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DEVELOPING DOCTRINE FOR *THE 1ST* *SPACE BRIGADE*

By MAJ Robert Zaza

Birth of the Space Brigade and Codification into Doctrine

The 1st Space Brigade is a relatively new organization, but its predecessors and component parts have been providing Space support to Army and joint operations since before Operation Desert Storm. While the U.S. Air Force Space Command history would assert that Desert Storm was “truly the first Space War,” the increasing reliance of tactical forces upon strategic and commercial Space capabilities in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom sparked the conception and creation of a Space Brigade headquarter that could provide command and control (C2) of Space forces; coordination, deconfliction and prioritization of Space effects; and Space force enhancement support.

The existence of the brigade finds its origin in February 2002, when an ad-hoc group of Space and Missile Defense Command staff officers provided command and control for the 1st Space Battalion, 193rd Space Battalion and 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) (then known as the 1st Satellite Control Battalion). Because of the increasing demand on Army Space Forces for support to military operations overseas, Homeland Security and the commander, U.S. Strategic Command's desire for in-theater command and control of Space forces, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command found it vital during Force Design Update Cycle 02-2 to have a brigade headquarters that could centrally plan and coordinate actions necessary for Joint Task Forces, Joint Forces Land Component Commanders, Corps and Marine Expeditionary Forces to exploit the capabilities of tactical Army Space Forces. The activation of the 1st Space Brigade (Provisional) in 2003, and the subse-

quent activation of the brigade as a Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) unit in 2005, have enabled Army Space professionals to develop new tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) for planning, coordinating, executing and assessing Space support to Army and joint operations.

Over the last three years, the 1st Space Brigade has tested concepts for fighting the 1st Space Brigade qua Brigade, and the 1st Space Battalion and 193rd Space Battalions qua battalion, primarily in the U.S. Forces Korea milieu of Ulchi Focus Lens and RSOI (Reception, Staging, Onward-movement and Integration). The 1st Space Brigade not only offers the capability to provide satellite control, Space Force Enhancement support, and Missile Warning support as before; but also the Army Space Coordination Detachments and Army Space Coordination Elements that plan, coordinate and synchronize Space capabilities, forces and effects, to the benefit of the Land Component, Joint Task Force and theater commanders. The presence of Army Space Coordination Detachments and Army Space Coordination Elements will influence and shape how commanders use Space capabilities by taking advantage of knowledge, skills and core abilities of trained Space professionals who are also experienced in land warfare. Until now, the 1st Space Brigade has relied on unpublished concepts developed internally, as well as on Joint Publication 3-14 and Field Manual 3-14 for doctrinal guidance. While the published doctrinal manuals are good for broad doctrinal guidance and as Space tutorials, the time has come for the Space Brigade to have a doctrinal manual that befits its important status as a unique MTOE brigade. Now the Future Warfare Center Directorate of Combat Development and the commander, the staff of the 1st Space Brigade, and other subject matter experts, are engaged in codifying the Army Space Coordination Detachment, the Commercial

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Exploitation Team and new TTPs into Field Manual (FM) 3-14.10, Space Brigade Operations.

What's Inside and When Do We Get It?

FM 3-14.10 is in the initial draft stage. When complete, it will define Space Brigade and subordinate unit missions, command and control relationships, coordination relationships, organizations, capabilities, and TTPs for operations and sustainment covering the full spectrum of Army operations and support to joint operations. Publication of the final product is expected in February 2007. Terms such as Army Space Coordination Detachment may be different by then. What will not change is the dedication to establishing doctrine for the Space Brigade to provide planning, coordination and subject matter experts at the Joint Forces Land Component Command, and a robust capacity for day-to-day staff support to the Space Authority, whether that authority resides with the Joint Force Air Component Command or the Joint Force Land Component Command.

The staffing process will involve internal coordination and command adjudication as well as external. The Army G-2 is likely to be extremely interested in what this manual has to say. The Marine Corps is interested in the FM and will get a vote on it through the Information Operations and Space Integration branch, Plans Policies and Operations Department, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Depending on the amount of detail afforded to Army Space Support Team TTPs, FM 3-14.10, or a future incarnation, could aspire to Multiservice TTP status under the aegis of the Air Land Sea Application Center.

Army Space organizations have broken a sweat trying to keep up with advances in technology, which themselves struggle to outpace lessons learned from combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Challenges are spawning from the rapid pace of development in military Space operations. The first of these is to simply review and update doctrine in a timely manner. The normal Training and Doctrine Command template of five years to update doctrine cannot apply

— the time to update Space Brigade doctrine will be two-and-a-half to three years. The second challenge is how Space Brigade doctrine, and Army Space doctrine as a whole, will synchronize with joint and Air Force Space doctrine, and with such Air Force command and control (I use the term command and control loosely) concepts as the Director of Space Forces, which has yet to be codified into Air Force Doctrine Document 2-2, Space Operations. The solution will be, as with technological advances, to develop Space Brigade doctrine in a “spiral” fashion. Caution and audacity will be two sides of the same coin as we develop new doctrine. We must take care to synchronize Space Brigade doctrine with Joint Publication 3-14, FM 3-0, the Army Theater Space Concept, the Joint Space Warfighting Concept, and Army and Division Space Support Elements, while advocating for improved doctrine at the joint level and protecting Army Space interests. Emerging doctrine must be descriptive rather than prescriptive, and must be broad enough to support the Army and Marine Corps as services and the joint warfighter fighting full spectrum offensive and defensive warfare, synchronizing exploitation of strategic and tactical Space capabilities to support operational objectives across diverse theaters.

Desert Storm: The First Space War, retrieved from <http://www.peterson.af.mil/hqafspc/history/Heritage-Desert%20Storm.htm> on Feb. 2, 2006.

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