



COL Bruce Smith

Director
Directorate of Combat Development
Future Warfare Center



SPACE

Space: “How- To ...”

In this issue of the Army Space Journal we are exploring the issue, “How-To.” It is a well established fact that the Army needs and relies upon Space capabilities, for everything from synchronizing fires, maneuvering forces to providing logistical support. The fundamental question the Army must answer is, “How does the Army provide, or deliver, the required Space capability to the Soldier at the time and place it is required?” The answer may be provided in a variety of ways, or combination of ways – doctrine, Soldiers, units, systems, and sister – Service support. There is no single answer to this question. However, I believe there is a single unifying element underlying the multiple answers: training.

The bottom line is the fact that the Army is made up of Soldiers and its success and abilities are dependent upon the Soldiers who fill its ranks. New and advanced technologies are pivotal to the U.S. Army’s success, as are communications systems and command and control procedures. Joint capabilities delivered by precise means in a synchronized manner are also key to the Army’s current combat capabilities. Behind the “tip of the spear” are complicated logistics and sustainment systems and procedures. Yet none of these work without the Soldier. If Soldiers are not trained, equipped, or ready the Army does not function.

Space is no different from Infantry, Artillery, Aviation or Armor; trained Soldiers are vital to mission accomplishment. The Army’s Space training program has evolved and matured dramatically since the first Space Operations Officer Qualification Course began in 2001. At that time the Army’s Space training consisted of the single course, conducted twice a year for newly designated FA40 personnel. The core curriculum consisted of orbital mechanics, satellite communications, theater missile

ROUND”

“Both the Space and Missile Defense mission areas will continue to grow in size and importance to the Army in the future.”

warning and imagery. In addition to the classroom work students took one field trip to the National Capital Region to visit various agencies and organizations working in the Space mission area. The last week of the course was spent participating in a Command Post Exercise – giving the students an opportunity to plan Space operations as part of a staff.

In the eight years since U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command stood up the FA40 qualification course, the Army’s use of Space has expanded and our operational constructs have changed. The 1st Space Brigade has stood up and Space Support Elements have been assigned to and are integrated into each Division, Corps and Army staff. New Space equipment has been fielded while other systems have been retired. These organizational and materiel changes have dictated changes to the Army’s Space Training program as well.

Today USASMDC/ARSTRAT develops and conducts numerous Space training courses to include the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course, the Tactical Space Operations Course, and the Joint Tactical Ground Station Initial Qualification Course. USASMDC/ARSTRAT is also responsible for conducting Space Cadre Enabler training for the Civilian members of the Space Cadre across the entire Army, as well as, Space training at the Command and General Staff College, Pre Command and Captains Career Courses at the Intelligence Center and Fires Center. This is all in addition to conducting training at the Army War College. USASMDC/ARSTRAT’s Directorate of Combat Development is also in charge of developing training products and the doctrine that supports and guides Soldier training. The Directorate is now responsible for more than Space training; today the Directorate’s Training Division is also developing and conducting Ballistic Missile Defense related training. Two Ballistic Missile Defense related courses are already being conducted; Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Operators Course,

and the GMD Sensor Managers Course. These two courses train Soldiers how to operate the GMD weapons system as well as the radars that support it.

Both the Space and Missile Defense mission areas will continue to grow in size and importance to the Army in the future. Consequently the Army’s Space and Missile Defense training requirements will continue to evolve and expand to meet increasing needs. With that increase in mind, USASMDC/ARSTRAT has begun planning to develop a new Directorate of Training and Doctrine, similar to other proponents and schools. The new Doctrine will give USASMDC/ARSTRAT and the Army increased ability to develop and deliver Space and Missile Defense training. The new organization should be more efficient and effective and better ensure that Space and Missile Defense training meets and/or exceeds all Army training requirements. It is my vision that one day USASMDC/ARSTRAT will operate a Space and Missile Defense school house – similar to other U.S. Training and Doctrine Command schools – that will provide world class training, training support and doctrine to our Soldiers.

“How does the Army provide Space support to its forces?” Training, and the supporting doctrine, is the answer. Trained Soldiers are the key to providing Space capabilities required by today’s Army. USASMDC/ARSTRAT’s Space training program has matured and expanded over the past decade in response to the Army’s needs. Space capabilities will grow increasingly important for the foreseeable future; consequently our training programs will continue to evolve, expanding in scope as well as in depth. The Directorate of Training and Doctrine will ensure that Space training will continue to meet our Soldiers’ increasing needs.

“SECURE THE HIGH G