

The Army's first Space Support Element (SSE) ...

Manned, Trained, Equipped and Combat Ready!

By LTC Richard Dow

After more than seven years of materiel experimentation and four years of concept and doctrinal development, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT), in direct support to the Army's Task Force Modularity, equipped and activated the Army's first unit of employment X (UEX) Space Support Element (SSE) in August 2004. Our Army's first SSE is comprised of three Space operations officers, LTC George Andary (chief), MAJ Cliff Hodges and MAJ Jim Rozzi, and one noncommissioned officer, SSG Ronnie Anglin (MOS 31S). As this article is being published, the 3rd Infantry Division (3ID), along with its SSE, is deployed in Iraq serving with the Multinational Division – Baghdad.

Organization

The original UEX SSE modified table of organization and equipment that prescribed four Space operations officers and two NCOs was revised because of an Army decision to only partially convert the 3ID to a UEX. Its Tactical Command Post No. 2 was not manned, thus reducing its SSE by one Space operations officer and one NCO. To mitigate this reduction, SMDC/ARSTRAT has provided two additional NCOs, SGT Jennifer Swift and SGT Tobias Mitchell, as augmentation from the command's 1st Space Battalion, to the 3ID SSE. This augmentation provides an increase to the SSE's combat support capabilities and provides SMDC/ARSTRAT a basis for the doctrinal analysis of a six-Soldier SSE.

Materiel

The 3ID SSE was equipped with one Space Support Element Toolset (SSET). This SSET (version 2) is considered a "proven prototype" in that its components (the Space operations system workstations and the SATURN (Space Application Technology User Reachback Node) communications suite) have been continuously deployed, tested and proven in both Iraq and Afghanistan since January 2003. The SSET provides the requisite analytical tools to the SSE

to assess Space and its impact on operations. Through its organic satellite communications, the SSET provides the ability to reach throughout the Iraqi theater of operations and around the globe to other Space forces. The collaboration of all Space forces throughout the world allows for the timely sharing of Space products, analyses and reports in support of all commanders and staffs.

Training

The 3ID's SSE training program from June to October 2004 consisted of two major efforts: the SSE Qualification Course and the 3ID/UEX Mission Rehearsal Exercise.

The SSE Qualification Course consisted of four weeks of individual training on the new SSET equipment, one week of doctrinal training that focused on SSE tactics, techniques and procedures, and a four-day SSE Qualification Command Post Exercise (section training). This exercise provided a venue for the SSE to perform its doctrinal tasks by using the SSET capabilities in a master scenario events list-driven exercise. This qualification course was considered a "pilot course" and will serve as a basis for developing the formal course requirements for all Soldiers who are in, or are being assigned to, tactical or operational level Army Space positions.

The SSE culminated its collective Space training during the 3ID's October 2004 Mission Rehearsal Exercise. During this exercise, the SSE was able to integrate its support into many of the staff sections. Examples of its planning, integration and coordination activities throughout the exercise included the following:

- Developed requirements and standard operating procedures for personnel recovery missions (to include combat search and rescue and downed pilots).
- Developed and formed the Imagery Requirements Working Group from the SSE, the Geospatial Information and Support Section and the Imagery Section of the G-2. This working group met periodically to discuss how the many UEX and brigade combat team imagery requirements could best be satisfied.



LTC Elizabeth Kuh, MSG Alan Hentemann, MAJ Cliff Hodges and MAJ Jim Rozzi work with the 3rd Infantry Division during a Space Support Element Command Post Exercise, Sept. 12-17, 2004, in Fort Stewart, Ga.

- Analyzed real-world Space weather effects on satellite communications.
- Analyzed the technical and operational architectures (and their relationship to and dependence on satellites) for real-world blue-force tracking (BFT) devices throughout the Iraqi theater of operations and those organic to 3ID.
- Requested the development of customized spectral products from SMDC/ARSTRAT's Spectral Operations Resource Center to support a notional hostage recovery mission.
- Produced a three-dimensional "fly-through" of the Baghdad area of responsibility for terrain familiarization.
- Integrated and assessed national and commercial imaging and overhead nonimaging infrared assets into the division collection plan.
- Provided global positioning system (GPS)/navigational accuracy predictions to the effects coordination cell for the employment of GPS-aided munitions into urban environments.
- Requested GPS enhanced theater support during periods of critical combat operations when the employment of precision weapons was anticipated.
- Provided Space expertise and analysis to all daily meetings, to include the effects coordination cell, the battle update brief, the commander's update brief, crisis action planning meetings and the chief of operation's "huddles."

Garrison Support

From August to December 2004, the 3ID SSE provided significant Space expertise and support to its staff sections. Some of the highlights of its support included:

- Coordination with G-2 and Geospatial Information and Support to acquire and archive existing national and commercial imagery to establish a "basic load."
- Coordination with Geospatial Information and Support for imagery software training with SMDC/ARSTRAT's Spectral Operation Resource Center.
- Supported G-3 with the operational integration of BFT devices into the main command post battle command workstations.
- Developed unit standard operating procedures for G-3 and
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3rd Infantry Division Assumes Task Force Baghdad Mission

By SPC Emily J. Wilsoncroft, USA
American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Feb. 28, 2005 — The 3rd Infantry Division officially jumped back into action here Feb. 27, when a transition-of-authority ceremony transferred command of Task Force Baghdad from Army Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, 1st Cavalry Division commander, to Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., 3rd Infantry Division commander.

