

NATIONAL SPACE



Peter Marquez responds to questions during an interview with Army Space Journal.

Photo By Sharon L. Hartman

“Tough question,” Peter Marquez said as he briefly interrupted the flow of the interview. The question asked him to identify what the United States intended to specifically achieve through the 2010 National Space Policy that was published July 28.

Marquez, was the director of space policy for the White House’s National Security Council until September 24 and the document’s principal author, opened his folder that had remained unopened on the table in front of him during the interview and searched for something he had in mind. “You know, if you’re going to put a nice bow-tie on the policy at such a high level, it would be tough to do it without making it sound high level and highfalutin.” He shuffled through his papers as he spoke until he found what he was looking for in the stack.

POLICY

... aims to broaden horizons, enhance knowledge and improve lives for all who rely upon space capabilities

BY MICHAEL L. HOWARD, ASJ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“But, I think, one of the key things in the policy is right out of the introduction,” Marquez continued with his copy of the policy document opened to the second page. “It states at the end: ‘The United States hereby renews its pledge of cooperation in the belief that with strengthened international collaboration and reinvigorated U.S. leadership, all nations and peoples – space-faring and space – benefiting – will find their horizons broadened, their knowledge enhanced and their lives greatly improved.’”

“That’s the end intent of the policy. Underneath, there are things like national security and human spaceflight and scientific exploration, but that’s really the thrust. That it’s for the betterment of all humankind.”

With that, Marquez returned the policy to his folder and the interview continued. Marquez, who spoke to Army Space Professionals during the 2010 Space Cadre Symposium in August in Colorado Springs, Colo., had agreed to sit down afterwords for the interview with the Army Space Journal. The following are the questions-and-answers from the 30-minute discussion.

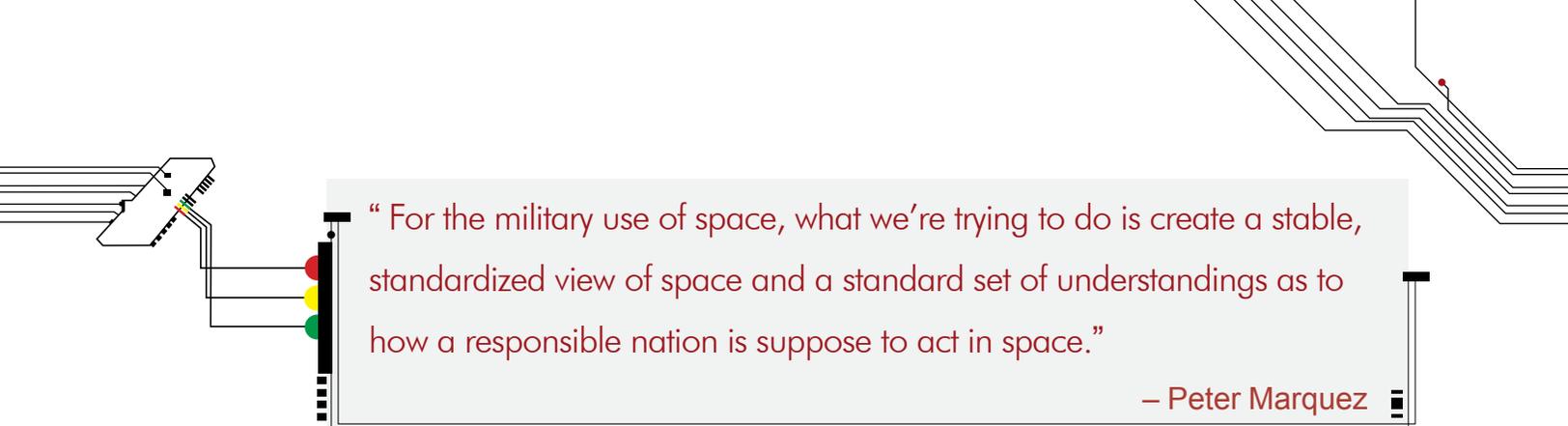
My first question has to do with transparency and partnership. Those are two key words in the new Space Policy. What impacts do you see those bringing to the military space community?

MARQUEZ From the first standpoint, there won’t be much of a change because the military knows how to do coalition type activities and knows how to work internationally. They do it far better than anybody else, better than any other agency with probably the exception of NASA. So there’s already the awareness there in the Department of Defense amongst the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Marines as to how you conduct things in an international way.

What we’ll probably be seeing as new things, though, is a sharing of capability. We’ll be transitioning to trying to provide greater capability and information to our allies who are in the foxhole with us and, at the same time, developing measures to leverage the capabilities that our allies have – and to bring those to bear in the fight as well. At some points, we have a one-way mirror where we provide data – and sometimes not all the data we possibly could be providing – but we don’t get anything in return. We have allies and partners who are very willing to bring capability to bear in the fight, so part of the real struggle in the midterm is going to be finding how to integrate those capabilities into our current architecture.

