to assist in planning efforts in support of the emerging relief effort.

The capabilities of the Spectral Operations Resource Center (SORC) immediately came to mind. I am very limited in my imagery capabilities but I have an organization (ARSTRAT) that is designed to support me in serving the warfighter's needs. I went to the SMDC classified Web site to submit a request for information that would get the SORC started on products I knew would be critical in planning relief efforts. This is what I call "Space recon." I noticed that the SORC had changed ownership from the G-3 to the G-2. The Web site allowed me to quickly and directly request support from the SORC.

Through a series of very timely emails and phone

calls (even after hours in the States) I was able to explain the areas that we were planning for and the type of information we needed.

The SORC quickly jumped onto the project and provided products in a very timely manner. Some data I was able to pull directly off the FTP server. Some data was too large and the SORC FEDEXed this data to us.

The information was very helpful to our geospatial Soldiers in putting together the planning tools necessary for the units identified to deploy.

This effort served two purposes. 1) It provided timely "Space recon" planning products for units preparing to deploy. 2) Educated the command on the capabilities Army Space officers can quickly tap into to meet mission requirements.

— MAJ Richard Lewis

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

Give us your opinion on these

*lightning
rod
issues!*

Should FA40s command?

**Should near-space be the primary
domain of the Army?**

Comments on these questions may be sent to the Editor in chief via email to michael.howard@smdc-cs.army.mil

**Should the Army ever be the
Theater Space Authority?**