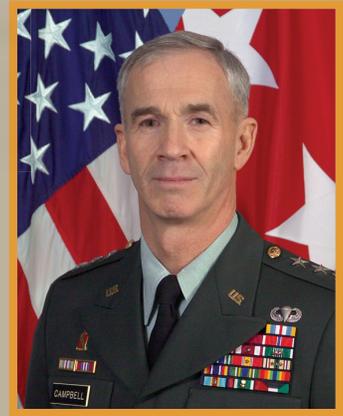


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# Space Utilizing Space Assets Space Awareness

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elcome to the spring edition of the Army Space Journal. I believe you will find the array of articles and transcripts that deal with this month's topic of Space Awareness both informative and enlightening. The Army's continued utilization of Space-based assets is vital to providing the Warfighter the tools necessary for prosecuting the Global War on Terror and beyond. The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT) is focused on providing the Army dominant Space and Missile Defense capabilities. Our Soldiers, Civilians and contractors devote their time and energy either providing operational support in Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom, developing innovative solutions through research, development and acquisition, or by developing the Army's Space and missile defense doctrine and concepts through the Future Warfare Center. We also rely on input from Warfighters and Space professionals as we develop programs or improve those we currently utilize. This publication provides an excellent forum for professionals to discuss ideas and concepts related to the Army's employment of Space-based assets.

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In this month's issue is the Department of Defense news briefing with GEN James Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discussing the shoot-down of the failing satellite in February. The shoot down was an excellent example of how interagency and Joint teams can work together to accomplish a very complex task. The shoot down may not have replicated a missile intercept, but it did replicate the coordination, teamwork and communication necessary for any operation. The Army participated as part of a larger team that successfully destroyed the failing satellite.

Equally interesting is the article by the chiefs of the five Division Space Support Elements that participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom V. The Space Support Elements are critical assets to Division commanders as they access Space-based products for the Warfighter. Pushing FA40's to Army units has been one of SMDC/ARSTRAT's initiatives. The Army has more than 200 FA40 Space Operators assigned to units within the Army, as well as Department of Defense and other federal agencies. The importance of these Space professionals in supporting our Warfighters and in promulgating Army interests cannot be understated.

While global warming occupies the interest of mainstream media, a topic that I believe will begin to receive more attention in the future is the impact the solar cycle will have on our planet and thereby

on military operations. Increasing our understanding of solar cycles and their affect on Space-based assets will give us insights we can use in Space system design. I agree with the statement that CPT Stacy Godshall uses in his article, “gaining more understanding of the Space climate is essential to understanding how to conduct both satellite operations and human Space exploration and missions.” This is a topic that deserves more discussion and certainly more articles.

These and other articles within the ASJ provide an opportunity to expand our knowledge base about how we utilize our assets in Space, about what may adversely affect those assets, and about how we can best use those assets to support the Warfighter.

Lastly, the Army Space Journal is your publication. I encourage you to provide comments about the articles to the editor and to submit articles about Space topics that may be of interest to the community. This is your magazine — use it.

Secure the High Ground! 

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