

Colorado Army National Guard Space Support Battalion welcomes new commander

By DJ Montoya

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The Colorado Army National Guard Space Support Battalion recently said farewell to outgoing battalion commander, LTC Scot H. Cuthbertson, and welcomed a new commander, LTC Donald P. Laucirica during a ceremony at the Peterson Parade Grounds on the afternoon of Nov. 3.

In his remarks, COL Robert K. Balster, commander of the COARNG 89th Troop Command said, “A change of command is much like passing a baton in a relay race.”

“Those selected for command are given a chance to run a lap or two in an endless race to advance that baton. Lieutenant Colonel Scot Cuthbertson was selected to be on this unique battalion command team. For three important years he ran laps as the commander never dropping that baton.

“His race was run under the watchful eye of not only the COARNG but that of the proponent for all Army Space operations. He met both of these commands high expectations.

“His other job and experience set as deputy sheriff for El Paso County has led to his selection as operations officer of our emergency operations center. Another race and another baton.”

Balster commented on incoming commander Laucirica saying, “Welcome to the race.”

Accepting his new position Laucirica stated “that the welfare of this battalion was his top priority before all other priorities.”

“It is indeed an honor to command America’s most precious assets, that being America’s sons and daughters and Colorado’s finest citizen Soldiers.”

A native of North Carolina Laucirica is a graduate of the University of Utah. His military education

includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Special Forces Enlisted and Officers Qualifications Courses, the Combined Arms Service Staff School, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, the Inter-Service Space Fundamentals Course, and the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course.

His most recent assignment was Operation and Training Officer (S-3) and Executive Officer, 89th Troop Command, Colorado Army National Guard. The COARNG Space Support Battalion was activated on Sept. 28, 2001 as the 193rd Space Battalion. Its activation signified an important commitment by the Army National Guard to fully embrace Space operations as an Army core competency.

Citizen Soldiers of the COARNG Space Support Battalion have served alongside their active Army counterparts in every aspect of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom along with numerous major exercises spanning the globe. Since November 2001, the Citizen Soldiers of this battalion have been mobilized and deployed continuously. These Soldiers have served with the Combined Forces Land Component Commander in Kuwait; the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, later known as the Office of the Coalition Provisional Authority from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Baghdad Iraq; the Space Electronic Warfare Detachment in Oman, the Space and Information Operations Element — Reachback, and the Blue Force Tracking Mission Management Center, and numerous deployments to the Republic of South Korea to participate in exercises that prepare United States Forces Korea to deter war.



LTC Donald Laucirica (top photo, center) receives the unit flag from COL Robert K. Balster, commander of the 89th Troop Command, Colorado Army National Guard. (Balster is pictured at right in the inset) Accepting the unit flag symbolizes acceptance of all the things that leadership of the unit entails. In a ceremony as old as the Army, Laucirica became only the third commander of this unique unit.
Photos by Dennis Plummer

