

Editor's Blog

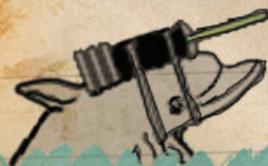
Well, the man at the podium finally did it — he temporarily lost his marbles. In doing so, he gave excellent material for the editor's blog. The tongue-in-cheek briefing covered the concept of operations for fielding a future directed energy system. And, yes, the name for the system was really Directed Energy Sea Mammals. And, yes, he really included an illustration of a dolphin with a laser attached to its head with duct tape. We appreciate BG John Seward's humor. His last column for the ASJ in his role as the Deputy Commanding General for Operations is in this edition. He picks up new duties this summer as the Deputy Commanding General for U.S. Army Pacific Command. His parting shot came during his farewell ceremony in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The next blog entry comes in a conventional way from a neighbor who retired from the Army decades ago. "You have too many acronyms for me to understand what you're talking about," he said over a cup of coffee on my front porch. "I mean, I like the magazine and all but, man, how do you guys keep up with all the acronyms and stuff?" I told him it was a special code amongst the Army Space techies to keep the outsiders out and the insiders in. The neighbor's comments reminded me of Seward's farewell parody on the cerebral Space community. Seward's laser-mammal bit in his ceremony gave way to a spiel on the overwhelming alphabet soup of acronyms we maintain in our world.

Most of the e-mails we get here at the Journal are from readers requesting to update their addresses in our mailing list. I guess we can take that as a positive sign — at least folks aren't asking us to remove them from the

list! On some of the e-mail requests, though, we get some much appreciated information from the audience. "I really enjoy getting the ASJ, especially since I am in school and away from the Army currently," wrote MAJ Eric Strom. "It's a great way to keep up with what is going on out in the Space community." Air Force CAPT Brent Ziarnick wrote: "Your Journal is always very interesting and of exceptional quality. I always look forward to getting it in the mail. The Army does Space right!"

We've also exchanged a series of e-mails with John Marrs. He is busy putting together final touches on his retrospective on the Army Space Initiatives Study. This will provide the focus for our summer edition. "Along the way several folks have asked why I have bothered to write this paper," he last wrote. "I don't have a simple answer. It certainly is for and in honor of the ASIS team whose work should be recognized. It is for the young Army Soldier or Officer just getting into the Space business so that they have a sense of the work done by those that went before them. It is for all those folks in the midst of doing good things in making Space work for the Army Warfighter. Finally, it is to provide a memory jogger for those of us who worked in Army Space over the last few decades so as to get something on paper before those memories fade completely. I don't have the



Directed Energy
Sea Mammal (DESM)

hubris to think that this is definitive — it is not a history. To paraphrase an old TV line — there are a thousand stories in this saga — mine is only one.”

We also saw a significant e-mail trail on creating the Saint Dominic award for Space professionals. “A new award has been minted to commemorate contributions of the Army Space community to our national defense,” wrote COL Timothy Coffin, 1st Space Brigade commander. “The award is in three degrees. A bronze level award recognizes individuals who have proven their worth in supporting Army Space activities. A silver level award recognizes broad contributions of significant merit in positions of great leadership. The gold award is the penultimate award normally reserved for presentation at an individual’s retirement. The award itself is a medallion representing Saint Dominic — often known as the Patron Saint of Astronomers. The medallion is significant because on its back is a small piece of the Explorer One launch gantry — the supporting structure for the Army’s and Nation’s first satellite launch into Space.”

The last blog entry is a plea for your comments. Enter the conversation by sending your e-mail comments to michael.howard@smdc-cs.army.mil.

Mike Howard
Editor-in-chief



Saint Dominic
AWARD
for Space
Professionals

- * Attach Laser to Dolphin's head with Duct tape.
- * Teach Dolphin to engage submarines, mines and vessels.
- * Jump out of water to engage Aircraft/Ballistic missiles.
- * Orbiting Pelican Relay Mirror (OPRM) to extend distance.

