

# TIP OF THE SPHERE



## FA40 Proponent/ Army Space Cadre News

BY MIKE CONNOLLY

FA40



Initially commissioned as an Air Defense Officer, Mike Connolly served the majority of his 26 year career as an Army Aviator prior to being selected as a Functional Area 40 during the first Career Field Designation Board. His assignments as an FA40 included Chief of Staff, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; Director Command and Control Systems (J6) Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; Command Director, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; Executive Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; Deputy, J36 (Current Operations), U.S. Space Command; Chief, Joint Space Support Team, U.S. Space Command; Chief, Standards and Evaluations Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; and Mission Director, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College as well as East Tennessee State University.

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# “It’s My Branch!”

Although it was U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command’s Deputy Commanding General for Operations, BG Kurt S. Story who said “It’s my branch,” I too share that sentiment that Functional Area 40 is my branch. However, more important than the two of us thinking it, we must take the appropriate actions so that every Active Duty, U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard and Retired FA40 feels the same way. The results of the first Career Field Designation Board were released 10 years ago and although we have grown in numbers and billets, in many aspects we have not moved very far at all. As the Army Space Cadre and FA40 Personnel Proponent Office look to the future, our focus is clearly on maturing the career field so that we not only provide Space professionals the tools and abilities to improve themselves, we solidify the core foundation of the Army’s Space Cadre. There are two noteworthy initiatives that the Personnel Proponent Office is working that will significantly enhance an officer’s professional and personal development opportunities.

As some of you may remember, during last year’s FA40 Space Operations Symposium, USASMDC/ARSTRAT Commanding General, LTG Kevin T. Campbell described operational and shaping positions. We have considered that concept and are taking the preliminary steps to offer PhD opportunities to select FA40 officers through our allocation of Advanced Civilian Schooling slots. The officers who are selected for this program will incur a six-year Active Duty Service Obligation leading to our ability to utilize their education for two consecutive three-year assignments. Through effective personnel management, once an officer completes a PhD program their assignments would allow them to focus on shaping future Space systems through academics, doctrine, research and development. Although the

number of officers selected to complete a fully-funded degree will be few, the potential for their long-term impact to the FA40 community and Army Space will be tremendous.

Related to the PhD initiative is the creation of a FA40B career track. Currently, all non-astronaut Space Operations Officers are FA40As and are assigned to positions based on availability as much as anything else. By formally identifying positions that have a significant shaping aspect and require specific education and experience backgrounds, we will be able to establish a career track that allows officers to continually utilize their knowledge in a manner that provides long-term benefits to the future of Army Space requirements. These officers will all serve an initial assignment as a FA40A in order to fully understand the operational aspects of Space-based assets as well as to provide them with an understanding of how the warfighter uses Space and what their needs are. Upon completion of that initial FA40A assignment, officers may choose to compete for an Advanced Civilian Schooling slot and then follow a shaping career path. The selection of FA40B positions will be accomplished in such a manner that an officer selecting this track will have the same opportunities for advancement as an officer choosing to stay within the traditional operational career path or FA40A.

I hope that highlighting these two initiatives demonstrate the Army Space Cadre Office/FA40 Personnel Proponent Office’s commitment to maturing the career field and providing you with the opportunity to grow both professionally and personally. However, to go back to the statement “It’s my branch!” we can not claim to have all of the good ideas. Your thoughts and suggestions are as important as anyone else’s, so let us know what you’re thinking.

# Army Space Cadre Update

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## Expansion of Skill Identifier 3Y, Space Activities

3Y is currently an officer-only Skill Identifier. A proposed revision/expansion of the Skill Identifier is currently out for staffing and coordination at Headquarters Department of Army G-1. The proposal requests the Skill Identifier be renamed to align it with the Space Enabler category of the Army Space Cadre and expanded so it can also be awarded to warrant officer and enlisted Space Enabler Soldiers as an Additional Skill Identifier. The warrant officer and enlisted Soldier Additional Skill Identifier will apply to people only and will not be used to identify Space Enabler positions. This revision and expansion will facilitate tracking of Soldiers with a Space background for statistical reporting to Congress as directed by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 and help Army Human Resources Command Career Managers identify Soldiers with previous experience for possible repetitive assignments to Army Space Cadre positions. Anticipated date of implementation is no later than Oct. 1, 2009. Once approved, Soldiers may request award based on established criteria utilizing a Department of Army Form 4187 with supporting documentation.

## Army Space Cadre Billet Coding

Beginning with the approval of the 1st Data Call results in August 2007, and culminating with approval of the 2d Data Call results in January 2009, the Senior Army Space Council has approved 2,250 Space Enabler billets. The action to initiate the coding of these billets along with Space Professional billets, on source documents resides with Headquarters Department of Army G-3 Force Management. Staffing action is ongoing to submit a modification request to United States Army Force Management Support Agency to code these billets.

## Civilian Space Cadre Identification

The Army Space Cadre Office is leading a joint effort to code civilian Space cadre personnel and billets across Department of Defense. We have submitted a joint request to create Space-unique codes within the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System for use by all services. The requested date for implementation of these codes is August 2009. In addition, we developed an Army Civilian Cadre identification questionnaire that will allow us to identify individuals with Space experience as well as duty positions requiring Space experience. Our intent is to refine this questionnaire by testing it within U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command by the end of May. Based on the results of the survey, we will expand the civilian cadre identification effort to other “targeted” organizations.