So is the partnership aspect more on the commercial side?

MARQUEZ No, the partnership deals with all elements whether it’s commerce or it’s government-to-government. We’re looking at partnerships across the board.



“ For the military use of space, what we’re trying to do is create a stable, standardized view of space and a standard set of understandings as to how a responsible nation is suppose to act in space.”

– Peter Marquez

But the newness of the partnership equation is for the external side – more on the commercial side. You’re saying the military is pretty much already use to doing that.

MARQUEZ What I meant by that was just from a psychology standpoint. The military knows how to work collaboratively within an international environment. They’re on the front lines every day with other soldiers wearing different flags on their shoulders. They know how to do this. Now, it’s getting the rest of the space community to start doing the same thing that our warfighters know very well how to do.

There’s also an emphasis on mission assurance and resilience. Does this call for the United States to do anything differently than we’ve been doing in the past?

MARQUEZ Absolutely – it’s a broadening of the responsibility. What we have been doing previously is trying to protect our space systems. What mission assurance and resilience is talking about is in addition to protecting those critical space systems, developing relationships, techniques, tactics, procedures, other capabilities so that if those critical space enabled missions are disrupted or degraded through either a natural event or hostile event – or just by an accident – we have the capacity in place to continue those mission essential or critical functions either in a complete way or in some sort of a degraded fashion, so we don’t lose capability wholesale.

We haven’t really taken that holistic look of backing up space capabilities through other medium, whether it’s undersea cables or high-altitude airships, or cyber, or whatever. That’s what we’re looking at now is from a more holistic standpoint.

How does this link to the importance and the policy placed upon the commercial industrial base?

MARQUEZ That’s a very obvious linkage. The industrial base provides a lot of space capability, but a lot of our commercial companies are also providers of capability in other areas. They may have very good ideas as to how we can assure missions using capabilities that they provide, and they also have a good reach into international communities and international commercial companies as to the other

capabilities that are available. So, I think we will be leveraging the commercial community quite a bit with resilience and mission assurance.

How do you see the new policy in relationship to those generally in the past?

MARQUEZ Without sounding flippant, it’s new and it’s the same. From the same standpoint, there are several key principles that have been in place since Dwight Eisenhower put out the first National Space Policy. Things like space for peaceful purposes, no claims of sovereignty in space, freedom of access, the right of all nations to use space. Those are principles the U.S. has maintained for sixty years now that are the same things in this policy.

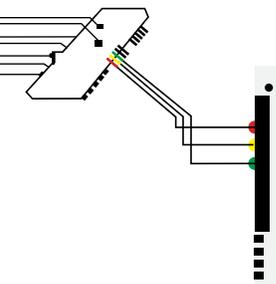
I think what’s new in this policy are things like mission assurance, the focus on increasing stability in space, a focus on creating the transparency in space. The reason those things are in there is because space is becoming an environment where there’s more debris, there’s many more actors, and it’s an understanding that the U.S. can’t dictate the rules of space. It’s an international environment, and we’re going to have to work collaboratively to develop the norms, the procedures for making space a stable environment.

So would you say that this reflects a new direction or a new vision for the future?

MARQUEZ Absolutely – it’s a new direction and it is definitely a new vision as to where we’re going.

Is that somewhat because of technological developments that have happened so rapidly in the last few years?

MARQUEZ That’s one of the reasons why. The ubiquity of capability that space provides, whether you’ve got GPS on your smart phone or whether you’re pulling down data in some remote location, all those things are enabled by space and everybody now is critically dependent on those capabilities. So we’re going to have to work with other people to maintain those capabilities. People 50 years ago knew nothing about space. Fifty years later, the entire world is using space capability.

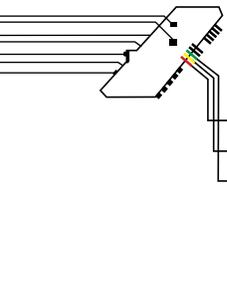


“ The military knows how to work collaboratively within an international environment. ... Now, it’s getting the rest of the space community to start doing the same thing that our warfighters know very well how to do.”

– Peter Marquez



Peter Marquez talks with Army space professionals after his presentation at the 2010 Army Space Cadre Symposium in August.
Photo by Sharon L. Hartman



“It was extraordinarily important to get their views on what’s important to the warfighter, what’s important to the mission so that I can bring that back to Washington as we implement the policy.”

– Peter Marquez

The new policy emphasizes international cooperation. What does the administration envision in terms of international cooperation in the military use of space?

