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The Best Space Job in the Army

In this edition of the Army Space Journal we are focusing on the best Space jobs in the Army. You will read about various individuals who are serving in different commands and organizations within our Army providing and advancing Space capabilities in a variety of jobs. The jobs are unique, and the required skill sets of the individual positions vary also. Yet each job is vital to developing, integrating and providing Space-based capabilities to the Army and most importantly to the Soldier. As articles in this journal have stated before on many occasions, the Army is not just a Space-enabled force, rather it is a Space-dependent force. The Army today cannot operate without Space-based communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or positioning, navigation and timing systems. The Army requires a highly trained Space Cadre, with a broad skill set, to use and exploit the potential of Space to the fullest extent possible.

While many FA40s may argue that the Director of Combat Development is not the best Space job in the Army, I would have to disagree with them. It is certainly not the most exciting or glamorous Space job, and it often is frustrating because progress is often slow and constrained by a rigid bureaucratic processes. However; that being said, it is one of the best jobs in the Army because combat and force development activities determine how the Army will be organized, manned, trained, equipped, and operate in the future. The Directorate of Combat Development is not just looking at today's force, and working to ensure it has what it needs, but is looking at the future force and trying to determine what threats it will have to counter and

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what capabilities it will need to operate, survive and win on future battlefields. It is intellectually challenging work and is never dull as new issues and problems surface all the time that need to be addressed and solved.

The Directorate of Combat Development also offers unique challenges in that it forces directors, and in fact every Directorate member, to work with a variety of personnel from organizations across the Army as well as the Department of Defense. Space capabilities and systems cross proponentry and Service boundaries. Within the Army, the Signal Center is responsible for developing satellite communication requirements and systems; the Military Intelligence Center has responsibility for Space-based ISR systems; while the CIO-G6 serves as the lead for Position, Navigation and Timing. Of course Air Force Space and the Space and Missile Center are responsible for developing most of the requirements and building the on-orbit systems. The Directorate of Combat Development works closely with each of these organizations to ensure Army operational requirements are addressed and met in a coordinated manner. At the same time the Directorate works with U.S. Training and Doctrine Command to develop the training and doctrine, as well as the force structure, needed to support our Space forces' current and future operations. The Directorate cannot succeed by itself, but must work in a collaborative, and often competitive, environment to advance Army Space. Consequently, the director must negotiate, cajole, and remain flexible in order to forge and advance these partnerships.

The Directorate of Combat Development is part of the Future Warfare Center and is comprised of over sixty personnel, uniformed military, Department of the Army Civilians and contractors who are located in three states. The Directorate is organized into four divisions - Space Capabilities, Missile Defense Capabilities, Force Development, and Training and Doctrine. Each division has a set of unique responsibilities and works with specific organizations and processes; however their work

is integrated through U.S. Training and Doctrine Command's DOTMLPF construct. DOTMLPF is the acronym for doctrine, organization, training, leadership and education, materiel, personnel and facilities. DOTMLPF provides the framework to assess an operational issue and develop a solution for the operating force. The Directorate of Combat Development's DOTMLPF related work is guided by numerous U.S. Training and Doctrine Command and Headquarters, Department of Army processes that complicate our work. Directorate personnel need to be both Space subject matter experts and have a thorough working knowledge of how the Army's combat development, force development, funding and acquisition processes function. The director must understand the Army's strategic environment, in terms of operational priorities and funding constraints as the Directorate of Combat Development develops and advocates for Space capabilities.

The most enjoyable part of being the director is the people I get to work with. The Directorate workforce whether military, civilian, or contract support personnel, is simply outstanding. They are a highly dedicated and professional group of individuals who consistently exceed my every expectation. They understand the importance of what they do and how their actions directly relate to the operational capabilities of the American Soldier, and the welfare of our nation. They are thoughtful, proactive and unafraid to take the initiative and fight for what is right. As a group they model our Army's values day in and day out. They make coming to work a privilege.

I will close by restating what I began with, "I have the best Space job in the Army." I highly encourage FA40s to seek an assignment in the Directorate of Combat Development. You will find the work challenging and personally rewarding. Most importantly you will be making a tangible contribution to our Army by developing and bring Space capabilities to our forces.

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