

COLONEL INDUCTED AS ARMY SPACE PIONEER

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Retired COL Ronan Ellis (left) and LTG Kevin T. Campbell (right), commander of SMDC and Army Strategic Forces Command, unveil Ellis' photo, which will hang in the Space Pioneer Conference Room in Building 3 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Ellis was honored on April 11 as the fourth Army Space pioneer recognized by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Ellis was the first commandant of the Army Space Institute and the second commander of Army Space Command. *Photo by Dennis Howk, Department of the U.S. Air Force*

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – More than 50 people applauded in the foyer of Building 3 while retired Army COL Ronan Ellis was honored on April 11 as the fourth Space pioneer recognized by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

LTG Kevin T. Campbell, commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT hosted the ceremony and helped Ellis unveil his photograph, which will hang in the Space Pioneer Conference Room in Building 3 alongside the photographs of other Space pioneers. Ellis was the first commandant of the Army Space Institute and the second commander of Army Space Command.

Ellis had an almost prophetic vision of Army Space operations that laid the groundwork for almost all of the Army's current use and dependence on Space-based capa-

bilities and products which has immeasurably impacted the way today's Army and the Army of the future will shoot, move and communicate.

He was directly responsible for putting GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) receivers into the hands of ground forces prior to offensive operations during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. While the GPS constellation at the time was not fully complete, the small light-weight GPS receivers, informally called "sluggers," enabled ground forces to find their way through the flat, featureless deserts in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Campbell pointed out that Ellis' efforts enabled Soldiers to find their way in a new way, to know where friendly forces were in a navigation-challenging terrain and undoubtedly saved countless lives.