



The Spinning in Orbital Mechanics

Lifelong learning is a critical human component of the military's ability to shape itself to the ever-changing national security issues it faces. The global security environment has grown in complexity since Sept. 11 or even the end of the Cold War, making this human factor even more important as the threats increase in diversity. More direct and relevant for the military space community serving the broader joint fight, people delivering space-based capabilities need to have a flexible attitude toward acquiring new skills and abilities as technology rapidly develops. And, even more precise, the business of the growing U.S. Army Space Cadre community really dictates that the people in it be flexible and adaptable to new things and ways. This brings the discussion to human dynamics, ideas that can be nearly as difficult to understand as the principles in mind-numbing orbital mechanics.

Today a friend told me something related to this that puzzles me that way. He - like me - is in his fifties and is working in his second career after retiring from the military. He - like me - made it to the top rank of his chosen profession as an enlisted service member on active duty. He - like me - feels the gravity of a body that increasingly desires to do less while his mind wants his body to continue performing as it did when young. He - but unlike me - feels that his current job is simply a means to pay

the bills until his real retirement begins. My friend believes he has already achieved his goals and there is no place else for him to go in his professional life. I don't see it that way at all - there are plenty of places to grow in and expand.

Maybe it's my baby-boomer upbringing and optimistic mindset, but this professional-life-has-ended approach seems like an uninspired dead-end downer. For me, thinking the way of my friend would be familiar with giving up - as if I were living in a box with the lids closed and no opportunity for personal or professional growth, mental advancement and meaningful future contribution for the rest of my life. Here's your 1970s solid C high school student - not one A, B, D or F on the report card - not destined for an Ivy League school or a military service academy. In fact, I dropped out of a private college after 18 months of struggle and just before I would have flunked out with my well-polished resume of Ds and Fs. I guess I was prime enlisted material for a rebuilding Army coming out of the aftermath of war in Vietnam.

Volunteer service in the U.S. military in 1979 provided me a new mindset with wide-open educational and developmental opportunities. Thirty-one years later, lifelong learning is a concept deeply ingrained in my approach. I finished my military career with a master's degree in human resource management and a Soldier gig as a student at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. Four years ago as a Department of the Army civilian, I started the Defense Leadership and Management Program (DLAMP) which included attendance at the U.S. Army War College. This summer I graduate from the distance education program at the Army War College with a second master's degree in strategic studies along with completing DLAMP requirements. I mention this not to draw attention to these accomplishments, but to make the point that education shouldn't stop for the uniformed military and business-suited civilian workforce.

We should all strive to grow - it should never be enough to allow us to stop the push. The upcoming Army Space Journal summer edition features one product from the latest leg of my professional development journey. My capstone research paper for the Army War College - *Rendezvous in Space: Looking in on Military Space Power* - demonstrates that the United States cannot fully benefit from the strategic value of military space assets in orbit unless it adopts a new perspective on space power. The article reaches this conclusion by comparing the challenges that currently exist with national space power today against those seen during the developing years of national air power. The points illustrate how mindsets impacted both air power development prior to WWII and space power development since the 1950s. This perspective comes from not only digging in to better understand the strategic environment the United States military operates within, but through seeking a better understanding of the military space power point of view.



I am not a space operator, but I am a guy trying to help tell the space story since just before Sept. 11, when I transitioned from uniform to business suit and became a member of what was then U.S. Army Space Command. There were several triggers for this article. One came from within the Space Cadre community where the argument seems too focused on the high value of space effects without any concrete descriptions of the strategic value-added in terms that Warriors outside the space community can understand. On the flipside of that, another trigger came from the Warrior community where there seems to be a lack of true understanding or realization of just how critical space-based information is to the overall military enterprise. From a communications viewpoint, there is a tremendous need to bridge the communities.

I think this means that those of us on the space side need to speak as the locals do. For me, that meant gaining a broader understanding on two fronts. Not only did I need to get a better grasp of the strategic environment, but I needed grounding in space fundamentals. I will say that the two-year Army War College experience opened my eyes - the eyes of a 22-plus year Army veteran - wider than they have ever been in seeing the global strategic context. On the other side, my nearly 10 years working around space operations only gave me a limited understanding of the military space equation. For that, my good friends at the U.S. Army Space Personnel Development Office linked me with National Security Space Institute's Space 200 course in Colorado Springs, Colo. Getting this course under my belt was definitely the best move I have made to get a basic understanding of the space business - one that I recommend everyone in the space cadre make.

Since I only want to pique an interest in my article in the next edition, I will leave it at that for now. This brings us back to why lifelong learning is an important human dimension to have in the military's workforce. While I was attending the four-week course, a U.S. Army officer asked me why a public affairs officer needed to attend the course since I don't actually perform a space mission in my job. His question puzzled me then much as my friend's observation that he had reached the pinnacle of his career did today. My thinking is that we should encourage every member of the space community — military or civilian, operator or supporter — to gain solid understanding of how the space enterprise works. To do otherwise is like the same closed box that dead ends a career.

David Deist prepares Space 200 students for the capstone Space Integration War Exercise at the National Security Space Institute in Colorado Springs, Colo.

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May 15



Mike Howard wrote at 8:14 p.m. via mobile web

My desk is piled with junk to do. Monday I will final edit the winter /spring edition of the Army Space Journal. Hope to have it online in a week and a printed version out in three.

May 14



Mike Howard wrote at 10:56 a.m.

Hey! The Army Space Journal won some awards! Michael Kahl, our design editor, won first place in the Army-wide competition for graphic arts. We also got a third in PJ, but the big news is Michael. If you get a chance, check out the pub.

March 6



Mike Howard wrote at 10:56 a.m.

And another thing to complete my monthly burst on facebook ... yesterday I finished a four-week Space 200 over at the Air Force's Air University. I learned some good stuff for my job