

# The Tactical Space Operations Course

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Since December 2005, the Directorate of Combat Development (DCD) has conducted a Tactical Space Operations Course. This course grew from the DCD and Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab recognition that Space and Missile Defense Command needed to train the newly formed Space Support Elements, which were then being fielded for the first time in modular Division headquarters. At the time, the goal of this relatively informal course was to increase Space Support Element's combat effectiveness in the areas of Effects, Force Protection and Battle Command for their supported forces. The Tactical Space Operations Course has since evolved to prepare deploying Army Space Forces to plan, integrate and coordinate Space support, with a focus on the tactical and operational levels of war in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Over 50 students have been trained in six "pilot" versions of the Tactical Space Operations Course since its inception, including many National Guard Soldiers, Space Support Element members, Army Space Support Team members, contractors and one Air Force Officer.

Recently, DCD has undertaken efforts to revise the content of the Tactical Space Operations Course and formalize the Program of Instruction and lesson plans, with a long-term goal of securing Training and Doctrine Command accreditation and establishing a permanent cadre of instructors. The revised Tactical Space Operations Course is a 40-hour course that will prepare Soldiers to deliver effective, full-spectrum Space support in a tactical or operational environment by providing

The revised Tactical Space Operations Course includes lessons and practical exercises on the following topics:

- Global and Central Command Space Organizations.
- Theater and Global Space Requests
- Precision Engagement and Precision Logistics
- GPS Electromagnetic Interference
- Blue Force Tracking including Personal Locator Beacons
- BFT Integration into the Common Operating Picture
- Space Support from National Technical Means
- Commercial Satellite Imagery
- Overhead Non-imaging Infra Red Sensors and Architecture
- Overhead Non-imaging Infra Red Applications
- Satellite Communications Systems
- Environmental Effects on Satellite Communications
- Satellite Communications Protection
- Enemy Use of Space

training focused on current and emerging tactics, techniques and procedures. The Tactical Space Operations Course's main target audience includes officers and noncommissioned officers in tactical or operational units who have Space operations responsibilities. This includes, but is not limited to, members of Space Support Elements and Army Space Support Teams; Army FA40s; Corps FA40s; and Fires Brigade FA40s. Its secondary target audience includes officers or noncommissioned officers, from any service, with Space operations responsibilities who are preparing to deploy to a combat zone.

The first revised Tactical Space Operations Course was taught in Colorado Springs, Colo., from Jan. 21-25, 2008. Fourteen students attended this course, including the entire 101<sup>st</sup> AA Division Space Support Element and four Air Force students. The Tactical Space Operations Course will be conducted approximately quarterly in Colorado Springs. DCD has also developed a mobile version of the course, which can be provided at units' home stations when travel to Colorado Springs is not practical. The first Mobile Tactical Space Operations Course was delivered to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Space Support Element at Fort Drum, N.Y., Feb. 4-8. In addition to the Space Support Element, other members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division staff participated in selected portions of the training. Students who want to attend the Tactical Space Operations Course should possess a basic understanding of Space weather, the Space environment and orbital mechanics. Students should also possess a current SECRET security clearance. Though not required, the following courses are recommended before attending:

Space Fundamentals Course, Space 200, or the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course. Officers or noncommissioned officers interested in attending the Tactical Space Operations Course should contact the Tactical Space Team. 

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