

Successes

Tactical Army Space Operations

from the Field: Focus on the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

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There has been recent Army Space force integration efforts in which Space Support Elements provided Space support to combat preparations and operations, including the 4th Infantry Division Space Support Element's preparations for its Operation Iraqi Freedom 4 rotation, and its activities during the combat deployment. Operation Iraqi Freedom 4 was 4th Infantry Division's first deployment as a Modular Division headquarters.

While deployed, the 4th Infantry Division headquarters served as the Multinational Division — Baghdad at Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq, from December 2005 to December 2006. The 4th Infantry Division Space Support Element was organized under the original division Space Support Element modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE) and comprised four Space operations officers and two noncommissioned officers. Future Division Space Support Elements, including that of 4th Infantry Division, will have two officers and two noncommissioned officers.

The 4th Infantry Division Space Support Element was the second element to provide extensive Space support to its staff and command group during garrison operations. During garrison operations at Fort Hood, Texas, July 2004 to December 2005, the 4th Infantry Division Space Support Element:

- Provided knowledge of Space segment for Space Based Blue Force Tracking when requested or required to the Force Integration Division and G6 to support integration of Blue Force Tracking devices into the Common Operational Picture. In 4th Infantry Division, the Force Integration Division was the Office of Primary Responsibility for Blue Force Tracking overall, and the G6 was Office of Primary Responsibility for configuring Division servers to receive Blue Force tracking data feeds. This division of labor may provide a model for future Space Support Elements.

- Formed an Imagery Working Group with the Geospatial Information and Services section and the G2 Imagery Intelligence section. As a member of the Imagery Working Group Space Support Element was responsible for providing commercial, unclassified

limited distribution, multispectral, and archived national imagery, and to assist with providing Measurements and Signatures products by directly coordinating with members of the Army Measurements and Signatures federation.

- Created Measurements and Signatures Smart Cards to support the G2 and Brigade Combat Teams' S2s in formulating Measurements and Signatures requests

- Conducted extensive Space input to Intelligence Preparation of the Battlespace during the Military Decision Making Process. In addition to developed the Space operations annex to divisional operation plans or operation orders, they created an extensive Smart Book on Joint and Commercial Space support to theater providing detailed, exhaustive information.

- 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.

- Provided Space Support by managing highly classified aspects of planning, because of their clearances and broad yet deep technical knowledge.

The Space Support Element contributed to combat operations through both traditional Space Force Enhancement activities, and managing and planning classified activities. Both the Geospatial Information and Services and G2 Imagery Intelligence sections relied heavily on the Space Support Elements to fulfill their requirements for unclassified commercial imagery during combat operations. Classified activities were major Space Support Elements contributions to operations, comprising about 80 percent of the chief's effort, significant effort for the deputy, significant noncommissioned officer

effort, including shift work. During combat operations at Camp Victory, Iraq, the 4th Infantry Division Space Support Element:

- Provided traditional Space Force Enhancement support on the Joint Operations Center floor through the presence of one officer who also served as Battle Major.
- Led, managed and planned classified activities.
- Collaborated daily with the Geospatial Information and Services and Imagery Intelligence sections as a part of the Imagery Working Group. As a result, the Space Support Element provided commercial, unclassified Limited Distribution, and archived national imagery. Furthermore, the Space Support Element enabled 4th Infantry Division staff to get quality Measurements and Signatures and multispectral products in a timely manner through direct coordination with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Advanced Geospatial Intelligence Node and the Measurements and Signatures federation.
- Assisted the command in postponing the Blue Force Tracking related Satellite Communications ground segment maintenance schedules due to the impact the schedules would have had on operations, based on their detailed knowledge of the architecture.
- Coordinated U.S. Air Force Silent Sentry¹ electromagnetic interference detection support to the G6 and signal units.

Taking the lead in classified activities continuing to cover all facets of Space Force Enhancement, the 4th Infantry Division Space Support Element followed the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and 3rd Infantry Division Space Support Elements in cementing the Elements' value to division-level plans and operations — providing effects for the commander; providing their expertise on Space systems, capabilities, and architectures; and using their ability to integrate Space systems, capabilities, and architectures in ways that better enabled the headquarters to plan and conduct combat operations.

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¹ The Air Force's 16th Space Control Squadron "provides near real time event detection, characterization, geo-location and electromagnetic interference reporting for critical satellite communications systems in direct support of combatant commanders" using the he Rapid Attack Identification Detection Reporting System (RAIDRS) prototype. After an initial successful test, RAIDRS "has been continually deployed in the Area of Responsibility as Operation Silent Sentry since July 2005." U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet *16TH SPACE CONTROL SQUADRON* at http://www.peterson.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet_print.asp?fsID=8403&page=1, retrieved 20 July 2007.

