

Army Space and Missile Defense Command's "Position on Space"

By MAJ Patrick O'Brien

The JP 3-14, Joint Doctrine for Space Operations, is under periodic revision. Given the pace of operations and the very rapid evolution, development, and fielding of new Space systems over the past five years, this updated publication is likely to be profoundly changed from its current form. This new publication will greatly impact all Army Space forces until the next update scheduled for 2014. In the summer 2007, there will be a contingent designated by Department of the Army to represent our interests during the rewrite of the publication. This article describes an ongoing effort to define the "Official SMDC Position on Space." When completed, this document will evolve into the Army's Position on Space and will serve as a guide to ensure that the new Joint Doctrine will support all of the services needs over the next several years.

Since JP 3-14 was last published in August 2002, there have been numerous updates in Space products and equipment as well as new missions and requirements demanded of the Army Space Cadre. With that have come new Tactics Techniques and Procedures, Command and Control relationships, and other procedures developed by Army Space personnel that have yet to be fully captured and codified so that we may update Joint and Service doctrine. We at the Future Warfare Center's Directorate of Combat Development need your help in encapsulating these innovative measures that you have seen or developed to ensure that the rapidly evolving Space doctrine keeps pace with what you are doing in the field. This article is intended to provide inspiration for you to give us exactly that type of input.

We have already conducted a limited internal review of key personnel at U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command in Colorado Springs to gauge the scope of this effort and have encountered some interesting conundrums with regard to Joint and Coalition operations. These obstacles include, but are not limited to: force deployment and structure, command and control, prioritization and apportionment of Space assets, component roles and responsibilities, as well as the extent and function of reachback. Enumerated below are three draft positions under consideration for inclusion in the guidance to the Army's rewrite team to JP 3-14. Expansion, explanation and possible objections are addressed for the first three issues. Other possible positions are listed at the end of this article. What will really assist the Directorate of Combat Development in developing the position on Space is for you to send in your thoughts on each of these three positions.

POSITION 1

The Space Coordinating Authority (SCA) should be a joint billet with a joint staff for every Combatant Command

Recently, the Space Operations Officer that served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Deputy Director of Space Forces for Central Command gave his thoughts on this subject. The discussion was focused on how things are being done within that theater of operation, what was working extremely well, and how to capture those working relationships so as to codify doctrine to match those success stories. One of the major results from the

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discussion is the draft Army position that the Space Coordinating Authority be a joint billet, appointed by the Joint Task Force Commander.

This concept has roots in the current version of JP 3-14. The current publication defines a "Space Authority" with coordinating authority in all Space related matters. The following is from page ix: "To facilitate unity of the theater/joint operations area Space effort, the supported combatant commander or a joint force commander may designate a Space authority. The Space authority will coordinate Space operations, integrate Space capabilities and have primary responsibility for in-theater joint Space operations planning." "Joint Space operations planning" implies a joint billet with joint manning. Although the name Space Authority has recently morphed to Space Coordination Authority, the current JP 3-14 does not define a Space Coordination Authority's supporting staff. Recent operational success in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom can provide a template to answer that question.

Within Central Command, there are two organizations that are working very well together to ensure that Space assets and effects are equitably allocated for the entire theater. Those two organizations are the Air Component Coordination Element for the Combined Forces Air Component Command and the Army Space Support Team assigned to Multinational Coalition Iraq. When considering the Space effects produced, those two organizations function together seamlessly. In an effort to ensure that this success story serves as a model for future combat operations, this draft Army position should be incorporated into the rewrite of the JP 3-14.

Under this organizational scheme and following the logic presented in the current JP 3-14, the Joint Task Force Commander

would appoint the Space Coordinating Authority which would be coded as a Joint billet. The Space Coordination Authority would then be the head of the Joint Space Coordination Center on the J 3 staff. Initial staffing of the Joint Space Coordination Center should be composed of Air Force personnel similar to that of the Air Component Coordination Element and Army personnel similar to the complement of an Army Space Support Team. The Air Force officer assigned to the billet Director of Space Forces would be ideal to lead the Air Force personnel on that staff section and act as the senior Space officer for the Air Force. Similarly, the officer that would have held the position as Army Space Support Team leader could be designated as the Director of Army Space Forces. Of course, the Joint Space Coordination Center staff could have additional personnel assigned from any of the services dependent on METT TC.

This position will likely have strong opposition from the Air Force. The following are excerpts from definitions in Air Force Doctrine Document 2.2, Space Operations, dated November 2006.

- The commander of Air Force forces is the senior U.S. Air Force officer designated as commander of the US Air Force component assigned to a joint force commander. The commander of Air Force forces is the senior Air Force warfighter who exercises command and control over all assigned and attached air and Space forces.
- The Space Coordinating Authority is an authority within a joint force aiding in the coordination of joint Space operations and integration of Space capabilities and effects. Space Coordinating Authority is an authority, not a person.

