

Tactical Space Tiger Team - Successes from the Field

Focus on
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)
Space Support Element

By LTC Jim Rozzi, Bill Coffey and Bob Zaza

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) (AASLT) Space Support Element (the Army's second Space Support Element to be activated) made preparations and deployed on its second rotation to Iraq, its first deployment as a "modular division" headquarters.

The 101st Space Support Element was the first Element to provide extensive Space support to its staff and command group during garrison operations. The Army's first divisional Element (3d Infantry Division) had less than three months in garrison prior to their deployment. Because Space Support Elements (also referred to as "G3-Space") are organic to division, corps, and Army headquarters, the Space support provided to their staff and command group during pre-deployment preparations provides significant opportunities for the planning, integration and coordination of Space capabilities into division plans and orders. In garrison, Space Support Elements support force modernization efforts and conduct leadership education across the staff and command group on their collective ability to better integrate Space capabilities and effects into their combat operations.

During garrison operations at Fort Campbell, Ky., (July 2004 to July 2005), the 101st Space Support Element:

- Supported force modernization by identifying, testing, and integrating several emerging Space-based capabilities for divisional use, to include a commercially available handheld Blue Force Tracking device for use by the Iraqi Army, a global positioning system (GPS)-enhanced handheld digital camera for use by U.S. ground forces and in support of counter-improvised explosive device efforts, a software application that provided pattern analysis and predictions to improvised explosive device detonations.
- Supported force modernization by identifying, testing, and evaluating several high-bandwidth satellite communica-

tions-based systems to support the 101st Division's mobile command post.

- Supported the integration of legacy and emerging Blue Force Tracking devices, architectures, and display software into a common operational picture, to include enhanced position location reporting system-based Force XXI battle command, brigade-and-below, L-band satellite-based FBCB2 (named "Blue Force Tracker"), movement tracking system, and battle command sustainment support system.
- Developed the Space operations annex to divisional operation plans or operation orders.
- Conducted extensive leadership education across the entire staff and command group. This education ensured that the division headquarters was able to better access, integrate, and exploit all available Space capabilities and effects throughout its combat deployment.

While deployed, the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) headquarters served as the Multinational Division – North at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, from September 2005 to September 2006. The 101st Space Support Element Soldiers, organized under the original division Space Support Element modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE) is composed of four Space Operations Officers and two noncommissioned officers. The members of the 101st Space Support Element are LTC Elizabeth Kuh, MAJ Andrew Hittner, MAJ Timothy Tubergen, MAJ Dave Perry, SSG Shane Short and SSG Ken Merritt. Other Soldiers that served with the 101st Element in addition to its approved MTOE included SGT Jason Burnett, SPC Bob Comment and PFC Matt Jacyna.

During combat operations at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq (September 2005 to September 2006), the 101st Space Support Element:



101st Space Support Element Soldiers at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq. Photograph courtesy of SMDC/ARSTRAT

“We must optimize and distribute Space-based applications to the lowest level to improve maneuver commander’s access and use.”

— BG Michael Oates
Assistant Division Commander for Operations
101st Airborne Division

- Supported U.S. military transition teams and the Iraqi Army by providing commercial satellite imagery files and products, handheld GPS device training, and the fielding of thousands of commercially handheld GPS devices.
- Provided technical assistance and necessary interfaces to allow messaging capabilities between Enhanced Position Location and Reporting System- Force XXI battle command, brigade-and-below and L-band Force XXI battle command, brigade-and-below devices.
- Served as the division lead for GPS electromagnetic interference and Space weather
- Served as collection manager for commercial satellite imagery, overhead nonimaging infrared, and an emerging space-based intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capability (multiple source human activity).
- Supported multiple staff section’s ability to more efficiently and rapidly access archived national and commercial imagery to support situational awareness.
- Supported the counter-improvised explosive device fight with multiple efforts to include exploitation of spectral measurement and signature intelligence analysis, change detection, and Space-based overhead nonimaging infrared that were used collectively to detect and locate improvised explosive device activities (e.g., weapon emplacements, active caves, weapon caches, and improvised explosive device testing and training areas).
- As the lead for GPS electromagnetic interference, supported the testing and evaluation of electromagnetic interference testing of the collocation of counter-improvised explosive device systems, precision lightweight GPS receivers, and Force XXI battle command, brigade-and-below satellite transmitters. This evaluation resulted in tactics, techniques, and procedures and physical configuration changes that decreased electromagnetic interference incidents of this high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle-mounted system.
- Supported personnel recovery missions with the exploitation of

overhead nonimaging infrared data (using the Widow Web site) and the rapid access to archived satellite imagery.

- As the lead for Theater Ballistic Missile Early Warning, developed and tested a fully integrated Standard Operating Procedure that detected and tracked Theater Ballistic Missile threats.

The Space Support Element’s value to division-level plans and operations continues to be its expertise on space systems, capabilities, and architectures and their ability to integrate space systems, capabilities, and architectures in ways that better enable the ability of headquarters to plan and conduct combat operations. 🇺🇸

The Tactical Space Tiger Team consists of LTC Jim Rozzi, Bill Coffey and Bob Zaza.

Rozzi is a Space Operations Officer with U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command. He received a B.A. from Washington and Jefferson College, and an M.S. from The Joint Military Intelligence College. He is a graduate of Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army Space Operations Officer Qualification Course, and has served in numerous command and staff positions including Tactical Space Tiger Team Chief, 3rd Infantry Division Space Support Element Deputy Team Chief, Army Space Program Office Advanced Plans and Fielding Officer, Combined Joint Task Force-180 Army Space Support Team Leader, and Combined Intelligence Watch Commander, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center.

Coffey has been a member of the Tactical Space Tiger Team since February 2003 and has served in the Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab since 1993. A retired Army Military Intelligence Officer, he served in various tactical and strategic assignments to include 2nd and 4th Infantry Divisions, V Corps and Northern Command. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2006 conducting assessments of Theater Space Operations. He is currently a Senior Space Operations Analyst with CAMBER Corporation.

Zaza is a member of the Tactical Space Tiger Team since February 2005. An FA40 LTC in the Army Reserve, he has served in various leadership and staff positions, including Combined Joint Task Force-180 Army Space Support Team Leader; S-2, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division; Observer/Controller, 1st Brigade, 91st Division; and Antiterrorism and Force Protection Officer, J2, U.S. Southern Command. He is currently a Senior Space Operations Analyst with CAMBER Corporation.