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# Army Space Cadre

## — Linking Warfighters to Advanced Space Capabilities

Welcome to the 2009 summer edition of the Army Space Journal, and thanks to all of you who attended the Space Cadre Symposium in Colorado Springs.

“Space – the Best Job in the Army,” was the theme for the symposium and certainly it is emblematic of the professionals who make up the Army Space Cadre.

Many of us grew up hearing that Space was “the final frontier.” Today, Space is no longer a frontier but a domain that is critical to maintaining the safety and well-being of America, our allies and our friends. For most Americans, Space-enabled technology is invisible as it provides nice-to-have items like news, weather, sports, entertainment and GPS. It also enables some essential things such as finance, transportation, utilities, and search and rescue.

For the Warfighter, Space represents more than just “nice to have,” it represents critical enablers that are essential in today’s battlespace. Critical elements such as persistent intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), integrated missile defense, friendly force tracking, and enemy force tracking provide Warfighters with advanced capabilities. Those vital capabilities are made possible through the efforts of the Army Space Cadre

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and their counterparts in our sister services. Few people – military and civilian alike – really understand how Space-enabled products are transmitted or created. Truly, all they want to know is how fast they can access the information.

Bill Gates states in his book, *Business @ the Speed of Thought*, “if the 1980s were about quality and the 1990s were about reengineering, then the 2000s will be about velocity.”

I believe we are at the point in military history where decisions are starting to be made at the “speed of thought.”

It is generally agreed that we are in an era of persistent conflict in which we will continue to be challenged asymmetrically. Hybrid threats such as terrorists, criminal elements, and irregular forces will combine and create complex challenges. This strategic environment is contained within a much larger mosaic, one which futurist, Thomas Friedman, refers to as a “Flat World.” This is a world where our normal line and block hierarchy is flattened through the use of technology.

Key to operating at the speed of thought in a flat world is a change in how and where we process information. Technology has helped flatten the hierarchy and enabled Warfighters at the tip of the spear to receive and act on more information than ever before.

Also at the tip of the spear, and at the confluence of a flattened technological hierarchy and a burgeoning “Information Age,” is the Army Space Cadre. These Army Space professionals link Warfighters to advanced Space capabilities. Providing Space capabilities to the Warfighter at the “speed of thought” requires educated, trained and versatile Space professionals. Sharing information and acting on information at the lowest level requires competent and confident members of a team. Competence is a result of both individual and institutional actions. Individuals have a responsibility to become students of their profession – commit to lifelong learning, read. Organizations have a responsibility to educate and train their team members – spend the time and resources to send individuals to career-enhancing courses. The Army Space Cadre Symposium was an excellent opportunity to gain valuable information about our profession as well as to network with those who ultimately will be your teammates.

The agenda for the Army Space Cadre Symposium was robust with speakers from across the services and agencies that enlightened and educated those in attendance. It was a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of a great educational opportunity as we try to make, “Space – the Best Job in the Army.”

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