

Training Insights

by Larry Mize



Larry Mize graduated from Xavier University with a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics in 1973. He entered active service in the United States Navy serving a career specializing in Naval Intelligence, Aircraft Carrier Operations, Naval Special Warfare (SEALs), and Space Operations. Mize attended French language training at the Defense Language Institute and subsequently served as U.S. Navy Liaison Officer to the Commander French Forces Indian Ocean/French Foreign Legion/Commandos Marine in Djibouti. He attended the Naval Postgraduate School and was awarded a MS in Space Systems in 1986, subsequently serving at U.S. Space Command and U.S. Strategic Command. Mize is currently Chief of Space and Global Missile Defense Education and Training.

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2007 FA40 Space Operations Officer Qualification Courses (SOOQC)

- SOOQC 07-01 June 7 – Aug. 17, 2007

- SOOQC 07-02 Sept. 6 – Nov. 16, 2007

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FWC DCD to Mentor/Support Naval Postgraduate School FA40 Space Operations/Engineering Students

Final coordination between FWC DCD Training and Captain Al Scott, USN, Program Officer, Space Systems Engineering/Operations, Naval Postgraduate School has resulted in a cooperative program of support for FA40s attending NPS through the Army's Advanced Civilian Schooling (ACS) degree program. The main themes of this cooperation center on FA40 Proponency and DCD Education and Training Branch direct support to F40s through:

- visits and one-on-one discussions with newly arrived FA40s during their first quarter
- nominating topics for the multi-service class design project and serving as project advisor for Army aspects of the project
- soliciting Army topics and nominating these to Captain Scott for consideration of NPS students/curriculum advisors as thesis proposals. For those Army topics selected for thesis work, DCD will mentor students and facilitate entrées with program leads and subject matter experts
- visiting NPS as guest lecturers in support of NPS' Space Seminar program.

As this program matures and FA40s attend other ACS program schools, such as the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), DCD's outreach will extend to them. NPS and DCD view this as a win-win arrangement that benefits NPS and its Space Systems Engineering/Operations Program and provides the Army with an academic resource to apply to any variety of focus areas/studies.

Six Years of Space Operations Officer Qualification Course Stats

With the Nov. 17 graduation of the 11th SOOQC, 212 Space Professionals have passed through the halls of DCD's one-room schoolhouse. Provided below are the demographics for these eleven classes.

	CLASS	DATES	TOTAL STUDENTS	OFFICER										BY RANK					
				FA40	AC NON-40	NGB	RC	USMC	USAF	WO	NCO	CIV	COL	LTC	MAJ	CPT-LT	WO	NCO	
1	01-01	13 JUN-03 AUG 01	14	13		1									1	12	1		
2	02-01	17 JAN-08 MAR 02	15	11		4								1	3	11			
3	02-02	08 JUL-23 AUG 02	20	19				1						4	4	12			
4	03-01	13 JUN-08 AUG 03	20	16		1	3							8	11	1			
5	03-02	18 AUG-10 OCT 03	19	8	3	3	2	1	1		1		1	5	6	6			1
6	04-01	07 JUL-27 AUG 04	21	15	4		1			1				2	13	5	1		
7	04-02	08 SEP-19 NOV 04	19	7	3	4	3	1			1			3	10	5			1
8	05-01	27 JUN-01 SEP 05	17	11	2	1	2	1							11	6			
9	05-02	08 SEP-18 NOV 05	19	8	2	5	3		1					3	12	4			
10	06-01	08 JUN-18 AUG 06	25	7	7	1	6		2		2			2	15	6			2
11	06-02	07 SEP-17 NOV 06	23	8	2	3	8	1			1			2	13	7			1
	TOTALS		212	123	23	23	28	5	4	1	5	0	6	33	126	41	1		5

TRADOC CG Awards Certificate of Accreditation for Space Operations Officer Qualification Course

Formal accreditation of the FA40 Space Operations Officer Qualification Course was received from CG TRADOC following the TRADOC Quality Assurance Office inspection in September 2006. See below article by Thomas Coleman, DCD.

