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Space Soldiers and Technology

This issue of the Army Space Journal focuses upon “hot new Space concepts.” We are at the “tip of the spear” for all operational issues associated with providing Space force enhancers to the United States Army. This makes it critically important for the Soldiers assigned to USASMDC/ARSTRAT to stay abreast of what is happening within the Space community; understanding where our Nation is headed in Space operations and what new technologies are coming within grasp of the Warfighter.

LTG Campbell recently discussed the tremendous responsibilities we place upon our Soldiers in this era of “Persistent Conflict.” He noted that today’s battlefield “is a collage of factions, cultures, chaos, and fleeting advantages . . . where NCOs and Junior Officers operate independently . . . that it is at the squad, company and battalion level where these wars are won.”

Army Space operations offer a unique opportunity for our Soldiers and Civilians to work with leading edge technology; to be at the forefront of what’s new within the technical and scientific realms. Unlike our Sister Services who rely heavily upon Officers to operate Space assets and to use/manage Space-based resources, Army enlisted personnel assigned to USASMDC/ARSTRAT are responsible for providing the Army’s Space Priorities:

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- Enhanced SATCOM
- Theater Missile Warning
- Persistent Surveillance
- Position, velocity, navigation, timing services
- Weather, terrain and environmental monitoring

Around the world, our Soldiers man crew positions in Joint Tactical Ground Station shelters, Wideband Satellite Operations Centers, Missile Defense Fire Direction Centers, and as members of deployed Army Space Support Teams and Commercial Exploitation Teams. Each Soldier is uniquely trained and certified, and contributes significantly to USASMDC/ARSTRAT's vision and mission.

Each Soldier should strive to become a recognized expert within his or her area of expertise. You should go further than becoming the best Joint Tactical Ground station crew member, Wideband Global SATCOM payload manager, or Commercial Exploitation Team member. It's important that you not rest on your laurels; being satisfied with being the best at your assigned task. In order to fulfill your duty as members of the Army's operational Space force, you must stay current with trends and technology that affect all areas of Space, not just those related to your current mission.

As you are all aware, the Secretary of the Army has established 2009 as the "Year of the NCO." As noted on the Army's Year of the NCO Web page, "throughout 2009, the Army honors NCOs through initiatives and events that:

- Enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO.
- Enhance and accelerate the development of NCOs through education, fitness, and leadership development initiatives.

Maintaining knowledge on current issues and trends within both the military and civilian realms of Space operations supports these initiatives. Demonstrate your knowledge and expertise by speaking at school and civic events or by writing factual articles for local papers. Enhancing the public's understanding of the roles and responsibilities of today's NCO is an excellent way of supporting the "Year of the NCO." Just remember to clear all presentations, articles, or papers through your local public affairs office.

As I mentioned earlier, we have Soldiers and Civilians working around the world providing support to the Warfighter. Some are currently in harm's way, working with the Warfighter to help define requirements and to obtain Space resources on a daily basis. I continue to be proud of the Soldiers and Civilians assigned to USASMDC/ARSTRAT. Your dedication to duty and job performance continues to be outstanding!

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