

# Editor's Blog

Would Ike blog? Or Patton? I think they would've seen blogging as one way to keep the American public informed about our critical national security efforts. If this task was complicated during their day, it is even more so now. Today's information world is nuts. There is a tremendous amount of information banging our heads daily, minute-by-minute in today's environment. So Americans need credible information from our military leaders to ground all the other stuff they hear in the news and by word-of-mouth.

Why should members of our military community blog? It adds raw energy to the conversation. I guess I'm an old fashioned writer. I like to handwrite my thoughts, rewriting and rethinking them many times before they are finally typed and published. A blog, though, tends to be much more immediate, dynamic and broad. It's a bit of a free-flow of key points from one person to many that contribute to a conversation in the cyber world, a conversation that anyone with internet access can join. You simply key in the words of what you think about a topic into the computer - be careful, though, because your thoughts are published to the world once you hit enter.

So what's a blog doing in the print version of the Army Space Journal? I found the answer talking to retired COL Ronan Ellis as we planned to induct him as our fourth pioneer into the SMDC/ARSTRAT operational hub in Colorado Springs, Colo. "It was an amazing time. We were on the offense to get Space into the Army ... We had to personally go to GEN Colin Powell to get the keys to the kingdom (in order to use Space sensors for theater early missile warning)." You get the same feeling when you consider other pioneers we've inducted over the last couple of years. Ellis was the second commander of Army Space Command during the first gulf war — responsible for getting Global Positioning Satellite data to the ground forces (along with other Space-based capabilities).

It's this spirit in the Space arena that the ASJ is all about demonstrating. Consider the other pioneers. The first, MG John Medaris, was responsible for getting America's first satellite into Space in 1958. LTG CJ Le Van was responsible for missile defense development since WWII and into the 1970s. BG Robert Stewart was our first Army astronaut. I imagine it took a good deal of boldness, heart and stick-to-it nerve for these four men — and many others like them — to

*Note: An Article in the 2007 special Edition was mistakenly attributed to LTC Thomas James as the author. The article is a product of ASJ staff. We regret the error.*

make these things happen. And, in today's world of political correctness, it takes at least a small degree of the same characteristics to fearlessly speak up in a public forum like, in this case, a blog.

Because we like the rawness and energy we find in blogs, then why not use that shot in the arm to help energize the pioneer approach today? Our goal as we enter the ASJ's seventh year is to grow into a bigger part of the conversation about what the Army is doing in Space.

Here's our first entry. It's from retired COL Glen Collins: "I just finished reading the Summer 2007 (VOL. 6 NO. 3) ASJ. Ok ... I'm a slow reader and it took me a while to finish ... The ASJ also is truly meeting its original intent of serving as a forum where concepts are shared, and doctrine formed. MAJ (Patrick) O'Brien's article on SMDC's "Position on Space" was just right in letting others know about the important debates on JP3-14, and asking for inputs from the readership. I was involved in the writing of the original JP3-14, and know how critical it is to the Army to get this document right. It appears the DCD has their eye on the ball. The discussions on SSE vs. ARSST are also right on the mark. The issues are what I told ARSTRAT back in 2002, and the Army Space leadership has brought SSE and ARSST to success. I was also very impressed with the article on the future of our Army Space Forces written by LTC Tom James, LTC Jim Rozzi, and LTC Bob Guerriero. They have accurately framed the issues for discussion, and in my opinion are almost exactly on the mark. My compliments to all involved in producing the ASJ. I look forward to the next edition ..."

This means you are now invited to participate in the conversation on space. Please e-mail your thoughts to michael.howard@smdc-cs.army.mil about the various topics you find in this edition. I will include them in my blog in the next quarter's ASJ. I am waiting to hear from you.

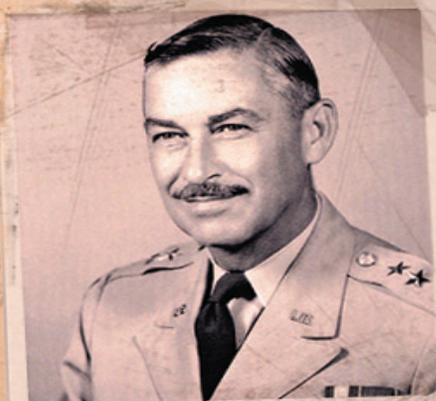
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BG Stewart



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MG Medaris



LTG Le Van