

The View From (Army) Space ...

By COL James R. Pierson

It has been a distinct privilege to serve this magnificent Nation of ours over the past 26 years. It has been a wonderful ride with many more ups than downs. All I've tried to do was learn from others (like you) and leave this great Army of ours a bit better and stronger than it was given to me, assignment by assignment.

Helping to publish the Army Space Journal has been a stimulating and rewarding experience. It affords me the opportunity to talk to the FA 40 community and the broader Space community on a broad and diverse set of topics. I've thought long and hard about where I want to take this last article ... so here goes.

"Do not be afraid!" Memorable words spoken by the late Pope John Paul II. Words, that if you think about it, have some application to the Space operations community. In a zero sum resource environment, or worse, a constricting budgetary environment, growth mission areas (like Space operations) face significant challenges.

Because growth in one area, implicitly, or explicitly, means reduction in another area(s). This can create a tenuous, and often, confrontational environment. It is incumbent on all Space professionals to develop and communicate rational, logical and hard hitting arguments for the Space capabilities that joint warfighters need today and in the coming years.

We can not be afraid of failures ... we must focus on the future putting one foot in front of the other. I am confident that the "Billy Mitchell for Space power" is out there among us. I urge you to challenge the status quo or the "accepted" beliefs. Be innovative ... and do not be afraid.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to the leaders of the ASJ staff — Rich Burks (SMDC/FWC/DCD) and Mike Howard (SMDC/PAO) — for creating a truly professional journal — one that stands out for both quality and effectiveness. Neither Rich nor Mike are fully dedicated to the quarterly creation of the Army Space Journal. But their can-do attitude has propelled the Journal to the level of excellence that you are reading today. But this Journal would not be what it is today without the superb articles that you,

our authors, provide. It is truly amazing to sit back and read about what is being accomplished in the Army Space arena today.

But speaking of the Journal's effectiveness ... every once in a while it is a good thing to sit back and think about how effective we really are. Are there areas or targeted audiences where we could increase our collective effectiveness to enable a broader and deeper integration of Space capabilities through the Journal? If there are, please pick up the phone (or e-mail us) and let us know how future ASJs can be shaped to increase our effectiveness.

There will be time at the annual FA 40 Conference to discuss the Journal. We really want to hear from you. And by the way, enjoy the conference and use the time with your fellow Space professionals to exchange ideas, lessons learned and develop a deeper network of friends and associates.

It is my honor to introduce, COL Tim Coffin, as the next Director of Combat Developments for SMDC. Having known and worked with COL Coffin over the past five to ten years, it is clear that he is immensely qualified to assume these critical duties within the Future Warfare Center. Currently serving as the DA/G-35, Tim leads and integrates Space efforts, among other responsibilities, across the Army staff and has built upon the many successes of his predecessors. He enters the fray with considerable Space expertise and will, undoubtedly, "hit the ground running." When you get a chance, welcome COL Coffin into his new set of duties.

Finally, it would take more than this column, more like the entire Journal, to express my thanks and gratitude to all of you that have led, mentored, guided and supported me over my career. It is you — the Soldiers, civilians and contractors of the Army and joint Space team, serving around the world — that make a difference each and every day. Thank you for helping train this Soldier.

Needless to say, it is with mixed emotions that I am retiring from the Army. But it is not good-bye but only farewell until another day ...

the Army Space Journal



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