



# "Space RESERVED"

By Sharon L. Hartman  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs Office

The Army's role in providing Space support to the warfighter continues to grow and the need for Soldiers to fulfill that role is growing as well. Since the beginning of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Army Space Support Teams from the 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, have deployed in support of the warfighter. The teams started with Active Duty Soldiers and grew to include Guard Soldiers from the 117th Colorado Army National Guard Space Support Battalion, and then Reserve Soldiers to fill slots when necessary. But, Reserve Soldiers are now being relied on to deploy as entire teams.

In November 2006, the first Reserve Army Space Support Team deployed to provide Space support to the Multinational Corps-Iraq. MAJ John Hennessey, team chief for the six person Army Space Support Team 18, had actually deployed once before filling a slot as the Operations Officer on Army Space Support Team 1 in 2003. This time the tables were turned as one Active Duty Soldier volunteered to fill a vacant slot on the Reserve Team 18.

SSG Rob Wayman filled the Satellite Communications Control NCO gap for the team. This was Wayman's second deployment with an Army Space Support Team, the first one with Team 3 that replaced Hennessey's Team 1 in 2004.

CPT James French, the operations officer, was also on his second deployment. His first was as an engineer with a battalion that supported the 101st.

SSG Jay Stephenson served as the team Intel Analyst. Stephenson was the oldest member of

the team. Having already left the Army, he returned to service when his son decided to join the Army.

SSG Yolanda Rife was the topography analyst for the team and also made a return to service when she reenlisted shortly after Sept. 11, 2001. Rife was attending topography school while the team started their mobilization back in February 2006. With Rife's son off to college, her husband Bill, a contractor, took on a job in Iraq to be close to her.

SGT Joseph Sullivan, who went into the Aurora Police Academy just weeks after redeploying last November, had just made E5 before heading to Iraq. Sullivan was the information technology specialist on the team. This gave Team 18 plenty of computer knowledge taking into account that Hennessey works for IBM, French is a computer programmer for his family's business, Stephenson works as a contractor for the Peterson help desk and Rife is a manager for Intel in their civilian jobs.

Army Space Support Teams deploy to provide direct Space support to the Corps. That mission remains the same whether the team is comprised of Active, Guard or Reserve Soldiers.

They can all provide support for GPS navigation issues, rapid imagery requests, Blue Force Tracking, satellite architecture,



communications issues and pretty much everything that involves Space.

With emerging technologies, teams are continually providing more and more Space to the warfighter. Their job is to go in and show everyone what they can do. The need for Space is everywhere from the front lines on back, and any way these teams can inject Space into the fight, they will.

This need for Space means the need for more Space Soldiers to provide Space capabilities. This translates to the need for more Reserve Space Soldiers and Teams to supplement the Active and Guard components.

There are currently two Reserve Teams from the 1st Space Battalion deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Army Space Support Team 17, which replaced Team 18 in late 2007, and a Commercial Exploitation Team which replaced a Guard team from the 117th earlier this year. 🚀



**Top** - A look from the helicopter as Army Space Support Team 18 flies into Fallujah; *Photo by MAJ John Hennessey*; **Middle** - SSG Yolanda Rife, left, produces a product for MAJ SueAnn Ramsey with the surgeons office; **Bottom** - SGT Joseph Sullivan receives a Bronze Star at an awards ceremony in Iraq; *photos by MSG Dennis Beebe.*