

FOUR ARMY SPACE TEAMS DEPLOY

By DJ Montoya, 1st Space Brigade Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A first for Army Space Soldiers occurred as four highly specialized teams composed of active duty, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard personnel deployed into theater early this year.

Prior to their departure, a farewell ceremony was conducted at the Peterson Air and Space Museum, where the twenty-one Soldiers from the 1st Space Brigade stood before their peers, Families, and Friends as they prepared to say their goodbyes.

These Soldiers compose two Army Space Support Teams from the 1st Space Battalion; a Commercial Imagery Team from the 117th Space Battalion, Colorado Army National Guard; and an Army Space Coordination Element from the 1st Space Brigade.

“Since 9/11, this brigade has deployed over 30 different units in continuous rotations along with a sustained presence of a unit in Qatar pulling missile warning for the entire theater,” said COL Jeffrey Farnsworth, commander 1st Space Brigade during the farewell ceremony.

The four units are providing warfighters in theater with space-based capabilities and products.

Farnsworth continued by saying, “The Army’s only Space Brigade is comprised of Active, Army Reserve, and National Guard.”

“We are by far the best example in the Army of what composite organizations are all about. [We are] pulled together as one regardless of component. And for the first time in our history we are able to optimize the support we provide to U.S. Central Command through what we call our own brigade internal Army force generation model. Today is the first time we have sent off so many of our units at once.”

LTC J. Dave Price, commander of the 1st Space Battalion also commented on the ceremony by stating, “You have to forgive me because I’m bursting with pride today.”

“The Soldiers you see in front of you may be our best ever. For sure they are following the footsteps of our most accomplished space force enhancement teams and these men

and women are ready to compete at the same or higher levels.”

“For almost a decade the 1st Space Battalion and Brigade have served with almost every combined or task force headquarters in Iraq, Afghanistan, and CENTCOM brilliantly. All that experience has been captured and passed on to our folks here today. Like I said before they may be the best ever.”

Last to address the audience at the ceremony was MAJ Jesse Morehouse, commander of the 117th Space Battalion Colorado Army National Guard.

“We are gathered here to bid farewell to some fine space professionals.”

“You wouldn’t think a farewell to people is a day that bears much celebration. We are about to send these folks away from their Families, their friends, and their full-time careers in order to go half way around the world and execute a challenging and possibly dangerous mission.”

“But when I look up and down at their faces and I look out at yours I don’t see a lot of regret. I see acceptance, support, pride, even a little anticipation. It really is not a sad day at all. This is a day to celebrate, to stand tall and be proud of these Soldiers, who like so many other Soldiers in the Army along with their Families – and in the case of the National Guard, their employers – are doing their part to defend our great nation.”

As is the tradition during these farewell ceremonies the brigade or battalion commander presented the senior Soldier of each deploying team with a mission coin.

Each coin is entrusted to the team leader for safekeeping throughout the operational deployment, and upon safe return it is then placed in a plaque and displayed in the brigade or battalion headquarters.

In addition to the presentation of the coins, a Colorado State flag was presented to the deploying guardsmen of the Commercial Imagery Team from the Colorado Family Assistance Center. 



LTC J. Dave Price, commander of the 1st Space Battalion, congratulates SSG Juanita Johnson from an Army Space Support Team during the departure ceremony. *Photos by Larry Hulst, U.S. Air Force*



LTC Rich Lewis and MAJ Tammy Aguilar, both with the 1st Space Brigade Army Space Coordination Element, admire the mission coin entrusted to their care during this round of deployment. *Photos by Larry Hulst, U.S. Air Force*



Members of Army Space Support Teams, 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion. *Photos by Larry Hulst, U.S. Air Force*



CPT Adam Brink and fellow members of Commercial Imagery Team, 117th Space Battalion, Colorado Army National Guard, show their appreciation as a member from the Colorado Family Assistance Center presents the group with a Colorado State flag to fly at their final destination. *Photos by Larry Hulst, U.S. Air Force*