

# Tip of the Sphere



## Army Space Cadre News

By Mike Connolly

Mike Connolly /// Bio



Initially commissioned as an Air Defense Officer, Mike Connolly served the majority of his 26 year career as an Army Aviator prior to being selected as a Functional Area 40 during the first Career Field Designation Board. His assignments as an FA40 included Chief of Staff, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; Director Command and Control Systems (J6) Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; Command Director, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; Executive Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; Deputy, J36 (Current Operations), U.S. Space Command; Chief, Joint Space Support Team, U.S. Space Command; Chief, Standards and Evaluations Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; and Mission Director, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College as well as East Tennessee State University.

(719) 554-0452;

[michael.connolly@smdc-cs.army.mil](mailto:michael.connolly@smdc-cs.army.mil)



# ASPPDO

## Follow-Ups and Random Thoughts

**Generally, we use our space in the ASJ to provide you with information related to ongoing actions and initiatives. However, in this edition I will go back to previous discussions and give you an update on their current status, as well as share some random thoughts.**

### PROMOTION ANALYSIS

Our analysis of the Fiscal Year 2010 colonels selection board results did not provide any significant trends that would explain the selection of one officer over another. The biggest conclusion we could draw is that Functional Area 40s must continue to pursue a variety of tough assignments, both operational and shaping even if that requires stepping outside your comfort zone.

Four Functional Area 40s were selected for promotion - three 40A Space Operations Officers and one 40C Army Astronaut. Our in the zone selection rate was 30 percent compared to the overall operations support category rate of 44.2 percent and the Army rate of 47 percent.

How many times have you been asked “what you do” and after you respond you are an Functional Area 40 Space Operations Officer. The next question is “what’s that?” If these are the types of responses you receive in a face-to-face setting, how do you prevent a board member who is looking at your file from having the same reaction? The answer may be as simple as the job description on your Officer Evaluation Report. You should take the time to read your job description as if you were still in your basic branch, does it make sense? Does it articulate how you are supporting the Army and if appropriate the operational force? If not, rework it so that when a member of

a promotion or selection board sees it, they understand what you do, why you do it and the importance of your position to the operational or shaping force.

Although Functional Area 40 has grown to over 280 active duty officers, we are still very small even when compared to other functional areas. Additionally, our mission set may not be fully understood by some senior officers. This makes it vital to succinctly articulate what you bring to the fight and the contributions you make. The possibility that all 21 or so officers sitting on a board know exactly what each one of you do for your job is actually remote, so tell them.

The Army Space Personnel Development Office has approximately 90 Functional Area 40 job descriptions on file. If you would like us to send you a few examples, or if you would like us to review yours, please contact Al Hughes at 719-554-0453.

**All of the board analyses are posted on the Army Space Personnel Development Office Web site: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/343526>**

# Space Badge



In the last edition of the ASJ, we announced changes in the award criteria for the Air Force space badge. In his approval memo, Gen. C. Robert Kehler, Commander Air Force Space Command recommended the Army establish the Air Force space badge as a unique Army badge. The Army Space Personnel Development Office has generated an action to Human Resources Command to accomplish this and if approved the space badge will be similar to the parachutist badge, which is universally used by all services. This action will also negate the need to establish a new Army space badge.

## Civilian Space Professionals

In our ongoing efforts to recognize civilian space professionals, we have identified over 300 individuals within U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command who meet the criteria as either a Level 1, 2 or 3 space professional. We are awarding certificates to them acknowledging their education, training and experience. Department of the Army Civilians who are currently in space cadre coded billets and who would like to attend either Space 200 or 300 should contact Jerry Pepin at 719-554-0457 to be included on the order of merit list.

## Advanced Civil Schooling/Training with Industry (ACS/TWI)

We are in the process of adding an additional Advanced Civil Schooling and Training With Industry position bringing our totals to seven and three respectively. The Training With Industry position will be with Analytical Graphics Incorporated in Colorado Springs, Colo., with a probable utilization assignment to U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Battle Lab. Analytical Graphics Incorporated develops commercial off-the-shelf analysis software for land, sea, air and space and is best known within the Functional Area 40 community for their space tool kit.



# Check out the ASPDO Web site

## AKO ASPDO link:

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/343526>

Find out the latest on Functional Area 40 (FA40) and the Army Space Cadre. Site topics include:

- How to get your 3Y identifier and Air Force Space Badge
- Space Professional Development Opportunities
  - How to sign up for Space Fundamentals, Space 200 and Space 300 courses
  - Class schedules
  - Army Space Cadre Online Training Information
- - Latest Personnel News
  - Promotion results and analysis
  - Selection results for schools, internships and fellowships
  - FA40 billet information to include latest DA PAM 600-3 updates
  - Latest accessions
  - Latest FA40 roster



## 2010 Army Space Cadre Symposium

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals who supported and participated in the Army Space Cadre Symposium this past August. With over 200 registered attendees, it was by far the largest symposium we have conducted to date. We look to continue to build on this success for next year's symposium currently scheduled for Aug. 1-5, 2011.

For additional information continue to check back to the Army Space Personnel Development Office Web site.