

‘We’re Part of Army Space’

National Guard Recognizes Space Mission Importance



**Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz,
Director Army National
Guard**

The union between U.S. Army Space Command and the U.S. Army National Guard took a solid step forward this year. With that step, the Colorado Army National Guard continues in the forefront. Fourteen soldiers from the 193d Space Battalion mobilized to active duty at Fort Carson in January. They joined nine other soldiers from the battalion who came onto active duty with U.S. Army Space Command in November.

As these newest soldiers prepared for their activation, Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, Director of Army National Guard visited Army Space Command Headquarters in Colorado Springs. He sat down for an interview with the *Army Space Journal*. The following are his answers to our questions.

We know from your comments that you had a good visit today.

I'm most impressed with what's going on here.

You know, I have no doubt there's Space in the Army's future. There's a mission here. Think about that. We — the Army National Guard — are there in the Army's future.

For us, it's really exciting. I mean it's not the traditional "here's where we've been, here's what we've always done, here's the way we see things."

This, for us, is new and it's emerging and we're excited to be a part of it. This is a valid portion of our structure. I'm talking about allocating, dedicating a portion of our structure to this mission. We know that there will be some new emerging ideas, there will be some lessons to be learned and there will be some things we haven't anticipated — so there has to be some flex built into the concept of the operational model.

We're talking today about the Army in 2004, 2009 and I'm saying beyond that, what is our future, what's in the Guard's future and what's in the Army's future? What's going on with homeland security, missile defense, and missions around the world where maybe today the Guard's

not present, but we could be?

You know our soldiers don't train full-time, they don't soldier full-time, and so we bring kind of a unique background, a unique example to some of these missions. Not just growing up in units, some active duty and some Guard type, but a civilian experience from the info-systems, info-ops world, day-to-day, civilian based kind of experience.

Where do you see the National Guard as a whole going in terms of Space?

The first thing I want to do is make certain that we fit the required missions that are developing. It's not just sending the Guard into Space missions because it sounds good. I'm into a deeper issue than that. I'm saying what does Space begin to require in terms of units, in terms of skills, in terms of capabilities.

We're going to design units to compliment that mission set. We're going to create, and we will design...everything I've talked about now is in concert with Army Space and SMDC requirements.

That's where the Guard's going to contribute, and so we'll grow the units over time. We'll grow the soldier skill over time; develop that skill obviously in concert with the Army's need for Space mission capability. That's how it's going to fit.

What we're talking about is Space having application for homeland as it does for theaters outside the continental U.S.

What's your major focus of how you see the whole Guard going?

It's not just continental U.S., it is missions around the world and where the Guard might contribute.

My point is, based on the missions now being better clarified — this is after the September 11 attacks — missions being clarified even more in the interest in our homeland, really our first priority in terms of military

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mission, the Guard will take on an active role.

We're going to be a part of it. That means in some cases standing shoulder to shoulder with our active counterparts, assuming the responsibility for leadership in ways that we perhaps have not traditionally thought of...I'm talking about Space.

Space has not been on our forefront for priorities in our past, even the recent past. We've talked about it some, but never really put units against those requirements and today we're developing those. I mean the unit, the design, the structure, the formation; we're developing those right now, in order to put together a unit.

You're saying Space is now a priority?

One of our priorities. It absolutely is and it's emerging, because it's developing new sets of reality here close to September 11. Now, we talked about Space before. We talked about creating units and that's where the 193d came from. The Battalion is of course very new in terms of its existence actually; it's virtually just a couple of months old. This is now an issue where we're going to move quicker than we had originally planned. That would be a part of our response.

One soldier told you he knew lives were at stake based on his work in Blue Force Tracking. This accentuated your point that you have Guardsmen doing very important tasks.

When a sergeant makes that comment, it brings home the significance of this mission and the reality. I'm talking now about the responsibility that individual soldiers have at a remote site many, many miles away contributing in significant ways to a theater commander who's making decisions of operational significance.

