

# Space Professional Personnel Update



by LTC Clay Scherer

LTC Clay Scherer is an FA40 officer serving as the Chief, FA40 Personnel Proponent Office. LTC Scherer served previously with U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in the Space Division of the Force Development and Integration Center where he worked on Space Control requirements development. His previous tour was at the Naval Post Graduate School where he completed a Masters of Science in Space Systems Operations. He served as a Field Artillery Officer prior to entering the Space Operations Career Field in 2001.

## Air Force Space and Missile Badge

The FA40 Personnel Proponent Office (PPO) is working with the Air Force Leader Development Division at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., and with the senior leadership in the FA40 community to develop the Army criteria for award and wear of the new Air Force Space Badge. The Air Force approved the Army proposal to wear the Air Force Space and Missile Badge in 2001. In November 2005, the Air Force retired the Air Force Space and Missile Badge and established the Air Force Space Badge. When a Memorandum of Agreement is signed between the Air Force and U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, the FA40 PPO will send out an announcement to explain the FA40 transition to the new Space Badge. At this time, FA40s are not authorized to wear the new Space Badge. Award of the Space Badge will have increased rigor in the areas of training and certification. It is important to understand that no Soldier will be required to remove the Air Force Space and Missile Badge regardless of subsequent qualification for the new Space Badge. Both badges cannot be worn at the same time but anyone awarded the old Space and Missile Badge can continue to do so.

## FA40 Conference

The FA40 Training Conference will be held in conjunction with the Association of the United States Army/Greater Los Angeles Chapter (GLAC) Conference in Long Beach, Calif. The AUSA/GLAC Conference will be June 1-2, 2006. The FA40 Training Conference is tentatively scheduled for May 30-31, 2006. Details and registration guidance will be disseminated to the FA40s as they become finalized.

## OPMS III Review

The Officer Personnel Management System (OPMS) is currently undergoing a lengthy review process that will result in some significant changes to the current OPMS construct. The most notable change will be to the current construct that places officers into four groupings: Operations, Operational Support, Institutional Support and Information Operations (which contains the FA40 Career Field). The new OPMS III construct has not been finalized, however a functional realignment of the basic branches and Career Fields has been approved. The new functional alignment will likely be separated into three categories: Maneuver, Fires & Effects; Operations Support; and Force Sustainment. This three-category design was concurred on by a one and two star general officer steering committee and will be forwarded to a three star GOSC in late January 2006. The FA40 Career Field will be in the Operations Support category in the Network & Space Operations sub-category. The Network & Space Operations sub-category will consist of officers in the Signal branch, Space Operations Career Field, Telecommunications Career Field (FA24) and the Information Systems Automation Career Field (FA53). The OPMS III review is ongoing and will continue through July 2006.