



## ASPDO

Army Space Personnel Development Office

Army Space Cadre Office (ASCO)

Functional Area 40 Personnel

Development Office (FA40 PDO)



### Summary

- The commander, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (USASMD/ARSTRAT) is the Army's Proponent for space and high-altitude capabilities
- The Army Space Cadre was created to ensure the Army has sufficient space-qualified personnel to represent the Army's interest in space requirements, acquisition and operations
- There are more than 2,400 Soldiers and civilians serving in Space Cadre billets
- The more than 250 FA40-coded billets throughout the Army's active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and Joint DoD organizations form the core of the Army Space Cadre
- The goal of the Army Space Cadre is to normalize space throughout Army operations and activities

**The ASPDO develops policies, procedures, and metrics for the Army Space Cadre and executes the life-cycle management functions of FA40 Space Operations Officers ensuring the Army has trained personnel to meet national security space needs.**

The United States Army is one of the largest users of space-based capabilities in the Department of Defense. Because of this, the Army formalized an Army Space Cadre that consists of space professionals and space enablers. Space professionals are military and civilian career space specialists, whose principal duties include planning, developing, resourcing, acquiring, integrating, and operating space forces, concepts, applications, or capabilities. Space enablers are military and civilian personnel whose primary career field is not space, but who perform unique tasks or have skills to apply space capabilities. The Army's cadre of professionally trained Space Operations Officers (FA40) provides in-depth expertise and experience to leverage space assets for the Army. FA40A officers serve in shaping and operational positions supporting the Army and Joint DoD organizations that focus on developing and integrating space capabilities, as well as operationally supporting the Warfighter with space-based capabilities.



The secretary of defense directed the secretaries of the military services to develop “a cadre of space-qualified professionals comprised of military and civilian personnel in sufficient quantities to represent

their military services and agency’s interests in space requirements, acquisition and operations.”

The Army’s operational characteristics will, in large part, be achieved through the use and exploitation of emerging space systems. This dependency requires the Army to actively participate in defining space-related capability needs that ensure necessary force structure and systems are developed and acquired to enable the land force to conduct the full range of military operations now and in the future.

The USASMDC/ARSTRAT commanding general is the Army proponent for space and high-altitude capabilities, the Personnel Proponent for Functional Area 40 Space Operations, and was assigned the mission to develop and track a cadre of space-qualified professionals comprised of military and civilian personnel.

Since its inception in 2007, the ASCO has functioned as the single point of contact for all Space Cadre efforts. The ASCO is responsible for identifying Space Cadre members, tracking Space Cadre positions, personnel and training data and reporting data and metrics in accordance with Department of Defense directives and guidance. The ASCO does not manage Army personnel in any regard, but assists in the development of processes to track Army Space Cadre members.

The Army’s professionally trained Space Operations Officers provide in-depth expertise and experience to leverage space assets for the Army and provide the foundation for the Army Space Cadre. This functional area provides two distinct career paths: Space Operations Officer (FA40A) and Astronaut (FA40C). FA40A officers serve in shaping or operational positions supporting the Army and Joint organizations that focus on developing and integrating space capabilities, as well as operationally supporting the

Warfighter with space-based capabilities. Officers serving in operational billets specialize in integrating space operations into the military decision-making process. They synchronize, optimize and de-conflict the use of space resources with the commander’s staff and across the Warfighting Functions. They provide commanders the Space Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield, the Space Estimate and highly technical tools to support operational planning. FA40s serving in shaping positions have the unique ability to influence the future of Army Space through research and development, acquisition, policy development, instruction and personnel management. Many of these officers will have participated in Training With Industry (TWI) or Advanced Civilian Schooling (ACS) including PhD and master’s degree programs, utilizing their knowledge and education to formulate future space policy and capabilities.

A Cadre of fully trained and developed space professionals and enablers provides the Army with personnel who have the knowledge and skills to promote Army Space. These individuals advance the level of Army Space expertise and awareness across the Total Force. At the organizational level, a Space Cadre enhances the space expertise of individuals serving the organization’s mission.

USASMDC/ARSTRAT is the advocate and developer of training for both space professionals and enablers. Officers selected as a FA40s will attend the multi-week Space Operations Officer Qualification Course as their primary block of space training. This course, based in Colorado Springs, Colo., covers more than 20 areas of instruction and includes attendance at the National Security Space Institute’s Space 200 Course. Training opportunities that complement MOS or job specific training for space enablers is available through distance learning, mobile training teams, and resident courses.



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