



Last month we held the Command Training Conference at Redstone Arsenal with Army, Air Force, Joint, Combined, and other agencies represented. After four days of discussing our three mission areas of Space, Missile Defense and Cyber Operations, I would assess the conference a resounding success and we can mark a 'T' in that column!

The stated purpose of the conference was to listen, learn, and discuss the different perspectives provided by a variety of organizations in our respective mission areas. As an Army that values life-long learning, these types of discussions are especially important given that the strategic and operational environments we operate in are changing and becoming more complex and more contested.

Conferences such as this are only productive if attendees get involved and participate in the discussions. Not surprising, there were very few "wallflowers" who attended the conference, which made the event both informative and enjoyable.

What I found most productive about the conference was not only the dialogue that was generated by those in attendance but the passion that each person had for their points of view. Of special note was the inclusion of some of our Space Support Elements from division, corps, and theater level organizations as well as participation via VTC by SSEs in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their input added a unique dimension that is irreplaceable. There were excellent discussions about the role of the Army Space professional within the SSE. I take a personal interest in getting insights, perspectives, and recommendations on what we can do to best support our Space professionals and the SSEs.

We received excellent presentations and follow-on discussions about the emerging domain of Cyber. This is an area that poses a challenge because of the unique characteristics of the domain. As each of us knows, Cyberspace is not constrained by geographic borders so it is difficult to apply the usual rules of engagement or attribution. I believe Cyber is an area that we need to pay very close attention to – our adversaries are working hard in this area! USASMDC/ARSTRAT continues to remain engaged with the Department of the Army as the strategy is developed to support the new U.S. CYBER Command.

We spent considerable time discussing opportunities for training. First, it's important that individuals take responsibility for their professional development and for their organizations to support them with time and/or resources. I encourage every person and supervisor to remain fully engaged in professional development. There is nothing we do that is more important than improving ourselves so we can better serve our nation.

As stated at the beginning, this year's Command Training Conference was a great success; kudos to those who planned and executed the conference and to those who provided great insights during the discussions. These kinds of conferences are the result of a lot of effort by some very dedicated professionals.

If you missed this year's conference, you can access the presentations on AKO at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/15696535> . For more information about next year's conference or how to access the presentations, please contact COL James Meisinger (719) 554-2188, or Jim Hamilton, (719) 554-2170.

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