## Army Space Cadre Tracking System

We have developed and are currently refining a database to capture information on Space Cadre members. We are working with Headquarters Department of Army G-1 and Human Resources Command to develop an automated method for populating our database with information on officers, warrant officers, enlisted, and Department of Army civilian cadre members. The approval of the 3Y Skill Identifier for all categories will allow us a query mechanism. We have implemented this database for the Space Professional category (FA40s) and are expanding to include all Space Cadre members as information becomes available. This database, which is copied on the Air Force system, allows us to query the “Space” population for such things as type of Space experience, number of people with certain Space training, etc. We expect to have the Tracking System fully functional by September 2009.

## Air Force Space Badge Qualifications Listing

For clarification purposes we have compiled a qualification matrix that specifically outlines the criteria for award of the three levels of the Space Badge. Since implementation of the badge in September 2006 we have awarded over 700 badges to Soldiers in all components of the Army.

	Basic AFSB	Senior AFSB	Master AFSB
Education and Training	Any one of the following education or training courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space Operations Officer Qualification Course (SOOQC) (11 weeks)</li> <li>• Satellite Systems/Network Coordinators Course (1C Course) (18 weeks)</li> <li>• Army Command and General Staff College Space Electives (2 courses – 9 weeks each)</li> <li>• Space 100 (7 weeks-Off, 3 1/2 weeks-Enl)</li> <li>• Space 200 (4 weeks)</li> <li>• Space Fundamentals Course (2 weeks)</li> <li>• Space Operations Course (2 weeks)</li> <li>• Other earlier National Space Security Institute or Air Force Space Command courses of similar nature with different names</li> </ul>	Any one of the following training courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space Operations Officer Qualification Course</li> <li>• 1C Course</li> <li>• Space 200</li> </ul>	The following training course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space 300 (3 weeks)</li> </ul>
Minimum Cumulative Months of Experience in an Army Space Cadre Approved and/or Coded Billet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC, AGR or RC on AD = 12 months</li> <li>• RC, TPUs, traditional NG, or DIMA = 24 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC, AGR or RC on AD = 48 months</li> <li>• RC, TPU, traditional NG, or DIMA = 60 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC, AGR or RC on AD = 84 months</li> <li>• RC, TPU, traditional NG, or DIMA = 96 months</li> </ul>

# Training With Industry

Want to help put today's "Hot New Space Concepts" into operation. Why not try our Functional Area 40 (FA40) Training with Industry program? Every year, we place two FA40 officers in a corporate environment, allowing them to experience the latest technology development processes, industrial operations and organizational structures and cultures. Following their tenure at the industry, they are placed in a utilization assignment for three years.

This program was actually initiated in the 1970s in response to the Army's critical need for officers with state-of-the-art skills in industrial practices and procedures not available through military or civil education programs. Today, the FA40 community has two corporate sponsors; Johns Hopkins University – Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., and Lockheed Martin, Information Systems and Global Services in Littleton, Colo.

MAJ Michael Belton is our current student at Johns Hopkins University. Belton is working projects supporting the Operationally Responsive Space office at Kirtland, Air Force

Base, N.M., and the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization in the Washington, D.C. area. We are working to have him as the first FA40 on the Air Staff for a utilization tour.

At Lockheed Martin is MAJ Darin Eades. Eades has focused a lot of his attention on the Aerospace Data Facility – Colorado at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., and with Signals Recon. He says "Working at the ADF-C has shown me many emerging (as well as existing) capabilities that will influence Army Space activities." His utilization tour will be as an Assistant Capabilities Manager, U.S. Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Gordon, Ga.

If you are interested,  
contact the FA40 Personnel  
Proponent Offices Project Manager,  
Jerry Pepin, 719-554-0457.

## Promotions: Congratulations to the following FA40s

April 2009	March 2009	February 2009	January 2009
LTC William Beck LTC John Moberly MAJ Elizabeth Helland MAJ John Stone	COL Gary Arnold LTC Guy Burrow LTC Michael McKay LTC Craig Roseberry LTC Richard Zellmann MAJ Jason Favero MAJ Charles Harmon MAJ Yaqui Oselen MAJ Anthony Tingle	MAJ Donald Brooks MAJ Bryan Juntunen MAJ Cecil Strickland MAJ William Wright	COL Benavides LTC Merfalen MAJ Nunnery

## New to the FA40 Community

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our newest FA40s:

LTC Charles “Greg” Simpson (Call to Active Duty)  
LTC Elizabeth Yarbrough (Call to Active Duty)  
CPT Amy Sitze (Blue to Green)  
CPT Stephen Cameron (Blue to Green)

## Upcoming Promotion Boards

The FY09 Colonel, Army Competitive Category, promotion selection board is scheduled to convene on 7 July 2009 to consider eligible Lieutenant Colonels for promotion to Colonel. The zones of consideration for this board are

Above the Zone: LTCs with a Date of Rank of 30 September 2004 and earlier.

Promotion Zone: LTC with a Date of Rank of 1 October 2004 thru 30 September 2005.

Below the Zone: LTCs with a Date of Rank of 1 October 2005 thru 28 September 2006.

For more information about this board see MILPER Message 09-062. FA40s eligible for this board should update their records as soon as possible.

## 2009 Army Space Cadre Symposium

Mark your calendars! Our symposium is scheduled for 3-7 Aug in Colorado Springs. Scitor has graciously offered up their facility to host once again. Our host hotel is the Antlers Hilton in downtown Colorado Springs. This year, we expanded our scope to include both FA40 and enablers. We also partnered with the Army Space Journal (ASJ) on a theme of “Space: Best Job in the Army”. Expect a synchronized release of the ASJ with the symposium. Register and get additional information as it’s released on our AKO Web site. Link is <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/343526>. There is also a link for hotel registration on the page.

Want to brief or submit a topic?  
Give Jerry Pepin, 719-554-0457, or  
Greg Piper, 719-554-0455, a call.