HQ TRADOC sees “Institute of Excellence Quality” in SOOQC Course

by Tom Coleman

The current Space Operations Officer Qualification Course (SOOQC) has obtained the “Quality Seal of Accreditation” from Headquarters Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and the entire U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT) Directorate of Combat Development (DCD) training team could not be happier. The team has been working toward this goal for more than three years. On Dec. 1, the commanding general TRADOC awarded “Full Accreditation” (100 percent of all standards met) status and designated SMDC as an “Institution of Excellence” for that course.

The course has been in existence since 2001, but was only seven weeks long back then. Following a strategic roadmap that includes an aggressive after action report program, annual critical task selection boards, DCO validation of critical tasks and, foremost, integrating the current operational environment into training, FA40 Space Operations Officer Qualification training has evolved into a very robust eleven-week resident course conducted in Colorado Springs. “TRADOC formal accreditation of the command’s SOOQC shows the hard work and quality that the DCD training team puts forth into this important Space instruction for our Army Space Professionals,” said Larry Mize, Chief of Space Education and Training at DCD.

The goal of TRADOC accreditation of the course was established more than three years ago in Oct. 2003 with a TRADOC Quality Assurance Office Staff Assistance Visit to help DCD focus efforts and improve the course,” said Tom Coleman, Chief of Training Development at DCD. “This has always been our goal, to demonstrate that we have a TRADOC-approved, quality Space training course” Coleman said. In 2003, the Quality Assurance Office spent three days with the DCD to review all the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course materials and discuss ways for the training team to improve the course even more.

The headquarters TRADOC Quality Assurance Office accreditation team arrived in Colorado Springs on Sept. 26 for their three-day review. The criteria for TRADOC accreditation included compliance with 24 TRADOC Quality Assurance Office standards. These standards cover the areas of (1) Conduct of Training, (2) Training Support and (3) Proponent Functions. The two-person Quality Assurance Office team stayed busy reviewing all course curriculum and training materials to include; lesson plans, Program of Instruction, testing procedures, student and instructor folders, Army Training Requirements and Resources System records, training facilities, classroom design, administrative support and a myriad of other training program requirements. The Quality Assurance Office team began working with Coleman and Deborah Harvey, as well as the other members of the DCD training team at the first of the year. “Lots of important coordination had to take place prior to the QAO team’s arrival here in September,” said Coleman. The team was impressed with the course and DCD’s ability to execute a top-notch Space training course. The Quality Assurance Office inspectors were highly lauding of the “best business practice” of partnering with the U.S. Air Force and the National Security Space Institute. TRADOC Quality Assurance Office plans to take DCD’s business model and export it to other TRADOC proponent schools as a proven model to enhance training efficiency amidst an era of strained resources and high Operations Tempo.

This Army/U.S. Air Force/National Security Space Institute partnership started in 2003 during a review of the basic Space curricula taught during the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course and the National Security Space Institute’s Space 200 course showed nearly an 80 percent overlap in similar topics. At that time, DCD entered into discussions with the institute and established what was to become an important and viable partnership between both schools in delivering quality Space training. Agreement was reached between DCD and the National Space Security Institute to include Space 200 as an integral part of the overall Space Operations Officer Qualification Course experience.

Today, the students who arrive in Colorado Springs attend the course in three phases. Phase One is a 2-3 day technical refresh and orientation to the Army Space community. Phase Two is attendance at the 4-week Space 200 course at the National Security Space Institute. Phase Three is a 6-week training session conducted back at the DCD training facility where the students receive Army-focused training on specific Army Space applications and operations. Over the past several years, the course has seen some significant improvements. The field trips for the students have been expanded to include Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, as well as contractor facilities in the Los Angeles area, the High Energy Laser System Test Facility and White Sands, and the 5-day D.C. trip. The Space Operations Officer Qualification Course culminates in a robust three-day Command Post Exercise which includes insight from Army FA40s and others who have recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom and other field locations to further enhance the Command Post Exercise experience.

The Quality Assurance Office team recognized the goodness in partnering with the National Space Security Institute, the quality of instruction being delivered, and the ability of the DCD training team to deliver a professional Space training course notwithstanding their limited resources and manpower constraints. “Our entire training team has worked hard and I am proud of each of them for achieving this important TRADOC accreditation and recognition for SMDC/ARSTRAT,” said COL Bruce Smith, Director of DCD.

The Training and Doctrine Command accreditation is good for three years.