

# Leaving behind a legacy

■ Operationally Responsive Space Office director departs federal civil service to work for research corporation

By Michael P. Kleiman

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Like the phrase “it’s a marathon, not a sprint,” the five-year-old Operationally Responsive Space Office has focused on the viability, applicability and achievability of rapid and responsive space in support of the warfighter today, tomorrow and in the future.

Under the leadership of its second director, Dr. Peter Wegner, the Department of Defense organization has accomplished giant strides in expeditiously designing, developing and deploying a satellite for operational use.

For example, the ORS-1 spacecraft, launched in June 2011, went from the drawing board to orbiting the Earth in 32 months.

Wegner, who assumed his current position on May 1, 2008, will leave federal civil service today after a 20-year career to become the director of advanced concepts for Space Dynamics Laboratory, Logan, Utah.

“While serving with the ORS Office the past four-plus years, I tend to think about the programs such as ORS-1, but I need to take a step back to think about the fundamental principles established by this organization. We really have fundamentally changed the debate for using small satellites operationally,” said Wegner, a native of Clark, Wyo. “During my first two years in the ORS Office, we were constantly defending our existence, but we fundamentally changed the debate. The ORS Office introduced unique architectural concepts in big space programs involving communication, global positioning system, weather, and in the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance side of

the house. There is a greater acceptance now for the small satellite program due, in large part, to the ORS team.”

Reflecting on his tenure at the helm of ORS, Wegner cited three agency successes, which have significantly enhanced the DOD’s efforts in space. First, the ORS-1 satellite transitioned to full operational status less than seven months after liftoff, and has continued to provide battlespace awareness for U.S. Central Command. Second, ORS contributed funding to the Tactical Satellite-3 program, administered by the Air Force Research Laboratory’s Space Vehicles Directorate, which advanced the use of hyperspectral imagery during its 13-month demonstration mission. In June 2010, the spacecraft became an operational asset for Air Force Space Command. Additionally, ORS has collaborated with several DOD organizations including the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center’s Space Development and Test Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Reflective of the partnerships, ORS-1 used the same modular bus as TacSat-3 and the upcoming ORS-2 mission (launch date to be determined) will feature space plug-and-play avionics also developed by AFRL.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Arizona, Wegner worked two years as a research engineer for AFRL’s predecessor, the Air Force Phillips Laboratory, at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He then participated for more than six years in the Air Force Palace Knight Program,



Dr. Peter Wegner

which financed his master’s degree in aerospace engineering from Stanford University and his doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Wyoming, as well as paid his full salary and benefits. From January 1999 until August 2007, Wegner held various positions at Space Vehicles Directorate, including branch chief of the Spacecraft Component Technologies Center of Excellence and the responsive space thrust lead. Before joining ORS, he served as the Requirements Directorate technical advisor with Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.

Although departing work at a military installation, Wegner, in his new job at SDL, will continue to support DOD projects as he has in the past two decades.

“I am really excited about where the ORS Office is headed. There are two launches, ORS-3 and ORS-4, slated in summer 2013 that will lead to additional milestones in achieving rapid and responsive (within weeks to days) spaceflight. ORS is in a great position right now and I have no doubt that the office’s future is very bright and assured,” Wegner said.

## Transition Assistance Program expanded

Airman and Family Readiness Center

The Transition Assistance Program for separating/retiring military members is being redesigned.

The expanded program will help ease every Airman’s transition to civilian life and better apply their military experience. The effort began in response to a call from President Barack Obama in August 2011 to ensure all service members are “career-ready” when they leave the military.

A pilot program took place July 9-13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, which allowed the Department of Defense, Department of Labor and Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the initiative.

Scheduled to begin DOD-wide in November, the current optional three-day workshop will be expanded to five days, and has been redesigned into a comprehensive, mandatory program that includes individual transition plan preparation, military-to-civilian skills review, financial planning, VA benefits briefing, and DOL employment training. The mandatory pre-separation counseling will be a prerequisite for the redesigned TAP workshop.

During fiscal year 2013, a capstone event will be added to ensure the new Veterans Opportunity to Work Act and Veterans Employment Initiative requirements have been completed. Three more two-day sessions will also be available to Airmen who are pursuing a higher educational degree or a technical certification, or starting a business.

For more information, contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 846-0741 or [Kirtland.AFRC@kirtland.af.mil](mailto:Kirtland.AFRC@kirtland.af.mil).

# Tips to avoid getting sick during the flu season

By Shari Lopatin

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Nine out of 10 healthy people who get a flu shot don’t get the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Because it takes two weeks for a flu shot’s immunity to build completely, now is the best time to get vaccinated for flu season.

### Tricare Covers Flu Shots

Military families are in luck. Tricare will cover flu shots or flu mists at no cost to you. Just make sure to receive the vaccination from your local military clinic, a Tricare network provider, or a Tricare network pharmacy. If you go to a pharmacy, make sure the actual pharmacist gives you the flu shot or mist, to avoid out-of-pocket costs.

If you choose to get your shot at the doctor’s office, just be aware that some physicians may charge a small co-pay for the office visit. Additionally, it’s a good idea to call your local military clinic first, to find out when flu shots are available.

### Coaxing your kids

The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated against the flu. If your kids throw a fit, or shut down when it’s time for their shots, making the “shot experience” smooth for them can be a challenge.

Perhaps, if they see mom or dad doing it too, they may go more willingly. That’s why we suggest leading by example. Here are some tips:

- Go for your flu shot when you take your kids for theirs.
- Ask if the clinic or pharmacy has flu mist available as an alternative to the shot. Check with your child’s health care provider first, to see if it’s a good fit.
- Offer to get your shot first. It will help to relax your kids.
- If fun or colorful bandages are available, ask to wear one along with your children.
- Finish the flu shot appointment with a treat, such as a trip to the park or a healthy fruit smoothie.

### Avoid the flu

Keeping active, getting enough sleep and eating healthy foods can help you stand strong against the flu.

Besides getting a flu shot, the CDC says taking these everyday steps can help you avoid the flu in the first place:

- Wash your hands properly. Scrub with soap and warm water for approximately 20 seconds, or the time it takes to sing “Happy Birthday.”
- Try to avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Manage your stress.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze. Then throw away the tissue. If a tissue is not available, cover your mouth with the crease from your elbow. Never use your hands. These actions help prevent the spread of germs.

For more information on flu prevention tips, visit [www.triwest.com/flu](http://www.triwest.com/flu). To find a Tricare-covered pharmacy that offers flu vaccinations, visit [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com).