Since the commander of Air Force forces commands all Air
(See *Position on Space*, page 48)

SPACE CONTROL MATRIX

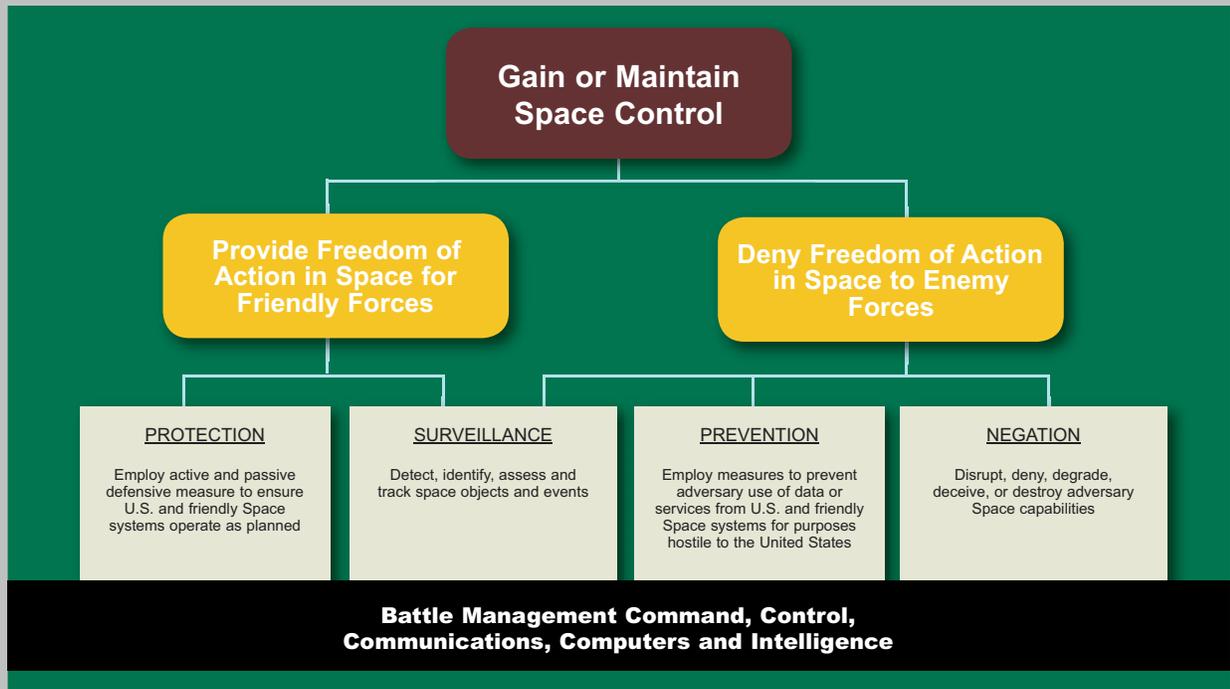


Figure 1. Space Control Matrix from JP 3-14

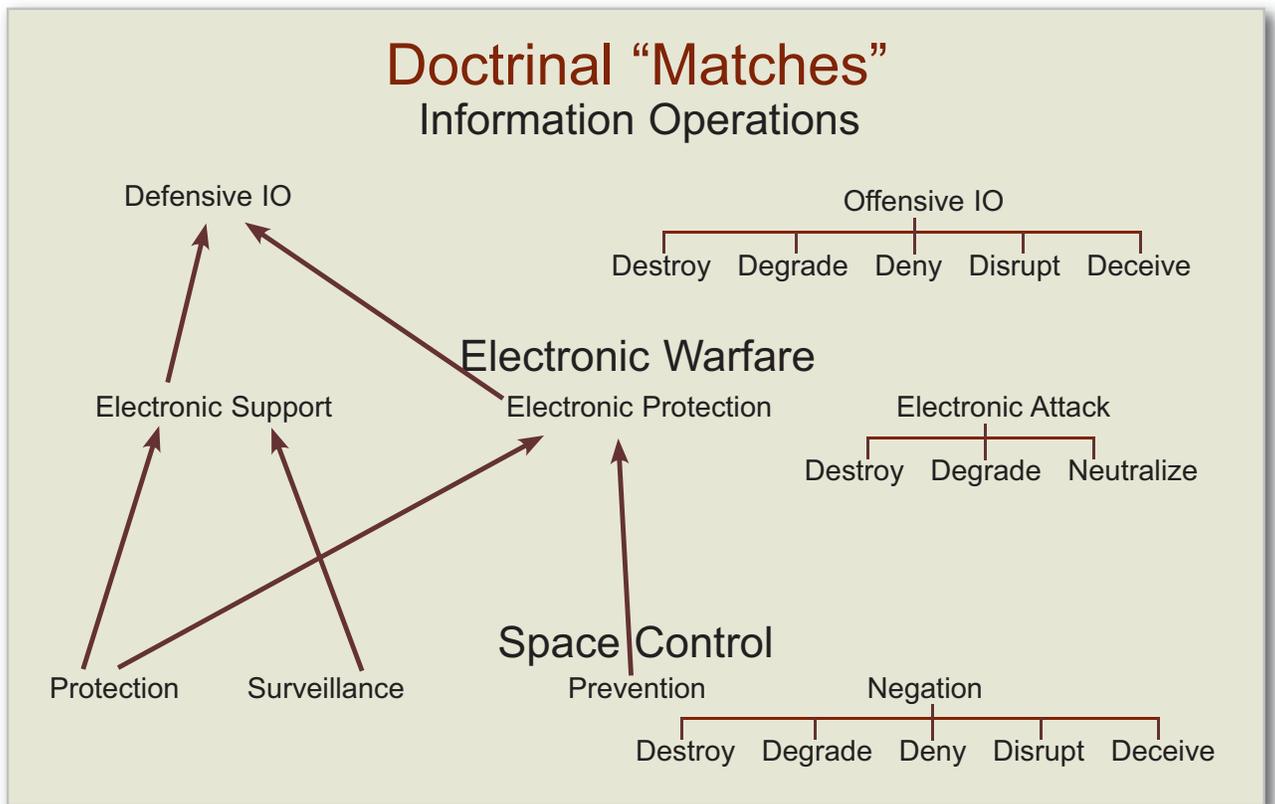


Figure 2. Space Control Similarities to EW and IO

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Force Space personnel, one is left to conclude that Space Coordinating Authority rests with the newly created Director of Space Forces. Further evidence of this position can be found in the Schriever IV Quicklook Report. That report, dated March 2007, seeks to codify the Director of Space Forces “in the joint/coalition environment” with the “full-time assignment of a Director of Space Forces.” The Director of Space Forces is an Air Force position. Seeking to codify the position in joint doctrine would only make sense if it were to have joint implications and make the Director of Space Forces the director of all joint Space forces.

The Global War on Terror provides proof that there will be potential conflict for the foreseeable future that will be a predominantly land-based fight. Codifying the Space Coordinating Authority as a joint position with a joint staff in the new joint publication will ensure Army expertise and capabilities are not lost to parochial tendencies.

POSITION 2

Joint Doctrine should be revised so that the field of Space Control is better defined to show those effects that fall under the realm of Electronic Warfare and those that do not.

The JP 3-14, Joint Doctrine for Space Operations defines Space control and its associated mission areas very broadly. Figure 1 shows and defines the four mission areas of Space control.

A problem that arises from such a broad definition of Space control is that an infantry platoon destroying an enemy satellite’s ground station falls under the realm of Space Control Negation. Similarly, a Military Police unit assigned to perform security for a Joint Tactical Ground Station unit is performing Space control protection yet neither of these units fall into the Electronic Warfare portion of the Information Operations campaign plan. This situation should be rectified by better delineating Space control to effects achieved primarily within the Information Operation/Electronic Warfare campaign plan and those that are not.

What SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers do in Space Control is accomplished primarily through the electromagnetic spectrum. That is not to say that the effect is not considered Kinetic Energy or that Kinetic Energy is not Space control, it is. Clarifying Space control definitions would make many Space Control missions elements of Electronic Warfare and therefore permit them to be appropriately captured in the information operation campaign plan. Figure 2 shows the similarities between mission components of Information Operations, Electronic Warfare and Space control.

