



Myriad of Online Space Training Available

By Thomas Coleman, Chief
Space Cadre Training Development Team
SMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center DCD

The Directorate of Combat Development Cadre Training Development Team has been assigned the responsibility to formulate a strategy and execute a plan that identifies gaps in Space training and to fill those gaps by providing appropriate training to the Army Space cadre. This training can be in the form of resident training, online training, distributed learning (dL), computer-based training, Web-based training, books, or other Space training literature or modules. By Jan. 1, the DCD Cadre Training Development Team had delivered some Space training consisting of dL modules, and had requested feedback from these users on the utility of the training in helping Cadre members perform their jobs better. The dL modules that were distributed before the beginning of 2008 included two basic courses, "Space Awareness" and "Army Space Cadre Basic Course" as well as some dL courses offered by the National Reconnaissance Office and the National Security Space Institute.

The DCD Training Branch Space Awareness Course lessons consist of an introduction and overview, characteristics of Space systems, force enhancements, contributions to the warfighter and foreign Space systems. The Army Space Cadre Basic Course contains lessons on the global positioning system, orbital mechanics, the Space environment and Satellite Communications fundamentals. Both of these courses are on the Army Learning Management System Web site. To get to the

site, log into Army Knowledge Online (AKO) then click on "My Training" under the Self Service drop down Menu or use the link, <http://www.lms.army.mil/> and you will be directed to log into your AKO account. Once on the Learning Management System site, on the right side of your screen click on the "catalog search" box and type the full name of the lesson you want to take (such as listed above). It is important that you type the full name of lesson otherwise your search will not return any lessons. The lesson information will appear on your screen. Click on "Register," this will register you into the lesson. After you are registered you can click on "Launch Content" and you can begin taking the lesson.

If you need to leave and come back to the lesson, you can. Once logged back into the Learning Management System Web site your lesson enrollments will appear in the "Current Enrollments" area of your welcome page (lower right side). Click on "Launch Now" for the lesson you want to continue and go to the next module of the lesson. The courses can also be found on AKO and can be accessed by going to the Directorate of Combat Development Training branch web site at: <http://www.smhc.army.mil/2008/FWCTrainingDiv.asp>. Once at the site scroll down, the links to the lessons are under the "AKO Folders" section in the middle of the page. Click on the lesson or course desired. You will be prompted to log into AKO. Once logged into AKO you will be at the lesson folders. You must SAVE each individual file to your hard drive, and then unzip the file. The files are made to play in Microsoft Internet Browser 5.5 SP1 and later. Click on the index.html file to start the program. You should take the lesson in the order of the "Read me First.txt" located with the lesson files.

The lessons and courses can be accessed 24/7. Courses taken on the LMS system can be tracked for completion. In late summer of 2008, it is expected that both of these courses will be available through the Army Blackboard learning interface. Blackboard is an enhanced Learning Management System and provides more tools for the user as well as an easier interface for students.

In addition to the Directorate of Combat Development dL courses, a variety of other basic-level and advanced-level Space courses are available via dL and computer-based training through the National Reconnaissance Office and National Space Security Institute.

Online

The National Space Security Institute is offering 16 hours online and the courses are located on NIPRNET: <https://halfway.peterson.af.mil/nssi/cbts/index.htm>

The courses offered are as follows:

Space History – SPI 270	~ 2 hours to complete
Orbital Mechanics – SPS 271	~ 3 hours to complete
Space Environment – SPS 270	~ 3 hours to complete
Global Positioning System – GPS 270	~ 3 hours to complete
SATCOM – COM 271	~ 2 hours to complete
Introduction to DOD Acquisition – ACQ 270	~ 3 hours to complete

The National Reconnaissance Office is offering 18 hours online. More information can be found at <http://cleon.NRO.smil.mi> - SIPRNET

The courses offered are as follows:

The National Systems Information Course (NSIC)	~ 6.5 hours to complete
Joint Tactical Exploitation of National Systems (JTENS)	read manual
Space 300 (National Systems Overview) Course	~ 3 hours to complete
Space Enabled Warfighter Operations (SEWO) Course	~ 1.5 hours to complete
Commercial Remote Sensing Overview (CRS) Course	1 hour to complete
Introduction to IMINT Course	~ 20 minutes to complete
Introduction to ELINT in Fusion Analysis Course	≈ 3 hours to complete
Mini Transmitter (MTX) Overview Course	~ 30 minutes to complete
Compact Disk-Space Education Tool (CD Set)	~ 2 hours to complete

The Directorate of Combat Development Cadre Training Development Team will continue to solicit course feed-back and establish a continual feed-back mechanism and interaction activities that take place between Directorate of Combat Development Training Branch and the cadre members in the field, as well as other offices working on similar issues (such as FA40 Proponency Office and Army Space Cadre Office). 

If there are any questions regarding on-going Space Cadre Training Development efforts please contact Tom Coleman (thomas.coleman@smdc-cs.army.mil) at (719) 554-4541, DSN 692.