MARQUEZ For the military use of space, what we’re trying to do is create a stable, standardized view of space and a standard set of understandings as to how a responsible nation is suppose to act in space. How that applies to the military is if we know how people are suppose to operate in space it makes it somewhat easier for us to develop capabilities to know when there’s a hostile act going on in space. It makes it easier for us to respond to those hostile acts. So we’re trying to set up the environment that allows us to strengthen our national security but also create a stable regime for the rest of the international community to utilize.

Is there any concern that the emphasis on the cooperation will renew the debate on de-weaponizing space?

MARQUEZ It will. It already has. We’ve heard from several people asking, “Does this new policy mean that we’re signing up to an arms control treaty?” The short answer is “no.” There is nothing on the table now that we see is a viable arms control treaty about preventing weapons or whatever else, but the policy very clearly states with regard to those types of activities two very specific things. What it says the U.S. will actively pursue transparency and confidence building measures, but we will consider arms control agreements as long as those arms control agreements are equitable, verifiable and – equally important – enhancing to the national security of the U.S. and its allies.

There’s one arms control treaty that’s on the table right now from the Russians and the Chinese, and we maintain our position which is the same position before this policy was put out, that their arms control treaty is a non-starter for the U.S. because it fails the verification standard.

Can you provide a little more detail as to the areas we might be looking at for cooperating in national security space?

MARQUEZ There are things we’re doing on ISR now. So growing that capability is one of the first areas – making

sure that we have good data transfer is an important thing so solidifying an already nascent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capacity and growing that capacity is probably one of the key low hanging fruit. Another one is space situational awareness. You know we have a tremendous amount of capability on the ground and we also have allies that are developing a space situational awareness capability.

We’re going to need additional sensors and additional data to create a more robust complete picture of what’s in the space environment. Heretofore, we’ve given that data away for free to other nations so we want to work with other nations to put their data in with ours to push it back out again as a free public service, so we’ll be looking at other nations to help us with that. Those are the first probably two we’ll focus on. There are many, many others. There’s an entire paragraph dedicated to international space policy to areas for potential international cooperation. It’s almost literally a laundry list of things for international cooperation, so we have a lot to do.

You talked earlier about sanctuary and the sixty years, but can you speak again to how the rapid advances in technology impact the current view?

MARQUEZ The inter-connectedness, the pervasiveness of technology, the way that cyber has burst onto the scene in the past fifteen years, and the fact that everything we do now is somehow enabled by our information infrastructure, enabled by cyber and by space. It was a realization that because we are so critically dependent on things like navigation, banking, or medicine, anything, that we’re depending upon our space systems for it.

That was one of the reasons that we pushed forward in this National Space Policy for the items that you do see in it. The policy was done in a quick order as part of that realization that things are moving ahead at a much quicker pace than they ever have in history, and we need to catch up, because if our policies don’t reflect what the current environment is, we’re going to be left behind.

The issue of nuclear power and its inclusion, can you explain a little more about that?

MARQUEZ This whole section is just meant to talk about the use of nuclear power sources in spacecraft for either exploration purposes or for commercial purposes. Really, it's just a section that says if you're looking at using a nuclear power source for your spacecraft, here are the arrangements for seeking a license for that and for seeking approval to launch the vehicle. Really it's more process oriented. We don't have anything right now from the commercial sector that is being promoted as a nuclear power source, but the language is there just in case somebody wanted to put something out there and because we do it on our national security side and on our civil side as well

Did you get some reaction about that inclusion or not?

MARQUEZ No, because it was actually in the previous policy and the version that's in this one is actually much shorter and focuses more on the process than the last one did.

You've come in here speaking to officers and people who work in the military/Army space community. Did you learn anything?

MARQUEZ Absolutely – it's almost cliché but sometimes in Washington you get separated from the guys in the field and the guys who are doing the work. It was extraordinarily important to get their views on what's important to the warfighter, what's important to the mission so that I can bring that back to Washington as we implement the policy. It's always a tremendous value to keep in mind why we're doing these things and why it's important. They helped me immensely today to remind me that this is why we do it and these are the things we need to be focused on when we implement the policy.

Any short examples of what those takeaways are?

MARQUEZ One of them again has to do with space situational awareness. We talk a good game in Washington about wanting to share the data, but the guys here today brought it back home to me that we don't do a very good job even internal to the government, and we need to do a better job at it because there's no reason why one community can have access to the data when another community in the U.S. government can't. Whether we just don't have the structures up to share the data, we're asking the same guys in the same uniforms from different services to sit on the front line and fight this war, and not sharing the data is something that's a travesty.

It was great to hear from them that, "Hey, you know what? Can you help us out here? Can you help us do this?" And it was a great reminder that there's still plenty of things that we need to do to help the warfighter out. 

Got S_pace?



www.smdc-armyforces.army.mil/ASJ

e-mail: space.journal@us.army.mil

twitter: <http://twitter.com/theASJeditor>