Currently there is no doctrine that defines the linkage shown in Figure 2. To ensure we are all reading off the same sheet of music, it would be wise to take advantage of the Information Operation/Electronic Warfare campaign plan and input that portion of Space control that fits. This, of course, would require some manipulation of both Joint and Army Space Doctrine defi-

nitions and/or processes. But for the Army, it would help clean up some knotty issues and hopefully reduce in-service antagonism. Input from the field may provide insight that can modify this position to one that makes sense, yet is palatable to the other components in the joint community.

POSITION 3

Near Space and High Altitude Airship (HAA) operations need to remain out of the new JP 3-14

Right now, the U.S. Air Force has balloons that already operate in the portion of the atmosphere that would be considered “near-space” yet these balloons are not designed to meet Army mission requirements. If the current rewrite of JP 3-14 is allowed to define near-space, the Air Force would be designated as the lead service to handle that mission area. If that happened, they would be able to prohibit the Army from continuing development of High Altitude Airships designed to meet Army requirements.

Both SMDC/ARSTRAT and Missile Defense Agency are researching airship platforms that will establish an Army foothold in this area. Later, when SMDC/ARSTRAT and Army components of Missile Defense Agency have developed significant High Altitude Airship capability, we can claim proponenty and include it in the JP 3-14 then.

The following are some other positions being considered for inclusion in the official Army position on Space:

- The JP 3-14 rewrite needs to say that the Army is the proponent for providing Space expertise through Army Space Support Teams and Space Support Elements to all ground forces including Marines.
- The Army theater commanders must retain direct downlink capability for all ground forces.
- The Army must maintain command and control relationships of all Army Space systems. (Directed energy platforms, Space control assets, near-space/high altitude platforms, Joint Tactical Ground Stations, Air and Missile Defense assets, the Commercial Exploitation Team, coalition/joint Blue Force Situational Awareness, and spectral Measurement and Signal Intelligence operations)
- The Joint Task Force will select the service that will provide Space Support to Special Operations Forces.

This list is by no means complete. Please take some time to e-mail your thoughts and observations on the listed positions so they can be considered for the final position on Space. Other positions will also be considered and greatly appreciated. 🙏

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