That's our role here. We assist that deployed theater commander and those units of soldiers performing their missions. That's also the key here. We all have a warfighting focus, whether it be here in homeland defense

— a very different focus than what we're used to, or for a deployed theater.

I tell you this, not independently, we're part of a team here too. We're part of Army Space Command, we're part of this mission set. And we're going to move faster than we had originally planned in fielding some of these units.

By the way, it made you proud when you heard the sergeant say that.

Absolutely. If you went back just a year, someone would say "tell me again what the Guard is doing in Space?"

That discussion we had just a few minutes ago will give you a classic example of why we probably ought to move out with some of these concepts that we had talked about a few short months ago.

You know the Guard is unique. Guard soldiers are in every state and territory, we respond to Governors day to day for peacetime missions. But our federal mission is to support our nation's military strategy.

Do warfighters have a difficult time understanding the importance of Space?

When you talk warfighters, my sense is that we all don't understand the potential, and I'm talking now the application. This is the leverage; this is the power of technology. This is taking the contributions, the potential of this place, these units, and the missions and putting them to work. So, my sense is, it's really one of communicating the capabilities within Army Space. What are the capabilities here CINCSPACE, what are the capabilities for things that hadn't been thought of earlier?

It's more an issue of awareness?

I think so. It's not, clearly not, an issue of just being aware of what we're talking about right now. Space, it is a

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theater all its own.

It is different, whether it be missile defense or other missions that we now have ongoing. It spans a whole series of interests, even from a peacetime day-to-day application. We can use some of these capabilities in ways that clearly add emergency response, and so there's a spectrum of applications across the range of missions.

The key for us now is to communicate this to the commanders, those that can use these products. Once they have a sense for the real, we can talk about mission enhanced packages. It's kind of the tour I've had today spread throughout a larger audience. We probably have more work than we have short-term capability.

What have you gained from coming here today?

I had a general idea about some of the components, and capabilities, some of the details that our soldiers, our units would be a part of here, but it's actually broader in a technical sense than I had originally anticipated there. I had an idea of what went on in terms of general missions in Space units, in Space battalions, but there's a set of details here that I didn't fully appreciate. I now have a better understanding of the capability.

I had a sense there was potential here in terms of mission opportunity, but I also have a new appreciation for what goes on here in terms of the product, the outcome. An enhanced field commander's warfighting sense of how they might place. This is a value added piece. I could place some these products to their distinct advantage; no doubt about it. This is value added work that in a way, I hadn't anticipated when I got here.

So, that's your take away.

And you know, this is a team that works here. Guard soldiers, traditional members coming off the street from the business community across this country volunteering to help us out in time of need. When the mission is completed, then we go back and perform our normal duties in a peacetime setting. But today we've got an emergency on our hands, that changed the scenario for the foreseeable future. And Space has a big part to play in it — the National Guard will be right there!

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For 40 years, the National Reconnaissance Office has revolutionized strategic reconnaissance. Film capsule recovery satellites have been replaced with near-real-time electro-optical imagers, and signals intelligence gatherers continue to push the limits of technology. The Office has played a crucial role in the development of Space reconnaissance systems that now span nearly the entire electromagnetic spectrum. Intelligence gathering is no longer limited to nuclear disarmament issues and the prevention of surprise attacks, but includes such efforts as monitoring international terrorists and drug cartels, monitoring the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and aiding in natural disaster relief.

Until the World War II era, tactical reconnaissance was all that was possible. As technology has evolved, so has our ability to conduct strategic reconnaissance. This evolution of reconnaissance is entering a new phase, in which the goal is to apply our formidable strategic capabilities to our tactical efforts. This will require the same focused effort, ingenuity, and perseverance that made our strategic program a success. While Space-based reconnaissance will always play a critical role in strategic reconnaissance, Space-based tactical reconnaissance is the new challenge.

Maj. Robert Guerriero graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1990 and was commissioned as an Armor officer. He is now a Space Operations Officer assigned to the National Reconnaissance Office's Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate.

End Notes

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