The 1st Cav. has had elements in Iraq since relieving 1st Armored Division soldiers. Now, after more than a year serving as Task Force Baghdad headquarters, 1st Cavalry soldiers are heading back to the United States.

With the giant crossed-swords statues looming over the parade grounds, the transition was presided over by Army Lt. Gen. John Vines, Multinational Corps Iraq commander.

"Today, we welcome Maj. Gen. William Webster and Task Force Rock of the Marne back to Iraq," Vines said. "Twenty-two months ago, your division spearheaded coalition forces' attacks as it fought its way to Baghdad, leading to the toppling of Saddam Hussein and his imposed tyranny on the Iraqi people. Twenty-two months ago, you stood on this very ground in victory."

Vines congratulated Chiarelli and the 1st Cavalry Division for a job well done, referencing Iraq's successful Jan. 30 elections and other benchmarks of progress. "Together, you and our Iraqi partners improved the way of life for the Iraqi people, conducting more than 800 civil engineering projects totaling more than \$104 million in Baghdad," he said.

"You've sponsored 14 Iraqi police academies, rebuilt 600 schools, conducted more than 70 electrical projects totaling \$1.8 million, and contributed \$8.3 million in grants to Iraqi businesses," he continued. "Finally, under Task Force Pegasus Tutelage, the 40th Iraqi National Guard Brigade took control of its own operational area in Baghdad, marking the first time an Iraqi brigade has done so. Without question, you have positively touched every aspect of Iraqi life — truly a phenomenal feat!"

Vines also emphasized the need to continue the hard work that began with the elections. "As great and historic a day as Jan. 30 was for the Iraqi peo-

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ple — and frankly the world — it was not the ultimate goal, which is a free and secure Iraq,” Vines said. “We, the Iraqi government and the coalition, know there is still much work to be done, but Iraq’s progress to date is both extraordinary and irreversible.”

Chiarelli welcomed the Marne division and expressed his confidence in the division’s soldiers and commander. “The 3rd ID is well trained, led by gifted officers and noncommissioned officers, and blessed with great soldiers,”

Chiarelli said. “The division

is poised to ensure Baghdad moves powerfully toward complete self-sufficiency. The people of Baghdad have a partner in the 3rd Infantry Division as committed to the mission as any they will ever see on their streets.

“Baghdad has a special place in the history of the world, and it stands on the precipice of greatness once again,” he added.

Upon taking command of TF Baghdad, Webster acknowledged the responsibility given to him and the Marne soldiers and accepted the mission at

hand. “The 3rd Infantry Division has trained hard and is ready,” he said. “We will work with our Iraqi partners as they continue to increase their capability to protect the Iraqi people from any foe.

“We will help the people of Iraq maintain their right to freedom and the pursuit of a prosperous future for all Iraqi citizens,” Webster said. “Our soldiers know this is right and just.”

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integrated capabilities for personnel recovery including combat search and rescue, downed pilots and missing Soldiers.

- Supported G-6 with secure mobile anti-jam reliable tactical terminal training and commissioning of satellites.
- Coordinated with G-6 for satellite communication training with SMDC/ARSTRAT’s extremely high frequency network operational manager.
- Coordinated with XVIII Airborne Corps to acquire miniature transmitter BFT devices for 3ID employment.
- Coordinated with staff weather officer to integrate and corroborate Space analysis and effects.
- Supported 3ID Public Affairs Office with the installation and commissioning of satellites for their commercial public affairs satellite communication video system.

Road Ahead

In September 2004, the Army Chief of Staff’s decision to reduce the UEx manning by almost 300 Soldiers

resulted in cuts to numerous staff sections, including the SSE. The current projection is for a two-Soldier SSE, one lieutenant colonel and one major, both Space operations officers. SMDC/ARSTRAT will attempt to increase the SSE to six Soldiers either by an increase to the modified table of organization and equipment or by providing the Army Space Support Team augmentation for deploying UExs.

As a critical enabler to this proposed force structure increase, SMDC/ARSTRAT will provide an SSE data collection and analysis team that will travel to Iraq to assess both the 3ID’s ability to conduct Space operations with an SSE and the contributions of other Space forces throughout the Iraqi theater of operations to tactical and operational Space support in a combat theater. This data collection and analysis effort is being coordinated directly with U.S. Joint Forces Command’s Joint Combat Operational Analysis Branch and the U.S. Army’s Center for Army Lessons Learned and will provide the basis for further doctrinal and materiel developments and for justifying SSE force structure.

In the end, SSEs will be included in each unit (both Active and Reserve Components) that convert to a UEx and UEy (the operational level headquarter). According to the current Army Campaign Plan, at least 19 units are scheduled to convert to a UEx between 2004 and 2009, each with an SSE. As organic elements within each UEx, these SSEs will provide the “last mile” of Space capabilities and support to Soldiers in the foxhole.

LTC Rick Dow is an FA40 officer assigned to U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Future Warfare Center and serves as the SMDC/ARSTRAT "Trail Boss" command lead for Space Support Element fielding. His previous SMDC assignment was the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance team leader, FDIC. His experience includes 15 years as a Military Intelligence officer, having served in various tactical intelligence command and staff positions, as well as a combat development tour working Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities requirements and concepts. He is a graduate of the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course and recently graduated from Webster University with a master's degree in Space Systems Operations and Management.