



Operationally Responsive Space

Assured Space Power Focused on Timely Satisfaction of Joint Force Commanders' Needs

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Tier 1 Operational Experiment takes the stage.....

In an innovative approach, the ORS office collaborated with the Space and Missile Systems Command (SMC) and McDonald Dettwiler and Associates (MDA) to execute an operator-focused demonstration to explore the ability for rapid Tasking, Collection, Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination (TCPED) of commercial Space assets. We hoped to discover enhanced processes for a TCPED or Task, Post, Process, and Use (TPPU) architecture. Our organization took advantage of an excellent opportunity to work with SMC during their RADARSAT-2 technical evaluation, executed during the May through August 2008 timeframe.

The three main objectives for the ORS operational demonstration were to: 1) gain insights into how the JFCs/services will use ORS commercial imagery assets assigned to them for payload tasking, 2) gain insights into the tactical utility of RADARSAT-2, and 3) gain insights into the inhibitors to operational responsiveness of imagery satellites. ORS worked alongside the USCENTCOM Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC), the USPACOM Joint Intelligence Operations Center (JIOC), the US Coast Guard Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center-Pacific (MIFCPAC) in Alameda, CA, and the Third Marine Expeditionary Force (III-MEF) in Okinawa, Japan to observe the value of rapidly tasking a commercial imager.



During the demonstrations, we identified how commercial space ISR capabilities and products can be used for different mission areas to include successfully fulfilling a real world imagery gap and to support Cyclone Nargis humanitarian relief efforts. The RADARSAT-2 image contributed to relief operations to the areas hardest hit by Cyclone Nargis.



Coast Guard Icebreaker

the various demonstrations was the need for assured exploitation of the collected images and the lack of capability to disseminate large unclassified files on the NIPRNet to overseas end users. We recognize that much work remains in this step of the process. However, in a snapshot, we walked away knowing with confidence the need to identify more commercial imagers or legacy capabilities such as JRP, to present a constellation of rapid response space support capabilities—an enabler to support forces.

By working with multiple services we were able to observe a wide spectrum of missions such as monitoring U. S. Economic Exclusion zones, detecting illegal fishing activities and monitoring illegal deployment of high seas drift nets for the USCG. The focus of the III-MEFs' was to identify change detection in specific areas of interest or support helicopter landing zones planning and surf zone composition for training areas.

We captured numerous lessons learned regarding rapidly tasking commercial imagers and the inhibitors associated with some TCPED architectures. One common observation during



III-MEF Imagery Platoon



3rd Intelligence Battalion Collection Managers

The Ops Experiments we conducted over the past few months have been invaluable for raising our knowledge level and a real understanding from the forward warfighters' points of view. From this knowledge, as well as what we gain from future experiments, we can help present operationally responsive Tier 1 space capabilities as a solution for warfighters—NOW! We can also use our many lessons learned to refine our path to Tier 2 and Tier 3 solutions. In short, we will be evermore prepared to continue on our path to be an agent for change in the space business.

As one III-MEF Battalion Commander adamantly stated to the ORSO facilitators, “....if the ORS Office could accomplish nothing else, you’d go down in history if you could augment the ISR assets we have ready access to, without introducing new tools and training burdens.” He specifically referred to a “menu” of space capabilities (whether national, commercial, or international) for JFC/Service tasking, with an ability to deliver results within “minutes to hours,” and ensure those capabilities are compatible with the equipment, communication systems, processes, and formats the services are already trained to use.

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Very Respectfully,
Peter Wegner



RadarSat 2