

TIP OF THE SPHERE



Career Corner

BY ED ANDERSON



Commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer, MAJ Ed Anderson is currently serving as the FA40 Career Manager. His assignments have included Deputy Commander, Missile Warning Center, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; Chief, Missile Defense Integration, CMOC; and Space Control Planner, 1st Space Brigade. He is a graduate of the Interservice Space Intelligence Operations Course, Ground-based Missile Defense Operators Course, Space Operations Officer Qualification Course, and Space 300.

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Career Management

This is the first of what is planned to be a reoccurring column in the Army Space Journal. The goal is to disseminate Functional Area 40 career information.

From the Career Manager's Desk, FA40 is in good shape. With the increase of new officers primarily from Blue to Green, Call to Active Duty and the Captain Incentive Programs, our strength has increased from 166 to 210 in the last 18 months (CPT – LTC). We have our challenges though. Foremost is our shortage of LTCs. Combinations of factors have created this shortage, primarily an increase in authorizations and YG (year groups) assessed below requirements (older/smaller requirements). As larger YGs move into the zone of consideration for LTC, this situation will begin to resolve itself.

Another challenge is accessions of new FA40s. The Army has consistently accessed the functional areas below authorized strength. We emphasize alternate accession paths and individual

functional designation requests to offset under-accession. You are our best recruiter. When talking with prospective officers, I consistently hear comments about your professionalism as an important reason for wanting to come into the career field. As you go about your day to day duties, keep an eye out for officers interested in FA40 (any service, Active, Reserve, National Guard). The only action required on your part is to get them in contact with the FA40 Assignment Officer. Filling our shortages allows us to grow and expand assignment opportunities and education.

As many of you are probably aware, FA40 is allocated Advanced Civil Schooling and Training with Industry seats each year. The number of officers applying for these opportunities has been declining. I encourage anyone interested in Advanced Civil Schooling or Training with Industry to contact me to discuss program details and timelines.

Important Notes

- To speed up the assignment process, the command selection board and Advanced Civilian Schooling/Training with Industry selection boards will be moved from the fall to the summer.
- This year's Senior Service College Selection Board requires officers to be in the rank of LTC with a minimum of 12 months time in grade no later than 30 days of covenanted date of the board.
- To provide more stability to Soldiers and Army Families, the Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) approved an increase in tour lengths for Korea. Details can be found in MILPER Msg 09-040.

Important Dates:

JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

- Fiscal Year 2009 COL Board – **Jul. 7, 2009.**
- Command Selection Board, 1st Space Brigade – **June 2009.**
- Fiscal Year 2009 Advanced Civilian Schooling/Training with Industry Selection Board – **July/August 2009.**