



# SPACE IN THE COUNTERINSURGENCY FIGHT





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Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, deputy commander, U.S. Air Forces Central Command and deputy, Combined Force Air Component commander, U.S. Central Command speaks with attendees of the Theater Space Conference, Feb. 8, 2010, at a base in Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez/released)



# SPACE PROFESSIONALS

Effectively Employ Space  
in Counterinsurgency Fight

By Senior Airman Dillon White  
U.S. AFCENT Public Affairs



Photo Credit: Defense Department photo by Steve Cunningham



## “We provide a 3-D visualization of the battlespace to our Coalition partners.



**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — More than 40 space warfighters from the U.S. and deployed locations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Southwest Asia attended the Theater Space Conference here, Feb. 8 to 10.

The space experts, from all services, collaborated to improve and maintain current space capabilities, such as global positioning, satellite communications, space control, and command and control systems.

Early in the conference, U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Stephen Hoog, Combined Force Air Component deputy commander, challenged space operators to take operational integration to a new level of effectiveness. He also spoke of the need to integrate all facets of combat power - air, ground, space and cyber.

“Space forces, just like air and ground forces, are adapting their capabilities, effects and operations to the current conflict, rather than trying to fit the conflict to their way of doing business,” he said.

Following Maj. Gen. Hoog’s remarks, attendees from each regional command in Afghanistan and Iraq shared the successes, challenges and issues they currently face in U.S. Central Command’s efforts to support air and ground commanders.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. George Wingfield asks Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, deputy commander, U.S. Air Forces Central Command; deputy, Combined Force Air Component commander, U.S. Central Command, a question during the Theater Space Conference, Feb. 8, 2010, at a base in Southwest Asia. *U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez*



Space is all about completing that visual picture, whether it's the enemy, the terrain, the time or the target, the more complete the visualization we can provide for our Coalition forces, the more effective they can be .”

MAJ Tod Fenner

Army Space Support Team Leader  
U.S. Army

Space experts also put their information and combined experiences to work.

“This is not just a conference where people come and listen passively,” said U.S. Air Force Col. David Thompson, U.S. Air Forces Central director of Space forces. “We break people up into work groups, assign them specific tasks and say, ‘Okay, your job is to find a solution to this problem and report back on your work.’”

U.S. Army MAJ Tod Fenner, Army Space Support Team leader, said topics covered during the three-day conference will help him better support Coalition forces at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

“We discussed the unique challenges associated with working within a coalition environment,” he said. “We covered how we can better share vital space information with Coalition forces, which can often be a challenge because of security classification guidelines.”

This better understanding will allow Fenner to provide relevant information in a timely fashion without compromising security.

“We provide a 3-D visualization of the battlespace to our Coalition partners,” Fenner said. “Space is all about completing that visual picture, whether it's the enemy, the terrain,

the time or the target, the more complete the visualization we can provide for our Coalition forces, the more effective they can be.”

The proof of the conference's effectiveness can be found in its track record -- actionable solutions and plans that Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen have produced here.

“During the conference in June, we addressed the draw-down in Iraq and buildup in Afghanistan,” Thompson said. “We needed a plan to draw down Space forces and space support in one place and build it up in another. We put together a team to create that plan, [and] then implemented it. The Space-force transition is now in the final stages of completion.”

Integration of space capabilities between U.S. and Coalition forces, such as Afghanistan's International Security Assistance Force, also took root at a TSC.

“Integration and synchronization of effects can only go so far through e-mails, phone calls and video teleconferences,” said U.S. Army LTC Rich Lewis, USAFCENT deputy director of Space Forces. “Building an effective team that can deal with these complex challenges requires strong relationships. This conference also strives to build those relationships.” ▲

Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, deputy commander, U.S. Air Forces Central Command and deputy, Combined Force Air Component commander, U.S. Central Command speaks with attendees of the Theater Space Conference, Feb. 8, 2010, at a base in Southwest Asia. U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez

