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# Army Space Doctrine

## Where the Past Meets the Future

By Ed Zehner

**O**ne principle that will not change in this era of Transformation is that “the Army runs on doctrine.” Doctrine gives us the foundation of warfighting wisdom based both on historic experience and future expectations. It sheds light into the dusty corners of past conflicts, draws from those actions what worked and what did not, and keeps us from losing the lessons of our past.

At the same time, it provides a basis for projecting those lessons into future situations, assists our commanders in arriving at the right decisions, and details what is essentially the departure point from which soldiers can confidently engage in the full range of operations.

This is just as true in Space operations as in any other area of Army operations. We are writing the next generation of Army Space doctrine, confirming the lessons of the past, capturing the enduring principles of Army Space operations, and integrating the Space contribution into other Army operations.

The recent past has seen a significant increase in the recognition of the importance of Space to terrestrial operations. While it would be a mistake to insist that Space is at the center of the soldier’s attention, neither can it be relegated to the periphery as an ancillary or optional function. From communications to navigation and timing to weather monitoring to intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, Space plays a critical role.

Because these are so important to operational support, Space control must be exercised. We must have full access to the advantages of Space and be able to deny it to our adversaries.

The Army role here is its familiar, traditional one. Because land superiority is the Army’s job, responsibility for terrestrial Space control dominance follows. The Army must control those areas in its domain that affect the success of land operations and it must contribute appropriately to the joint fight — Space control is part of that contribution.

Indeed, the Army is stepping up to this responsibility as service and joint roles in Space are clarified, missions are defined, and the Doctrine, Training, Leader Development, Organization, Materiel and Soldiers process is engaged for Space. To this end, we are refreshing Army Space doctrine in two upcoming documents. The first is FM 3-14, *Space Support to Army Operations*, which will replace FM 100-18. The second is FM 3-14.6, *Army Space Support to Corps and Divisions*. This doctrine is expected to be published in early 2003.

The Army continues to strengthen its ability to execute its core competencies and to transform toward the Objective Force by building its Space capability and fully integrating the unique and highly effective contributions of Space into the soldiers’ fight. This doctrine will simultaneously confirm that commitment and provide to our warfighters around the globe the wisdom drawn from a successful past that can be recast for a future that will surely confirm the continuing superiority of United States Army land forces.

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